

Introduction

The Dartmoor National Park encompasses one of the most dramatically beautiful landscapes in England. Wild moorland heights sweep down to lush, green-wooded valleys and tucked-away towns and villages. If you want to venture a little further, the South-West offers some of the most beautiful beaches in this part of the world, including Slapton Sands in South Devon and Watergate Bay on Cornwall's West Coast. Devon and nearby Cornwall offer a wide range of places to see and things to do.

The information enclosed has been prepared to give our guests an insight into the beautiful surrounding countryside and the many places of interest nearby.

It does not contain everything that beautiful Devon has to offer and if there is anything particular that you are interested in please ask a member of staff and we will do our best to be of assistance. There are also brochures in the entrance porch.

Note

Care has been taken preparing the details in this folder for our guests. However, things can change, for example, a path diverted or an attraction closed.

Neither The Rock Inn (Haytor) Ltd or any of the publishers herein can be held responsible for any inaccuracies, changes or alterations.

Walks

Please note we have a selection of guidebooks and an ordnance survey map available for guests to borrow.

Dartmoor covers a huge area and can display a variety of moods, not all of them friendly. It is therefore, important to respect its isolated quality and to be aware of changing weather patterns and forecasts and of the onset of nightfall, should you be intending to walk far.

Country Code

Please always observe the Country Code.

Guard against all risk of fire, keep to public footpaths across farmland, use gates & stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls, don't leave litter, close all gates and if you have a dog, keep it under close control, particularly where there are animals.

Places of Interest

DARTMOOR AREA

Haytor Rocks

On leaving the Rock Inn turn right & follow the road to the first junction, turn right over the cattle grid (by the red telephone box) & then left, keep on the main road, the rock will appear on your right. At 1,550ft it has commanding views across South Devon, - you can actually see Teignmouth and the Teign Estuary, Torquay, Berry Head and much of the South Hams.

Below the rocks is the abandoned quarry pit at Haytor, which is interesting with remnants of winch gear, timber & spoil heaps and you can see parts of the granite tramway, which form part of the Templer Way.

The Templer Way

The Templer Way is an old granite tramway, which was built by George Templer to help transport granite from his quarries at Haytor all the way to Teignmouth, on the coast. It was opened in 1820 and, although initially very successful, it turned out to be an expensive method of transportation and gradually fell into disuse. Granite from Haytor was used in the rebuilding of London Bridge, (now in America), parts of the British Museum, and the National Gallery.

Widcombe-in-the-Moor

Widcombe is probably best known for Widcombe Fair and as the village, of Old Uncle Tom Cobley fame. The names of Thomas Cobley and others mentioned in the song appear in the Parish Register. The church is very large for the size of the village, often referred to as The Cathedral in the Moor. It certainly makes a fine sight as you drop down the steep hill into the village from the moor above.

There is a very old pub "The Old Inn", and various gift, craft, and tea shops. There is also a much smaller pub called The Rugglestone Inn, which, used to be a cider house where cider was dispensed from barrels kept in the owners living room.

Places of Interest

Buckland-in-the-Moor

This is a really tiny hamlet made famous by its thatched cottages, which have appeared on chocolate boxes, calendars and postcards. The small church of St Peter at Buckland in the Moor is celebrated for its unusual clock face, which has the words "My Dear Mother" spelt out instead of normal numerals. This alteration to the clock was made by the local Squire in 1928. He also placed the tablets on the rocky summit of Buckland Beacon which have the Ten Commandments engraved on them, although weathering has now made them difficult to decipher.

Hound Tor

This has often been used for location filming, and a version of "Hound of the Baskervilles" is one example. Hound Tor is certainly worth a visit the medieval village here is the best surviving example of its type on Dartmoor. Easy to identify are a series of longhouses and clearly visible from the top of Hound Tor are the outlines of medieval fields (depending on the conditions).

Jay's Grave

Near Hound Tor

If you are going near Hound Tor, take a five minute detour to see if there are flowers on the small grave of Kitty Jay. She was a young orphan servant girl in the 18th century who became pregnant after being seduced by the son of the house where she worked. In desperation she committed suicide but, because of this, Church Law decreed that she could not be buried in consecrated ground. All suicides had to be buried at a crossroads to the parish so that their troubled spirits could not find their way back to haunt people, and so the devil could not claim them. Nobody quite knows who does it, but for a long time fresh flowers have appeared on her grave.

If you drive out of Hound Tor car park and turn right towards North Bovey, you will see the grave after about a quarter of a mile on the left hand side of the road on a right hand bend.

Places of Interest

Bowerman's Nose

This is a strange rock figure about half a mile from Hound Tor believed to be the petrified remains of Bowerman the Hunter, who is supposed to have upset the witches of Dartmoor by driving his pack through one of their secret moorland gatherings. One of the witches became a hare and lured him into a trap where they all heaped their spells on him. He is thus petrified for immortality, with his hounds (the boulders) at his feet.

Postbridge

The village of Postbridge dates from the 18th century. The medieval clapper bridge here is the best example of its kind on Dartmoor. Bellever Forest is also here and is managed for timber production, the conservation of wildlife and archaeological remains and for public recreation with short walks and picnic areas. Leaflet enclosed.

There is a large car park and an information centre Tel: 01822 880272

Dartmoor Letterboxes

In various secret and out of the way places all over the moor there are hidden receptacles of various shapes and sizes which usually contain a visitors book for names, addresses and comments, and a rubber stamp with a design to reflect the name of the location. It is the latter which is the main attraction, and dedicated followers will put up with the most dreadful conditions in their quest to find "boxes", the aim being to collect as many stamps as possible.

Places of Interest

BOVEY TRACEY AREA

Bovey Tracey is a pleasant old-fashioned country town with a selection of small shops, tearooms and three banks (Lloyds, HSBC and Natwest).

There is a large car park with an information centre.

Becky Falls

Bovey Tracey to Manaton Road

Waterfalls - Nature Trails - Pets Gardens - 50 acres of woodland - restaurant and tearooms etc. Best to go when there has been a lot of rain to see the Waterfall at its best.

Open every day from April to November. Well sign posted, 4 miles west of Bovey Tracey.

Tel : (01647) 221259

House of Marbles

The old Bovey Pottery site has been sympathetically restored to create a working glass and games factory where you can watch glass blowing and pottery work. Some of the glass on display is stunning. There is a shop, museum, and a restaurant. The unusual range of games and toys includes probably the largest selection of marbles in the world. They have fascinating marble runs on the walls. Drive towards Bovey Tracey - at first roundabout turn right – at second roundabout take last exit and it is signposted.

Tel : (01626) 835285

Parke

This is the Headquarters of the Dartmoor National Park Authority. It is located down the road towards Bovey Tracey and has some lovely parkland and riverside walks. The walk up beside the river on the track of where the old Railway line used to go is quite protected in windy or inclement weather. There is also a beautiful Woodland Walk -signed from the main house.

Tel : (01626) 832093

Yarner Wood

On the Manaton Road.

This is ancient woodland cared for by the Nature Conservancy Council. There is car parking available, and signed walks and information boards about the flora and fauna along the way. There is a visitor centre and hides from which you can watch the birds.

Dogs have to be kept on a lead.

Places of Interest

FURTHER AFIELD

Buckfast Abbey

A living Benedictine Monastery.

Magnificent Abbey Church with tranquil gardens and three unusual shops with produce from Buckfast and other European Abbeys. They are famous for honey and also for Buckfast Tonic Wine. Open daily, free admission. Just off the A38 at Buckfastleigh.

Tel : (01364) 645500

Castle Drogo

Drewsteignton, Near Exeter.

Built between 1910 and 1930, this was commissioned by tea baron Julius Drewe and is reputedly one of the most remarkable works of Sir Edwin Lutyens. It combines the grandeur of a medieval castle with 20th century comforts. Standing at more than 900 feet overlooking the wooded gorge of the river Teign, it has stunning views over Dartmoor and delightful walks. Adjacent to the chapel is a display relating to the planning and building of this, the last Castle to be built in England. There are preliminary designs and interesting correspondence between owner and architect.

Tel : (01647) 433306

Dartmouth

The ancient town and deepwater port of Dartmouth is set in a picture book location, on the picturesque River Dart, with steep wooded hillsides on either side.

Dartmouth's main Embankment runs along the length of the town, this provides visitors with a pleasant and relaxing promenade to stroll down - admiring the sights of the busy estuary or to select from the many boat trips that depart from the waters edge. A regular winner of the Britain in Bloom competition it boasts many unusual and exotic blooms in its gardens. (continued...)

Places of Interest

(Dartmouth continued...)

Two impressive Castles have maintained a guard at the mouth of the River Dart for centuries, Dartmouth Castle and Kingswear Castle on the opposite bank of the river.

Powderham Castle

Kenton, Exeter

This is the historic family home of the Earl of Devon, and is signposted off the A379 at Kenton. The Castle and grounds are open every day except Saturday from April until end of October but ring to check as times can vary and occasionally they have private events on.

Tel : (01626) 890243

The Eden Project

St Austell, Cornwall

The Eden Project is now one of the top ten visitor attractions in the country. It has the largest greenhouses or "geodesic structures" in the world and is set in a 35-acre crater overlooking St Austell Bay. It is a gigantic global garden housing a fascinating array of plants from all over the world. Three of the world's climatic zones have been chosen – the Humid Tropics Biome contains plants from the rainforest and Oceania whilst the warm Temperate Biome contains plants from the Mediterranean, South Africa and California.

Tel : (01726) 222900

Exeter

Exeter is a lovely old city, certainly worth a visit. It has been a Cathedral town since 1050, and the present Cathedral, built in the 14th century, is one of the greatest Medieval cathedrals in England. It is the only cathedral in England to have twin Norman towers and has the longest unbroken vaulted roof of any in the country. The buildings around this area are beautiful and extremely old.

Exeter is good for shopping with a large range of shops.

Tel : (01392) 265700 or visit the Tourist Information Centre.

Places of Interest

Plymouth

The waterfront city that shaped the lives of Drake, the Pilgrim Fathers, Darwin, Cook and many more who set sail from her harbour. You can visit spectacular Plymouth Hoe, where Drake played his famous game of bowls. It is a naval city and you can take boat trips to view the Naval Dockyards complete with frigates and submarines.

There is the Barbican – Plymouth's medieval heart of the city, with narrow streets that hold an array of individual and unique shops as well as many galleries. The city centre is modern and pedestrianised with a large range of shops.

Approximately 30 miles away straight down the A38 towards Cornwall.

Torquay

Approximately 12 miles

This busy seaside resort is centre point of "The English Riviera " and can provide most of the activities sought in a lively holiday, such as waterskiing, parascending, windsurfing, diving, sailing, fishing trips and excursions. There are many shops, pubs, restaurants & nightclubs.

Beaches

Blackpool Sands. Signposted from Dartmouth. Approx 45-50 minutes.

Bantham – Kingsbridge area. Approx 45-50 minutes.

Bigbury – Kingsbridge area. Approx 45-50 minutes.

Slapton Sands. Approx 45 minutes.

Shaldon – (called The Ness) Approx 30-45 minutes.

Golf Clubs

Teign Valley Golf Club.

18 hole course.

01647 - 253026

Christow near Exeter (exit Teign Valley from A38)

Wolleigh Golf Park

9 hole course, driving range, pitch & putt.

01626 - 836464

Monks Way, Bovey Tracey