

5th EDITION

Guide to Rural England

DEVON



WHERE TO GO | WHAT TO SEE | WHAT TO DO
WHERE TO STAY | WHERE TO EAT | WHERE TO BUY

Fully illustrated with detailed directions and maps

LOCATOR MAP



Towns and Villages

Appledore	pg 23	Dartmouth	pg 78	North Bovey	pg 67
Arlington	pg 16	Dawlish	pg 95	North Molton	pg 30
Ashburton	pg 63	Dittisham	pg 78	Northam	pg 23
Ashprington	pg 77	Dolton	pg 33	Northlew	pg 39
Atherington	pg 18	Drewsteignton	pg 44	Okehampton	pg 40
Aveton Gifford	pg 89	Dunchideock	pg 113	Otterton	pg 128
Axminster	pg 120	Dunkeswell	pg 119	Ottery St Mary	pg 123
Bampton	pg 108	East Devon Way	pg 126	Paignton	pg 96
Banham	pg 88	Exeter	pg 101	Parracombe	pg 11
Barnstaple	pg 13	Exmouth	pg 126	Plymouth	pg 68
Beer	pg 133	Georgeham	pg 20	Plympton	pg 71
Beesands	pg 85	Great Torrington	pg 24	Postbridge	pg 52
Belstone	pg 44	Gulworthy	pg 56	Powderham	pg 113
Bere Alston	pg 57	Hallsands	pg 85	Princetown	pg 52
Berry Pomeroy	pg 77	Harberton	pg 80	Salcombe	pg 87
Berrynarbor	pg 10	Harpford	pg 129	Seaton	pg 133
Bickleigh	pg 105	Hartland	pg 27	Shaldon	pg 93
Bideford	pg 20	Hatherleigh	pg 34	Shebbear	pg 38
Bigbury on Sea	pg 88	High Bickington	pg 18	Sheepwash	pg 39
Bishop's Nympton	pg 32	Holsworthy	pg 37	Sidbury	pg 132
Bishops Tawton	pg 18	Honiton	pg 117	Sidmouth	pg 129
Blackborough	pg 123	Hope Cove	pg 88	Slapton	pg 83
Bovey Tracey	pg 61	Ilfracombe	pg 8	South Brent	pg 59
Branscombe	pg 132	Ilminster	pg 62	South Hams	pg 73
Braunton	pg 19	Instow	pg 24	South Molton	pg 29
Brent Tor	pg 50	Ivybridge	pg 59	South Zeal	pg 44
Brixham	pg 97	Jurassic Coast	pg 125	Sticklepath	pg 43
Broadclyst	pg 109	Kenton	pg 113	Stoke Fleming	pg 80
Buckfast	pg 61	Kingsbridge	pg 81	Stoke Gabriel	pg 78
Buckfastleigh	pg 59	Kingswear	pg 98	Swimbridge	pg 17
Buckland		Landkey	pg 17	Tavistock	pg 48
Monachorum	pg 55	Lapford	pg 33	Teignmouth	pg 93
Buckland-in-the-Moor	pg 63	Lewdown	pg 51	Thurlestone	pg 88
Budleigh	pg 127	Lifton	pg 57	Tiverton	pg 105
Cadbury	pg 104	Loddiswell	pg 89	Topsham	pg 111
Chagford	pg 45	Lundy Island	pg 22	Torbay	pg 90
Chivelstone	pg 85	Lustleigh	pg 67	Torcross	pg 83
Chudleigh	pg 101	Lydford	pg 47	Torquay	pg 91
Chulmleigh	pg 32	Lympstone	pg 111	Totnes	pg 74
Clawton	pg 39	Lynmouth	pg 6	Turnchapel	pg 72
Clovelly	pg 26	Lynton	pg 5	Uffculme	pg 125
Clyst ST Mary	pg 109	Malborough	pg 87	Weare Giffard	pg 26
Cobbaton	pg 18	Mary Tavy	pg 51	Wembury	pg 72
Colyton	pg 121	Meeth	pg 33	West Anstey	pg 31
Combe Martin	pg 10	Merrivale	pg 52	Westward Ho!	pg 22
Combetaignhead	pg 93	Milton Abbot	pg 56	Whiddon Down	pg 44
Compton	pg 99	Modbury	pg 89	Widecombe	
Cornwood	pg 61	Molland	pg 31	in the Moor	pg 66
Crediton	pg 114	Monkleigh	pg 26	Winkleigh	pg 33
Croyde	pg 20	Moretonhampstead	pg 67	Woodbury	pg 109
Culmstock	pg 125	Mortehoe	pg 12	Woolacombe	pg 12
Dalwood	pg 119	Muddiford	pg 15	Woolfardisworthy	pg 26
Dartington	pg 81	Newton Abbot	pg 99	Yelverton	pg 54
Dartmeet	pg 53	Newton Ferrers	pg 72	Yettington	pg 128

Devon

Asked to describe the ‘ideal’ English countryside, many people would conjure up a landscape of green rolling hills, of bright, fresh streams tumbling through wooded valleys, of white thatched cottages clustering around a venerable church, with a picturesque inn nestling beside it. Devon, of course, but only part of it. The whole of the Dartmoor National Park lies within its boundaries, a huge area of dome-shaped granite where the most frequently seen living creatures are the famous Dartmoor ponies that have roamed here since at least the 10th century.

The moor is notorious for its abundant rainfall – an annual average of 60 inches, twice as much as falls on Torbay, a few miles to the east. In some of the more exposed westerly fringes, an annual rainfall of 100 inches is common. In prehistoric times the climate was much drier and warmer. The moor then was dotted with settlements and this Bronze Age population left behind them a rich legacy of stone circles, menhirs, burial chambers and single, double or even triple rows of stones.

Then there’s the busy port of Plymouth with its proud maritime history and associations with Sir Francis Drake and the Pilgrim Fathers. The rugged coastline to the north contrasts with the almost Mediterranean character of Torbay – the English Riviera. There are hundreds of picture postcard villages, of which Clovelly and Inner Hope are perhaps the most famous, and scores of delightful small towns such as Salcombe, Totnes and Dartmouth.

The county also boasts some outstanding buildings. The Gothic

masterpiece of Exeter Cathedral has been described as “one of the supreme architectural pleasures of England”, and it was a 14th-century Bishop of Exeter who built the glorious parish church of Ottery St Mary. The sumptuous mansion of Saltram House near Plymouth contains fine work by Robert Adam, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Chippendale, while Buckland Abbey is famed as the home of the Drake family and their most famous son, Sir Francis. Arlington Court is notable for the eclectic collections amassed by its last owner, Rosalie Chichester, during the course of a long life, and the now redundant church at Parracombe is a time warp building, still just as it was in the 18th century.

Part of Devon’s enormous charm derives from the fact that it is so lightly populated. Just over one million people, roughly equivalent to the population of Birmingham, occupy the third largest county in England, some 670,000 acres in all. And most of those million people live in towns and resorts along its coastline, leaving huge tracts of countryside where the villages, the lanes and byways are still magically peaceful.



Lynch Tor, Dartmoor

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Lynton

 **Lyn and Exmoor Museum**  **Scarecrow Festival**

 **Valley of the Rocks**

Lynton and Lynmouth, though often mentioned in the same breath, are very different in character. Lynton is the younger of the two settlements and sits atop a great cliff 600 feet high; Lynmouth, far below, clusters around the junction of the East and West Lyn rivers just before they reach the sea.

Lynton is a bright and breezy village, its houses and terraces mostly Victorian. The **Lyn and Exmoor Museum**, housed in a restored 16th-century house, has an interesting collection of tools and products of bygone local craftsmen and other exhibits relating to the area, including a reconstructed typical Exmoor kitchen of around 1800.

If you are visiting Lynton in August, you

won't be able to avoid the strange characters lurking in gardens and doorways, sitting on roofs or shinning up drainpipes. Don't worry – they are just participating in the **Lynton & Lynmouth Scarecrow Festival**, a popular event that has become the largest and longest running such festival in the West Country.

To the west of Lynton, about a mile or so along a minor road, is one of the most remarkable natural features in Devon, the **Valley of the Rocks**. When the poet Robert Southey visited the area in 1800, he was most impressed by this natural gorge “covered with huge stones...the very bones and skeletons of the earth; rock reeling upon rock, stone piled upon stone, a huge terrific mass”. In *Lorna Doone*, the author RD Blackmore transforms the site into the “Devil's Cheesering” where Jan Ridd visits Mother Meldrun who is sheltering under “eaves of lichen rock”. And it was after walking along the clifftop



Gunns Art Gallery

11 Lee Road, Lynton, Devon EX35 6HW

Tel: 01598 753352

E-mail: arts@gunnsartgallery.co.uk

Gunns Gallery founded by George Gunn 1893 in a Victorian Hotel built by the Jones brothers, who were later responsible for Lynton's famous Cliff Railway.

- * Original works from some of today's leading artists including Adam Barsby, Dale Bowen, Timmy Mallet, Kerry Darlington, Sue Howells, Peter Adderley and Janet Rogers.
- * Rare collectable limited edition prints from award-winning artists
- * Antique prints dating from 1790 to the 1950s
- * Six showcase galleries
- * Art and craft material
- * Holiday apartments
- * Art lessons



Next door is a quirky antiques shop *Land of Green Ginger*. Stockists of Poole Twin-tone, Torquay and Barnstaple Pottery and an ever changing array of collectables.

www.gunnsartgallery.co.uk



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Valley of the Rocks

path, more than 1300 feet above the sea, in company with William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy, that ST Coleridge was inspired to write his immortal *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*.

An unusual attraction in the valley is its herd of feral goats, introduced here in the 1970s. A good time to see them is in January when the nannies give birth to their kids.

Around Lynton

LYNMOUTH

1 mile E of Lynton on the A39

Watersmeet Cliff Railway

Glen Lyn Gorge The Louisa lifeboat

Lynton is connected to its sister-village Lymmouth by an ingenious **Cliff Railway**,

which, when it opened on Easter Monday 1890, was the first of its kind in Britain. A gift from Sir George Newnes, the publisher and newspaper tycoon, the railway is powered by water, or rather by two 700-gallon water tanks, one at each end of the 450 feet track. When the tank at the top is filled, and the one at the bottom emptied, the brakes are released and the two passenger carriages change place.

For centuries, the people of Lymmouth subsisted on agriculture and fishing, especially herring fishing and curing. By good fortune, just as the herring shoals were moving away to new waters, the North Devon coast benefited from the two new enthusiasms for ‘romantic’ scenery and sea bathing. Coleridge and Wordsworth arrived here on a walking tour in the 1790s, Shelley wrote fondly of his visit in 1812, and it was Robert Southey, later Poet Laureate, who first used the designation “the English Switzerland” to describe the dramatic scenery of the area. The painter Gainsborough had already described it as “the most delightful place for a landscape painter this country can boast”. One of the most picturesque villages in Devon, Lymmouth also has a tiny harbour surrounded by lofty wooded hills, a curious Rhenish Tower on the

LYNMOUTH LEISURE

7 Lymmouth Street, Lymmouth, Devon EX35 6EH
Tel: 01598 753634

There’s no such thing as bad weather, outdoors people say, only the wrong gear. Well, whatever the West Country weather you’ll find the right gear here at **Lymmouth Leisure**, from waterproofs and umbrellas, warm fleeces and scarves through to stylish sports shirts. There are top brands like Mountain Pass and Portwest, and ranges for all ages, for men and for women, in a rainbow of colours.



historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks



pier, and do seek out Mars Hill, an eye-ravishing row of thatched cottages.

Lynmouth's setting beside its twin rivers is undeniably beautiful, but it has also proved to be tragically vulnerable. On the night of 16 August 1952, a cloudburst over Exmoor deposited nine inches of rain onto an already saturated moor. In the darkness, the normally placid East and West Lyn rivers became raging cataracts and burst their banks. Sweeping tree trunks and boulders along with it, the torrent smashed its way through the village, destroying dozens of houses and leaving 34 people dead. That night saw many freak storms across southern England, but none matched the ferocity of the deluge that engulfed this pretty little village. The Flood Memorial Hall has an exhibition that details the events of that terrible night.

Another testament to the ferocity of the storm can be seen in **Glen Lyn Gorge** where boulders and other debris still litter the ground. But the glen also provides some lovely woodland walks by the waterfalls and paths along the valley. An exhibition here demonstrates how water from West Lyn River now produces hydro-electricity. Children can have fun with giant waterwheels and water cannons. There's also a collection of steam

engines and models operated by water.

An earlier exceptional storm, in 1899, involved the Lynmouth lifeboat in a tale of epic endurance. A full-rigged ship, the *Forest Hall*, was in difficulties off Porlock, but the storm was so violent it was impossible to launch the lifeboat at Lynmouth. Instead, the crewmen dragged their three-and-a-half ton boat, the *Louisa*, the 13 miles across the moor. Along the way they had to negotiate Countisbury Hill, with a gradient of 1000 feet over two miles, before dropping down to Porlock Weir where the *Louisa* was successfully launched and every crew member of the stricken ship was saved.

Just to the east of the town is the popular beauty spot of **Watersmeet** where the East Lyn river and Hoar Oak Water come together. An 1832 fishing lodge, Watersmeet House, stands close by. A National Trust property, it is open during the season as a café, shop and information centre where you can pick up leaflets detailing some beautiful circular walks, starting here, along the East Lyn valley and to Hoar Oak Water.

MARTINHOE

4 miles W of Lynton on minor road off the A39

Hollow Brook Falls

Set amidst rolling fields above spectacular cliffs some 700 feet high, the small village of Martinhoe was occupied in Roman times as a signal station keeping an eye out for any aggressive activity by the Silurian tribes of Wales on the other shore of the Bristol Channel.

Martinhoe boasts what some argue is the highest waterfall in the West Country - it all depends on how you define a waterfall.

Hollow Brook Falls descend 600 feet to the sea in a series of cascades, including two drops

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

of 150 feet each. Coastal waterfalls are quite common on the North Devon and Exmoor coast but unusual elsewhere in Europe, apart from the Norwegian fjords.

Ilfracombe

 The Landmark Theatre  Ilfracombe Museum

 Chapel of St Nicholas  Tunnel Baths

 Ilfracombe Aquarium  Old Corn Mill

 Chambercombe Manor

Like Barnstaple, Ilfracombe takes its floral decorations very seriously – during the 1990s the town was a consistent winner of the Britain in Bloom Competition. Between June and October the town goes “blooming mad” with streets, parks and hotels awash with flowers. Ilfracombe also promotes itself as a Festival Town offering a wide variety of events. They include a Victorian Celebration in mid-June when local people don period costumes. A grand costume ball and a fireworks display all add to the fun. There’s a Fishing Festival in early August, a Carnival Procession later that month, a Birdman Competition, a Rescue Day and many more.

The Landmark Theatre is a striking building with what look like two gleaming white truncated cooling towers as its main

feature. This multi-purpose arts centre has a 480-seat theatre, cinema screening facilities, a spacious display area and a café-bar with a sunny, sea-facing terrace. Next door to the Landmark Theatre, in Runnymede Gardens, is the **Ilfracombe Museum**, which opened in 1932 and has a variety of displays ranging from bats to Buddhas.

With a population of around 11,000, Ilfracombe is the largest seaside resort on the North Devon coast. Up until 1800, however, it was just a small fishing and market town relying entirely on the sea both for its living and as its principal means of communication. The boundaries of the old town are marked by a sheltered natural harbour to the north and, half-a-mile away to the south, a part-Norman parish church boasting one of the finest medieval waggon roofs in the West Country.

The entrance to Ilfracombe harbour is guarded by Lantern Hill, a steep-sided conical rock, which is crowned by the restored medieval **Chapel of St Nicholas**. For centuries, this highly conspicuous former fishermen’s chapel has doubled as a lighthouse, the light being placed in a lantern at the western end of the building. St Nicholas must surely be the only ecclesiastical building in the country to be managed by the local Rotary Club – it was they who raised the funds for its restoration.

THE LOBSTER POT BAKERY

*5 The Promenade, Ilfracombe,
North Devon EX34 9BD
Tel: 01271 866674*

As well as freshly baked bread, **The Lobster Pot Bakery** offers a range of local products, amongst them fudge, shortbread, honey, jams and chutneys. The Bakery is also a good place to stop off for a snack. On offer are toasted sandwiches, pasties and various freshly filled baguettes and sandwiches. Cream teas are also available, as are coffee and soft drinks. The Bakery occupies a prime position on the Promenade close to the sea, and there’s parking close by.



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

SMUGGLERS NEEDLECRAFT

3 Capstone Place, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 9TQ

Tel: 01271 863457

e-mail: chris.shaw93@yahoo.co.uk

Once upon a time Chris Shaw had a hobby: needlecraft. Back in 1981 she decided to try to turn her hobby into a business, and the result is **Smugglers Needlecraft**. The business has been so successful that Chris, her husband Geoff and daughter Penny can now boast customers from all over the world. Such is the range of products they offer that people from as far away as the USA, South Africa and Australia all come to Chris for their supplies.

Based near the Quay just along from Ilfracombe's harbour, Smugglers Needlecraft stocks an impressive range of fabrics and threads, alongside kits from Heritage, Derwentwater and others. They also sell accessories such as frames and needles, and offer visitors chance to create an unusual souvenir by making their own needlecraft scene of the Devon coast and countryside.

Don't be deceived by the outside of the shop, as the business has been described as both a Tardis and an Aladdin's Cave. It was originally a fisherman's cottage built in the 1600s but step inside this unique shop today and you're greeted by rainbow displays of metallic threads, space-dyed silks and just about everything the keen needlecrafter could possibly want.



From the chapel's hilltop setting there are superb views of Ilfracombe, its busy harbour and the craggy North Devon coastline.

Like so many west country resorts, Ilfracombe developed in response to the early 19th-century craze for sea bathing and sea water therapies. The **Tunnel Baths**, with their extravagant Doric facade, were opened in Bath Place in 1836, by which time a number of elegant residential terraces had been built on the hillside to the south of the old town.

Around the same time, two tunnels were bored through the cliff to reach rocky Tunnels Beach, which is still privately owned and for which a modest charge is made for access.

The arrival of a branch railway line from Barnstaple in 1874 brought an even larger influx of visitors to Ilfracombe. Much of the town's architecture, which could best be described as "decorated Victorian vernacular",

dates from this period, the new streets spreading inland in steeply undulating rows. Around the same time the harbour was enlarged to cope with the paddle steamers bringing in tourists from Bristol and South Wales. Today, visitors can take advantage of regular sailings from that harbour to Lundy Island, as well as cruises along the spectacular Exmoor coast.

Standing beside the harbour is the **Ilfracombe Aquarium**, housed in the former lifeboat house. It contains an impressive collection of both freshwater and marine species in carefully re-created natural habitats. Worth a visit is the fun fish retail area here.

Chocaholics will surely seek out Walker's Chocolate Emporium in the High Street, which offers an irresistible choice of confectionery handmade on the premises. There's also a café selling hot chocolates and

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

sweet snacks while upstairs is a chocolate museum.

For walkers, the **South West Coast Path** from Ilfracombe provides some spectacular scenery, whether going west to Capstone Point, or east to Hillsborough Hill.

Just to the east of Ilfracombe, at Hele Bay, **The Old Corn Mill and Pottery** is unique in North Devon. Dating back to the 16th century, the mill has been lovingly restored from near dereliction and is now producing 100% wholemeal stone-ground flour for sale. In Robin Gray's pottery, you can watch him in action at the potter's wheel and try your own skill in fashioning slippery clay into a more-or-less recognisable object. If you really want to keep the result, the pottery will fire and glaze it, and post it on to you.

Half a mile or so south of the mill, set in a secluded valley, **Chambercombe Manor** is an 11th-century mansion that was first recorded in the Domesday Book. Visitors have access to eight rooms displaying period furniture from Elizabethan to Victorian times, can peek into the claustrophobic Priest's Hole, and test their sensitivity to the spectral presences reputed to inhabit the Haunted Room. The Coat of Arms bedroom was once occupied by Lady Jane Grey and it is her family's arms that are displayed above the fireplace. Outside, the four acres of beautiful grounds contain wildfowl ponds, a bird sanctuary and an arboretum.

BERRYNARBOR

3 miles E of Ilfracombe off the A399

 **St Peter's Church**  **Watermouth Castle**

Nestling in a steep-sided combe, Berrynarbor is a wonderfully unspoilt village set around **St Peter's Church**, which, with its 96 feet high tower, is one of the grandest churches in

North Devon. Inside, there's an interesting collection of monuments, many of them memorials of the Berry family, once the owners of the nearby 15th-century manor house which later became the village school.

On the coast here is the pretty cove of Watermouth and the Victorian folly, **Watermouth Castle**, which has been transformed into a family theme park. In the castle's great hall, there's a collection of suits of armour and visitors can enjoy mechanical music demonstrations. Elsewhere, there are displays on Victorian life, antique pier machines, a room devoted to model railways and, down in the depths of the dungeon labyrinths, fairy tales come to life.

COMBE MARTIN

4 miles E of Ilfracombe on the A399

 **Combe Martin Museum**
 **Wildlife and Dinosaur Park**  **Pack o' Cards Inn**
 **Exmoor Brass Rubbing Centre**

Just a short distance from Berrynarbor, on the other side of the River Uمبر, is another popular resort, Combe Martin. There's a good sandy beach here and a short walk will take you to one of the secluded bays. An added attraction, especially for children, is the large number of rock pools amongst the bays. In the village itself, the main street is more than two miles long, reputed to be the longest in the country and featuring a wide selection of inns, cafés and shops. As well as the **Combe Martin Museum**, there is also the **Wildlife and Dinosaur Park** where life-sized animated dinosaurs lurk in the woods. The 25-acre site also shelters 250 species of real animals, including a large and lively collection of apes and monkeys. Within the park are animal handling areas, an Earthquake Ride, a dinosaur museum and oriental gardens. There's an otter

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

pool and daily sea lion shows and falconry displays, and if you book ahead you can experience the unique thrill of swimming with the sea lions.

Also within the park is the **Exmoor Brass Rubbing Centre**. The first collection of brass rubbings was made by a man named Craven Ord between 1790 and 1830. His collection is now housed in the British Museum but because of his method – pouring printer's ink into the engraved lines and then pressing a sheet of damp tissue paper on the brass – the results are often very poor. It was the Victorians who developed a process using heelball (shoemaker's black wax) and white paper that is still in use today. The Centre provides all the necessary materials and friendly instruction.

A remarkable architectural curiosity in the village itself is **The Pack o' Cards Inn**, built by Squire George Ley in the early 18th century

with the proceeds of a highly successful evening at the card table. This Grade II listed building represents a pack of cards with four decks, or floors, 13 rooms, and a total of 52 windows. Inside there are many features representing the cards in each suit.

PARRACOMBE

13 miles SE of Ilfracombe off the A39

 Church of St Petroc

 Lynton & Barnstaple Railway

The redundant **Church of St Petroc** is notable for its marvellously unspoilt interior, complete with 15th-century benches, 17th-century box pews, a Georgian pulpit and a perfectly preserved musician's gallery. Perhaps most striking of all is the unique gated screen between the chancel and the nave, which bears a huge tympanum painted with the royal arms, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. We owe the church's survival

THE FOX AND GOOSE

Parracombe, nr Barnstaple, North Devon EX31 4PE
Tel: 01598 763239

Located in the delightful village of Parracombe on the edge of Exmoor, **The Fox and Goose** is a well-known hostelry renowned for its good food, fine wines and real ales. The excellent steaks and specialties such as venison sausages and home-made pizzas are particularly popular. So too are the superb ploughman's lunches with a choice of 7 different cheeses, the game dishes in season, and fish dishes like the whole lemon sole and cod. Mine hosts, Paul Houle and Nikki Baxter, are both accomplished cooks and their home-made puddings are distinctly memorable. In the summer afternoons, they also serve cream teas with home-made scones and jam.

The Fox and Goose also offers quality accommodation in 4 newly refurbished en suite rooms. All rooms are equipped with TV/DVD and WiFi. Visitors at the inn will find plenty to see and do nearby. Parracombe village has its own pottery, and the Lynton and Barnstaple Railway is just a mile away. And just a few miles north along the A39, near the village of Lynton, is one of Devon's most famous scenic attractions, the Valley of the Rocks.



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

to John Ruskin who led the protests against its intended demolition in 1879 after another church was built lower down the hill.

To the north of Parracombe is Woody Bay Station, the operating base for the **Lynton & Barnstaple Railway**, which offers a mile-long journey across Exmoor in trains drawn by vintage steam locomotives. The trip opens up grand views of the moor, the Bristol Channel and South Wales. There are ambitious plans to extend the line southwards via Parracombe to Wistlandpound and northwards for four miles to Lynton.

MORTEHOE

4 miles W of Ilfracombe off the B3343

 St Mary's Church  Morteohoe Heritage Centre

 Barricane Beach

Morteohoe is the most north-westerly village in Devon and its name, meaning raggy stump, reflects the rugged character of the Morte Peninsula. In this pretty stone-built village set on the cliff-top, Morteohoe's part-Norman **St Mary's Church** is certainly worth a visit. It's a small cruciform building with a 15th-century open-timbered waggon roof, an interesting early 14th-century table tomb, a bell in the tower, which may be the oldest in Devon, and a wonderful series of grotesquely carved Tudor bench ends. The church is also notable for the large mosaic of 1905, which fills the chancel arch. Designed by Selwyn Image, the Slade Professor of Art at Oxford, the mosaic was created by the same craftsmen who did the mosaics in St Paul's Cathedral.

In the village centre, the **Morteohoe Heritage Centre** occupies the Cart Linhay

Barricane Beach



building and also serves as a local Tourist Information Centre. It contains a museum that has sections dealing with the local farming communities, the railway and the history of shipwrecks in the area,

A short walk from Morteohoe village leads you to the dramatic coastline, mortally dangerous to ships, but with exhilarating views across to Lundy Island. Much of this clifftop area is in the guardianship of the National Trust, which also protects nearby **Barricane Beach** (remarkable for being formed almost entirely of sea shells washed here from the Caribbean), and the three-mile stretch of Woolacombe Sands.

WOOLACOMBE

7 miles SW of Ilfracombe on the B3343

The wonderful three-mile-long stretch of golden sands at Woolacombe is justifiably regarded as the finest beach in North Devon. This favoured resort lies between two dramatic headlands, both of which are now in the care of the National Trust. The sands and rock pools lying between these two outcrops are a delight for children (along with the swing boats and donkey rides), and surfers revel in the monster waves rolling in from the Atlantic.

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Back in the early 1800s, Woolacombe was little more than a hamlet whose few residents sustained a precarious livelihood by fishing. Then, suddenly, the leisured classes were seized by the craze for sea bathing initiated by George III at Weymouth and enthusiastically endorsed by his successor George IV at Brighton. Inspired by the economic success of those south coast towns, the two families who owned most of the land around Woolacombe, the Fortescues and the Chichesters, began constructing villas and hotels in the Regency style, elegant buildings that still endow the town with a very special charm and character. Many friends of the Fortescue and Chichester families regarded their initiative as a suicidally rash enterprise. Woolacombe was so remote and the roads of North Devon at that time still so primitive, little more than cart tracks. "Who," they asked, "would undertake such an arduous journey?" During the first few years only a trickle of well-to-do visitors in search of a novel (and comparatively inexpensive resort) found their way to Woolacombe. But their word of mouth recommendations soon ensured a steady flow of tourists, a flow that has swelled to a flood over subsequent years. The town recently won the England for

Excellence Gold Award for best family resort, and was dubbed Best British Beach by the *Mail on Sunday*.

Barnstaple

Pannier Market	Butchers Row	Guildhall
Church of St Peter & St Paul	St Anne's Chapel	
Queen Anne's Walk		
Barnstaple Heritage Centre		
Museum of North Devon	Tarka Trail	

Barnstaple enjoys a superb location at the head of the Taw estuary, at the furthest point downstream where it was possible to ford the river. The first bridge across the Taw was built in the late 1200s, but the present impressive structure, 700 feet long with 16 arches, dates from about 1450 although it has been altered and widened many times.

Visitors will immediately realise that Barnstaple takes its floral decorations very seriously. The town began its association with the Britain in Bloom movement in 1991 and just five years later crowned its efforts by winning the Gold award for the Prettiest Floral Town in Europe in the Entente Florale Competition. Wherever you turn you may well

find a magnificent display - a hay cart full of flowers outside the police station and civic centre, for example, a giant postage stamp modelled in blossoming plants outside the Post Office, or a stunning model of a train (again, all created in flowers) at the entrance to the railway station.

The town's love of floral exuberance may be one of its most endearing features, but Barnstaple is also the administrative and commercial capital of the region, a pre-eminence it

Barnstaple Long Bridge



historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

already enjoyed when the Domesday Book recorded the town as one of only four boroughs in the county. Back then, in 1086, Barnstaple had its own mint and, already, a regular market. More than nine centuries later, the town still hosts produce markets every Tuesday and Friday, but the **Pannier Market** is open every weekday. This huge, glass-roofed building covering some 45,000 square feet was built in 1855 and its grandiose architecture resembles that of a major Victorian railway station, (London's St Pancras springs to mind). The Market takes its name from the pannier baskets, (two wicker baskets connected by a leather strap draped across the back of a donkey, pony or horse), in which country people in those days would carry their fruit and vegetables to town.

Just across the road from the Pannier Market is **Butchers Row**, a quaint line of booth-like Victorian shops constructed mostly of wood with brightly painted wooden canopies. When they were built, facing north for coolness, back in 1855 and were occupied exclusively by butchers. Today, you'll find a much wider variety of goods on sale – seaweed amongst them. Every week during the summer season at least 300lb of this succulent algae are sold, most of it ending up as a breakfast dish, served with bacon and an egg on top.

In the pedestrianised High Street stands the rather austere **Guildhall**, built in the Grecian style in 1826 and now housing some interesting civic memorabilia – portraits, municipal regalia and silverware – which are occasionally on display. Nearby, the **Church of St Peter and St Paul** dates back to the early 1300s. After having its spire twisted by a lightning strike in 1810, it



suffered even more badly later that century under the heavy hand of the Victorian restorer, Sir Gilbert Scott. Much more appealing are the charming 17th-century Horwood's Almshouses nearby, and the 15th-century **St Anne's Chapel**, which served for many years as the town's Grammar School. During the late 17th century John Gay, author of *The Beggar's Opera*, was numbered amongst its pupils. The town has other literary associations. William Shakespeare visited in 1605 and it was the sight of its narrow streets bustling with traders that inspired him to write *The Merchant of Venice*. The diarist Samuel Pepys married a 15-year-old Barnstaple girl in 1655.

As at Tiverton, the 17th-century well-to-do residents of Barnstaple were much given to charitable endowments. As well as Thomas Horwood's almshouses, Messrs. Paige and Penrose both bequeathed substantial funds for almshouses, and in 1659 Thomas' wife, Alice, paid for the building in Church Lane of a school for "20 poor maids". It is now a coffee house.

A slightly later building of distinction is **Queen Anne's Walk**, a colonnaded arcade with some lavish ornamentation, surmounted by a large statue of the Queen herself. Opened

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

in 1708, it was used by the Barnstaple wool merchants who accepted that any verbal bargain they agreed over the Tome Stone was legally binding. The building stands on the old town quay from which, in 1588, five ships set sail to join Drake's fleet against the Armada. The building is now home to the **Barnstaple Heritage Centre** where more can be found out about this ancient town and one of its most enduring industries, pottery, which has been made here continuously since the 13th century. As in those days, local Fremington red clay is used.

There's more pottery on display in the **Museum of North Devon** where a whole room is devoted to Barum Ware created by local potter CH Brannam (1855-1937). With its strident dark blues, greens and earthy tones on red clay, the range was vastly popular in late Victorian times.

Barnstaple has two railway stations but only one is still functioning. This is the northern terminus of the Tarka Line, a lovely 39-mile route that follows the gentle river valleys of the Yeo and the Taw where Tarka the Otter had his home. The railway is actually the main line route to Exeter but has been renamed in honour of one of the area's major visitor attractions.

Walkers along the **Tarka Trail** will know Barnstaple well as the crossover point in this figure-of-eight long-distance footpath. Inspired by Henry Williamson's celebrated story of *Tarka the Otter*, the 180-mile trail wanders through a delightful variety of Devon scenery – tranquil countryside, wooded river valleys, rugged moorland, and a stretch of the North Devon coast, with part of the route taking in the Tarka Line railway in order to get the best views of the locations described in the novel.

Around Barnstaple

MUDDIFORD

4 miles N of Barnstaple on the B3230

Marwood Hill Gardens

From Barnstaple to Ilfracombe, the B3230 winds through a pretty valley, passing along the way through attractive small villages. Despite the rather unappealing name, Muddiford is one of them. The village really did get its name from the muddy ford by which medieval travellers used to cross the river here.

About two miles southwest of Muddiford, **Marwood Hill Gardens** offer visitors some

BROOMHILL FARM

Muddiford, nr Barnstaple, North Devon EX31 4EX
Tel: 01271 850676 e-mail: rwmills@btmail.co.uk
website: www.broomhillfarmhouse.co.uk

Nestled in a rural woodland location yet only five minutes from the market town of Barnstaple, Broomhill Farm is a family run smallholding and livery stables offering comfortable, quality B&B accommodation. There are three tastefully furnished double rooms all with en-suite facilities, colour TV, hair dryers, tea and coffee. Home cooked breakfasts, using locally sourced produce and eggs from the free range chickens is served at a mutually arranged time. A very homely feel and an excellent base for visiting Exmoor, superb golf courses at Saunton and wonderful surfing beaches at Woolacombe and Croyde.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

18 acres of trees and shrubs, many of them rare and unusual. The collection was started more than half a century ago and now includes an enormous number and variety of plants. The three lakes, linked by the largest bog garden in the West Country, are busy with ducks and multi-coloured carp. From spring, when camellias and magnolias are in bloom, through to the brilliant hues of autumn, the gardens provide a continuous spectacle of colour. The gardens are home to the national collections of astilbe, iris and tulbaghia.

ARLINGTON

6 miles NE of Barnstaple on the A39

 Arlington Court  Exmoor Zoological Park

Arlington Court is an imposing National Trust property, which was home to the Chichester family from 1534 until the last owner, Rosalie Chichester, died childless in 1949. (Sir Francis Chichester, famous as an aviation pioneer and as the first solo round-the-world sailor, was born two miles away at Shirwell.) The present house was built in 1822 to an unambitious design by the Barnstaple architect, Thomas Lee, and extended some 40 years later by Sir Bruce Chichester who also added the handsome stable block. When he died in 1881, he left

the house and its 2775-acre park to his daughter Rosalie, along with a staggering mountain of debts. Only 15 years old when she inherited the estate, Rosalie managed to keep it intact and stayed on at Arlington Court until her death at the age of 83.

The interior today is really a museum reflecting Rosalie's varied interests. There are displays of her collections of porcelain, pewter, shells, snuff boxes, and more than one hundred model ships, some made by French soldiers captured during the Napoleonic wars.

Intriguingly, Rosalie never saw the most valuable work of art amongst her possessions. After her death, a watercolour by William Blake was discovered on top of a wardrobe where it had lain forgotten for over 100 years. It is now on display in the white drawing room.

During her lifetime, Rosalie Chichester transformed the grounds of Arlington Court into something of a nature reserve. She ordered the building of an eight-mile long perimeter fence to protect the native wildfowl and heron populations. The Shetland ponies and Jacob sheep grazing the fields today are descendants of those introduced by Rosalie. Another of her eclectic interests is evident in the 18th century stable block that houses a unique collection of horse-drawn carriages she saved from destruction.

About three miles southeast of Arlington Court, **Exmoor Zoological Park** is home to more than 170 species of unusual and exotic animals and birds. The residents of the 12 acres of gardens here range from pygmy marmosets to tarantulas, from penguins to catybara. Children can enjoy close encounters with many of the more cuddly animals, there are informative talks by the keepers but, as at any zoo,



Arlington Court

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

the most magnetic visitor attraction is the feeding time for the various animals.

LANDKEY

2 miles SE of Barnstaple off the A361

 North Devon Farm Park

Landkey boasts a fine church with some impressive memorials (well worth visiting) and also the distinction of being the only village bearing this name in Britain. Historians believe that it is derived from Lan, the Celtic word for a church, and the saint to which it was dedicated, Kea. An enduring legend claims that St Kea rowed over from Wales with his personal cow on board determined to convert the pagans of North Devon to Christianity. Sadly, these benighted people were not persuaded by his eloquence and chopped off his head. Not many public speakers could cope with that kind of negative response, but St Kea calmly retrieved his severed head and continued, head in hand, to preach the Gospel for many years.

Just outside the village, **North Devon Farm Park** has been trading as a farm park and rare breed centre since 1992 with the aim of providing an educational glimpse into times and lifestyles past. It is set in beautiful, unspoilt North Devon countryside, and centres around a Grade II listed, 15th-century Devon farm house. There are more than 50 acres of lovely countryside and nature walks to explore, including lime kilns, badger sets, rivers and lakes. There are many animals to see and feed as well as activities for the young ones, whatever the weather.

SWIMBRIDGE

5 miles SE of Barnstaple on the A361

 Rev "Jack" Russell  Church of St James

For almost half a century from 1833 this attractive village was the home of the **Rev**

John "Jack" Russell, the celebrated hunting parson and breeder of the first Jack Russell terriers. A larger than life character, he was an enthusiastic master of foxhounds and when his bishop censured him for pursuing such an unseemly sport for a man of the cloth, he transferred the pack into his wife's name and continued his frequent sorties. He was still riding to hounds in his late 70s and when he died in 1880 at the age of 87 hundreds of people attended his funeral. Russell was buried in the churchyard of St James', the church where he had been a diligent pastor. He was gratefully remembered for his brief sermons, delivered as his groom waited by the porch with his horse saddled and ready.

Mostly 15th century, the **Church of St James** is one of Devon's outstanding churches, distinctive from the outside because of its unusual lead-covered spire. Inside, there is a wealth of ecclesiastical treasures: a richly carved rood screen spanning both the nave and the aisles, an extraordinary 18th-century font cover in the shape of an elongated octagonal 'cupboard', a fine 15th-century stone pulpit supported by a tall pedestal and carved with the figures of saints and angels, and a wonderful nave roof with protective angels gazing down. Collectors of unusual epitaphs will savour the punning lines inscribed on a monument here to John Rosier, a lawyer who died in 1658:

*Lo, with a Warrant sealed by God's decree
Death his grim Seargant hath arrested me
No baile was to be given, no law could save
My body from the prison of the grave.*

The village itself has some elegant Georgian houses and a pub, which in 1962 was renamed after Swimbridge's most famous resident. Jack Russell societies from around the world frequently hold their meetings here.

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



COBBATON

6 miles SE of Barnstaple off the A377

Cobbaton Combat Collection

The hamlet of Cobbaton is home to the largest private collection of military vehicles and wartime memorabilia in the southwest. Owner Preston Isaac started the **Cobbaton Combat Collection** as a hobby but admits that “it got out of hand!” His schoolboy’s box of treasures has grown to comprise more than 60 World War Two military vehicles, including tanks and artillery, along with weapons and equipment from all over the world as well as thousands of smaller items. For visitors’ convenience, a NAAFI truck is on duty to provide snacks and drinks and the Quartermaster’s Stores offers a range of surplus uniforms, de-activated guns, militaria, books and souvenirs.

BISHOPS TAWTON

2 miles S of Barnstaple on the A377

Bishop’s Tawton takes its name from the River Taw and the medieval Bishop’s Palace that stood here until the reign of Henry VIII and of which a few fragments still stand. The village today is not over-endowed with listed buildings but it can boast a very unusual one, a

sociable three-seater outside lavatory that has been accorded Grade II listed status. This amenity has not been used for 40 years or more (and the brambles that have invaded it would make it rather uncomfortable to do so) but it still looks perfectly serviceable.

ATHERINGTON

7 miles S of Barnstaple on the B3217

St Mary’s Church

A landmark for miles around, **St Mary’s Church** stands in the picturesque square of this hilltop village and is notable for a feature that is unique in Devon – a lavishly carved and alarmingly top-heavy rood loft. Created by two carvers from Chittlehampton in the 1530s, it is an exceptionally fine example of their craft. The church also contains striking effigies of Sir John Wilmington, who died in 1349, and his wife; a window of medieval glass; and well-preserved brasses of Sir John Basset, (died 1529), his two wives and 12 children.

HIGH BICKINGTON

8 miles S of Barnstaple on the B3217

Two miles south of Atherington is another hilltop village. Standing at almost 600 feet above sea level, the village commands excellent views in all directions. It boasts a fine 16th-century inn, The George, which is set amongst a delightful group of thatched cottages, and a parish church dating back to the 1100s, which is renowned for its exceptional collection of carved bench and pew ends. There are around 70 of them in all: some are Gothic (characterised by fine tracery); others are Renaissance (characterised

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

by rounded figures). More recent carving on the choir stalls depicts an appealing collection of animals and birds.

BRAUNTON

6 miles NW of Barnstaple on the A361

 Church of St Brannoc  Braunton Great Field

Braunton claims the rather odd distinction of being the largest village in Devon. It is certainly a sizeable community, spreading along both sides of the River Caen with some handsome Georgian houses and a substantial church reflecting Braunton's relative importance in medieval times. The church is dedicated to **St Brannoc**, a Celtic saint who arrived here from Wales in the 6th century. It's said that his bones lie beneath the altar of the present 13th-century church, a story that may well be true since the building stands on the site of a Saxon predecessor. What is certainly

true is that the church contains some of the finest 16th-century carved pews to be found anywhere in England. Many of the carvings depict pigs, a clear allusion to the ancient tradition that St Brannoc was instructed in a dream to build a church where he came across a sow and her litter of seven pigs. Arriving in North Devon the saint happily discovered this very scene at the spot where Braunton's church now stands.

There is further evidence of Saxon occupation of this area to be found in **Braunton Great Field**, just to the southwest of the village. This is one of very few remaining examples of the Saxon open-field strip system still being actively farmed in Britain. Around 350 acres in total, the field was originally divided into around 700 half-acre strips, each of them a furlong (220 yards) long, and 11 yards wide. Each strip was

KITTIWAKES HOME-GARDEN-BEACH

*15 Caen Street, Braunton, nr Barnstaple,
North Devon EX33 1AA
Tel: 01271 815314*

*e-mail: sarah@kittiwakes-shop.co.uk
website: www.kittiwakes-shop.co.uk*

Sarah Kirby describes her shop **Kittiwakes**, as "the home of shabby chic in North Devon". In fact, she sells beautiful soft furnishings and general home wares. With the focus on flair and presentation Sarah strives to make sure that her shop is a fantastic place to find gifts that have that extra little something, that touch of beauty, that makes a gift special. You'll find cushions and quilts by A.U.

Maison, Nigella Lawson's kitchen range, candles, soaps, mirrors, wall decorations and oil cloth. Kittiwakes is also an approved Cath Kidston stockist.

The shop also stocks some great garden decorations, garden furniture and other products. Tins for seeds, string and matches, baskets, buckets and containers, plant labels, picnic blankets, outdoor thermometers, hand soaps, creams and salves - you'll definitely find that perfect gift for a garden lover somewhere here. And for the beach - think of Kittiwakes if you need: a beach BBQ, a picnic blanket, thermos, lantern or bucket and spade. "All with a tasteful twist or retro charm... of course!" says Sarah. Kittiwakes is open from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday. Out of season hours may vary slightly, please telephone or check the website.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

separated by an unploughed 'landshare' about one foot wide. Throughout the centuries, many of the strips have changed hands and been combined, so that now only about 200 individual ones remain.

CROYDE

9 miles NW of Barnstaple on the B3231

 Braunton Burrows  Baggy Point

One of the prettiest villages in Devon, Croyde is renowned for its excellent beach with, just around the headland, another three-mile stretch of sands at Saunton Sands, one of the most glorious, family-friendly sandy beaches in the West Country. The sands are backed by 1000 acres of dunes known as **Braunton Burrows**, a UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserve, which is the largest sand dune system in England. The southern part of this wide expanse is noted for its fluctuating population of migrant birds as well as rare flowers and insects.

Also noted for its abundant wildlife is **Baggy Point**, just northwest of Croyde. This headland of Devonian rock (so named because the rock was first identified in this county) is a popular nesting place for seabirds, including herring gull, fulmar, shag

and cormorant. Grey seals can often be seen from here.

Running north-westwards from the cliffs is a shoal known as Baggy Leap. In 1799, *HMS Weazle* was driven onto the shoal during a gale and all 106 people on board perished.

GEORGEHAM

9 miles NW of Barnstaple off the B3231

 Henry Williamson

It was in Georgeham that **Henry Williamson** settled in 1921 and where he wrote his most famous novel, *Tarka the Otter*, published in 1927. Tarka lived in the land between the Taw and Torridge rivers and many of the small villages and settlements feature in the story. After World War Two, Williamson farmed for a while in Norfolk but returned to Georgeham where he died in 1947. He is buried in the graveyard of St George's Church. Skirr Cottage, which he rented while writing *Tarka*, is now a self-catering holiday home.

Bideford

 Pannier Market  Royal Hotel

 Burton Museum  Lundy Island

Dubbed the Little White Town by Charles Kingsley, this attractive town set beside the River Torridge was once the third busiest port in Britain. The first bridge across the shallow neck of the Torridge estuary was built around 1300 to link Bideford with its aptly-named satellite village, East-the-Water. That bridge must have been very impressive for its time. It was 670 feet long, and built of massive oak lintels of varying length, which created a series of irregular arches between 12



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

PANNIER PANTRY

9-11 Butchers Row, Market Place, Bideford,
Devon EX39 2DR
Tel: 01237 473957

Located in Bideford's historic Victorian covered market of 1883, the **Pannier Pantry** places great emphasis on achieving the minimum amount possible of "food miles" for all its produce. Owner Carol Wawrychuk, who established her shop in 2007, sources all her stock if possible from within a 10 miles radius of Bideford. Meat, game, cheeses, jam, eggs are all local, and even the herbs are plucked from local gardens.

The pantry has a very inviting atmosphere, with café-style gingham curtains and fresh flower displays. Carol is also a qualified cake maker and will make birthday, wedding and other cakes to order. She is also planning to introduce hampers which are ideal for picnics and self-catering.



and 25 feet apart. These erratic dimensions were preserved when the bridge was rebuilt in stone around 1460 (the old bridge was used as scaffolding), and despite widening during the 1920s, they persist to this day. Unusually, Bideford Bridge is managed by an ancient corporation of trustees, known as feoffees, whose income, derived from property in the town, not only pays for the upkeep of the bridge, but also supports local charities and good causes. A high-level bridge a mile or so downstream, opened in 1987, has relieved some of the traffic congestion and also provides panoramic views of the town and the Torridge estuary.

Bideford received its Market Charter from Henry III in 1272 (on 25 May to be precise), and markets still take place every Tuesday and Saturday. Since 1883 they have been held in the splendid **Pannier Market** building,

reckoned to be one of the best surviving examples of a Victorian covered market. Along with local produce, there's a huge selection of gifts, crafts, and handmade goods on offer: "Everything from Antiques to Aromatherapy!"

Devon ports seemed to specialise in particular commodities. At Bideford it was tobacco from the North American colonies that brought almost two centuries of prosperity until the American War of Independence shut off supplies. Evidence of this golden age can still be seen in the opulent merchants' residences in Bridgeland Street, and most strikingly in the **Royal Hotel** in East-the-Water, a former merchant's house of 1688 with a pair of little-seen plasterwork ceilings, which are perhaps the finest and most extravagant examples of their kind in Devon.

It was while he was staying at the Royal

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Hotel that Charles Kingsley penned most of *Westward Ho!* A quarter of a million words long, the novel was completed in just seven months. There's a statue of Kingsley, looking suitably literary, on Bideford Quay. Broad and tree-lined, the Quay stands at the foot of the narrow maze of lanes that formed the old seaport.

Just round the corner from the Quay, on the edge of Victoria Park, is the **Burton Museum and Art Gallery**, opened in 1994. The museum contains some interesting curios, such as Bideford harvest jugs of the late 1700s, and model ships in carved bone made by French prisoners during the Napoleonic wars. The gallery has frequently changing exhibitions with subjects ranging from automata to kites, quilts to dinosaurs, as well as paintings by well-known North Devon artists. The museum also has a craft gallery, shop, workshop, lecture area and coffee shop.

Starting at the Burton Gallery, guided walks around the town are available.

Around Bideford

LUNDY ISLAND

25 miles W of Bideford via MS Oldenburg

One excursion from Bideford that should not be missed is the day trip to Lundy Island on the supply boat, the *MS Oldenburg*, a journey that takes about two hours. Lundy is a huge lump of granite rock, three miles long and half a mile wide, with sheer cliffs rising 500 feet above the shore. Its name derives from the Norse lunde ey, meaning puffin island, and these attractive birds with their multi-coloured beaks are still in residence, along with many other species. More than 400 different species of birds have been spotted on Lundy, and you might also spot one of the indigenous black rats, which have survived only on this isolated spot. The island

Old Lighthouse, Lundy



has a 13th-century castle and a lighthouse, both offering accommodation through the Landmark Trust, a church, a pub and a shop selling souvenirs and the famous stamps.

WESTWARD HO!

2 miles NW of Bideford on the B3236

 Northam Burrows Country Park

 Pot Wallowing Festival

Is there any other place in the world that has been named after a popular novel? Following the huge success in 1855 of Charles Kingsley's tale of Elizabethan derring-do, a company was formed to develop this spectacular site with its rocky cliffs and two miles of sandy beach. The early years were troubled. A powerful storm washed away the newly-built pier and most of the houses. When Rudyard Kipling came here in 1874 as a pupil at the United Services College he described the place as "twelve bleak houses by the shore". Today, Westward Ho! is a busy holiday resort well worth visiting

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

for its two miles of golden sands, recently awarded a Blue Flag, and the nearby **Northam Burrows Country Park**, almost 1000 acres of grazed burrows rich in flora, fauna and migratory birds, and offering tremendous views across Bideford Bay.

Westward Ho! is also home to the Royal North Devon Golf Club, founded in 1864 and the oldest golf course in England.

An unusual event at Westward Ho! is the **Pot Walloping Festival**, which takes place in late spring. Local people and visitors join together to throw pebbles that have been dislodged by winter storms back on to the famous ridge, after which pots of a different kind also get a walloping.

NORTHAM

2 miles N of Bideford on the A386

 **Bloody Corner**

Northam is said to have been where Hubba the Dane attacked Devon and was repelled by either Alfred the Great or the Earl of Devon. Another tale recounts that in 1069, three years after King Harold had been slain at the Battle of Hastings, his three sons landed at Northam in an attempt to regain their father's throne. They came from Ireland with an invasion force of more than 60 ships but their rebellion was mercilessly suppressed at a site just to the south of the town. To this day, it is known as **Bloody Corner**.

APPLEDORE

3 miles N of Bideford on the A386

 **North Devon Maritime Museum**

 **Appledore Visual Arts Festival**

Overlooking the Taw-Torridge estuary,



Cottages in Appledore

Appledore is a delightful old-world fishing village of narrow winding lanes and sturdy fishermen's cottages from the 18th and 19th centuries. All types of fishing can be arranged here and you can even go crabbing from the quayside. The streets of the old quarter are too narrow for cars although not, it seems, for the occasional small fishing boat, which is pulled up from the harbour and parked between the buildings.

It seems appropriate that the **North Devon Maritime Museum** should be located in this truly nautical setting. Housed in a former ship-owner's residence, the museum contains a wealth of seafaring memorabilia, a photographic exhibit detailing the military exercises around the estuary in preparation for the D-Day landings during World War Two, a reconstructed Victorian kitchen, and much more.

A stroll along Bude Street is recommended. Art and craft galleries have gathered here amongst the Georgian style 'Captains houses', and it's particularly colourful during the **Appledore Visual Arts Festival** in late May-early June when one of the many events is a door decorating competition.

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

INSTOW

3 miles N of Bideford on the B3233

The older part of this delightful village lies inland from the Torridge estuary while, looking out over the magnificent beach, there are some early 19th-century villas. Here, too, is the Instow Signal Box that was built in 1873 to control the crossing gates and the passing loop at Instow Station. It has been restored and is now the first Grade II listed signal box in the country. Visitors can see its machinery, gate wheel and instruments as well as 'pull off' a re-instated signal.

During the summer months, there's a ferry across the estuary to Appledore.

Just south of the village are Tapeley Park Gardens, some 35 acres of grounds on the eastern bank of the River Torridge. From here there are excellent views across the estuary and over to Lundy Island. Along with the lake reached by a woodland walk, there are masses of hydrangeas, rhododendrons and camellias. As well as the renovated Italian terraces and the restored walled kitchen garden, Tapeley has an organic perma culture garden where fruit, vegetables, nuts and herbs are mixed together using companion planting. There is also a

children's play area and a variety of animals and pets to entertain the youngsters. The gardens are open daily, except Saturdays, from mid-March to the end of October; the Queen Anne house is open only to groups by appointment.

GREAT TORRINGTON

7 miles SE of Bideford on the A386

-  **Castle Hill**  **Church of St Michael and All Angels**
-  **Torrington 1646**  **Dartington Crystal**
-  **May Fair**  **Rosemoor Garden**

A good place to start exploring Great Torrington is at **Castle Hill**, which commands grand views along the valley of the River Torridge. (There's no view of the castle, which was demolished as long ago as 1228, its site is now a bowling green.) On the opposite bank of the river is the hamlet of Taddipport where the tiny 14th century church by the bridge was originally the chapel of a leper hospital; its inmates were not permitted to cross over into Torrington itself.

Not many churches in England have been blown up by gunpowder. That was the fate however of the original **Church of St Michael and All Angels**. It happened during the Civil War when General Fairfax captured the town on 16 February 1646. His Royalist prisoners were bundled into the church, which they had been using as an arsenal. In the darkness, the 80 barrels of gunpowder stored there were somehow set alight and in the huge explosion that followed the church was demolished, 200 men lost their lives, and Fairfax himself narrowly escaped death. The present spacious church was built five years later, one of very few in the country erected during the Commonwealth years.



Tapeley Park Gardens

-  historic building
-  museum and heritage
-  historic site
-  scenic attraction
-  flora and fauna
-  stories and anecdotes
-  famous people
-  art and craft
-  entertainment and sport
-  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

The Civil War events are portrayed at **Torrington 1646**, a permanent exhibition near Castle Hill, where colourful characters dressed as 17th-century residents of Great Torrington speak in period language as they guide visitors through an indoor reconstruction of some of the lanes and streets of Great Torrington on the night of the fierce 1646 battle. Visitors then proceed to the linhay (an open-sided barn) where they can try their hand at 17th-century games or perhaps try on some armour or have a go at wielding a pike.

But the town's leading tourist attraction is **Dartington Crystal** where visitors can see skilled craftsmen blowing and shaping the crystal, follow the history of glass-making from the Egyptians to the present day, watch a video presentation, and browse amongst some 10,000 square feet of displays. The enterprise

was set up in the 1960s by the Dartington Hall Trust to provide employment in an area of rural depopulation. Today, the beautifully designed handmade crystal is exported to more than 50 countries around the world.

Torrington's **May Fair** is still an important event in the local calendar, as it has been since 1554. On the first Thursday in May, a Queen is crowned, there is maypole dancing in the High Street, and a banner proclaims the greeting "Us be plazed to zee 'ee'".

About a mile south of Great Torrington, the Royal Horticultural Society's **Rosemoor Garden** occupies a breathtaking setting in the Torridge Valley. Notable as a centre for rose cultivation - there are some 200 varieties on show - the 40-acre site includes mature planting in Lady Anne Palmer's magnificent garden and arboretum; a winding rocky gorge

THE CRANFORD INN

*nr St Giles in the Wood, Great Torrington,
Devon EX38 7LA*

Tel: 01805 623309

e-mail: cranfordinn@yahoo.com

website: www.cranfordinn.com

The **Cranford Inn** is a traditional Devon longhouse standing in lovely countryside on the B3227 just east of High Bullen (not in St Giles in the Wood). It has the look and feel of a true country pub and enjoys a super setting in 70 acres of grounds that include fishing lakes. The bar is a popular local meeting place, a convivial spot for a chat and a drink: the inn has its own microbrewery at nearby Yelland Manor Farm.

The Cranford is also a top-notch restaurant, with meat, game, fish and farm produce from the very best local sources; some of the fish is caught from the inn's own boat. They butcher their own meat, make their own sausages and smoke their own fish and game. The inn is a training establishment for a local catering college, and many students have gone on to cook in some of the top national restaurants.

The setting is rural but well-positioned, - 'in the middle of everywhere' - so it's an ideal base for exploring the glorious countryside. The guest accommodation, which can be booked on a B&B or self-catering basis, comprises three cottages, each with two bedrooms, a shower room, lounge and dining areas, a kitchenette, hot drinks tray and mini-bar. The inn specialises in catering for shooting parties and can also organise a day's fishing - on their own lakes, on local rivers or at sea.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

with bamboos and ferns beside the stream, and a more formal area that contains one of the longest herbaceous borders in the country. There are trails for children, a picnic area and an award-winning Visitor Centre with a licensed restaurant, plant centre and shop.

MONKLEIGH

5 miles S of Bideford on the A388

 Sir William Hankford

Monkleigh parish church contains a striking monument, an ornate canopied tomb containing the remains of **Sir William Hankford** who was Lord Chief Justice of England in the early 1400s. He lived at nearby Annery Park and the story goes that having been troubled by poachers Sir William instructed his gamekeeper to shoot anyone he found in the park at night. The gamekeeper did indeed see a figure passing through the park, fired and discovered to his horror that he had killed his master.

WEARE GIFFARD

5 miles S of Bideford off the A386

 Weare Giffard Hall

This appealing village claims to be the longest riverside village in England, straggling for almost two miles along the banks of the Torridge. Weare Giffard (pronounced Jiffard) has a charm all its own, suspended in time it seems to belong to the more peaceful days of half a century ago. The villagers have even refused to have full street lighting installed, so avoiding the 'street furniture' that blemishes so many attractive places.

Another attraction in the village is a fine old 15th-century manor house, **Weare Giffard Hall**. Although its outer walls were partially demolished during the Civil War, the splendid gatehouse with its mighty doors and guardian

lions has survived. Inside, the main hall has a magnificent hammer-beam roof, and several of the other rooms are lined with Tudor and Jacobean oak panelling. For centuries, the house was the home of the Fortescue family and in the nearby church there is an interesting 'family tree' with portraits of past Fortescues carved in stone.

WOOLFARDISWORTHY

11 miles SW of Bideford off the A39

 Milky Way Adventure Park

Naturally, you don't pronounce Woolfardisworthy the way it looks. The correct pronunciation is Woolsery. The extraordinary name goes back to Saxon times when the land was owned by Wulfheard who established a worthig, or homestead, here.

A mile or so north of the village, alongside the A39, is a family entertainment complex, the **Milky Way Adventure Park**. The park includes a huge indoor play area (for both children and adults) where you can test your archery and laser target shooting skills, a Pets Corner where children are encouraged to cuddle the animals, a Bird of Prey Centre, a Sheep Dog Training and Breeding Centre, Toddler Town - a safe play area for very young children - a Sports Hall, a miniature railway, and a Time Warp Adventure Zone.

CLOVELLY

12 miles SW of Bideford off the A39

 Kingsley Museum  Fisherman's Cottage

 Clovelly Pottery

Even if you've never been to Devon, you must have heard of this unbelievably quaint and picturesque village that tumbles down a steep hillside in terraced levels. Almost every whitewashed and flower-strewn cottage is worthy of its own picture postcard and from

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Main Street, Clovelly

the story *A Message from the Sea* by Dickens and Wilkie Collins. Charles Kingsley (*The Water Babies*; *Westward Ho!*) was at school here in the 1820s and the **Kingsley Museum** explores his links with the village. Next door, the **Fisherman's Cottage** provides an insight into what life was like here about 80 years ago. And the award-winning Visitor Centre has an audio-visual show narrating the development of Clovelly from around 2000BC to the present day.

the sheltered little harbour there is an enchanting view of this unique place. One reason Clovelly is so unspoilt is that the village has belonged to the Rous family since 1738 and they have ensured that it has been spared such modern defacements as telegraph poles and 'street furniture'.

The only access to the beach and the beautifully restored 14th century quay is on foot or by donkey, although there is a Land Rover service from the Red Lion Hotel for those who can't face the climb back up the hill. The only other forms of transport are the sledges that are used to deliver weekly supplies. During the summer months there are regular boat trips around the bay, and the *Jessica Hettie* travels daily to Lundy Island with timings that allow passengers to spend some six hours there, watching the seals and abundant wildlife.

The owner of the *Jessica Hettie*, Clive Pearson, is also a potter. In 1992 he opened **The Clovelly Pottery**, which displays an extensive range of items made by Cornish and Devon potters. In the nearby workshop, for a small fee, you can try your hand at throwing a pot.

This captivating village has some strong literary connections. It features as Steepway in

HARTLAND

15 miles SW of Bideford on the B3248

Church of St Nectan Hartland Point

Hartland Museum Hartland Abbey

This pleasant village with its narrow streets and small square was once larger and more important than Bideford. Hartland was a royal possession from the time of King Alfred until William the Conqueror and continued to be a busy centre right up to the 19th century. It was at its most prosperous in the 1700s and some fine Georgian buildings survive from that period. But the most striking building is the parish **Church of St Nectan** (see panel on page 142) which stands about 1½ miles west of the village. This is another of Devon's 'must-see' churches. The exterior is impressive enough with its 128 feet high tower, but it is the glorious 15th-century screen inside that makes this church one of the most visited in the county. A masterpiece of the medieval woodcarvers' art, its elegant arches are topped by four exquisitely fretted bands of intricate designs. The arches are delicately painted, reminding one yet again how colourful English churches used to be before the vandalism of the Puritan years.

The Church of St Nectan

Lanepark Lane, Stoke, nr Hartland, Devon EX39 6HF
Tel: 01479 810000

St. Nectan, the patron saint of this church and parish, was one of many Celtic hermits and missionaries associated with early Christian sites in South-West Britain, South Wales and Ireland in the fifth and sixth centuries.

The church as we have it is in the Perpendicular style of the fourteenth century, subject to restoration, particularly the windows, in 1848. Although situated some 3 kilometres from the village of Hartland, the centre of the manor, the church is one of the largest in this part of Devon, Hartland parish being in the top ten percent of Devon parishes by population till the 17th century.

The only major addition in the 1848 restoration was an increase in the length of the chancel. The size is best appreciated from beneath the tower arch, being enhanced by the areas of clear glass, the exceptional height of the tower arch itself, and the width of the arches over the aisles. The piers of the arcades (four in the nave and one in the chancel) are of limestone and appear to be earlier than some other North Devon examples. The tower arch is over 8 metres high; from an early date and up to 1848 it contained a musicians' gallery.



In the churchyard is the grave of Allen Lane who, in 1935, revolutionised publishing by his introduction of Penguin Books, paperback books which were sold at sixpence (2½p) each.

From the village, follow the signs to **Hartland Abbey**. Founded in 1157, the abbey was closed down in 1539 by Henry VIII who gave the building and its wide estates to William Abbott, Sergeant of the Royal wine cellars. His descendants still live here. The house was partly rebuilt in the mid 18th century in the style known as Strawberry Hill Gothic, and in the 1850s the architect George Gilbert Scott added a front hall and entrance. The abbey's owner, Sir George Stucley, had recently visited the Alhambra Palace in Spain, which he much admired. He asked Scott to design something in that style and the result is the elegant Alhambra Corridor with a blue

vaulted ceiling with white stencilled patterns. The abbey has a choice collection of pictures, porcelain and furniture acquired over many generations and, in the former Servants' Hall, a unique exhibition of documents dating from 1160. There's also a fascinating Victorian and Edwardian photographic exhibition, which includes many early photographs.

A mile further west is Hartland Quay. Exposed to all the wrath of Atlantic storms, it seems an inhospitable place for ships, but it was a busy landing-place from its building in 1566 until the sea finally overwhelmed it in 1893. Several of the old buildings have been converted into a comfortable hotel; another is now the **Hartland Museum**, which records the many wrecks that have littered this jagged coastline.

About three miles to the north of the Quay,

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

reached by winding country lanes, is **Hartland Point**. On Ptolemy's map of Britain in Roman times, he names it the Promontory of Hercules, a fitting name for this fearsome stretch of upended rocks rising at right angles to the sea. There are breathtaking sea and coast views and a lighthouse built in 1874.

South Molton

-  Town Museum  Medical Hall
-  Market Hall and Assembly Rooms  Guildhall
-  Quince Honey Farm

This pleasant old market town, thankfully now bypassed by the A361 North Devon link road, has been a focus of the local agriculture-based economy since Saxon times, and in common with many such towns throughout Devon was a centre of the wool trade in the late Middle Ages. The town still flourishes as a market town

with a main market day on Thursday and an extra pannier market on Saturday.

Unusually, the town has two Royal Charters, one from Elizabeth I in 1590 and another from Charles II in 1684. They are commemorated each year with an Old English Fayre held in June. The original charters can both be seen in the **Town Museum** along with one of the oldest fire engines in the country. It was bought by the town in 1746 for £46.

In the heart of the old town runs Broad Street, so broad as to be almost a square and distinguished by some handsome Georgian and Victorian civic architecture. Among the noteworthy buildings to be found here are the **Market Hall and Assembly Rooms**, the eccentric **Medical Hall** with its iron balcony and four Ionic columns, and the Palladian-style **Guildhall** of 1743, which overhangs the pavement in a series of arches. A useful Heritage Trail Guide, obtainable from the

DAISY PARK GIFT BOUTIQUE

140 East Street, South Molton, Devon EX36 3BU

Tel: 01769 579077

e-mail: emma@daisypark.co.uk

website: www.daisypark.co.uk

'Gorgeous gifts from Delightful Devon!'

Following the success of the Daisy Park online store which was launched in 2007, Emma Paisey opened her first gift boutique in South Molton in 2009. This location in beautiful Devon has been the perfect place for Emma to sell her exquisite range of gifts and home ware inspired by shabby chic and rustic trends. Daisy Park offers items for both the home and garden, including soft furnishings, table and kitchenware and lighting. Her range of unique furniture, handmade in North Devon, complements the range perfectly and includes shaker-style shelves, cupboards and peg-rails.

Emma's wide range of scrumptious goodies include throws, quilts and cushions, gorgeous bedding, hand-made tea towels and tea-cosies, jugs and mugs, ribbons and buttons, clocks and calendars and bath and body products. Many leading brands feature on the shelves of Daisy Park, among which are East of India, Emma Bridgewater, Cath Kidston, Greengate, Garden Trading, Avoca and Pip Studios.

Daisy Park, A Great Gift Retailer finalist 2010 is open daily (except Sunday) from 9.30am to 4.30pm, and until 3.30pm on Wednesday and Saturday. Emma looks forward to seeing you soon.



-  historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
-  stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

THE CORN DOLLY TEASHOP

115a East Street, South Molton, Devon EX36 3DB

Tel: 01769 574249

e-mail: mail@corndollyteashop.co.uk

website: www.corndollyteashop.co.uk

Established in 1997, **The Corn Dolly Teashop** has garnered an impressive list of awards over the years. In 2005 it was the overall winner of the North Devon Food & Drinks Awards, and has received the Tea Guild's Award of Excellence every year from 2004 to 2010.

The Tea Shop is owned and run by Kevin and Jo Venison whose menu offers an extensive choice of home cooked treats ranging from the Corn Dolly Breakfast through various salads, jacket potatoes, 'things on toast' and specialities such as the Farmhouse Tea and the Kings Ransom - the latter being stilton melted onto a freshly toasted Corn Dolly Teacake. There is also a Pate of the Day, home made quiches and through the winter, hearty warming soups. Make sure you leave room for a delicious home made dessert or cake. There are many to chose from, from a scrumptious warm chocolate fudge cake, warm sticky treacle tart and plenty of marvellous scones. As one appreciative customer put it "If you like scones with real Devon cream and jam, then this place serves the beat and the largest I have ever had!" The Corn Dolly is open from 9.30am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday; and from 11am to 5pm on Sunday.



Tourist Information Centre, provides an excellent introduction to these notable buildings.

Just to the north of South Molton is **Quince Honey Farm** where the mysterious process of honey-making is explained in a series of displays and demonstrations. This is the world's largest exhibition of living honey bees, their hives all safely behind glass. A viewing gallery gives an overhead view of the process of honey-making and the shop offers a full range of honey and honey products, including delicious Devonshire honey ice cream.

Around South Molton

NORTH MOLTON

3 miles NE of South Molton off the A399

Church of All Saints

Tucked away in the foothills of Exmoor,

North Molton was once a busy wool and mining town. At intervals from Elizabethan times until the late 1800s, copper and iron were extracted from the hills above the town and transported down the valley of the River Mole and on to the sea at Barnstaple. Evidence of abandoned mine workings are still visible around the town as well as remains of the old Mole Valley tramway.

North Molton's 15th-century parish **Church of All Saints** reflects the small town's former industrial importance. It's a striking building with a high clerestory and a 100 foot pinnacled tower, which seems rather grand for this somewhat remote community. Several notable features have survived. There's a part-medieval wine-glass pulpit complete with sounding board and trumpeting angel, a rood screen, some fine Jacobean panelling, and an extraordinary 17th-century alabaster monument to Sir Amyas Bampfylde depicting

historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

the reclining knight with his wife Elizabeth reading a book, and their 12 sons and five daughters kneeling nearby. The figures are delightfully executed, especially the small girl with plump cheeks holding an apple and gazing wide-eyed at her eldest sister.

Also interesting is the church clock, which was purchased in 1564 for the then exorbitant price of £16.14s 4d. However, it proved to be a sound investment since it remained in working order for 370 years before its bells chimed for the last time in 1934.

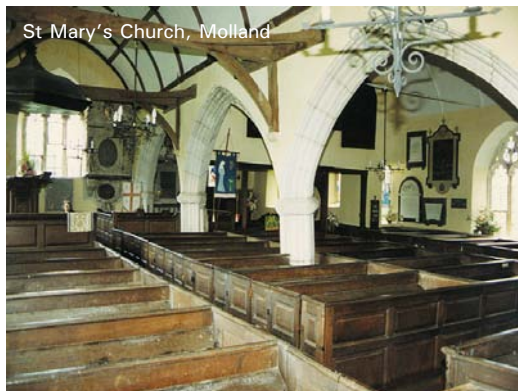
Just to the west of the church is a fine 16th-century house, Court Barton (private). The iconoclastic biographer and critic Lytton Strachey (1880-1932) stayed here with a reading party in 1908. It seems that the eminent writer greatly enjoyed his stay, reporting enthusiastically on the area's "mild tranquillities", and a way of life that encompassed "a surplusage of beef and Devonshire cream,.....a village shop with bulls' eyes,.....more cream and then more beef and then somnolence".

MOLLAND

6 miles E of South Molton off the A361

St Mary's Church

Hidden away in a maze of lanes skittering across the foothills of Exmoor, Molland is one of Devon's 'must-visit' villages for anyone interested in wonderfully unspoilt churches. Following the sale of the village in the early 1600s, **St Mary's Church** stood within the estates of the Courtenay family. During and following the Commonwealth years, the Courtenays remained staunch Catholics and showed no interest in restoring or modernising the Protestant parish church. So today you will



still find a Georgian screen and tiers of box-pews, whitewashed walls, an elaborate three-decker pulpit crowned by a trumpeting angel and a colourful Royal Arms blazoned with the name of its painter, Rowlands. Despite their Catholic principles, three late 17th and early 18th-century members of the Courtenay family are commemorated by some typically flamboyant monuments of the time. Also within Molland parish lies Great Champson, the farm where in the 18th century the Quartly family introduced and developed their celebrated breed of red North Devon cattle.

WEST ANSTEY

9 miles E of South Molton off the B3227

Two Moors Way

The tiny hamlet of West Anstey lies just a mile or so from the Somerset border. The **Two Moors Way** passes by just a little to the east and the slopes on which the hamlet stands continue to rise up to the wilds of Exmoor. Despite being so small, West Anstey nevertheless has its own church, which boasts a fine Norman font and an arcade from the 1200s, but is mostly 14th century. The area around West Anstey is one of the emptiest

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

parts of Devon – grand open country dotted with just the occasional farm or a tiny cluster of cottages.

BISHOP'S NYMPTON

3 miles SE of South Molton off the A361

 Lady Pollard

Bishop's Nympton, King's Nympton, George Nympton, as well as several Nymets, all take the Nympton or Nymet element of their names from the River Yeo, which in Saxon and earlier times was known as the Nymet, meaning river at a holy place. Bishop's Nympton has a long sloping main street, lined with thatched cottages, and a 15th-century church whose lofty, well-proportioned tower is considered one of the most beautiful in Devon. For many years the church had a stained glass window erected in Tudor times at the expense of **Lady Pollard**, wife of Sir Lewis, an eminent judge and leading resident of the village. Sir Lewis told the author of *The Worthies of Devon*, John Prince, that he was away on business in London at the time and the details of the window's design were entrusted to his wife. At the time Sir Lewis left for town, he and his wife already had 21 children, 11 sons and 10 daughters. "But his lady caused one more child than she then had to be set there: presuming that, usually conceiving at her husband's coming home, she should have another. Which, inserted in expectation, came to pass in reality". The oddest thing about the story is that Lady Pollard not only correctly predicted the forthcoming child, but also its sex.

CHULMLEIGH

8 miles S of South Molton off the A377

 Eggesford Forest

With its narrow cobbled lanes,

courtyards and quiet squares, Chulmleigh is a delight to explore. Sprawled across the hills above the leafy valley of the Little Dart river, it is one of several attractive small towns in mid Devon which prospered from the wool trade in the Middle Ages and then declined into sleepy, unspoilt communities. Chulmleigh's prosperity lasted longer than most since it was on the old wagon route to Barnstaple that in 1830 one of the newfangled turnpike roads was constructed along the Taw valley, siphoning off most of its trade. A quarter of a century later the Exeter to Barnstaple railway was built along the same route, the final straw for Chulmleigh as a trade centre. But this charming small town has been left with many original thatched cob cottages that cluster around a fine 15th-century church noted for its lofty pinnacled tower and, inside, a wondrously carved rood screen that extends 50 feet across the nave and aisles.

To the south of Chulmleigh is **Eggesford Forest** where, in 1919, the newly-formed Forestry Commission planted its first tree. This event is commemorated by a stone unveiled by the Queen in 1956. The stone also marks the planting of more than one million acres of trees by the Commission. There are two walks



Eggesford Forest, nr. Chulmleigh

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

through the forest, each about one mile long, which provide visitors with the opportunity of seeing the red deer that live here.

LAPFORD

12 miles S of South Molton on the A377

Remarkably, this small community still has its own railway station. Passenger numbers have been much augmented since British Rail's rather prosaic Exeter to Barnstaple route was re-christened as the Tarka Line. The original name may have been lacklustre but the 39-mile journey itself has always been delightful as it winds slowly along the gentle river valleys of the Yeo and the Taw.

Lapford stands high above the River Yeo, its hilltop church a famous local landmark for generations: "when yew sees Lapford church yew knaws where yew'm be". It's well worth a visit since the 15th-century rood screen inside is regarded as one of the most exquisitely fashioned in the country. There are five bands of the most delicate carving at the top and above them rise modern figures of the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary and Joseph), surmounted by the original ornamental ceiling with its carved angels gazing down from the nave roof.

WINKLEIGH

12 miles SW of South Molton on the A3124

This attractive village with its open views across to Dartmoor is believed to have been a beacon station in prehistoric times. When the Normans arrived they built two small castles, one at each end of the village. They were probably intended as bases for hunting in the nearby park – the only Devon park to be mentioned in the Domesday Book. For centuries Winkleigh was an important local trading centre with its own market, fair and borough court. Today, it's a

peaceful little place with thatched cottages nestling up to the mainly 15th century church which has a richly carved and painted waggon roof where 70 golden-winged angels stand guard over the nave.

DOLTON

12 miles SW of South Molton on the B3217

Dolton clusters around its parish church of St Edmund's which boasts a real treasure – a Saxon font more than 1000 years old. Its intricate carvings depict a fantastic menagerie of winged dragons and writhing serpents, with yet more dragons emerging from the upturned face of a man. Their relevance to the Christian message may be a little obscure but there's no denying their powerful impact.

MEETH

14 miles SW of South Molton on the A386

Tarka Walkway

A mile or so north of Hatherleigh, the A386 crosses the River Torridge and a couple of miles further is the pleasant little village of Meeth whose Old English name means the meeting of the streams. Indeed, a small brook runs down the hillside into the Torridge. From the early 1700s, Meeth and the surrounding area was noted for its 'pipe' and 'ball clay' products, generically known as pottery clay. There are still extensive clay works to the northwest of the village.

But for cyclists and walkers Meeth is much better known as the southern terminus of the **Tarka Walkway**, which runs northwards through Bideford and Barnstaple.

NORTH TAWTON

16 miles SW of South Molton off the A3072

Bathe Pool

Wellknown nowadays to travellers along the

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

THE CHEESE COMPANY AT TAW VALLEY CREAMERY

North Tawton, Devon EX20 2DA
Tel: 01837 883400 Fax: 01837 82311
e-mail: jackie.eaton@cheese.co.uk
website: www.tawvalleycheese.co.uk

Since 1974 the **Taw Valley Creamery** has been producing award-winning cheeses in the heart of the Devon countryside, surrounded by lush green grass and rolling hills. The Creamery is part of the Milk Link group of companies owned by some 1600 British dairy farmers, most of them operating in the West Country. The milk for the Creamery is collected from more than 700 farms, many of them within a 30-mile radius, and the cheesemakers put a wealth of experience and expertise to use in producing the wonderful range of Cheddars, the Red Leicester and the Double Gloucester that are the mainstay of the business. They make other branded cheeses, and the shop sells a selection of prime cheeses from other producers.

The Creamery serves the public and also sells its produce to a large number of shops, delis, hotels, restaurants and pubs throughout Devon. Visitors come from all over the world to discover the scenic delights of this glorious part of the country, but no one should pass through without stopping off at the Taw Valley Creamery to sample and buy some cheese. The shop, which also sells crackers, chutneys and other complementary goods, as well as hampers and gift packs, is located just off the A3072 outside the village of North Tawton, between Crediton and Okehampton. Shop hours are 9 to 5 Monday to Friday, 9 to 12 Saturday.



Tarka Trail, the small market town of North Tawton was once an important borough governed by a portreeve, an official who was elected each year until the end of the 19th century. This scattered rural community prospered in medieval times but the decline of the local textile industry in the late 1700s dealt a blow from which it never really recovered - the population today is still less than it was in 1750. The little town also suffered badly from the ravages of a series of fires that destroyed most of the older and more interesting buildings. However, a few survivors can still be found, most notably Broad Hall (private), which dates back to the 15th century.

In a field close to the town is **Bathe Pool**, a grassy hollow that is said to fill with water at times of national crises or when a prominent person is about to die. The pool reportedly

filled at the time of the death of Nelson, the Duke of Wellington and Edward VII, and also just before the outbreak of World War One.

HATHERLEIGH

17 miles SW of South Molton on the A386

Hatherleigh Pottery

Church of St John the Baptist

Abbeyford Woods Hatherleigh Arts Festival

This medieval market town, which has held a market every Tuesday since 1693, has been popular for many years as a holiday base for fishermen trying their luck on the nearby River Torridge and its tributary, which runs alongside the small town.

A good starting point for an exploration of this attractive town with its cob and thatch cottages is the Tarka Country Information Point at **Hatherleigh Pottery** (see panel on

historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks



HATHERLEIGH POTTERY

20 Market Street, Hatherleigh, Devon EX20 3JP

Tel: 01837 810624

e-mail: hatherleighpots@aol.com

website: www.hatherleighpottery.co.uk



Located in a delightful and secluded cobbled courtyard off Market Street, **Hatherleigh Pottery** is owned and run by Jane Payne who has been a keen potter for more than 40 years. After retiring from teaching, she took a four-year course in ceramics and subsequently bought the pottery. Jane specialises in hand-thrown, practical domestic stoneware – jugs, mugs, bowls, dishes and the like. Much of her work is sgraffito decorated and her use of a wide range of glazes brings colour and variety to her wares. All Jane's pottery is trade-marked with a small fish imprinted near the base.

The light and airy showrooms at the Pottery also feature work by other craftspeople such as Michael Taylor, a local potter who shows mugs, vases and casseroles in a style that makes an interesting contrast with Jane's work. Also on display are Jane Ritchie's ranges of shoulder bags and handbags, all delightfully designed and beautifully made in rich, colourful textiles; and Gill Salway's original prints using a variety of techniques. The Pottery is open from Easter to New Year, Monday to Saturday, from 10am-5pm.

SALAR GALLERY

20 Bridge Street, Hatherleigh, nr Okehampton,
Devon EX20 3HY Tel: 01837 810940

e-mail: salar@hatherleigh.net website: www.salargallery.co.uk

The **Salar Gallery** opened in the centre of this market town in 1991 to provide an exhibition space for local artists and craftspeople. It displays and sells original work, mainly by Devon artists, much of it a celebration of the West Country – landscape, animals and rural subjects through the eyes of up to 50 artists and craftsmen. The works include local scenes by Eileen Gold; landscapes by Pam Cox, Richard Meyer and Sarah Woolfenden; seascapes by Mike Moss, animal paintings by Vivien Walters and Shan Miller and sculptures by Jo Seccombe, Joanna Martins and Paul Jenkins. Also on display are photographs by Sarah Gallifent and Jen Bryant, pottery by Maryjane Carruthers, glass by Inka Gabriel and Margaret Johnson and silk scarves by Isabella Whitworth. The gallery also has prints, including Dartmoor by Widgery and flowers by Anne Cotterill, plus a wide selection of cards, books, jewellery, church candles and so on. There are regularly changing exhibitions throughout the year.

The gallery, with its elegant Victorian interior, is on level ground, not far from the town car park. It is open from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and bank holidays, 10am - 1pm.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

page 149) where there are exhibits detailing the life and countryside in and around this 1000-year-old town. You can also pick up leaflets to guide you around Hatherleigh's narrow streets. The Pottery itself has showrooms displaying colourful hand-thrown ceramics, textile items, original prints and greetings cards.

Hatherleigh was owned by Tavistock Abbey from the late AD900s until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1540s, and the picturesquely thatched George Hotel is believed to have been built around 1450 as the abbot's court house. The London Inn also dates from around that time and the Old Church House is thought to be even older.

The town would have possessed an even finer stock of early buildings were it not for a devastating fire in 1840 that destroyed much of the old centre. Fortunately, the 15th-century **Church of St John the Baptist** escaped the flames. Set high above the Lew

valley, the church's red sandstone walls and sturdy tower still provide a striking focus for this pleasant rural community. Although the church survived the great fire of 1840, a century-and-a-half later hurricane force winds, generated during the storms of January 1990, swashed against its spindly tower and tossed it through the roof of the nave. Thankfully, nobody was in the church at the time.

In mid-July, the **Hatherleigh Arts Festival** takes place, consisting of four days of contemporary arts, including theatre, concerts, art exhibitions, street theatre and workshops. All year round art is visible in the various sculptures scattered around the town, notably the larger than life Sheep sculpture in the town's car park.

For a superb view of the surrounding countryside, make your way to the Monument erected in memory of Colonel William Morris, a hero of the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Until 1966, the Okehampton to Bude

BRICKYARD FARM SHOP

*Brickyard Farm, Holsworthy Road, Hatherleigh, Okehampton, Devon EX20 3LE
Tel: 01837 810204*

This award-winning farm shop has been in business for over 40 years and is well worth the mile drive out of Hatherleigh along the Holsworthy Road. Look for the white building with the red awnings, and there's ample free parking when you get there. Just watch out for the peacocks and geese that roam around!

The shop has won a Daily Express Readers Award, numerous Gold Standard Product Awards, and has been both the National Lamb Barbecue Product Champion and the South-West Sausage Champion. At any one time there are usually at least a dozen different award-winning sausage varieties on offer, and half a dozen varieties of burger. All the shop's beef and lamb is sourced from local farms and markets, and slaughtered locally. The beef is then hung for up to three weeks to really bring out the flavour and give a supreme eating quality.

The **Brickyard Farm Shop** has one of the best selections of beef and lamb in the area, and also sells excellent metal-craft sculptures of birds.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

railway ran through Hatherleigh. In that year it was closed as part of the notorious Beeching Cuts. The last train on the Hatherleigh to Bude line, a prized local amenity, steamed its way into Cornwall on 16 May 1966, then to a siding, and then to rust. Long stretches of the old track bed of the railway now provide some attractive walking.

There's more good walking at **Abbeyford Woods**, about a mile to the east of the village, with a particularly lovely stretch running alongside the River Okement.

Holsworthy

 St Peter's Fair  West Country Way

Wednesday is a good day to visit Holsworthy. That's when this little town, just four miles from the Cornish border, holds its weekly market. This is very much the traditional kind of street market, serving a large area of the surrounding countryside and with locally-produced fresh cream, butter, cheese and vegetables all on sale. The town gets even livelier in early July when it gives itself over to the amusements of the three-day-long **St Peter's Fair**. The Fair opens with the curious

old custom of the Pretty Maid Ceremony. Back in 1841, a Holsworthy merchant bequeathed a legacy to provide a small payment each year to a local spinster, under the age of 30 and noted for her good looks, demure manner and regular attendance at church. Rather surprisingly, in view of the last two requirements, the bequest still finds a suitable recipient each year.

Holsworthy's most striking architectural features are the two Victorian viaducts that once carried the railway line to Bude. The viaducts stride high above the southern edge of the town and, since they now form part of a footpath along the old track, it's possible to walk across them for some stunning views of the area.

An interesting feature in the parish church is an organ built in 1668 by Renatus Hunt for All Saints Church, Chelsea. In 1723, it was declared worn out but was nevertheless purchased by a Bideford church. There it gave good service for some 140 years before it was written off once again. Removed to Holsworthy, it has been here ever since.

The area around Holsworthy is particularly popular with cyclists. There are three clearly-

Holsworthy Museum

Manor Offices, Holsworthy, Devon EX22 6DJ

Tel: 01409 259337

e-mail: holsworthy@devonmuseums.net

website: www.devonmuseums.net/holsworthy

Housed in an 18th century parsonage, this small museum gives you an insight into Holsworthy's heritage and traditions. Various themed displays cover the town, local railway, agriculture, trades, medical and the World Wars. Researchers into family and local history may view, by prior arrangement, a selection of local parish registers on microfiche, IGI fiche and Census data as well as information held in the Local History unit. The museum is run entirely by volunteers and is dependent on donations, a small entrance fee and support from local Councils. Open February to December.



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

designated routes starting and finishing in the town, and it also lies on the **West Country Way**, a 250-mile cycle route from Padstow to Bristol and Bath which, opened in the spring of 1997.

Around Holsworthy

SHEBBEAR

7 miles NE of Holsworthy off the A388

 Devil's Stone

This attractive village is set around a spacious square laid out in the Saxon manner with a church at one end and a hostelry at the other. Lying in a hollow just outside St Michael's churchyard is a huge lump of rock, weighing about a ton, which is known as the **Devil's Stone**. According to local legend, the boulder was placed here by Old Nick who challenged

the villagers to move it, threatening that disaster would strike if they could not. Every year since then, on 5 November (a date established long before the Gunpowder Plot of 1605), a curious ceremony has taken place. After sounding a peal of bells, the bell ringers come out of the church and set about the stone with sticks and crowbars. Once they have successfully turned the stone over, they return in triumph to the bell tower to sound a second peal. The story is recounted in greater detail in the village hostelry, The Devil's Stone Inn.

SHEEPWASH

9 miles E of Holsworthy off the A3072 or A386

 Sheepwash Bridge

Sheepwash is yet another Devon community to have been devastated by fire. The conflagration here occurred in 1742 and the destruction was so great that for more than

THE BEAD CELLAR

Broad Street, Black Torrington, Devon EX21 5PT

Tel: 01409 231442

e-mail: kate@thebeadcellar.co.uk

website: www.thebeadcellar.co.uk

Nestled in the rolling Devonshire countryside, between Dartmoor and the North Devon coast, **The Bead Cellar** is a real gem! Selling a beautiful variety of imported beads, findings and jewellery making supplies, including Toho Japanese seed beads, bugles and cubes, new and vintage Swarovski, Czech glass beads and pearls, semi-precious gemstones, and ethnic & fair-trade wooden, paper, seed and shell beads. With such a shimmering array of items everyone will feel inspired to create their own gorgeous jewellery, gifts, interior design accessories, and embellishments.

To take real advantage of everything The Bead Cellar has to offer, it is essential you experience one of their fabulous classes and workshops. Based in the light and spacious purpose built workshop, which seats around 12 people, these illuminating classes cover everything from the very basics of beadwork for beginners, to unique and complex techniques which will help advanced beaders hone their craft. The classes are held throughout the year, by a team of accomplished beaders, and special masterclasses with visiting guest crafters an occasional treat. Private parties, of crafters at all ages and abilities, catered for. A visit to the wonderful website will keep you up to date on the latest events, and great new items for sale, or you could give them a phone during shop hours. The shop is open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm.





Sheepwash Bridge

10 years the village was completely deserted. Slowly, the villagers returned, built new houses in stone, and today if you want the essence of Devon distilled into one location, then the village square at Sheepwash is just about perfect. Along one side stands the famous Half Moon Inn, renowned amongst fishermen; on another, the old church tower rises above pink-washed thatched cottages; while in the centre, cherry trees shelter the ancient village pump.

Just south of the village, a minor road crosses the River Torridge and there's a rather heartening story about the bridge here, **Sheepwash Bridge**. Until well into the 1600s, the only way of crossing the river was by means of stepping stones. One day, when the river was in full spate, a young man attempting to return to the village was swept away and drowned. His father, John Tusbury, was grief-stricken but responded to the tragedy by providing money to build a bridge. He also donated sufficient funds for it to be maintained by establishing the Bridgeland Trust and stipulating that any surplus income should be used to help in the upkeep of the church and chapel. The Trust is still in operation and nowadays also funds outings for village children and pensioners.

NORTHLEW

10 miles SE of Holsworthy off the A3072 or A3079

As at Sheepwash, the thatched cottages and houses stand around a large central square, which is dominated by a charming 15th-century church standing on the hilltop above the River Lew. The church is noted for its Norman remains and the exceptional (mainly Tudor) woodwork in the roof, bench ends and screen. Also of interest is one of the stained glass windows, which features four saints. St Thomas, to whom the church is dedicated, is shown holding a model of the church; St Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, holds the priory gateway; while St Joseph carries the Holy Grail and the staff that grew into the famous Glastonbury thorn tree. The fourth figure is simply clad in a brown habit and carries a bishop's crozier and a spade. This is St Brannock who is credited with being the first man to cultivate the wild lands of this area by clearing woodland and ploughing and could therefore be regarded as the patron saint of farmers.

CLAWTON

3 miles S of Holsworthy, on the A388

A good indication of the mildness of the Devon climate is the number of vineyards that have been established over the past 30 years or so. **Clawford Vineyard** in the valley of the River Claw is a good example. Set in more than 78 acres of vines and orchards, the vineyard's owners welcome visitors to sample their home-grown wines and ciders, and in the autumn to watch that year's vintage being produced.

In and Around Dartmoor

Okehampton

-  Okehampton Castle
-  Museum of Dartmoor Life
-  Dartmoor Railway

The old travel-writer's cliché of a 'county of contrasts' can't be avoided when describing the landscape around Okehampton. To the north and west, the puckered green hills of North Devon roll away to the coast; to the south, lie the wildest stretches of Dartmoor with the great peaks of High Willhays and Yes Tor rising to more than 2000 feet. At this height they are, officially, mountains, but quite puny compared with their original altitude: geologists believe that at one time the surface of Dartmoor stood at 15,000 feet above sea

level. Countless centuries of erosion have reduced it to a plateau of whale-backed granite ridges with an average height of around 1200 feet. After so many millions of years of erosion, the moor has become strewn with fragments of surface granite, or moorstone. It was because of this ready-to-use stone that Dartmoor became one of the most populous areas of early Britain, its inhabitants using the easily quarried granite to create their stone rows, circles, and burial chambers. Stone was also used to build their distinctive hut-circles of which there are more than 1500 scattered across the moor.

From Celtic times Okehampton has occupied an important position on the main route to Cornwall. Romantically sited atop a wooded hill and dominating the surrounding valley of the River Okement are the remains of **Okehampton Castle** (English Heritage). This is the largest medieval castle in Devon

KUDOS CLOTHING

18 Red Lion Yard, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1AW

Tel: 01837 55102

e-mail: trisha.kudos@xln.co.uk

Okehampton is an interesting old market town, with two rivers, a heritage railway, plenty of eating places and the largest medieval castle in Devon. It's also a good place to shop, and many of the most interesting outlets are in Red Lion Yard in the heart of town. **Kudos Clothing**, established by Trisha Shaw in 2004, is *the* place to go for distinctive, contemporary casual wear for men, women and children, and is the sole stockist in the region for many brands.

Amari, founded in 2007 by Amelia and Hari, produces creative, colourful stylish designer clothes featuring simple, flattering shapes and unique fresh prints – made in Katmandu, Nepal. Hager-Var specialises in edgy, abstract designs by some of Cornwall's most creative artists, sculptors and designers, made by the Cornish Surf Clothing Company – the name means 'rough sea' in the old Cornwall dialect. St Martins is a Danish brand of stylish, unusual clothes that are quirky yet classic. Many of the brands are inspired by contemporary urban street culture, and the clothes look equally good in street, club or beach setting. Among these are Animal clothes and accessories; Bench, originally inspired by the worlds of skateboarding and BMX biking; Fenchurch, a leading name on the urban fashion scene since 1987; Drunknmunky, inspired by a combination of street culture and ancient martial arts philosophy; and Weird Fish T-shirts, rugby shirts, jackets, caps, hats and accessories.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

IN HOUSE

15 St James Street, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1DJ

Tel: 01837 53421

e-mail: tracie@inhouse-bytracie.co.uk

Okehampton has from ancient times occupied an important position on the main road to Cornwall, and visitors come here to look at the interesting old buildings, explore the ruins of the castle, indulge in a spot of nostalgia at the 1950s-style railway station, or discover the town's past in the museum. Others join the locals for a spot of shopping, and one of the best of the many excellent shops is **In House**, a gift boutique and interiors shop in a pleasant shopping street in the heart of town. Aromatic scents from the soaps and oils and gentle background music set a relaxed tone in Tracie Martin's shop, which started life as a butcher's shop owned by her husband's grandfather.

Behind the large display window and jazzy blind the shop is filled with a wide range of lovely things to enhance the home, something to wear, a spoiling treat or a special present for any occasion. Among the well-known brands usually in stock are Cath Kidston – homeware, clothing and accessories; East of India gifts and cards; Garden Trading Ltd accessories for home and garden; high-quality fair-trade Nomad Clothing; necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings and brooches by One Button Jewellery; Gabriella Miller Pottery; home fragrances, pot pourri, candles and bath products from Green Leaf Fragrance; and a wide range of cards (personalised available) and gift wrap.



and the ruins are still mightily impressive even though the castle was dismantled on the orders of Henry VIII after its owner, the Earl of Devon, was convicted of treason.

A good place to start a tour of the town is the **Museum of Dartmoor Life**, housed in a former mill with a restored water wheel outside. Here, in the three galleries, the story of life on Dartmoor, down the ages, is told and, in particular, the museum displays illustrate how the moorland has shaped the lives of its inhabitants and vice versa. In the surrounding courtyard, you will also find a tearoom and the tourist information centre with books and gifts.

Amongst the town's many interesting buildings are the 15th-century Chapel of Ease, and the Town Hall, a striking three-storey building erected in 1685 as a private house and



Okehampton Railway Station

converted to its current use in the 1820s. And don't miss the wonderful Victorian arcade within the shopping centre, which is reminiscent of London's Burlington Arcade.

Okehampton is also the hub of the **Dartmoor Railway**, part of the former Southern Railway main line from London to Plymouth and Cornwall. This was once the

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

ANGEL

29 Fore Street, Okehampton,

Devon EX20 1HB

Tel: 01837 659300

e-mail: angelokehampton@aol.com

website: www.angelokehampton.com

The **ANGEL** ladies fashion boutique on Okehampton's main street is now celebrating its 10th year in business, during which time it has kept abreast of the changes in fashion and continued to seek out the top name brands to stock. The aim is to provide clothes that combine quality, style and individuality, in a range of sizes from 8-18, for a range of budgets too, and covering everything from the casual to clothes for a formal occasional.

At **ANGEL** there are names you don't see in every boutique, such as Ispirato, Noli, Nancy Mac, Jocavi, Masai, Sandwich, Pomodoro and Peppercorn. There is naturally a good range of accessories to match, too, including shoes from Menbur and Kazuri and Martina Wester Jewellery, Nica and Stone bags, and a good collection of hats and fascinators as well.



MASON JUDGE

33 Fore Street, Oakhampton, Devon EX20 1HB

Tel: 01837 658530

e-mail: enquiries@mason-judge.co.uk

website: www.mason-judge.co.uk

Always on the lookout for something a little bit special, the owner of **Mason Judge**, Meryl has a passion for quality unusual items - which is visible in the amazing array of pieces on show in her shop. This fabulous independent business is stocked full of gifts, homeware, toys, jewellery, the finest handbags and accessories, toiletries, and gadgets, searched out by Meryl and the Mason Judge team from local suppliers, genuine British traders, and ethically traded items from designers around the world, to bring their customers the best money can buy. Names synonymous with quality, such as Old Bag Co., Shruti Designs, Maxwell & Williams, The Puppet Co., and Heyland & Whittle, line the walls; mixed in with some fabulous pieces with names you won't know, but which will blow you away. A recent Limited Edition collection of handpainted mugs and plates from local artist Guy Cracknell, is just an example of the type of treasures you will find within Mason Judges' walls.

The shop offers a bespoke gift wrapping service, using their infinite collection of cool and classic wrapping papers and decorations, which is sure to add that finishing touch to the perfect gift.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

route of the famous Atlantic Coast Express and the Devon Belle Pullman. Today, the company runs trains from Crediton and climbs into the National Park, terminating at Meldon Viaduct. Okehampton Station has been restored to its 1950s appearance, complete with buffet and licensed bar. Sampford Courtenay Station, 3½ miles to the east was re-opened in 2004 and provides access to pleasant walking routes, including the Devon Heartlands Way footpath. To the west, Meldon Quarry Station is the highest station in southern England. It has two visitor centres, a buffet with a licensed bar, a picnic area and a spectacular verandah giving wonderful views of Dartmoor's highest tors and the Meldon Reservoir dam.

Around Okehampton

SAMPFORD COURTENAY

5 miles NE of Okehampton

 Prayer Book Revolt

A charming and unspoilt village with a fine medieval church, Sampford Courtenay is notable for its picturesque assortment of cottages, many of them thatched and built of cob. This local building material is created by mixing well-sieved mud with straw. This is then built up in sections. It was the local tradition to limewash the outside of the cottages at Whitsuntide, a process that helps to preserve the cob. This simple material is surprisingly durable and will

last indefinitely provided it has a 'good hat', that is, if the thatched roof is well looked after. Another unusual feature of the village is that every road out of it is marked by a medieval stone cross.

This peaceful and pretty village was the unlikely setting for the start of the **Prayer Book Revolt** of 1549. It was originally initiated as a protest against Edward VI's introduction of an English prayer book, but when the undisciplined countrymen marched on Exeter, it degenerated into a frenzy of looting and violence. Confronted by an army led by Lord Russell, the rioters were soon overwhelmed and several unfortunate ringleaders executed.

STICKLEPATH

2 miles E of Okehampton off the A30

 Finch Foundry

The little village of Sticklepath boasts one of the most interesting exhibits of industrial archaeology in Devon. From 1814 to 1960, **Finch Foundry** (National Trust) was renowned for producing the finest sharp-edged



Finch Foundry

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

tools in the West Country. The three massive waterwheels are regularly set working again driving the ancient machinery. The pounding rhythms of the steam hammer and rushing water vividly evoke that age of noisy toil.

SOUTH ZEAL

4 miles E of Okehampton off the A30

South Zeal is yet another of the many Devon villages that have good reason to be grateful for the major road-building undertakings of the 1970s. The village sits astride what used to be the main road from Exeter to Launceston and the Cornwall coast, a road, which as late as 1975, was still laughably designated on maps of the time as a 'Trunk (major) Road'. The 'Trunk Road' was actually little more than a country lane, but it was also the only route available for many thousands of holiday-makers making their way to the Cornish resorts. Today, the village is bypassed by the A30 dual carriageway.

Isolated in the middle of the broad main street stand a simple medieval market cross and St Mary's chapel, rebuilt in 1713. To the south of the village rises the great granite hump of Dartmoor. On its flanks, for the few years between 1901-1909, the villagers of South Zeal found sorely needed employment in a short-lived copper mine.

WHIDDON DOWN

7 miles E of Okehampton off the A30

Spinsters' Rock

About a mile south of the village stands the **Spinsters' Rock**, the best surviving chambered tomb in the whole of Devon. According to legend, three spinsters erected the dolmen one morning before breakfast, an impressive feat since the capstone, supported by just three uprights seven feet high, weighs 16 tons.

BELSTONE

2 miles SE of Okehampton off the A30

Nine Stones

Surrounded by the magnificent scenery of the Dartmoor National Park, Belstone is a picturesque village with a triangular village green, complete with stocks and a stone commemorating the coronation of George V, and a church dating back to the 13th century.

A path from Belstone village leads up to the ancient standing stone circle known as the **Nine Stones**, although there are actually well over a dozen of them. Local folklore asserts that these stones under Belstone Tor were formed when a group of maidens was discovered dancing on the Sabbath and turned to stone. The problem with this story is that the stone circle was in place long before the arrival of Christianity in England. It is also claimed that the mysterious stones change position when the clock strikes noon. What is certain is that the view across mid Devon from this site is quite breathtaking.

Another path from Belstone leads south to a spot on the northern edge of Dartmoor where the ashes of the Poet Laureate Ted Hughes were scattered and where a granite stone was placed to his memory.

For lovers of solitude, this is memorable country, unforgettably evoked by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Recalling the villain's fate in that book, walkers should beware of the notorious "feather beds" – deep bogs signalled by a quaking cover of brilliant green moss.

DREWSTEIGNTON

10 miles SE of Okehampton off the A30

Castle Drogo

This appealing village stands on a ridge overlooking the valley of the River Teign and

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Castle Drogo

Drewsteignton, near Exeter EX6 6PB

Tel: 01647 433306

e-mail: castledrogo@nationaltrust.org.uk

website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castledrogo

Castle Drogo (National Trust) is spectacularly sited on a rocky outcrop with commanding views out over Dartmoor and the Teign gorge. It was built for Sir Julius Drewe, a self made millionaire, on land once owned by his Norman ancestor, Drogo de Teigne. Surrounding this 20th century dream country home, lies an equally impressive garden – the highest in the Trust.

The square shape of the castle and the large rotund croquet lawn exemplifies the simple ethos of the architect, Lutyens, of “circles and squares”. From spring bulbs in the formal garden, the rhododendron garden, the stunning herbaceous borders, the rose garden and the winter garden there is colour and interest here all year round.



the celebrated beauty spot near the 400-year-old Fingle Bridge. Thatched cottages and a medieval church stand grouped around a square, very picturesque and much photographed. To the south of the village, Prestonbury Castle and Cranbrook Castle are not castles at all but Iron Age hilltop fortresses. **Castle Drogo** (National Trust - see panel above) on the other hand, looks every inch the medieval castle but in fact was constructed between 1911 and 1930 – the last castle to be built in England. Occupying a spectacular site on a rocky outcrop 900 feet above sea level, with commanding views over Dartmoor, it was built to a design by Lutyens for the self-made millionaire Sir Julius Drewe on land once owned by his Norman ancestor, Drogo de Teigne. Lutyens preliminary sketches envisaged a house of heroic size, but practicalities and the intervention of World War One caused the dimensions to be reduced

by about two-thirds. Nevertheless, the granite castle with walls 6 feet thick is one of Lutyens' most remarkable works. It combines the grandeur of a medieval castle with the comforts of the 20th century. Surrounding Sir Julius's dream home is an impressive garden that displays colour and interest all year round. There's also a croquet lawn for which you can rent mallets and balls.

CHAGFORD

10 miles SE of Okehampton off the A382

 Mary Whiddon  Market House

An ancient settlement and Stannary town, Chagford lies in a beautiful setting between the pleasant wooded valley of the North Teign river and the stark grandeur of the high moor. In the centre of the town stands the former **Market House**, a charming 'peppercot' building erected in 1862. Around the square are some old-style family shops providing

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

interesting shopping, and scattered around the town are distinctive old thatched granite buildings, many dating from the 1500s.

St Michael's Church, mostly 15th century, has an elaborate monument to Sir John Wyddon who died in 1575. But the church is better known because of the tragic death of one of his descendants here in October 1641.

Mary Whiddon was shot by a jilted lover as she was leaving the church after being married, an incident that is said to have inspired RD Blackmore's *Lorna Doone*. Her tombstone bears the inscription, "Behold a Matron yet a Maid". Her ghost is thought to haunt Whiddon Park Guest House - a young woman dressed in black appeared there on the morning of a wedding reception due to take place later that day.

The famous Dartmoor guide, James Perrot, lived in Chagford between 1854 and 1895, and

is buried in St Michael's churchyard. It was he who noted that some of the farms around Chagford had no wheeled vehicles as late as 1830. On the other hand, Perrot lived to see the town install electric street lighting in 1891 making Chagford one of the first communities west of London to possess this amenity.

It was Perrot also who began the curious practice of letterbox stamp collecting. He installed the first letterbox at Carnmere Pool near the heart of the moor so his Victorian clients could send postcards home, stamped to prove they had been there. Today, there are hundreds of such letterboxes scattered all over Dartmoor.

To the west of Chagford, an exceptionally pleasant lane leads upstream from Chagford Bridge through the wooded valley of the North Teign river. (For one-and-a-half miles of its length, this lane is joined by the Two Moors

SHAMANKA

1 Mill Street, Chagford, Devon TQ13 8AW

Tel: 01647 433777

e-mail: cate@shamankatherapy.co.uk

website: www.shamankatherapy.co.uk

Occupying a Grade II listed building just off the main square in the beautiful Stannary town of Chagford, **Shamanka** is a unique centre where people come to relax, shop and receive a variety of therapies designed to promote improved levels of wellness.

Shamanka (the name means "medicine woman") was established in the spring of 2010 by Cate Haynes following a twenty-five year career in the National Health Service as a Registered Nurse.

As you enter Shamanka you will instantly become aware of the relaxed atmosphere. Your senses automatically open, facilitated by the fragrant aroma of natural incense, oils and the gentle sounds of soothing music in the background. The treatments available include Bowen therapy, Reiki, herbal medicine and hypnotherapy, Thai yoga massage, reflexology, aromatherapy massage seated acupressure. All the therapists are fully qualified and insured.

The centre also has a gallery of artworks by local artists and people who simply enjoy the process of creating - which is therapy itself. In the gift shop you'll find a wide range of books, CDs, crystals and craftworks.



Way, the long-distance footpath that runs all the way from Ivybridge on the southern edge of Dartmoor to the Bristol Channel coast.) A rock beside the river known as the Holed Stone has a large round cavity. If you climb through this, local people assure you, a host of afflictions from rheumatism to infertility will be cured.

The land to the south of Chagford rises abruptly towards Kestor Rock and Shovel Down, the sites of impressive Bronze Age settlements and, a little further on, the imposing Long Stone stands at the point where the parishes of Gidleigh and Chagford end and Duchy of Cornwall land begins.

LYDFORD

8 miles SW of Okehampton off the A386

 Lydford Castle  Lydford Gorge

In Saxon times, there were just four royal boroughs in Devon: Exeter, Barnstaple, Totnes and, astonishingly, Lydford, which is now a pleasant small town still occupying the same strategic position on the River Lyd that made it so important in those days. In the 11th century, the Normans built a fortification here, which was superseded 100 years later by the present **Lydford Castle**, an austere stone fortress which for generations served the independent tin miners of Dartmoor as both a court and a prison. The justice meted out here was notoriously arbitrary. William Browne of Tavistock (1590-1643) observed:

*I oft have heard of Lydford law,
How in the morn they hang and draw
And sit in judgement after.*



Lydford parish is the largest in England, encompassing the whole of the Forest of Dartmoor. For many centuries the dead were brought down from the moor along the ancient Lych Way for burial in St Petroc's churchyard. A tombstone near the porch bears a lengthy and laboriously humorous epitaph to the local watchmaker, George Routleigh, who died in 1802. The inscription includes the statement that George's life had been "Wound up in hope of being taken in hand by his Maker and of being thoroughly cleansed and repaired and set going in the world to come".

To the southwest of the village, the valley of the River Lyd suddenly narrows to form the 1½ mile long **Lydford Gorge** (National Trust), one of Devon's most spectacular natural features. Visitors can follow the riverside path to the Devil's Cauldron, or wander along the two-mile walk to the White Lady, a narrow 100 foot high waterfall. Back in the 17th century, the then remote Lydford Gorge provided a secure refuge for a band of brigands who called themselves the Gubbinses. Their leader was a certain Roger Rowle (dubbed the Robin Hood of the West), whose exploits are recounted in Charles Kingsley's novel *Westward Ho!*

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Tavistock

 Guildhall

 Goose Fair

This handsome old town is one of Devon's four stannary towns, so named from the Latin word for tin – *stannum*. These towns – the others are Ashburton, Chagford and Plympton – were the only places licensed to weigh and stamp the metal extracted from the moor.

For most of its recorded history, Tavistock has had only two owners. Tavistock Abbey and the Russell family. The Benedictine abbey was founded here, beside the River Tavy, in around AD974, close to a Saxon stockade or stoc, now incorporated into the town's name. The town grew up around the abbey and, following the discovery of tin on the nearby moors in the 12th century, both flourished.

Then, in 1539, Henry VIII closed the

Abbey and gave the building, along with its vast estates to John Russell whose family, as Earls and Dukes of Bedford, owned most of the town until 1911. The present town centre is essentially the creation of the Russell family, who after virtually obliterating the once-glorious abbey, created a completely new town plan. Later, in the 1840s, Francis the 7th Duke diverted some of the profits from his copper mines to build the imposing **Guildhall** and several other civic buildings. He also remodelled the Bedford Hotel, and constructed a model estate of artisans' cottages on the western side of the town. A statue of the duke stands in Bedford Square while, at the western entrance to the town, there is a statue of Sir Francis Drake who is believed to have been born at nearby Crowndale.

One of the legacies of the abbey is the annual three-day fair, granted in 1105, which

FARLEY MENSWEAR

6 Brook Street, Tavistock, Devon PL19 0HD

Tel: 01822 613559

e-mail: sales@farleymenswear.co.uk

website: www.farleymenswear.co.uk

Since 1968, **Farley Menswear** has been selling classic men's clothing for all occasions to local customers and to a clientele that reaches round the globe. Founded by a Mr Farley, it was later owned by three ladies, who ran it for 24 years. Since 2000 it has been owned and run by Judith Murray, whose male customers seem to like the female influence that makes buying clothes less of a chore and more of a pleasure. Farley sells a wide range of jackets, trousers, suits, shirts, knitwear and ties, along with nightwear, underwear and accessories. Judith has always favoured natural fibres such as pure wool, cotton, linen, cashmere and merino.

Two resident tailors provide a highly regarded personal service from alterations to fully bespoke, and Judith and her staff are happy to handle special requests or track down specific items. They also provide a full hire service for weddings and evening wear, with Peter Posh the main supplier. Brands always in stock include jackets and trousers by |Magee, Gurteen, Meyer, Brax, Melka, Bruno Saint Hilaire and Douglas & Grahame; shirts by Laine Taylor, Van Heusen, Viyella, Double Two and melka; classic cardigans and sweaters by Alan Paine; woven pure silk ties by Van Buck and traditional Irish poplin ties by Atkinson.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

JELLY

*1 Eastside Stores, The Market, Tavistock PL19 0AL
Tel: 01822 616897*

Situated besides Tavistock's famous Pannier Market is Jelly, an independent fashion boutique offering an eclectic mix of fabulous ladieswear, jewellery and accessories.

Housed in a spacious converted barn, with white washed walls and wooden flooring, Jelly was established in 2003 by sisters-in-law Caren and Amanda Spicer. The pair do their utmost to make sure your shopping experience is a pleasant one and have provided a comfortable leather sofa for those who wish to relax whilst waiting, as well as a play area with train set for the children.

The shop specializes in a unique range of clothing suitable for stylish ladies of all ages, many items with a limited stock, therefore making the garment truly individual. Fresh labels are introduced regularly, which means there is always something new to tempt repeat customers. Favourite brands include Jackpot, Sandwich, Great Plains, Desigual, Avoca and Almost Famous. Also, why not complete your outfit with a piece of stunning jewellery by Martine Wester.



LIQUORICE LIVING

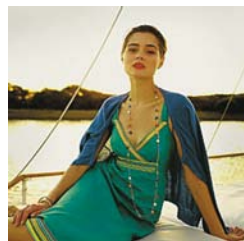
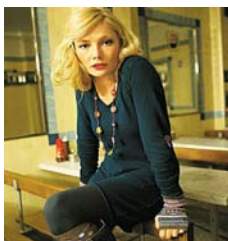
*3c Barley Market Street,
Tavistock, Devon PL19 0JF
Tel: 01822 618158
email: info@liquoriceliving.co.uk
website: www.liquoriceliving.co.uk*

Take a stroll to the top of Pepper Street in the ancient stannary town of Tavistock and you will find a fabulous boutique called **Liquorice**.

This little shop is full of great clothing and accessories cleverly mixed with a range of home interiors and gifts that will ensure you won't leave empty handed! Liquorice stocks labels such as **White Stuff**, **Seasalt**, **Noa Noa**, **Bohemia**, **Johnny Q Jeans** and their friendly staff will be on hand to help you with your wardrobe for the coming season. A range of contemporary jewellery and beautiful scarves will enable you to complete your look.

Gorgeous French furniture with a vintage twist nestles between the clothes giving you interior ideas for your home and inspiration for that 'special' gift. The shop is the perfect showcase for our limited and 'one of a kind' finds that will make your visit worthwhile.

So come and take a peep and experience Liquorice Living !



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

N.H. CREBER DELICATESSEN

48 Brook Street, Tavistock,
Devon PL19 0BH
Tel: 01822 612266
e-mail: info@crebers.co.uk
website: www.crebers.co.uk

When you've been in business for 125 years you must know you're doing something right, and **N.H. Creber** has now passed that milestone with its delicatessen and fine wine store near the River Tay in the market town of Tavistock. The standards of service built up over those years are as high as ever, while the range of food and drink for sale still meets its own exacting standards. None of the many products they make themselves has any additives, colourings or other artificial ingredients added.

Those products include a wide range of wonderful foods, too. Even the salads are made in their own kitchens, while they also make their own pâté and cure their own bacon. Other bacons and pâtés are sourced locally, along with cooked meats and cheeses, pickles, chutneys and jams. Other fare comes from further afield, with a good choice of Scottish smoked salmon, foie gras, caviar and truffles.

The fine wine section has over 150 different whiskies, vintage ports dating back to 1945, champagnes, clarets, and their own label house wines. It's a rare visitor who can enter Creber's and leave empty-handed.



has now evolved into **Goose Fair**, a wonderful traditional street fair held on the second Wednesday in October. Tavistock was also permitted to hold a weekly market, which, more than 900 years later, still takes place every Friday in the Pannier Market, a building that was another gift to the town from the 7th

Duke. There's also an antiques and crafts market on Tuesdays, and a Victorian market on Wednesdays when many of the stallholders appear in period costume.

Around Tavistock



Tavistock Pannier Market

BRENT TOR

4½ miles N of Tavistock off the A386

Church of St Michael of the Rocks

Brent Tor, an 1100 foot-high volcanic plug that rears up from the surrounding countryside is one of the most striking sights in the whole of Dartmoor. Perched on its summit is the **Church of St Michael of the Rocks**, the fourth smallest complete church in England. St Michael's is only 15 feet wide and 37 feet long and has

historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

walls only 10 feet high, but three feet thick. Constructed of stone that was quarried from the rock beneath, the church is surrounded by a steep churchyard that contains a surprising number of graves considering its precarious and seemingly soil-less position. Sometimes lost in cloud, the scramble to the summit of Brent Tor is rewarded on a clear day with magnificent views of Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor and the sea at Plymouth Sound.

LEWDOWN

8 miles N of Tavistock off the A30

 Rev Sabine Baring-Gould

The completion of a bypass in the early 1990s took the main road between Exeter and Launceston away from the centre of this village, making Lewdown a much quieter and more enjoyable place to visit. The village lies within the parish of Lewtrenchard whose rector for 43 years, between 1881 and 1924, was the **Rev Sabine Baring-Gould**. Best known as the composer of the hymn, *Onward, Christian Soldiers*, Baring-Gould was also a prolific prose writer. He regularly produced two or three books a year – novels, historical works such as *Curious Myths of the Middle Ages*, and books on Devon legends and folklore. Baring-Gould nevertheless found time to restore St Peter's Church. His most remarkable success was the creation of a replica of a medieval screen that his grandfather, also a rector here, had destroyed. The grandson found enough pieces

remaining for the replica to be made. It is very impressive with an elaborate canopied loft decorated with paintings of 23 saints.

The Rev Sabine scandalised Victorian society by marrying a Lancashire mill girl, but the union proved to be a happy one and they had a huge family. One local story tells how, one day, emerging from his study, the rector saw a little girl coming down the stairs. "You look nice, my dear, in your pretty frock," he said, vaguely remembering that a children's party was under way. "Whose little girl are you?" "Yours, Papa," she answered and burst into tears.

MARY TAVY

3 miles NE of Tavistock on the A386

 Wheal Betsy

The twin villages of Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy lie on opposite banks of the River Tavy and each takes its name from the saint of its parish church. Roughly twice the size of its east bank twin, Mary Tavy stands in the heart of Dartmoor's former mining area. Just to the north of the village stands a survivor from those days. **Wheal Betsy**, a restored pumping



Wheal Betsy

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

engine house, was once part of the Prince Arthur Consols mine that produced lead, silver and zinc.

In the village, the grave of William Crossing, the historian of the moor whose magisterial guide first published in the early 1900s is still in print, can be found in the churchyard. Crossing moved to Peter Tavy in 1909 and described it as “a quiet little place, with a church embosomed by trees, a chapel, a school and a small inn”. Inside the impressive medieval church there is a poignant memorial to the five daughters of a 17th-century rector. The oldest of them was less than a year when she died:

*They breathed awhile and looked the world about
And, like newly-lighted candles, soon went out.*

POSTBRIDGE

14 miles NE of Tavistock on the B3212

 Clapper Bridge  Warren House Inn

In prehistoric times, the area around Postbridge was the ‘metropolis’ of Dartmoor as the wealth of Bronze Age remains bears witness. Today, the village is best known for its **Clapper Bridge**, which probably dates back to the 13th century and is the best preserved of all the Devon clapper bridges. Spanning the East Dart River, the bridge is a model of medieval minimalist construction with just three huge slabs of granite laid across solid stone piers. Not wide enough for wheeled traffic, the bridge would originally have been used by packhorses following the post road from Exeter into Cornwall.

Two miles along the road to Moretonhampstead, **Warren House Inn** claims to be the third highest tavern in England. It used to stand on the other side of the road, but in 1845 a fire destroyed that building. According to tradition, when the

present inn was built its landlord carried some still-smouldering turves across the road to the hearth of his new hostelry and that fire has been burning ever since. It’s a pleasant enough sight in summer and must have been even more welcome in the winter of 1963. In that year, the Warren House Inn was cut off by heavy snow drifts some 20 feet deep for almost three months and supplies had to be flown in by helicopter. Such a remote inn naturally generates some good tales. Like the one about the traveller who stayed here one winter’s night and opening by chance a large chest in his room discovered the body of a dead man. “Why!” said the landlord when confronted with the deceased, “tis only feyther! ’Twas too cold to take ’un to the buryin’, so mother salted ’un down!”

MERRIVALE

4½ miles E of Tavistock on the B3357

 Merrivale Rows

Set 1000 feet above sea level the tiny hamlet of Merrivale provides wonderful views that on a clear day extend as far as the Eddystone lighthouse in Plymouth Sound, some 30 miles away. The main attraction here is the impressive prehistoric site of **Merrivale Rows**, a double row of standing stones about one metre apart, which may have been erected as long ago as 2500BC. They extend for some 850 feet.

PRINCETOWN

9 miles E of Tavistock on the B3212

 Dartmoor Prison Heritage Centre

Princetown, best known for its forbidding prison, stands 1400 feet above sea level in an area of the moor that is notorious for its atrocious climate. It gets doused with 80 to 100 inches of rain a year, more than three times the average for Exeter, which is less

Dartmoor Prison



9000 French and, later, American inmates, but by 1816, with the cessation of hostilities, the prison became redundant and was closed. Princetown virtually collapsed as a result and it wasn't until 1823 that its granite quarries were given a new lease of life with the building of the horse-drawn Dartmoor Railway, another of Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt's initiatives. The prison was eventually re-

than 20 miles away.

That a settlement should be located here at all was the brainchild of one man, Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, the owner of a local granite quarry. He proposed that a special prison should be built here to house the thousands of troops captured during the Napoleonic wars who were becoming too numerous and unruly for the prison ships moored in Plymouth Sound. The work was completed in 1809 by the prisoners themselves using granite from Sir Thomas' quarry. Paid at the rate of sixpence (2½p) a day, they also built the main east-west road across the moor, which is now the B3212. Yet another of their constructions was the nearby Church of St Mary, a charmless building in whose churchyard stands a tall granite cross in memory of all those prisoners whose bodies lie in unmarked graves. (The mortality rate of the inmates in the early 1800s was 50%.) Since around 1900, prisoners' graves have been marked just with their initials and date of death. The lines of small stones are a gloomy sight.

At one time the prison held as many as

opened for long-serving convicts in 1850 and since then it has been considerably enlarged and upgraded. It is currently in use as a medium security prison with around 640 inmates. The **Dartmoor Prison Heritage Centre** has exhibits detailing the history of the institution.

Also in the town is the National Park's Moorland Visitors' Centre, which contains some excellent and informative displays about the moor, and also stocks a wide range of books, maps and leaflets. The centre is housed in the former Duchy Hotel where Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stayed while writing some chapters of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, much of which is set in Dartmoor.

DARTMEET

13 miles E of Tavistock off the B3357

Dartmeet is a picturesque spot where the boulder-strewn East and West Dart rivers join together. At their junction, a single-span packhorse bridge was built in the 1400s; its remains can still be seen just upstream from the more modern road bridge.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Rising in the boggy plateau of north Dartmoor, the Dart and its tributaries drain a huge area of the moor. The river then flows for 46 miles before entering the sea at Dartmouth.

In the days when the tin mines were working, this area was extremely isolated, lacking even a burial ground of its own. Local people had to carry their dead across the moor to Lydford – “Eight miles in fair weather, and 15 in foul”. In good weather, this is grand walking country with a choice of exploring the higher moor, dotted with a wealth of prehistoric remains, or following the lovely riverside and woodland path that leads to the famous Clapper Bridge near Postbridge, about five miles upstream.

To the east of Dartmeet, and hidden among bracken and gorse, is the Coffin Stone, a large

boulder on which it was customary for bearers to rest the body while making the moorland crossing. A cross and the deceased's initials were carved into the stone while the bearers had some liquid refreshment and got back their breath before continuing on their journey.

YELVERTON

5 miles SE of Tavistock, on the A386

 Great Western Railway

In prehistoric times, the area around Yelverton must have been quite heavily populated to judge by the extraordinary concentration of stone circles and rows, hut and cairn circles, and burial chambers. The B3212 to Princeton passes through this once-populous stretch of moorland, part of which is now submerged beneath Burrator Reservoir.

EAST DART HOTEL

Postbridge, Dartmoor, Devon PL20 6TJ

Tel/Fax: 01822 880213

e-mail: info@eastdarthotel.co.uk

website: www.theeastdarthotel.co.uk

The **East Dart Hotel** is a 19th century former coaching inn located in the heart of Dartmoor National Park, in a sheltered valley on the main road. Paul and Rosie Joynson and their family provide a visit to remember, whether it's for a leisurely drink, a meal or an overnight or longer stay. Care and attention come top of the list, and the hosts know exactly what the customer wants, Paul through long experience in the licensed trade, Rosie through skills developed in her family's restaurant on Jersey. The bar, with its horse brasses, atmospheric photographs of the Moor and a historic hunting frieze, is a delightful place to meet for a chat and a drink, and there's plenty of space to enjoy good food in comfort; the options run from bar snacks to a full restaurant menu, daily specials and a popular Sunday carvery.

The guest accommodation comprises nine quiet, cosy en-suite rooms – five doubles, a twin, two singles and a family room. It's a great base for walking, fishing, riding and discovering the natural beauty of the region. The owners are dog-friendly, and they can provide stabling for guests' horses (or horses can be hired locally). Postbridge has a Dartmoor National Park information point that is central for all walks, and the staff and the hotel's owners can assist in organising guided walks, treks on horseback, fishing trips and falconry days.



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Situated just inside the Dartmoor National Park, Yelverton itself is a large village with broad-verged streets, which has caused it to be described as “rather like a thriving racecourse”. The village is one of very few in the country to have had its name bestowed by the Board of Directors of a railway company. **Great Western Railway** opened a station here in 1859 when the village was officially known as Elfordtown. The story goes that the London-based surveyors interpreted the Devon pronunciation of Elfordtown as Yelverton. So that was the name blazoned on the station signboard, and the name by which the village has been known ever since.

BUCKLAND MONACHORUM

5 miles S of Tavistock off the A386

 Buckland Abbey  The Garden House

Tucked away in a secluded valley above the River Tavy, **Buckland Abbey** (National Trust) was founded in 1278 by Amicia, Countess of Devon, but became better known as the home of Sir Francis Drake. Drake purchased the

former abbey in 1581 from his fellow-warrior (and part-time pirate) Sir Richard Grenville, whose exploits in his little ship *Revenge* were almost as colourful as those of Drake himself. The house remained in the Drake family until 1947 when it was acquired by the National Trust. Of the many exhibits at the abbey, Drake's Drum takes pride of place – according to legend, the drum will sound whenever England is in peril. The drum was brought back to England by Drake's brother, Thomas, who was with the great seafarer when he died on the Spanish Main in 1596 (rather ignominiously, of dysentery). Elsewhere at the abbey, visitors can see a magnificent 14th-century tithe barn, 154 feet long, housing an interesting collection of carts and carriages and a craft workshop, and a herb garden.

In the village itself, on the site of a medieval vicarage, **The Garden House** (see panel below) is surrounded by a delightful garden created after World War Two by Lionel Fortescue, a retired schoolmaster.

The parish church of St Andrew contains a

The Garden House

*Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton,
Devon PL20 7LQ*

Tel: 01822 854769

e-mail: office@thegardenhouse.org.uk

website: www.thegardenhouse.org.uk

The Garden House is centred on an enchanting Walled Garden created by the plantsman Lionel Fortescue and his wife Katharine around the romantic ruins of a medieval vicarage. Lionel's successor Keith Wiley extended the garden into new areas such as the South African Garden, the Acer Glade, the Bulb Meadow and the Cretan Cottage Garden, creating vistas of stunning colour from Spring until Autumn in a pioneering naturalistic style inspired by great natural landscapes of the world. Now Head Gardener Matt Bishop is caring for this legacy, refurbishing some of the historic planting and developing exciting new designs.



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

tribute to the generations of Drakes who lived at Buckland Abbey, and there is a carving of the Golden Hind on the family pew.

GULWORTHY

2 miles SW of Tavistock on the A390

This little village lies at the heart of an area that, in the mid 1880s, had a worldwide reputation. A quarter of the world's supply of copper was extracted from this part of Devon and, more alarmingly, so was half of the world's requirements for arsenic. Mining for copper in this area has long been abandoned, due to the discovery of cheaper sources around the world, particularly in South America. Gulworthy's arsenic has also gone out of fashion as an agent of murder.

Today the village is best known for its luxury

hotel and restaurant, The Horn of Plenty.

MILTON ABBOT

5½ miles NW of Tavistock on the B3362

Endsleigh House

Situated high above the Tamar Valley, Milton Abbot is home to the Regency masterpiece, **Endsleigh House**, that was designed for the Duke and Duchess of Bedford by the architect Sir Jeffry Wyattville and the landscape designer Humphry Repton. Built in the *cottage orne* in about 1810, the house comprises the main building and a children's wing that are linked by a curved terrace. The formal gardens were designed to form a setting for the house as well as frame views out across the surrounding countryside. Along with the three terraces, which were restored in

HAMPTON MANOR

*Alston, Stoke Climsland, Callington PL17 8LX
Tel: 01579 370494*

e-mail: hamptonmanor@sapnet.com

website: www.hamptonmanor.co.uk

Hampton Manor is a country house hotel set in beautiful, secluded gardens in the peaceful countryside within the Tamar Valley, on the border of Devon and Cornwall. This impressive establishment is located in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and offers six high quality en-suite guest rooms.

Hampton Manor is extremely popular with walkers visiting the area to make the most of the spectacular surroundings. Within a half hour drive are numerous attractions; the market towns of Tavistock and Launceston; the seaside city of Plymouth, the grandeur of Dartmoor and many tranquil National Trust gardens and houses.

This four star country house hotel is an ideal retreat for people wanting to get away from the hustle and bustle of every-day life. Evenings can be spent relaxing in the wonderful conservatory, which overlooks more than two acres of land.

Guests can dine in the hotel's licensed restaurant at reasonable prices. Discounts are offered for groups, for short breaks and for longer stays. Small conference facilities are available and are regularly used by Christian church groups. In the summer months it doubles as a games room for families with children.



1998, there are less formal garden areas that include a Rock Garden with a mysterious underground grotto that leads to the Diary Dell. Little altered since they were first created, the grounds also include an internationally famous arboretum containing more than 1000 specimen trees. The house has recently been redeveloped as an upmarket hotel.

BERE ALSTON

5 miles SW of Tavistock on the B3257

Morwellham Quay

For centuries, Bere Alston was a thriving little port on the River Tamar from whence the products of Dartmoor's tin mines were transported around the world. All that commercial activity has long since gone, but the river here is still busy with the to-ings and fro-ings of sleek pleasure craft. Just a few miles upstream from Bere Alston is one of the county's most popular visitor attractions,

Morwellham Quay. The port fell into disuse following the arrival of the railway and by the 1980s it was a ghost harbour with the Tamar valley breezes whistling through its abandoned buildings. Now restored, this historic site faithfully re-creates the busy atmosphere of the 1860s when half the world's copper came through this tiny harbour. Visitors can journey through the mines on a riverside tramway, watch demonstrations in the blacksmith's and cooper's workshops, and explore the restored Tamar ketch *Garlandstone*. Although Morwellham lies some 20 miles upstream from Plymouth, the Tamar river at this point was deep enough for 300-ton ships to load up



Morwellham Quay

with the precious minerals. Once known as the Devon Klondyke, Morwellham suffered a catastrophic decline when cheaper sources of copper were discovered in South America.

The quayside inn has also been restored. It was here that the dockside labourers used to meet for ale, food and the latest news of the ships that sailed from Morwellham. In those days, the news was chalked up on a blackboard, which is still here. Though out of date, the stories nonetheless remain intriguing.

LIFTON

9 miles NW of Tavistock on the A30

Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre

Situated on the banks of the River Lyd, Lifton was, in medieval times, an important centre of the wool trade. Dartmoor sheep tend to have rather coarse fleeces, due to the cold pastureland, so the weavers of Lifton petitioned Henry VII, "by reason of the grossness and stubbornness of their district" to allow them to mix as much lambs' wool and flock with their wool "as may be required to work it".

Just to the east of Lifton is **Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre** where visitors

LIFTON HALL HOTEL & VILLAGE INN

New Road, Lifton, Devon PL16 0DR

Tel: 01566 784863

e-mail: relax@liftonhall.co.uk

website: www.liftonhall.co.uk

Lifton Hall is the perfect place to get away from the hustle and bustle of urban life, a fine hotel set in the delightful Devon countryside. Positioned away from busy holiday resorts yet close enough to many of the tourist attractions that you might want to visit, such as The Eden Project, Dartmoor National Park and the beaches of North Cornwall. The Grade II listed building dates back in part to 1611, with Gothic-style extensions in the 19th century, and the traditional character has been carefully preserved alongside modern comfort and amenity. Many period features have been retained, and the décor throughout is in keeping with the Hall's age. The tone is set by the grand entrance hall with its Cornish slate floor, high ceiling, handsome chandelier and a staircase winding up to a galleried landing.

The guest accommodation comprises ten comfortable bedrooms with en suite bath or shower, crisp white cotton sheets and pillows, TV with radio-alarm, direct-dial phone, and drinks tray with scrumptious biscuits. Two of the rooms are suitable for families, and one room is located on the ground floor. The day starts with a full English breakfast featuring local produce, home-made preserves and a choice of teas and fair trade coffee.

The oldest part of the Hall was originally three cottages, and in what is now the Cottage Bar locals and guests can enjoy West Country real ales from the Ottery, Skinners and St Austell breweries. Food is an important part of the Hall's success, and fresh local produce is very much to the fore in the bar and restaurant menus. The chefs seek out prime raw materials from excellent local butchers and fishmongers and top fruit and vegetable suppliers (as well as some home-grown produce) for menus that cater for all tastes and appetites. The fine food is complemented by a well-chosen list of wines from Old and New Worlds. Tuesdays bring either Food Club nights, featuring the cuisines of different countries, or a popular quiz that's open to all.

Lifton Hall is a great choice for parties and weddings, and adaptable conference and meeting facilities make it an ideal base for business groups. The Hall has a large private car park and a split-level garden with mature trees – just the spot for a stroll or for a quiet read, a drink or a cream tea.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

can see one of the best working steam collections in the country, including traction engines, steam rollers, fairground attractions and vintage machinery. There's also a collection of vintage road signs, play areas for children, a gift shop, café and riverside walks.

Ivybridge

Two Moors Way

The original bridge over the Erme at Ivybridge was just wide enough for a single packhorse, and the 13th-century crossing that replaced it is still very narrow. When the railway arrived here in 1848, Brunel constructed an impressive viaduct over the Erme valley. It was made of wood, however, so that too was replaced in 1895 by an equally imposing stone structure. The town grew rapidly in the 1860s when a quality paper-making mill was established to make good use of the waters of the Erme, and more recently Ivybridge has continued to grow as a commuter town for Plymouth.

Serious walkers will know Ivybridge as the southern starting point of the **Two Moors Way**, the spectacular but gruelling 103-mile path across both Dartmoor and Exmoor, finishing at Barnstaple. The trek begins with a stiff 1000 feet climb up Butterdon Hill, just outside Ivybridge – and that's the easy bit!

SOUTH BRENT

5 miles NE of Ivybridge off the A38

Standing on the southern flank of Dartmoor, just within the National Park, South Brent is a sizeable village of some 3000 souls. Set beside the River Avon, it has a 13th-century church with a massive Norman tower.

This was once the main church for a large part of the South Hams, as well as a considerable area of Dartmoor. Alongside the River Avon are some attractive old textile mills recalling the days when South Brent was an important centre for the production of woollens. In Victorian times, one of the mills was managed by William Crossing whose famous *Crossing's Guide to Dartmoor* provides a fascinating picture of life on the moor in the late 1800s.

In the days of stagecoach travel the town was a lively place with two posting houses servicing the competing coaches. It was said that four horses could be changed in 45 seconds and a full-course meal served in 20 minutes. The most famous of the coaches, the *Quicksilver*, left Plymouth at 8.30 in the evening and arrived in London at 4pm the following afternoon – a remarkable average speed of 11 mph, *including* stops.

BUCKFASTLEIGH

9 miles NE of Ivybridge off the A38

-  Valiant Soldier Museum  South Devon Railway
-  Buckfast Butterflies and Dartmoor Otter Sanctuary
-  Pennywell  Robert Herrick

A former wool town on the banks of the



-  historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
-  stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

River Mardle, several old mill buildings still stand and the large houses of their former owners lie on the outskirts. A unique insight into the lives of local folk is provided by an old inn that has been restored and now houses the **Valiant Soldier Museum and Heritage Centre**. When the Valiant Soldier pub was closed in the 1960s, everything was left in place – even the money in the till. Rediscovered years later, this life-size time capsule features period public and lounge bars, as well as domestic rooms including the kitchen, scullery, parlour and bedrooms.

Buckfastleigh is the western terminus and headquarters of the **South Devon Railway**, (formerly known as the Primrose Line) whose steam trains ply the seven-mile route along the lovely Dart Valley to and from Totnes. The Dart is a fast-flowing salmon river and its banks abound with herons, swans, kingfishers,

badgers and foxes. The company also offers a combined River Rail ticket so that visitors can travel in one direction by train and return by boat. The railway runs regular services during the season with the journey taking about 25 minutes each way.

Another popular attraction close to the town is the **Buckfast Butterflies and Dartmoor Otter Sanctuary** where a specially designed tropical rain forest habitat has been created for the exotic butterflies. There's an underwater viewing area and both the butterflies and otters can be photographed, with the otters' thrice-daily feeding times providing some excellent photo-opportunities.

A couple of miles south of Buckfastleigh, **Pennywell** is a spacious all-weather family attraction that offers a wide variety of entertainments and activities. Pennywell also boasts the UK's longest gravity go-kart ride

CHURCH HOUSE INN

Holne, nr Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7SJ

Tel/Fax: 01364 631208

e-mail: info@churchhouseinndartmoor.co.uk

website: www.churchhouseinndartmoor.co.uk

Church House Inn in the hamlet of Holne, near Ashburton, has a history that goes back to 1329 when stonemasons built it to house them while they built the Church of St Mary the Virgin alongside. This quintessential Inn, now a Grade II listed building is full of character and charm, with two open fires bringing warmth in the cooler months. The appealing ambience is just part of the attraction. Mine hosts, Anthony and Helen Walker, have made good food a priority.

The inn offers a regular lunchtime menu and a different dinner menu, and the chef provides daily, a selection of interesting and appetising specials. Most of the meat is Dartmoor born and bred and fresh, locally sourced fish is always on the menu. To accompany your meal, there's a select grouping of hand drawn real ales from local breweries, and a good cross-section of draught ales and lagers. The wine list, too, has something to appeal to most palates. As you would expect from an inn of this character, the bedrooms are both delightful and comfortable. All 5 rooms are spacious, en-suite and are equipped with tea and coffee making facilities and colour TV. Wi-Fi is also available.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

and promises that its hands-on activities provide something new every half hour.

Another mile or so south, the little church of Dean Prior stands beside the A38. The vicar here at the time of the Restoration was the poet and staunch royalist, **Robert Herrick** (1591-1674). Herrick's best-known lines are probably the opening of *To the Virgins, to make Much of Time*:

*Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,
Old Time is still a-flying
And this same flower that smiles today
Tomorrow will be dying.*

Herrick apparently found rural Devon rather dull and much preferred London where he had a mistress 27 years his junior. Perhaps to brighten up the monotony of his Devonshire existence, he had a pet pig that he took for walks and trained to drink beer from a tankard. Herrick died in 1674 and was buried in the churchyard where a simple stone marks his assumed last resting place.

BUCKFAST

10 miles NE of Ivybridge off the A38

Buckfast Abbey

Dominating this small market town is **Buckfast Abbey**, a Benedictine monastery built in the Norman and Gothic style between 1907 and 1938. If you've ever wondered how many people it takes to construct an abbey, the astonishing answer at Buckfast is just six. Only one of the monks, Brother Peter, had any knowledge of building so he had to check every stone that went into the fabric. A photographic exhibition at the abbey records the painstaking process that stretched over 30 years. Another monk, Brother Adam, became celebrated as the bee-keeper whose busy charges produced the renowned Buckfast

Abbey honey. The abbey gift shop also sells the famous Buckfast Tonic Wine, recordings of the abbey choristers and a wide range of religious items, pottery, cards and gifts. Nearby is an exhibition detailing the process of making the stained glass produced by the monks. The grounds contain Physic, Sensory and Lavender areas, which provide a peaceful and often colourful setting.

CORNWOOD

3 miles NW of Ivybridge off the A38

Cornwood is a pleasant village on the River Yealm, a good base from which to seek out the many Bronze Age and industrial remains scattered across the moor. One of the most remarkable sights in Dartmoor is the double line of stones set up on Stall Moor during the Bronze Age. One line is almost 550 yards long; the other begins with a stone circle and crosses the River Erme before ending at a burial chamber some two miles distant. There are no roads to these extraordinary constructions, they can only be reached on foot.

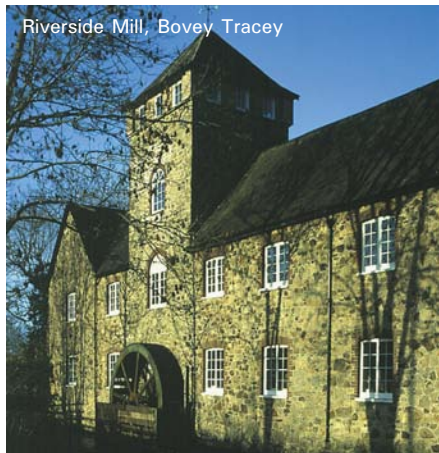
If you approach Dartmoor from the south, off the A38, Cornwood is the last village you will find before the moors begin in earnest. Strike due north from here and you will have to cross some 15 miles of spectacular moorland before you see another inhabited place. (Her Majesty's Prison at Princetown, as it happens.)

Bovey Tracey

 Riverside Mill  House of Marbles

This ancient market town takes its name from the River Bovey and the de Tracy family who received the manor from William the Conqueror. The best-known member of the family is Sir William Tracy, one of the four

Riverside Mill, Bovey Tracey



knights who murdered Thomas à Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. To expiate his crime, Sir William is said to have endowed a church here, dedicated to St Thomas. That building was destroyed by fire and the present church is 15th century with a 14th-century tower. Its most glorious possession is a beautifully carved screen of 1427, a gift to the church from Lady Margaret Beaufort, the new owner of the manor and the mother of King Henry VII.

Bovey Tracey, unlike so many Devon towns and villages, has never suffered a major fire. This is perhaps just as well since its fire-fighting facilities until recent times were decidedly limited. In 1920, for example, the town did have an engine, and five volunteers to man it, but no horses to draw it. The parish council in that year issued a notice advising “all or any persons requiring the Fire Brigade with Engine that they must take the responsibility of sending a Pair of Horses for the purpose of conveying the Engine to and from the Scene of the Fire”.

For such a small town, Bovey Tracey is remarkably well-supplied with shops as well as the **Riverside Mill**, which is run by the

Devon Guild of Craftsmen. This is also the southwest’s leading gallery and craft showroom with work selected from around 240 makers, many with national and international reputations. The Guild presents changing craft exhibitions and demonstrations and the mill also houses a study centre, gallery and a café with roof terrace.

A rather unusual shop is the **House of Marbles**, a working glass and games factory set in an historic pottery. They have been manufacturing their range of traditional games, puzzles, toys, marbles and glassware for many years. Visitors can wander around the old pottery buildings with their listed kilns, explore the museums of glass, games and marbles, watch glass-blowing demonstrations, and be entertained by the wonderful collection of marble runs and the giant floating marble amongst other amusements.

Walkers will enjoy the footpath that passes through the town and follows the track bed of the former railway from Moretonhampstead to Newton Abbot, which runs alongside the River Bovey for part of its length

Just to the north of Bovey Tracey is Parke, formerly the estate of the Tracy family but now owned by the National Trust and leased to the Dartmoor National Park as its headquarters.

Around Bovey Tracey

ILSINGTON

3 miles SW of Bovey Tracey off the B3387

Like so many Dartmoor communities, Ilsington was once an important centre of the wool industry. At the heart of the village is a characteristic trio of late medieval buildings – church, church house and inn. The interior of St Michael’s Church is well worth seeing, with

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

its impressive array of arched beams and roof timbers, which seem to hang in mid-air above the nave. The medieval pew ends are thought to be the only ones in Devon carved with the distinctive poppy head design; there's also a mid 14th-century effigy of a woman and an elaborately carved 16th-century rood screen.

Entry to the churchyard is by way of an unusual lych gate with an upper storey, which once served as the village schoolroom. The present structure is actually a replica of the original medieval gate that apparently collapsed when someone slammed the gate too energetically. The nearby church house, dating back to the 1500s, is now subdivided into residential dwellings known as St Michael's Cottages.

This small village was the birthplace of the Jacobean dramatist John Ford (1586-1639) whose most successful play, *Tis Pity She's A Whore* (1633), is still occasionally revived.

Ilstington is a sizeable parish and includes the three wellknown tors of Rippon, Saddle and Haytor Rocks. The latter is perhaps the most dramatic, especially when approached from the west along the B3387, and with a height of almost 1500 feet provides a popular challenge for rock climbers.

In the early 1800s, the shallow valley to the north of Haytor Rocks was riddled with quarries that supplied granite for such famous buildings as London Bridge, the National Gallery and the British Museum.

BUCKLAND-IN-THE-MOOR

7 miles SW of Bovey Tracey off the A38

 St Peter's Church

Another pretty village, surrounded by the wooded slopes of the Webburn Valley. St

Unusual Clock Face, Buckland-in-the Moor



Peter's Church, originally 14th century, boasts a fine Norman font and a medieval rood screen, which, unusually, is painted on both sides. Outside, the tower has a clock on which the numerals have been replaced by the words MY DEAR MOTHER. The timepiece was a gift to the parish in 1939 by the local squire William Whitley who, a decade earlier, had been instrumental in having two blocks of granite inscribed with the Ten Commandments. The slabs were intended to commemorate the rejection of the new Prayer Book of 1928. They were placed on top of Buckland Beacon, a mile to the east of the village and are still in place today. From this spot there are superb views across Dartmoor.

ASHBURTON

9 miles SW of Bovey Tracey off the A38

 Ashburton Museum  Ashburton Blues Festival

This appealing little town lies just inside the boundary of the Dartmoor National Park, surrounded by lovely hills and with the River Ashburn splashing through the town centre. Municipal history goes back a long way here, to AD821 in fact, when the town elected its first portreeve, the Saxon equivalent of a mayor. The traditional office continues to the present day, although its functions are now purely ceremonial. But each year, on the

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

BIRD'S EXQUISITE LINGERIE

8 West St, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7DU

Tel: 01364 653713

e-mail: debbie@birdislingerie.co.uk

website: www.birdislingerie.co.uk

Bring a touch of glamour to your everyday lingerie, or pick up a little something special, at **Bird's Exquisite Lingerie** boutique. Founded in December 2009, in the heart of the pretty moorland town of Ashburton, the boutique stocks a fabulous array of undergarments; from shapewear, nightwear and swimwear, to bridal, corsets and gorgeous vintage items. Relax in the lush pink and French-grey vintage boudoir-style boutique while you look over the many feminine luxuries to buy. The gorgeous accessories are all lovingly created and supplied by local jewellers and fashion designers.

Dedicated to finding the perfect fit and style for every customer, Bird's personnel offer a brilliant fitting service and pay every attention to you underwear needs. From specialist corset fitting, and sourcing the most supportive and feminine mastectomy bras, to hosting ladies evenings for private parties, every need is catered for. In association with Ashburton's new Bizarre Bazaar Market, with its fabulous jazz and burlesque shows, Bird's is a welcoming and glamorous treat already loved by the local female population. So shake your tail-feathers and give them a visit during your stay in Ashburton.



SILVER LION JEWELLERS

3 North St, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7QJ

Tel: 01364 653718

e-mail: info@silverlionjewellers.co.uk

website: www.silverlionjewellers.co.uk

Hidden in the centre of the sublime countryside town of Ashburton is a real gem; Silver Lion Jewellers. The well-established shop has been part of the community here for over 25 years, and is a literal jewellery box for all that glitters (and is gold!). Customers are wondered by the Silver Lion's stunning collections of silver, gold, and delicate stone-set jewellery from all around the world; from beautiful traditional English and Celtic patterned gold-work, and funky contemporary pieces, to exotic and unusual pieces, infused with colour. However, it is in their bespoke jewellery creations that Silver Lion Jewellers really shine; their speciality being 9 or 18 ct gold bands, set inside and out with diamonds of every imaginable colour.

The Silver Lion, which has been under new ownership since 2008, remains popular with locals and visitors alike; their unusual and stunning pieces have attracted many brides and wedding guests looking for that extra special something to complete their outfits. The antique and vintage collection here too is very beautiful, and the hand or mechanical engraving service can add that special touch to any gift. If your favourite piece should be broken or damaged, they can repair, restring and resize with great care and skill. Watches, too, can have their batteries and straps replaced or altered.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

THE FISH DELI

7 East St, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7AD

Tel: 01364 654833

e-mail: information@thefishdeli.co.uk

website: www.thefishdeli.co.uk

The fish deli is unique. A superb deli, but specialising in mainly fishy things. Fresh fish is sourced responsibly from local day boats. Customers are encouraged to buy the daily catch of what is available and in season. The deli was recently featured in the Marine Conservation magazine. Gentle advice is given about buying and trying more sustainable varieties.

Nick, Michele and their dedicated team also make wonderful fish dishes to take home such as Fish Cakes, Fish Pies, Bouillabaisse, Escabeche, Zarzuela, Curries, Fish pates etc. A fantastic friendly service, nothing too much trouble, the fish is offered whole, filleted, butterfly filleted, pin boned, whatever you want. The deli has been highly recommended by Seafish and the fish dishes have won Great Taste awards. There is a wide range of dry stores, delicious bread, classy cookware and cook books too.

It is an amazing shop bringing together all sorts of people from all walks of life to really enjoy/ appreciate good food. The shop has been operating since 2004 and has a huge local following; it has also been featured in a number of national newspapers and Country Living magazine.

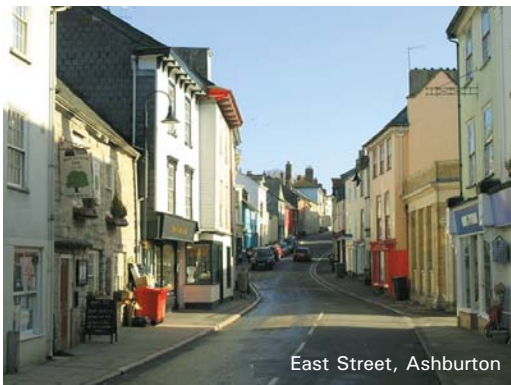


fourth Tuesday in November, officials gather in the St Lawrence chapel to appoint not just their portreeve, but also the Ale Tasters, Bread Weighers, Pig Drovers and even a Viewer of Watercourses.

In medieval times, Ashburton's prosperity was based on tin. As one of Devon's four

stannary towns, it benefited from the trade generated by the Dartmoor tanners who were obliged to come here to have their metal weighed and stamped, and to pay the duty. Later, the cloth industry was the town's main money-spinner, with nine fulling mills along the banks of the Ashburn producing cloth that the East India Company exported to China.

The town is characterised by its many attractive houses and shops, with distinctive slate-hung front elevations. Housed in the former home and workshop of a brushmaker, **Ashburton Museum** offers a fascinating insight into the history of this stannary town as well as the domestic and rural life of Dartmoor down the centuries. The collections include old farming implements, Victorian toys, a model of the old



East Street, Ashburton

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

PRESENCE

21-23 East St, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7AQ
Tel: 01364 653369

Walk into **Presence** and enter a world of colour, imagination and ideas for unusual gifts.

Inside you will find a fine array of clothes, cushions, candles, natural bath and shower products, wooden toys, games and puzzles together with a large choice of life-enhancing essential oils and incense.

Presence is also known for its wide variety of artistic, quirky and amusing cards. The shop is a great supporter of Fair Trade. All the clothes and much of the stock come from Fair Trade companies.

Zoe Williams established Presence 20 years ago - she is a working craftsperson in decoupage, patchwork and rag rug making and some of her work is for sale in the shop.

At Presence you will find a colourful and unique blend of clothes and gifts at reasonable prices so do pop in and see for yourself.



Market Hall and Native American artefacts donated by Paul Endicott, whose parents had left Ashburton for Oklahoma at the beginning of the 1900s.

Ashburton's Italianate Town Hall provides the main venue for the **Ashburton Blues Festival** over the last weekend in May.

WIDECOMBE IN THE MOOR

6 miles W of Bovey Tracey off the B3212

Cathedral of the Moors Church House

Widecombe Fair Grimspound

This pleasing village enjoys a lovely setting in the valley of the East Webburn river and its grand old church, with a massive 120 feet high granite tower rising against a backdrop of high moorland, has understandably been dubbed the **Cathedral of the Moors**.

Dedicated to St Pancras, the church was built with funds raised by tin miners in the 14th

century, and enlarged during the next two centuries. A panel inside the church records the disastrous events of 21 October 1638. A sizeable congregation had gathered for a service when a bolt of lightning struck the tower, dislodging huge blocks of masonry on to the worshippers. Four were killed and a further 60 badly injured. (Local legend maintains that the Devil had been spotted earlier that day spitting fire and riding an ebony stallion across the moor.)

In addition to the church, two other buildings are worth mentioning. Glebe House is a handsome 16th-century residence, which has since been converted to a shop, and **Church House** is an exceptional colonnaded building which was originally built around 1500 to accommodate those travelling large distances across the moor to attend church services. It was later divided into almshouses

historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

then served in succession as a brewery and a school. It is now a National Trust shop and information centre.

The famous **Widecombe Fair** to which Uncle Tom Cobleigh, his boisterous crew and the old grey mare, were making their way is still held here on the second Tuesday in September, and although it is no longer an agricultural event, remains a jolly affair. A succession of real-life Tom Cobleighs have lived around Widecombe over the centuries, but the song probably refers to a gentleman who died in 1794. An amorous bachelor, this Uncle Tom Cobleigh had a mane of red hair and he refused to maintain any babies that did not display the same characteristic.

From Widecombe, a country lane leads to **Grimspound**, which is perhaps the most impressive of all Dartmoor's Bronze Age survivals. This settlement was occupied between 1800BC and 500BC and is remarkably well-preserved. There are 24 hut circles here, some of them reconstructed, and it's still possible to make out the positions of door lintels and stone sleeping shelves. Today, the area around Grimspound is bleak and moody, an atmosphere that recommended itself to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who had Sherlock Holmes send Dr Watson into hiding here to help solve the case of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

NORTH BOVEY

6 miles NW of Bovey Tracey off the B3212

In any discussion about which is the loveliest village in Devon, North Bovey has to be one of the leading contenders. Set beside the River Bovey, it is quite unspoiled, with thatched cottages grouped around the green, a 15th-century church and a delightful old inn, the Ring of Bells, which like many Devon

hostelries was originally built, back in the 13th century, as a lodging house for the stonemasons building the church.

LUSTLEIGH

3 miles NW of Bovey Tracey off the A382

 **Becky Falls Woodland Park**

 **Yarner Wood Nature Reserve**

Lustleigh is one of Dartmoor's most popular and most photographed villages. Placed at all angles on the hillside are a ravishing assortment of 15th and 16th-century deeply-thatched, colour-washed cottages, picturesquely grouped around the church. Appropriately for such a genuinely old-world village, Lustleigh keeps alive some of the time-honoured traditions of country life, enthusiastically celebrating May Day each year with a procession through the village, dancing round the maypole, and the coronation of a May Queen. From the village there are some delightful walks, especially one that passes through Lustleigh Cleave, a wooded section of the steep-sided Bovey valley. Also close by is the **Becky Falls Woodland Park**, with its waterfalls, rugged landscape and attractions for all the family. Here, too, is **Yarner Wood Nature Reserve**, home to pied flycatchers, wood warblers and redstarts.

MORETONHAMPSTEAD

7 miles NW of Bovey Tracey on the A382

 **St Andrew's Church**  **Almshouses**

 **Miniature Pony Centre**

Moreton, as this little town is known locally, has long claimed the title of 'Gateway to east Dartmoor', a role in which it was greatly helped by the branch railway from Newton Abbot, which operated between 1866 and 1964. This is the gentler part of Dartmoor,

with many woods and plantations, and steep-sided river valleys. Within easy reach are picture-postcard villages such as Widecombe in the Moor, striking natural features like Haytor, and the remarkable Bronze Age stone hut circle at Grimspound.

The best approach to Moreton is by way of the B3212 from the southwest. From this direction you are greeted with splendid views of the little hilltop town surrounded by fields, and with the tower of **St Andrew's Church** piercing the skyline. Built using Dartmoor granite during the early 1400s, the church overlooks the Sentry, or Sanctuary Field, an attractive public park. In the south porch are the tombstones of two French officers who died here as prisoners of war in 1807. At one point during those years of the Napoleonic Wars, no fewer than 379 French officers were living in Moreton, on parole from the military prison at Princetown. One of them, General Rochambeau, must have sorely tested the patience of local people. Whenever news arrived of a French success, he would don his full-dress uniform and parade through the streets.

One of the most interesting buildings in Moreton is the row of thatched **Almshouses** in Cross Street, built in 1637 with a striking arcade supported by sturdy granite columns. The almshouses are now owned by the National Trust but are not open to the public. Just across the road from the almshouses is **Mearsdon Manor Galleries**, the oldest house in Moreton, dating back to the 14th century. The ground floor of the manor is now a very pleasant traditional English tearoom. In total contrast, the remaining rooms contain an astonishing array of colourful,

exotic artefacts collected by the owner, Elizabeth Prince, on her trips to the Far East. There are Dartmoor-pony-sized wooden horses, Turkish rugs, Chinese lacquered furniture, finely-carved jade – a veritable treasury of Oriental craftsmanship.

Two miles west of Moretonhampstead, on the B3212, the **Miniature Pony Centre** is home to miniature ponies, donkeys and other horse breeds, as well as pygmy goats, pigs, lambs and many other animals. There are pony rides for children aged nine and under, a daily birds of prey display, indoor and outdoor play areas and a cafeteria.

Plymouth

 Plymouth Hoe	 The Citadel	 Breakwater
 Mayflower Steps	 Eddystone Lighthouse	
 National Marine Aquarium	 Smeaton's Tower	

With around a quarter of a million inhabitants, Plymouth is now the largest centre of population in the southwest peninsula, but its development has been comparatively recent. It wasn't until the late 1100s that the harbour was recognised as having any potential as a military and commercial port. Another 300 years passed before it was established as the main base for the English fleet guarding the western channel



Plymouth Hoe

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

against a seaborne attack from Spain.

Perhaps the best way of getting to know this historic city is to approach **Plymouth Hoe** on foot from the main shopping area, along the pedestrianised Armada Way. It was on the Hoe on Friday, 19 July 1588, that one of the most iconic moments in English history took place. Commander of the Fleet, and erstwhile pirate, Sir Francis Drake was playing bowls here when he was informed of the approach of the Spanish Armada. With true British phlegm, Sir Francis completed his game before boarding *The Golden Hind* and sailing off to harass the Spanish fleet. A statue of Sir Francis, striking a splendidly belligerent pose and looking proudly to the horizon, stands on the Hoe, which is still an open space, combining the functions of promenade, public park and parade ground.

Just offshore, the striking shape of Drake's Island rises like Alcatraz from the deep swirling waters at the mouth of the River Tamar. In its time, this stark fortified islet has been used as a gunpowder repository (it is said to be riddled with underground tunnels where the powder was stored), a prison, and a youth adventure centre.

Two miles from the Hoe, Plymouth's remarkable **Breakwater** protects the Sound from the destructive effects of the prevailing southwesterly winds. Built by prisoners between 1812 and 1840, this massive mile-long construction required around four million tons of limestone. The surface was finished with enormous dovetailed blocks of stone, and the structure rounded off with a lighthouse at one end.

On a clear day, it's possible to see the



famous **Eddystone Lighthouse**, 12 miles out in the Channel. The present lighthouse is the fourth to be built here. The first, made of timber, was swept away in a huge storm in 1703 taking with it the man who had built the lighthouse, the ship-owner Winstanley. In 1759, a much more substantial structure of dovetailed granite blocks was built by John Smeaton. It stood for 120 years and even then it was not the lighthouse but the rocks on which it stood that began to collapse. The lighthouse was dismantled and re-erected on the Hoe where, as **Smeaton's Tower**, it is one of the city's most popular tourist attractions. From the top, there are good views of Millbay Docks, Plymouth's bustling commercial port, which was once busy with transatlantic passenger liners. Today, the docks handle a variety of merchant shipping, including the continental ferry services to Brittany and northern Spain. To the east, the view is dominated by **The Citadel**, a massive fortification built by Charles II, ostensibly as a defence against seaborne attack. Perhaps bearing in mind that Plymouth had resisted a four-year siege by his father's troops during the Civil War, Charles' Citadel has a number

of gun ports bearing directly on the city. The Citadel is still a military base, but there are guided tours on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm.

Adjoining the Citadel is Plymouth's oldest quarter, the Barbican. Now a lively entertainment area filled with restaurants, pubs, and an innovative small theatre, it was once the main trading area for merchants exporting wool and importing wine.

Close by are the **Mayflower Steps** where the Pilgrim Fathers boarded ship for their historic voyage to Massachusetts. The names of the 102 pilgrims and their professions are listed on a board on nearby Island House. Many other emigrants were to follow in the Pilgrim Fathers' wake, with the result that there are now more than 40 communities named Plymouth scattered across the English-speaking world.

Opposite the Mayflower Steps is the Plymouth Mayflower Visitor and Exhibition Centre where the TIC has an interactive exhibition telling the story of the *Mayflower* and other famous voyages from Plymouth.

A number of interesting old buildings around the Barbican have survived the ravages of time and the terrible pasting the city received during World War Two. Prysten House, behind St Andrew's Church, is a 15th-century priest's house; the Elizabethan House in New Street has a rich display of Elizabethan furniture and furnishings; and the Merchant's House of 1608 in St Andrew's Street, generally regarded as Devon's finest Jacobean building, is crammed full of interesting objects relating to Plymouth's past. A particularly fascinating exhibit in the Merchant's House is the Park Pharmacy, a genuine Victorian pharmacy complete with its 1864 fittings and stocked with such



Barbican Waterfront

preparations as Ipecacuanha Wine ("one to two tablespoonfuls as an emetic") and Tincture of Myrrh and Borax, "for the teeth and gums". Another vintage shop is Jacka's Bakery which claims to be the oldest commercial bakery in the country and is reputed to have supplied the *Mayflower* with ship's biscuits.

Also in the Barbican area is the **National Marine Aquarium**, located on the Fish Quay. The Aquarium experience comprises a total of 50 live exhibits including three massive tanks, the largest of which – Britain's deepest tank – holds 2½ million litres of water. More than 4000 creatures from 400 species are displayed in realistic habitats from local shorelines to coral reefs. The tour includes encounters with brilliantly coloured fish, seahorses and even Caribbean sharks. The Explorocean zone focuses on ocean exploration and sustainability through innovative, interactive exhibits.

Locally, the Tamar estuary is known as the Hamoaze (pronounced ham-oys), and it's well worth taking one of the boat trips that leave from the Barbican landing stage. This is certainly the best way to see Devonport Dockyard, while the ferry to Cremyll on the Cornish bank of the Tamar drops off passengers at Mount Edgcumbe. During the season, there's also a ferry to the old

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

smuggling village of Cawsand. The trip also gives a grand view of the Royal Albert Railway Bridge of 1859, which spans the River Tamar and links Devon and Cornwall. It was the last major construction designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

The blackest date in Plymouth's history is undoubtedly 21 March 1941. On that night, the entire centre of the city was razed to the ground by the combined effects of high-explosive and incendiary bombs. More than 1000 people were killed; another 5000 injured. After the war, the renowned town planner Sir Patrick Abercrombie was commissioned to design a completely new town centre. Much of the rebuilding was carried out in the 1950s, which was not British architecture's golden age, but half a century later the scheme has acquired something of a period charm. Abercrombie's plan included some excellent facilities, like the first-rate Museum and Art Gallery, the Theatre Royal with its two auditoria, the Arts Centre, and the Pavilions complex of concert hall, leisure pool and skating rink.

Plymouth's best-known export has to be Plymouth Gin which has been produced in the city since 1793. At the company's Black Friars Distillery visitors can take a guided tour and learn about the art of making this famous tippie. In the Refectory Bar here, it is said, the Pilgrim Fathers spent their last night before

setting sail in the *Mayflower*. There's also a café and a shop.

Around Plymouth

PLYMPTON

4 miles E of Plymouth Plymouth on the B3416

-  Saltram House  Plym Valley Railway
-  Hemerdon House

Plympton boasts one of Devon's grandest mansions, **Saltram House** (National Trust). Built during the reign of George II for the Parker family, this sumptuous house occupies a splendid site overlooking the Plym estuary. In the 1760s, Robert Adam was called in, at enormous expense, to decorate the dining room and 'double cube' saloon, which he accomplished with his usual panache. There are portraits of the Parkers by the locally born artist Sir Joshua Reynolds, and amongst the fine furniture, a magnificent four-poster bed by Thomas Chippendale. Other attractions include the great kitchen with its fascinating assortment of period kitchenware, an orangery in the gardens, and the former chapel, now a gallery displaying the work of West Country artists. The garden is mainly 19th century and contains several follies as well as some beautiful shrubberies and imposing specimen trees. The shop and gallery offer work for sale by contemporary local artists. Saltram House appeared as Norland House in the 1995 feature film of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* starring Emma Thompson and Hugh Grant.

From the village, the **Plym Valley Railway** (see panel on page 186) carries passengers on a short length of restored track, part of a Great Western Railway branch that ran from Plymouth to Launceston via Tavistock. Travelling in rolling stock redolent of the



Saltram House

-  historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
-  stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Plym Valley Railway

*Marsh Mills Station, Coypool Road, Plympton,
Devon PL7 4NW*

Tel: 01752 330881

website: www.plymrail.co.uk



The object of the **Plym Valley Railway** is to relay and restore a short section of the former Great Western Railway branch line from Plymouth to Launceston via Tavistock and, in particular, the section that runs from Marsh Mills, Plympton to the local beauty spot of Plym Bridge, a distance of around a mile and a quarter. A series of heritage steam and diesel locomotives from the 1950s and 1960s operate the services that run on Sundays and there is also a buffet and souvenir shop at Marsh Mills.

1950s and 1960s, passengers are conveyed to local beauty spot, Plym Bridge.

To the north of Plympton is a fine Georgian mansion that is often overlooked, **Hemerdon House**, which is still occupied by the original family. It contains family and other portraits, silver, books and period furniture. The house is open on a limited basis.

TURNCHAPEL

1 mile SE of Plymouth off the A379

Enjoying views across Cattewater to Plymouth, the village of Turnchapel is strung along the waterside. The village was declared a Conservation Area in 1977 and, with its two pubs, church, and waterfront, is a pleasant place to wander around. From Mountbatten Peninsula grand vistas open up over to Plymouth Hoe and Drake's Island. It was at RAF Mountbatten that Lawrence of Arabia served as a humble aircraftman for several years.

WEMBURY

6 miles SE of Plymouth off the A379

Wembury church provides a dramatic landmark as it stands isolated on the edge of the cliff, and the coastal path here provides spectacular views of the Yealm estuary to the

east, and Plymouth Sound to the west. The path is occasionally closed to walkers when the firing range is in use, so look out for the red warning flags. The Great Mew Stone stands a mile offshore in Wembury Bay. This lonely islet was inhabited until the 1830s when its last residents, the part-time smuggler Sam Wakeham and his family, gave up the unequal struggle to make a living here. The Mew Stone is now the home of seabirds.

NEWTON FERRERS

9 miles SE of Plymouth on the B3186

A picturesque fishing village of whitewashed cottages sloping down to the river, Newton Ferrers is beloved by artists and is also one of the south coast's most popular yachting centres. Part of the village sits beside the River Yealm (pronounced Yam), the rest alongside a large creek. When the creek dries out at low tide, it is possible to walk across to Noss Mayo on the southern bank. (When the tide is in, a ferry operates, but only during the season.)

The South Hams

"The fruitfulest part of all Devonshire" said an old writer of this favoured tract of land lying south of Dartmoor, bounded by the

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

River Dart to the east and the River Erme to the west. The climate is exceptionally mild, the soil fertile and the pastures well watered. But the rivers that run off Dartmoor to the sea, slicing north-south through the area, created burdensome barriers to communications until fairly recent times. This comparative isolation kept the region unspoilt, but also kept it poor.

There are few towns of any size – only Totnes, Kingsbridge and Modbury really qualify, along with the picturesque ports of Dartmouth and Salcombe. For the rest, the South Hams is a charmed landscape of drowsy villages linked by narrow country lanes running between high banks on which wildflowers flourish and thanks to an enlightened County Council, the verges were never assaulted with massive quantities of herbicides as in other areas.

The area has been known as the South

Hams, the ‘homesteads south of Dartmoor’, since Saxon times, but one town at least claims a history stretching much further back in time. We begin our exploration of the South Hams at Totnes, which is the second oldest borough in England. The town sent its first Member of Parliament to London in 1295, and elected the first of its 630-odd Mayors in 1359.

Totnes

-  Totnes Castle  Ramparts Way
-  Guildhall  Orange Race
-  St Mary's Church
-  Elizabethan House Museum
-  Rare Breeds Farm
-  Devonshire Collection of Period Costume

This captivating little town claims to have been founded by an ancient Trojan named Brutus in

FINISHING TOUCHES OF TOTNES

*Units 2-3 Brutus Centre, off Fore Street,
Totnes, Devon TQ9 5RW
Tel/Fax: 01803 862244
e-mail: shop@decocraft.co.uk
website: www.decocraft.co.uk*

Established in 1990 as a home decorating store, over the years **Finishing Touches of Totnes** has diversified into craft materials as well. It is now one of the largest craft shops in the south-west. In 2010 the shop was runner-up in the “Craft Shop of the Year” for the south of England, including London. The range of products on sale in the shop is huge. The shop is a supplier of Personal Impressions items, Tseikiniko, Ranger, Tim Holtz and many other top brands. The shop also stocks Leyland and Nutshell Natural paints, as well as products from Jali MDF, Sandersons, Morris & Co., Galerie Willowprints and, indeed, just about everything for the home decorator. Owner David Dommert is a trained decorator himself so he can help with any technical problems.

David also holds many craft workshops throughout the year for all ages over nine. There are courses in card making, jewellery, scrapbook-making and Fimo. Finishing Touches is conveniently sited close to the Co-op car park just off the Fore Street. Totnes itself is well worth exploring with its many historic buildings, individually owned shops and its Friday and Saturday markets.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

1200BC. The grandfather of Aeneas, the hero of Virgil's epic poem *The Aeneid*, Brutus sailed up the River Dart, gazed at the fair prospect around him and decided to found the first town in this new country that would take its name, Britain, from his own. The Brutus Stone, set in the pavement of the main shopping street, Fore Street, commemorates this stirring incident when both the town and a nation were born.

The first recorded evidence of this town, set on a hill above the highest navigable point on the River Dart, doesn't appear until the mid 10th century when King Edgar established a mint at Totnes. The Saxons already had a castle of sorts here, but the impressive remains of **Totnes Castle** are Norman, built between the 1100s and early 1300s. Towering over the town, it is generally reckoned to be the best preserved motte and bailey castle in

Devon. It affords grand views over the town and the Dart valley.

A substantial section of Totnes' medieval town wall has also survived and can be followed along the **Ramparts Way**. The superb East Gate, which straddles the steep main street is part of that wall.

Just a little way down the hill from East Gate is the charming 13th-century **Guildhall**, a remarkable little building with a granite colonnade that was originally part of a Benedictine priory. It houses both the Council Chamber (which is still in use) and the underground Town Gaol (which is not). The cells can be visited, as can the elegant Council Chamber with its plaster frieze and the table where Oliver Cromwell sat in 1646.

Another magnificent Elizabethan building, 16 High Street, was built in 1585 for Nicholas Ball who had made his fortune from the local

ALISON WARE

63 Fore Street, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5NJ

Tel: 01803 849222

e-mail: alisonware@btconnect.com

website: www.alisonware.co.uk

Opened in May 2005, **Alison Ware** occupies a charming 17th Century listed building with low ceilings, old beams, uneven floors, and lots of nooks and crannies. In this delightful setting, owner Alison has put together a fascinating collection of items that will enhance any interior. They include fabrics from leading designers such as Biggie Best, Vanessa Arbuthnott, Elanbach, Clarke & Clarke and James Hare Silk plus a measuring, making-up and fitting service for curtains, blinds and soft furnishings. Whilst not interior designers, they are always happy to help you put designs and schemes together. There is painted furniture from Sylvaewood and china from Burleigh, both UK made. Upstairs, in a bedroom setting, there is a colourful array of quilts, throws, cushions, bed linen, lamps and French-influenced furniture and mirrors. Alison Ware stocks a stunning range of fake flowers which Alison, as a former florist, is always happy to arrange, including in customers' own vases.

Totnes is one of Devon's most appealing small towns with a main shopping street lined with historic buildings and fascinating privately-owned shops, all leading to the well-preserved Norman castle.



CHINA BLUE

Station Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5JR

Tel: 01803 860905 (shop),

01803 860906 (café),

01803 860908 (ceramic studio)

e-mail: shop@china-blue.co.uk

website: www.china-blue.co.uk



China Blue is hard to describe and equally hard to resist. Based in the town of Totnes that is also noted for its quirky individuality, China Blue is a combination of many different things under one roof. If you're in the mood for shopping then the Homeware Store prides itself on offering as wide a range of home goods as any department store. They stock many exclusive brands and have been a 'shopping heaven' since 1997, as well as offering interior design advice for the home from their experienced team. The store is full of creative ideas for bedroom and bathroom, kitchen and living room, and outside in the garden too.

If you're hungry or just want a lovely place to sit down with a cup of coffee, the China Blue Café has a delightful conservatory dining room, and outdoor seating too. You can enjoy the complimentary newspapers over a cappuccino, a freshly-squeezed orange juice or a glass of wine, or perhaps have something more substantial. The all-day menu includes home-made cakes, wicked pastries, healthy salads, baked potatoes, baguettes and paninis, or a bowl of soup with a choice from the gourmet breads all baked on the premises.

Another indulgence available at China Blue is to treat yourself at the Blue Hair Studio. This cutting-edge hairdressing and design salon offers styling for weddings and other special occasions, or will suggest a hairstyle make-over, for men and for women. They also use and sell the top US brand, Redken.

As if all this wasn't enough, China Blue also has its fabulous Ceramic Studio, the biggest of its kind in south-west England. You can go in and put your creativity to the test by learning how to make original ceramic items, perhaps as gifts to take home as an unusual holiday souvenir. Advice is on hand to help you make plates, pots, mugs and more, with a range of colours, brushes and designs to choose from. If you're feeling really brave you can try one of the studio's state-of-the-art potter's wheels, while children can have their own fun and make robots, castles, or perhaps a little Devon duck.

You can also join in one of the classes teaching you how to create textiles and make your own jewellery, or visit the glass-blowing workshop and gallery too. In fact a visit to China Blue is almost a day out by itself.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

pilchard fishery. When he died, his wife Anne married Sir Thomas Bodley and it was the profit from pilchards that funded the world-famous Bodleian Library at Oxford University.

The town's Elizabethan heritage is celebrated on Elizabethan Tuesday in the summer. This is when the people of Totnes array themselves in crisp, white ruffs and velvet gowns for a charity market in the Civic Square. In August, the Elizabethan Society organises the **Orange Race**, which commemorates a visit to the town by Sir Francis Drake during which he presented "a fair red orange" to a small boy in the street. Today, contestants chase their oranges down the hill.

The parish church of Totnes is **St Mary's**. It was entirely rebuilt in the 15th century when the town's cloth industry was booming – at that time Totnes was second in importance only to Exeter. The church's most glorious possession is a rood screen delicately carved in stone from the quarry at Beer.

Close by at 70 Fore Street is the **Elizabethan House Museum**, housed in an attractive half-timbered Elizabethan building whose upper floors overhang the street. One of the fascinating exhibits here honours a distinguished son of Totnes, Charles Babbage (1791-1871) whose Analytical Machine is universally acknowledged as the forerunner of the electronic computer. The museum display records his doomed struggle to perfect such a calculator using only mechanical parts.

A little further up the hill, in High Street, the Butterwalk and Poultrywalk are two ancient covered shopping arcades whose upper storeys rest on pillars of granite, timber or cast iron.



River Dart, Totnes

In recent years, Totnes has earned the title of Natural Health Capital of the West Country. The first Natural Health Centre was established here in 1989. Visitors will find specialist shops offering natural medicines, organic food, aromatherapy, relaxation tapes and books on spiritual healing. A variety of craft and antique shops all add to the town's allure for shopaholics.

For centuries, Totnes was a busy river port and down by Totnes Bridge, an elegant stone structure of 1828, the quay was lined with warehouses, some of which have survived and been converted into highly desirable flats. Nearby, on the Plains, stands a granite obelisk to the famous explorer William Wills, a native of the town who perished from starvation when attempting to re-cross the Australian desert with Robert Burke in 1861.

One excursion from Totnes not to be missed is the breathtakingly beautiful river trip to Dartmouth, 12 miles downstream. This stretch of the river has been called the English Rhine and the comparison is no exaggeration. The river here is well away from roads, making it an ideal location for seeing wading-birds, herons, cormorants and even seals. During the summer, there are frequent departures from

the quay near the bridge.

Another memorable journey is by steam train along the seven-mile stretch of the South Devon Railway, also known as the Primrose Line, which runs through the glorious scenery of the Dart Valley to Buckfastleigh. Most of the locomotives and carriages are genuine Great Western Railway stock and are painted in the GWR's famous chocolate and cream livery.

Next door to the railway, the **Rare Breeds Farm** includes a hedgehog rescue centre, some spectacular owls, red squirrels, goats, sheep, birds and much more. It also has a Garden Café with views of working steam trains and Totnes Castle.

Even that list of attractions isn't exhaustive. The **Devonshire Collection of Period Costume** is housed in one of the town's most interesting 16th-century houses and has a different display each year.

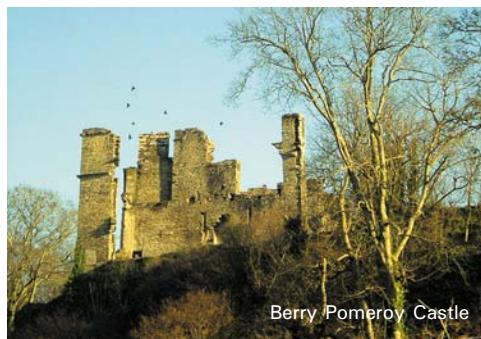
Around Totnes

BERRY POMEROY

2 miles E of Totnes off the A385 or A381

 Berry Pomeroy Castle

For the past 1000 years this small village has been owned by just two families. The de la



Berry Pomeroy Castle

Pomerai's dynasty arrived with William the Conqueror and held the land for almost 500 years. In the early 1300s they built **Berry Pomeroy Castle** in a superb position on a wooded promontory above Gatcombe Brook. Substantial remains of the castle still stand, including sections of the curtain wall and the 14th-century gatehouse. In 1548 the Pomeroy's, as they were now known, sold the estate to Sir Edward Seymour whose sister, Jane, had been the third wife of Henry VIII. Sir Edward built a three-storey Tudor mansion within the medieval fortifications but this too is now a shell. Although the castle is still owned by Sir Edward's descendant, the Duke of Somerset, it is administered by English Heritage and open to the public daily during the season. In the village itself, St Mary's Church contains some interesting monuments to the Pomeroy's and Seymours, as well as an outstanding rood screen.

ASHPRINGTON

2 miles SE of Totnes off the A381

Set in a stunning location above the River Dart, Sharpham Vineyard and Cheese Dairy offers two gastronomic experiences. Visitors can sample the international award-winning red and white wines, and watch the dairy cheese being made. The entrance fee includes complimentary tastings. An attractive way of visiting the vineyard is by taking one of the ferry boats along the River Dart, which will stop at Sharpham on request.

STOKE GABRIEL

5 miles SE of Totnes off the A385

A charming village of narrow lanes and alleys, Stoke Gabriel stands on a hillside above a tidal spur of the River Dart. A weir was built across the neck of the creek in Edwardian times and this traps the

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

water at low tide, giving the village a pleasant lakeside atmosphere. The part 13th-century church of St Gabriel has a restored late-medieval pulpit and a truncated screen with some good wainscot paintings. In the churchyard are the rather forlorn remains of an oak tree reputed to be more than 1500 years old. To the west of the village, a lane leads to the riverside hamlet of Duncannon where, by general consent, the River Dart is at its most lovely.

DITTISHAM

11 miles SE of Totnes off the A3122

 Church of St George  Greenway

 Barn Gallery

The best way to reach the pretty yachting village of Dittisham is by passenger ferry from Dartmouth. This village of atmospheric cottages, whose narrow streets drop down to the River Dart, is in an area renowned for its fruit farming; Dittisham plums were especially famous and are still grown on a small scale.

Dittisham's **Church of St George** has many interesting features, including the Royal Coat of Arms of Charles II hanging over a door (granted at the time of the Restoration in gratitude to the townspeople for their loyalty to the Royalist cause), a beautiful 15th-century carved stone wine glass pulpit, and windows in the north aisle inserted in about 1846 under the direction of Augustus Pugin.

The major attraction here is **Greenway** (National Trust), the home of Dame Agatha Christie for the last 30 years of her life. The house has a 1950s ambience and contains many of the family's collections, including archaeology, Tunbridgeware, silver, botanical china and books. Outside there's a large and romantic woodland garden with a restored

Greenway, Dittisham



winery, wild edges and rare plantings, which drift down the steep hillside towards the Dart estuary. Also within the grounds is the **Barn Gallery**, which mounts exhibitions of contemporary art by local artists. Parking at Greenway is limited and must be pre-booked, but there are ferries from Dartmouth, Torquay and Brixham.

DARTMOUTH

14 miles SE of Totnes on the A3122

 Dartmouth Castle  Church of St Saviour's

 Custom House  Dartmouth Museum

 Britannia Royal Naval College

 Dartmouth Regatta  Railway Station

For centuries, this entrancing little town clinging to the sides of a precipitous hill was one of England's principal ports. Millions of casks of French and Spanish wine have been offloaded onto its narrow quays. During the 1100s Crusaders on both the Second and Third Crusades mustered here, and from here they set sail. In its sheltered harbour, Elizabeth's men o'war lay in wait to pick off the stragglers from the Spanish Armada. In 1620, the *Mayflower* put in here for a few days for repairs before hoisting sail on 20 August for Plymouth and then on to the New World

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

where the pilgrims arrived three months later. The quay from which they embarked later became the major location for the BBC TV series, *The Onedin Line*, and was also seen in the feature film *Sense and Sensibility* starring Emma Thompson and Hugh Grant.

Geoffrey Chaucer visited the town in 1373 in his capacity as Inspector of Customs and is believed to have modelled the Schipman of Dertemouthe in his *Canterbury Tales* on the character of the then Mayor of Dartmouth, John Hawley. Hawley was an enterprising merchant and seafarer who was also responsible for building the first **Dartmouth Castle** (English Heritage). Dramatically sited, it guards the entrance to the Dart estuary and was one of the first castles specifically designed to make effective use of artillery. In case the castle should prove to be an inadequate deterrent, in times of danger a heavy chain was strung across the harbour to Kingswear Castle on the opposite bank. (Kingswear Castle is now owned by the Landmark Trust and available for holiday rentals.)

There's a striking monumental brass to John Hawley and his two wives in the **Church of St Saviour's** a part 14th-century building against whose wall ships used to tie up before the New Quay was constructed in the late 1500s. Nearby is the **Custom House**, a handsome building of 1739, which has some fine internal plasterwork ceilings.

Also worth seeking out is The Butterwalk, a delightful timber-framed arcade dating from 1640 in which the **Dartmouth Museum** occupies the ground floor. The museum has a fine collection of model ships, ships in bottles and a nostalgic selection of

vintage photographs of the town. In one of the galleries King Charles II held court while stormbound in Dartmouth in 1671. Some of the unique features of this magnificent room are the original wood panelling and the superb plaster ceiling.

Two other buildings in Dartmouth should be mentioned. One is the **Railway Station**, possibly the only one in the world that has never seen a train. It was built by the Great Western Railway as the terminus of their line from Torbay and passengers were ferried across to Kingswear where the railway actually ended. The station is now a restaurant. The other building of note is the **Britannia Royal Naval College** (guided tours during the season). This sprawling red and white building, built between 1899 and 1905, dominates the northern part of the town as you leave by the A379 towards Kingsbridge.

Those interested in industrial heritage will want to visit the Engine House, next door to the tourist office off Duke Street. Here you can see one of local man Thomas Newcomen's original engines at work.

Near the eastern boundary of the South Hams flows the enchanting River Dart, surely one of the loveliest of English rivers. Rising in



the great blanket bog of the moor, the Dart flows for 46 miles and together with its tributaries drains the greater part of Dartmoor. Queen Victoria called the Dart the English Rhine, perhaps thinking of the twin castles of Dartmouth and Kingswear that guard its estuary. It was her predecessor, Alfred the Great, who developed Dartmouth as a strategic base and the town's long connection with the senior service is reflected in the presence here of the Royal Naval College. The spectacular harbour is still busy with naval vessels, pleasure boats and ferries, and particularly colourful during the June Carnival and the **Dartmouth Regatta** in late August.

The most picturesque approach to the town is to drive to Kingswear and then take one of the two car ferries for the 10-minute trip across the river. Parking space in Dartmouth is severely restricted and it is strongly recommended that you make use of the Park & Ride facility located just outside the town on the A3122.

STOKE FLEMING

16 miles SE of Totnes on the A379

Blackpool Sands

Stoke Fleming is one of the most delightful villages in the South Hams, perched high on the cliffs 300 feet above Start Bay and with a prominent church that has served generations of mariners as a reassuring landmark. Inside is a brass of 1351, which is reckoned to be one of the oldest in Devon and another that commemorates the great-grandfather of the celebrated engineer, Thomas Newcomen. Less than a mile from the village are the misleadingly-named **Blackpool Sands**, a broad crescent of sandy beach overhung by

Monterey pines, which boasts a Blue Flag Award for its safe and healthy bathing.

HARBERTON

2 miles SW of Totnes off the A2381

St Andrew's Church

This delightful village is regarded as absolutely typical of the South Hams, a place where those two traditional centres of English village life, church and inn, sit comfortably almost side by side. **St Andrew's Church**, which is famous for its amazing, fantastically-carved, 15th-century altar screen, has been closely linked to the village hostelry for almost 900 years. Church House Inn, as the name suggests, was originally built to house the masons working on the church around AD1100. Harberton was then a major centre for church administration and a much more important place than Totnes. The inn became the Chantry House for the monks, the civil servants of their time, and what is now the bar comprised their Great Hall, chapel and workshop where they would congregate for a glass of wine.

In 1327, the Abbot handed the property over to the poor of the parish, but it was not until 1950 that it passed out of the Church's hands



Blackpool Sands

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

altogether. During restoration work ancient plaster was removed to reveal massive beams of fluted mellow oak and a fine medieval screen. Other treasures discovered then, and still in place, were a Tudor window frame and a latticed window containing priceless panes of 13th-century handmade glass. The inn's ecclesiastical connections are enhanced even more by the old pews from redundant churches that provide some of the seating.

DARTINGTON

2 miles NW of Totnes on the A384

 Dartington Hall  High Cross House

When Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst bought **Dartington Hall** and its estate in 1925, the superb 14th century Great Hall had stood roofless for more than a century. The buildings surrounding the two large quadrangles laid out in the 1390s by John Holand, Earl of Exeter, were being used as stables, cow houses and hay lofts. The Elmhirsts were idealists and since Dorothy (née Whitney) was one of the richest American women of her time, they possessed the resources to put their ideals into practice. They restored the Hall, re-opened it as a progressive school, and set about reviving the local rural economy in line with the ideology of the Indian philosopher, Rabindranath Tagore. The Elmhirsts were closely involved in the creation of the famed Dartington Glass. Sadly, long after their deaths, their school closed in 1995 as a consequence of financial problems and a pornography scandal. But the headmaster's residence, **High Cross House**, a classic Modernist building of the early 1930s has now been converted into an art gallery. Visitors are welcome here and also to wander around the 26-acre gardens, dotted with sculptures,

surrounding the Hall. There is no charge for entry to the quadrangle and Great Hall, but donations for its upkeep are welcomed. Guided tours are available by appointment.

Dartington Hall hosts more than 100 music performances each year during its International Summer School, a season that attracts musicians and artistes of the highest calibre from all over the world. All year round, even more visitors are attracted to the Dartington Cider Press Centre, a huge gallery on the edge of the estate, which displays a vast range of craft products – anything from a delicate handmade Christmas or birthday card to a beautifully modelled item of pottery.

Kingsbridge

 Cookworthy Museum of Rural Life

The broad body of water to the south of Kingsbridge is officially known as Kingsbridge Estuary, although strictly speaking it is not an estuary at all – no river runs into it – but a ria, or drowned valley. Whatever the correct name, it provides an attractive setting for this busy little town, an agreeable spot in which to spend an hour or two strolling along the quayside or through the narrow alleys off Fore Street bearing such graphic names as Squeezebelly Lane.

In Fore Street is St Edmund's parish church, mostly 13th century, and well known for the rather cynical verse inscribed on the gravestone of Roger Phillips who died in 1798:

*Here lie I at the chancel door
Here lie I because I'm poor
The further in the more you pay
Here lie I as warm as they.*

Nearby is The Shambles, an Elizabethan market arcade whose late 18th-century upper

HEALTHWISE HEALTH AND WHOLEFOODS

81 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1AB

Tel: 01548 857707

website: www.healthwisekingsbridge.com

Healthwise is a health shop which occupies a Grade II listed building in the main shopping street of Kingsbridge. Behind the yellow-framed windows and jolly green and white blind, owner Irene Jeeninga, has stocked the shelves with a wide range of health-oriented products, including supplements, vitamins, minerals, homeopathic and herbal remedies, natural make-up, skin and body care items, magnetic bracelets, toiletries and eco-friendly household cleaning materials. The shop also sells a range of wholefoods – many of them organic – from local honey, apple juice to vegetarian pies and burgers.

Irene has a very broad product knowledge and long experience in her field, and makes a point of keeping up to date with new product launches. Service from Irene and her charming staff is invariably friendly and helpful, and they are always happy to track down a particular product that's not in stock. Brands normally to be found in the shop include A Vogel herbal remedies, vitamins from Viridian, Solgar, Bio. Health and FSC, INIKA mineral cosmetics from Australia and Ecover and Ecolife cleaning materials. Healthwise is open Monday to Saturday 9 to 5 (to 5.30 in summer).



mayne

GALLERY

Contemporary art, jewellery
and quality framing

Originals · Limited Edition Prints
Photography
Beautiful Handmade Jewellery
Original Sculpture

Personal consultations for bespoke framing
with fast track option

Visit the Gallery for your chance to view a
selection of work from both established and
exciting new artists, sculptors and jewellers.



Or go to:
maynegallery.co.uk
...to see everything on offer from the
comfort of your own home.






14 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 1NY
01548 853848 · Mon to Sat: 09.30-17.00

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

floor is supported on six sturdy granite pillars. Next door, the town hall hosts various markets during the season - a flea market on Monday, local produce on Wednesdays, and crafts on Fridays.

Above the church, the former Kingsbridge Grammar School, founded in 1670, now houses the **Cookworthy Museum of Rural Life**, named after William Cookworthy who was born at Kingsbridge in 1705. Working as an apothecary at Plymouth, William encountered traders from the Far East who had brought back porcelain from China. English pottery makers despaired of ever producing such delicate cups and plates, but Cookworthy identified the basic ingredient of porcelain as kaolin, huge deposits of which lay in the hills just north of Plymouth. Ever since then, the more common name for kaolin has been China clay.

During the season, a popular excursion from Kingsbridge is the river cruise to Salcombe. Coastal cruises and private charter boats are also available.

Around Kingsbridge

TORCROSS

7 miles E of Kingsbridge on the A379

Normally, the four-mile stretch of sand and shingle beach near Torcross is too extensive to ever become crowded, but back in 1943 things were very different. The beach had been selected by the Allied Commanders for a 'dress rehearsal' of the impending D-Day invasion of Normandy. The area was swarming with troops, and because live ammunition was being used in the training exercise, all the

local people were evacuated, more than 3000 of them from seven coastal villages.

Those D-Day preparations are recalled at Torcross where a Sherman tank recovered from the sea in 1984 is on display in the car park. While the exercises were in progress, an enemy E-boat attacked the landing forces and more than 600 Allied servicemen lost their lives. Beside the tank are memorial tablets to the men who died during this little-publicised military tragedy, and to the many who later perished on the Normandy beaches.

SLAPTON

8 miles E of Kingsbridge off the A379

Slapton Ley Field Study Centre

To the south of Slapton, the A379 runs for 2½ miles along the top of a remarkable sand and shingle bank, which divides the salt water of Start Bay from the fresh water of Slapton Ley, the largest natural lake in Devon. Continually replenished by three small rivers, this shallow body of water is a designated Nature Reserve and home to large numbers of freshwater fish, insects, water-loving plants and native and migrating birds. The **Slapton Ley Field Study Centre**, located in Slapton village, has leaflets detailing the delightful



Slapton Ley

"THE INN ON THE SHORE"



The Cricket Inn opened its doors in 1867 to serve the thirsty fishermen of this sleepy beachside South Hams village, although there are few working fishermen left the village still retains its charm, and the Cricket serves both locals and tourist alike.

A refurbishment in the spring of 2010 consisted of a new restaurant and 4 extra rooms, making 8 rooms in total, 5 with glorious sea views of Start Bay, including twins and family rooms. All rooms are en-suite with 4ft x 3ft walk-in showers, flat screen TVs (some with DVD players), and all the doubles are king size.

The Restaurant specialises in fresh seafood brought straight out the bay in front of the Inn, including diver caught scallops, lobster and crab plus locally reared beef for those steak lovers. There is something for everyone, including the kids.



The Cricket Inn, Beesands, Kingsbridge, South Devon, TQ7 2EN

01548 580215

enquiries@thecricketinn.com

www.thecricketinn.com



LAT. 50 15.0573N LONG. 003 39.3197W

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

circular nature trails through this fascinating Site of Special Scientific Interest.

An obelisk on the beach near Slapton, presented in 1954 by the US Army authorities to the people of the South Hams, commemorates the period in 1943 when the beach was used by Allied troops as a 'dress rehearsal' for the D-Day landings. The story is well told in Leslie Thomas's novel, *The Magic Army*.

CHIVELSTONE

7 miles SE of Kingsbridge off the A379

Even in Devon it would be hard to find anywhere farther away from the madding crowd than Chivelstone, an unassuming village hidden away in a maze of country lanes in the extreme southwest of the county and well worth seeking out. It's the tranquil rural surroundings that make Chivelstone so appealing, but the village also has a fine parish church, the only one in England dedicated to the 4th-century pope, St Sylvester. Historically, Sylvester is a misty figure, but an old tradition claims that his saintly ministrations cured the Roman emperor, Constantine, of leprosy. Chivelstone church was built at a time (the 15th century) when this disfiguring disease was still common in England; it seems likely the parishioners hoped that by dedicating their church to him, St Sylvester would protect them from the ravages of a deeply feared illness, which, once contracted, imposed total social exclusion on its innocent victims.

BEESANDS

8 miles SE of Kingsbridge off the A379

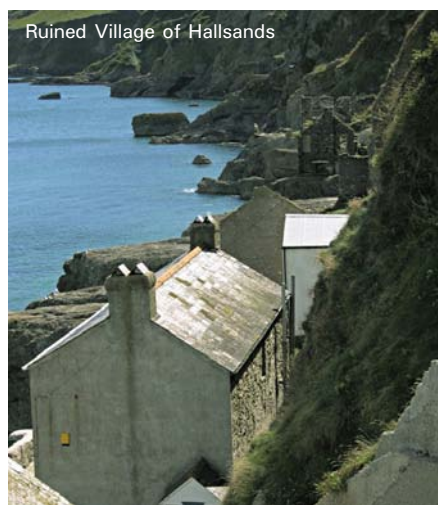
Beesands lies little more than a mile due south of Torcross and can easily be reached on foot along the coast path. By car, a four mile detour is required. If you don't want to walk, it's well

worth negotiating the narrow Devon lanes to reach this tiny hamlet, just a single row of old cottages lining the foreshore of Start Bay. Less than 100 years ago, Beesands was a busy little fishing village. There are photographs from the 1920s showing fishermen who have drawn their boats laden with lobster, crab and mullet up the beach virtually to their cottage doors. Sadly, the fishing fleet is no longer operating, although some independent fishermen still land their catch at the Strand, but the mile-long shingle beach is as appealing as ever.

HALLSANDS

11 miles SE of Kingsbridge off the A379

South of Beesands, the only way to follow the coastline is by a well-trodden footpath. It's part of the South West Coast Path and the route takes you through the ruined village of Hallsands, which was almost completely demolished by a violent storm in January 1917. Another mile or so further brings you to the lighthouse at Start Point, built in 1836, and open for guided tours from Monday to



VICTORIA INN

Fore Street, Salcombe, Devon TQ8 8BU

Tel: 01548 842604

e-mail: info@victoriainn-salcombe.co.uk

website: www.victoriainn-salcombe.co.uk

Traditional in all the best ways, the **Victoria Inn** is a gem set in the centre of picturesque Salcombe. Mine hosts, Liz and Tim Hore, are hugely proud of their reputation for great food. They aim to source the best local ingredients and keep the preparation and cooking of them relatively simple, to produce bags of flavour and taste on the plate. There's nothing too frilly or fancy – just good honest wholesome cooking! Executive chef James Chapman works hard with his team to make sure that the menu reflects the fact the inn is close to the sea and the countryside – so you'll find great fish dishes and fabulous cuts of meat. Vegetarians are not forgotten and there's a great, regularly changing 'Specials Board' with exciting meat, game, poultry, fish and shellfish creations. Cheeses are generally West Country in origin and all of our desserts are homemade. The Victoria's Sunday lunches are the best in the South Hams area and regularly offer a choice of three meats, plenty of fabulous crisp 'roasties', with home made Yorkshire puds, roast parsnips, plenty of fresh vegetables, and a gravy you'll want the recipe for. To accompany your meal, there are some fantastic Cask Marque ales, wines from around the world and Champagne by the glass.

The inn boasts something that no other pub in Salcombe has - a massive garden. It has two sun terraces, a huge grassy area for al fresco dining, a well-equipped children's play area and chickens. Children and dogs are most welcome at the Victoria, with a lollipop awaiting the best behaved children, whilst dogs have their own treat tin behind the bar - (and maybe a little titbit from the kitchen if especially good)!

Set in the beautiful pub garden is the newly opened 'Hobbit House' (so called because of its unique low front door). The Hobbit House offers two rooms; one double and one twin – both en suite with shower rooms. Comfortable beds, tea and coffee making facilities, television with CD and DVD player, heated towel rails, fluffy towels and hairdryers will ensure everything you need is to hand. Breakfasts are included in the price, and served at Captain Morgan's, a famous Salcombe institution for breakfasts literally just across the road from the Victoria Inn – and incidentally – owned by Tim & Liz as well.



Saturday during daylight hours. And if you want to be able to boast that you once stood at the most southerly point in Devon, continue along the Coast Path for about five miles to Prawle Point, an ancient lookout site where today there is a Coastguard Station.

MALBOROUGH

5 miles S of Kingsbridge on the A381

For anyone travelling this corner of the South Hams, the lofty spire of Malborough's 15th-century church is a recurrent landmark. It's a broach spire, rising straight out of the low tower. Inside, the church is wonderfully light, so much so that the splendid arcades built in Beer stone seem to glow.

SALCOMBE

7 miles S of Kingsbridge, on the A381

 Overbecks Museum and Garden

 Salcombe Maritime and Local History Museum

Standing at the mouth of the Kingsbridge 'estuary', the captivating town of Salcombe enjoys one of the most beautiful natural settings in the country. Sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds by steep hills, it also basks in one of the mildest micro-climates in England. In the terraced gardens rising from the water's edge, it's not unusual to see mimosa, palms, and even orange and lemon trees bearing fruit. The peaceful gardens at **Overbecks Museum and Garden** (National Trust), overlooking Salcombe Bar, have an almost Mediterranean character. Otto Overbeck, who lived in the charming Edwardian house here between 1918 and



Salcombe Harbour

1937, amassed a wide-ranging collection that includes late 19th-century photographs of the area, local shipbuilding tools, model boats, toys and much more.

Like other small South Devon ports, Salcombe developed its own special area of trading. While Dartmouth specialised in French and Spanish wine, at Salcombe high-sailed clippers arrived carrying the first fruits of the pineapple harvest from the West Indies, and oranges from the Azores. That traffic has ceased, but pleasure craft throng the harbour and a small fishing fleet still operates from Batson Creek, a picturesque location where the fish quay is piled high with lobster creels. The town's seafaring history is interestingly evoked in the **Salcombe Maritime and Local History Museum** on Market Street. A unique gallery here is devoted to the work of Victorian 'pier head painters'.

The coastline to the south and west of Salcombe, some of the most magnificent in Britain, is now largely owned by the National Trust. Great slanting slabs of gneiss and schist tower above the sea, making the clifftop walk here both literally and metaphorically breathtaking.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

HOPE COVE

6 miles SW of Kingsbridge off the A381

There are two Hopes here: Outer Hope, which is more modern and so gets less attention, and Inner Hope, which must be one of the most photographed villages in the country. A picturesque huddle of thatched cottages around a tiny cobbled square, Inner Hope once thrived on pilchard fishing, but nowadays only a few fishermen still operate from here, bringing in small catches of lobster and crab.

BANTHAM

6 miles SW of Kingsbridge off the A379

One mile to the north of Thurlestone (as the crow flies) is another popular sandy beach, at Bantham. This small village has a long history, since it was a centre of early tin trading between the ancient Britons and the Gauls. By the 8th century, Anglo-Saxons were well-established here, farming the fertile soil. The sea also provided a major source of income in the form of pilchard fishing. Bantham continued to be a busy little port until the early 1900s, with sailing barges bringing coal and building stone for the surrounding area.

THURLESTONE

5 miles W of Kingsbridge off the A381

One of the most attractive coastal villages, with many thatched and white-washed cottages, Thurlestone can boast not just one, but two beaches, separated by a headland. Both beaches are recommended, especially the one to the south with its view of the pierced, or 'thyrlid', stone, the offshore rock from which the settlement gets its name and which was specifically mentioned in a charter of AD846. The village itself stands on a long, flat-topped ridge above the beaches and is an attractive mixture of flower-decked

cottages, old farm buildings and long-established shops and inns.

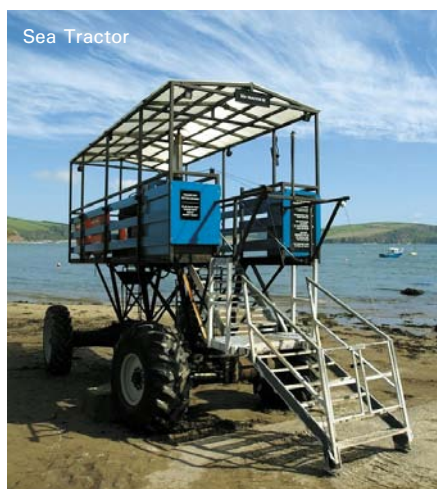
BIGBURY ON SEA

10 miles W of Kingsbridge on the B3392

Burgh Island

This popular family resort has a stretch of National Trust coastline and extensive sands. The most interesting attraction here though is **Burgh Island**, which is actually only a part-time island. When the tide is out, it is possible to walk across the sandbar linking it to the mainland. At other times, visitors reach the island by a unique sea tractor, specifically designed for this crossing. It can operate in seven feet of water, in all but the roughest conditions, and it's well worth timing your visit to enjoy this novel experience.

The whole of the 28-acre island, complete with its 14th-century Pilchard Inn, was bought in 1929 by the eccentric millionaire Archibald Nettlefold. He built an extravagant art deco hotel, which attracted such visitors as Noel Coward, the Duke of Windsor and Mrs Wallis Simpson, and Agatha Christie. The Queen of



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Crime used the island as the setting for two of her novels, *Ten Little Niggers*, (later renamed *And Then There Were None*), and *Evil Under the Sun*. A feature film of the latter was filmed on the island in 2001. The hotel, which has been described as “a white art deco cruise liner beached on dry land” is still in operation, its wonderful 1930s decor meticulously renovated in the 1990s.

AVETON GIFFORD

5 miles NW of Kingsbridge on the A379

 Robert Macey

Pronounced Awton Jiffard, this pleasant small village, little more than one main street, had one of the oldest churches in Devon until it was almost completely destroyed by a German bomb in 1943. The modern replacement is surprisingly satisfying. The village's most famous son was born here in 1790, the son of a mason. After learning his father's trade, **Robert Macey** also studied as an architect. He then walked all the way to London where he successfully established himself and was responsible for designing many hospitals, factories, churches and theatres, of which the most notable were the Adelphi and the Haymarket.

At the southern end of the village, just before the three-quarter-mile long medieval causeway, a lane on the right is signposted to Bigbury. This very narrow road runs right alongside the River Avon and is very beautiful, but be warned – the river is tidal here and when the tide is in the two fords along the way are impassable.

LODDISWELL

3 miles NW of Kingsbridge off the A379

 Judhel of Totnes  Loddiswell Vineyard

After the Norman Conquest, Loddiswell

became part of the 40,000 acre estate of **Judhel of Totnes**, a man with an apparently insatiable appetite for salmon. Instead of rent, he stipulated that his tenants should provide him with a certain number of the noble fish: Loddiswell's contribution was set at 30 salmon a year.

The benign climate of South Devon has encouraged several viticulturists to plant vineyards in the area. The first vines at **Loddiswell Vineyard** were planted in 1977 and since then its wines have been laden with awards from fellow wine-makers and consumer bodies. Visitors are welcome, Monday to Saturday.

MODBURY

9 miles NW of Kingsbridge on the A379

 St George's Church  Rebecca Hoskins

Modbury's main street climbs steeply up the hillside, its pavement raised above street level and stepped. The many Georgian buildings give this little town an air of quiet elegance and the numerous antique, craft and specialist shops add to its interest. **St George's Church** contains some impressive, if damaged, effigies of the Prideaux and Champernowne families; the White Hart and Assembly Rooms are 18th-century, the Exeter Inn even older. Once a coaching inn, this inviting old pub dates back to the 1500s. Modbury's Fair Week in early May is a jolly affair, though perhaps not as riotous as it was in the 19th century when it lasted for nine days and the town's 10 inns stayed open from morning to night.

In May 2006, this quiet little town sparked off a green campaign that attracted national attention. It was master-minded by **Rebecca Hoskins**, a young Modbury-born-and-raised wildlife camerawoman who was appalled by the plastic bag pollution she found in remote

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

parts of the Pacific Ocean. On her return to Devon she found the sea equally infested. She called a meeting of all 43 Modbury shopowners, showed them her film, and convinced them to stop handing out plastic bags to customers. The town is still a plastic-bag-free area and many other shops across the country have followed Modbury's lead.

Palm Trees, Torbay



Torbay

The most extensive conurbation in Devon, Torbay includes the three major towns of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham, strung around the deep indentation of Tor Bay. The excellent beaches and leisure facilities here have made it the county's busiest resort area with a host of indoor and outdoor attractions on offer. Torquay is the more sophisticated of the three, with elegant gardens, excellent shops and a varied nightlife. Paignton prides itself as being "unbeatable for family fun", and Brixham is a completely enchanting fishing town where life revolves around its busy harbour.

If you think Torbay's claim to be The English Riviera is a mite presumptuous, just take a look at all those palm trees. You see them everywhere here: not just in public parks and expensively maintained hotel gardens, but also giving a Mediterranean character to town house gardens, and even growing wild. They have become a symbol of the area's identity, blazoned on tourism leaflets, brochures, T-shirts, shop fronts, key-rings and hats.

The first specimen palm trees arrived in Britain in the 1820s and it was soon discovered that this sub-tropical species took kindly to the genial climate of South Devon. Today, there are literally thousands of them raising their spiky tufted heads above the more familiar foliage of English gardens. To the uninitiated, one palm tree may look much like another, but experts will point out that although the most common variety growing here is *Cordyline Australis* (imported from New Zealand), there are also Mediterranean Fan Palms, *Trachycarpus Fortunei* from the Chusan Islands in the East China Sea, and Date Palms from the Canary Islands. The oldest palm tree on record in the area is now over 80 years old and more than 40 feet high.

The Mediterranean similarities don't end there. Torquay, like Rome, is set on seven hills and the red-tiled roofs of its Italianate villas, set amongst dark green trees, would look equally at home in some Adriatic resort. The resemblance is so close that in one film in the Roger Moore TV series, *The Saint*, a budget-conscious producer made Torquay double for Monte Carlo.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Torquay

 Edward VII	 Torre Abbey	
 Agatha Christie	 Torquay Museum	
 Kents Cavern	 Bygones	 Living Coasts
 Cockington Village		
 Babbacombe Model Village		

In Victorian times, Torquay liked to be known as The English Naples, a genteel resort of shimmering white villas set amongst dark green trees and spread, like Rome, across seven hills. It was indisputably the West of England's premier resort with imposing hotels like the Imperial and the Grand catering for "people of condition" from across Europe. At one time, the town could boast more royal visitors to the square mile than any other resort in the world.

Edward VII came here on the royal yacht *Britannia* and anchored in the bay. Each evening he would be discreetly ferried across to a bay beneath the Imperial Hotel and then conducted to the first floor suite where his mistress, Lily Langtry, was waiting.

The town's oldest building is **Torre Abbey**, founded in 1195 but largely remodelled as a Georgian mansion by the Cary family between 1700 and 1750. Within its grounds stand the abbey ruins and the **Spanish Barn**, a medieval tithe barn so named because 397 prisoners

from the Spanish Armada were detained here in 1588. Torre Abbey was sold to Torbay Council in 1930 and, together with its extensive gardens, opened to the public until 2004 when the building was closed for major refurbishment. It re-opened in the summer of 2008 and now offers an impressive art collection, one of the largest in Devon, visiting exhibitions and a new brass-rubbing centre.

One of **Torquay Museum's** most popular attractions is the **Agatha Christie Gallery** on the second floor, which contains fascinating memorabilia loaned by her daughter. It includes manuscripts, photographs and even one of her fur coats. Dame Agatha was born in Torquay in 1890 and the town has created an **Agatha Christie Mile**, which guides visitors to places of interest that she knew as a girl and young woman growing up in the town.

The museum also has a pictorial record of Torquay over the past 150 years, and displays chronicling the social and natural history of the area. Amongst the museum's other treasures are many items discovered at **Kents Cavern**, an astonishing complex of caves regarded as "one of the most important archaeological sites in Britain". Excavations here in the 1820s revealed a remarkable collection of animal bones – the remains of mammoths, sabre-toothed tigers, grizzly bears, bison and cave lions. These bones proved to be the dining-room debris of cave dwellers who lived here some 30,000 years ago, the oldest known residents of Europe. The caves are open daily, all year, offering guided tours, a sound and light show, a gift shop and refreshment room.

Another popular attraction is **Bygones** in Fore Street where visitors can wander back in time through a real olde worlde street



Torre Abbey

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

complete with ironmongers, sweet shop, apothecary's shop, forge and pub. There are many original Victorian artefacts and other attractions include a giant model railway and railwayana collections, a children's fantasy land; a World War One exhibit, tearoom and shop.

A fairly new attraction is **Living Coasts**, which opened in 2003 on Torquay Harbour. It is operated by the same wildlife trust that runs Paignton Zoo and is best described as a coastal zoo that provides a natural habitat for seals, penguins, puffins, auks and sea ducks with the emphasis on the coast and environmental issues. There's an underwater viewing area, a café and a restaurant with grand views across Tor Bay.

Just a mile or so from Torquay town centre is **Cockington Village**, a phenomenally picturesque rural oasis of thatched cottages, a

working forge, and the Drum Inn designed by Sir Edward Lutyens and completed in 1930. From the village there's a pleasant walk through the park to Cockington Court, now a Craft Centre and Gallery. Partly Tudor, this stately old manor was for almost three centuries the home of the Mallock family. In the 1930s they formed a trust to preserve "entire and unchanged the ancient amenities and character of the place, and in developing its surroundings to do nothing which may not rather enhance than diminish its attractiveness". The Trust has been spectacularly successful in carrying out their wishes.

About a mile north of Torquay is another village but this village is one-twelfth life size. **Babbacombe Model Village** (see panel below) contains some 400 models, many with sound and animation. Created by Tom

Babbacombe Model Village

*Hampton Avenue, Babbacombe, Torquay,
Devon TQ1 3LA
Tel: 01803 315315 Fax: 01803 315173
e-mail: mail@model-village.co.uk
website: www.babbacombe-model-village.co.uk*

Why not experience the ever changing miniature world of Babbacombe Model Village. Take time out from the hustle and bustle of every day life and feel on top of the world as you see it recreated in miniature. Thousands of miniature buildings, people and vehicles set in 4 acres capture the essence of England's past, present and future. It's not just the humour, nor the animation – it has a life of its own.

Towering above a medieval village, Merrivale Castle is a miniature tourist attraction full of visitors enjoying a day out re-living medieval England. The whole scene comes to life with superb animated effects featuring all the bawdy, comic events of old England. Dramatically illuminated at night, part of this feature is the Dastardly Dungeon, where characters are stretched to their limit, and hysterical scenes at the Celebrity Banquet – see who's been invited to the feast. Open all year, and summer evenings until late – times vary so phone or check website for details.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Dobbins, a large number of the beautifully crafted models have been given entertaining names: Shortback & Sydes, the gents' hairdresser, for example, Walter Wall Carpets and Jim Nastik's Health Farm. The site also contains some delightful gardens, including a collection of more than 500 types of dwarf conifer, a 1000 foot long model railway, an ornamental lake stocked with koi carp and much more.

Around Torquay

COMBETEIGNHEAD

3 miles N of Torquay off the A380 or A379

 John Keats

Standing across the river from Bishopsteignton, Combeteignhead is a charming village, which **John Keats** came to know well when he was staying with his consumptive brother Tom at nearby Teignmouth in 1818. In a letter to his family he often enclosed scraps of "happy doggerel" like this:

*Here all the summer I could stay,
For there's Bishop's Teign
And King's Teign
And Coomb at the clear Teign head -
Where close by the stream
You may have your cream
All spread upon Barley bread.*

SHALDON

7 miles N of Torquay on the A379

 Shaldon Wildlife Trust

Set on the southern bank of the Teign estuary, Shaldon's Marine Parade provides a grand viewpoint for watching the busy traffic sailing in and out of the river. A goodly number of

Regency houses add architectural dignity to the town, a reminder of the era when affluent Londoners, unable to holiday in a Europe dominated by Napoleon, began to discover the gentle charms of southwestern England. A more recent attraction for visitors is the **Shaldon Wildlife Trust's** breeding centre for rare small mammals, reptiles and exotic birds, just to the north of the town.

TEIGNMOUTH

9 miles N of Torquay on the A381 & A379

 Church of St James  Assembly Rooms
 The Quay

Teignmouth has something of a split personality. On the coastal side is the popular holiday resort with its two miles of sandy beaches, a splendid promenade almost as long, colourful gardens and a pier that once separated male and female bathers. There's also a 25 foot-high lighthouse which serves no apparent purpose apart from looking rather fetching. The residential area contains much fine Regency and Georgian building. Particularly noteworthy are the **Church of St James**, with its striking octagonal tower of 1820, and the former **Assembly Rooms**, a dignified colonnaded building, which now houses a café.



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

EARTH ANGEL GIFTS

16 Bank Street, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8AW

Tel/Fax: 01626 778957

e-mail: andytina78@supanet.com

website: www.earthangelgifts.co.uk

Located in the beautiful seaside town of Teignmouth Devon, **Earth Angel Gifts** offers some of the finest collectable gifts and teddy bears as well as many more unusual gift ideas for every occasion. Our product range is vast with prices from 10p upwards to £500, we stock some of the worlds best known brands, including the ever popular Charlie Bears, Steiff, Teddy Herman and many more bears and characters including Beatrix Potter, Paddington & The Great British Teddy Bear Co. Alongside our collection of bears and soft toys sits some of the best brand collectables from Royal Doulton, Nao, Willow Tree and many more, we are also a club store for many collectable brands including Hidden Treasures. We also stock a vast range of home fragrance products including Yankee Candle & Woodwick plus many more incense & Fragrance Oil products.

At Earth Angel you will also find a magical range of musical clocks from Seiko & Rhythm Clocks who are the worlds No.1 clocks. So if you are looking for something more unusual of the highest quality you will always receive a warm welcome and friendly honest service at Earth Angel Gifts. A mail order service is also available.



VIVIAN GALLERY

2 Queen Street, Dawlish, Devon EX7 9HB

Tel: 01626 867254

e-mail: mail@viviangallery.co.uk

website: www.viviangallery.co.uk



Look good and feel even better wearing jewellery as unique as you are, from the **Vivian Gallery**. This studio and workshop showcases the jewellery of Hazel Bunyan and her daughter Madeline. Each piece they make is individually crafted by hand with care, every item a work of "wearable art".

The vibrant colours of kiln fired dichroic glass with the durable qualities of sterling silver are the mainstay of Hazel's work while Madeline creates colourful lampworked glass beads which feature in her sterling silver jewellery. Also she makes silver cored beads which will fit on your Troll, Pandora or similar bracelet systems.

They will be happy to tailor any of their designs to your requirements, gold instead of silver, or a particular colour, or something for a special occasion. Be sure to order early as their work is much in demand. The Gallery also displays work from other local artists and photographers. Open all year from 9.00am – 5.30pm Monday to Saturday. All major cards accepted.

On the river side of the town is the working port, approached by the narrowest of channels. The currents here are so fast and powerful that no ship enters the harbour without a Trinity House pilot on board. **The Quay** was built in 1821 with granite from the quarries on Haytor Down. This durable stone was in great demand at the time. Amongst the many buildings constructed in Haytor granite were London Bridge (the one now relocated to Lake Tahoe in California), and the British Museum. Teignmouth's main export nowadays is potter's clay, extracted from pits beside the River Teign. From the Quay there's a passenger ferry across the estuary to Shaldon.

DAWLISH

12 miles N of Torquay on the A379

 **The Lawn**  **Dawlish Warren**

This pretty seaside resort, which boasts one of the safest beaches in England, has the unusual feature of a main railway line separating the town from its sea front. The result is, in fact, much more appealing than it sounds. For one thing, the railway keeps motor traffic away from the beachside, and for another, the low granite viaduct that carries the track has weathered attractively in the century and a half since it was built. The arches under which beach-goers pass create a kind of formal entrance to the beach, and the Victorian station has become a visitor attraction in its own right.

By the time Brunel's railway arrived here in 1846, Dawlish was already wellknown as a fashionable resort. John Keats, with his convalescent brother, Tom, had visited the town in 1818. The great poet was inspired to pen the less-than-immortal lines:

*Over the hill and over the Dale
And over the bourne to Dawlish
Where Gingerbread wives have a scanty sale
And gingerbread nuts are smallish.*

Other distinguished visitors included Jane Austen (one of whose characters cannot understand how one could live anywhere else in Devon but here), and Charles Dickens who, in his novel of the same name, has Nicholas Nickleby born at a farm nearby. All of these great literary figures arrived not long after the first houses were built along the Strand. That had happened in 1803. Up until then, Dawlish was just a small settlement beside the River Daw, located about a mile inland in order to be safe from raiders. This is where the 700-year-old church stands, surrounded by a small group of thatched cottages.

At the time of John Keats' visit, the town was being transformed with scores of new villas springing up along the Strand. Earlier improvers had already "beautified" the River Daw, which flows right through the town, by landscaping the stream into a series of shallow waterfalls and surrounding it with attractive gardens like **The Lawn**. Until Regency times, The Lawn had been a swamp populated by herons, kingfishers and otters. Then in 1808, the developer John Manning filled in the marshy land with earth removed during the construction of Queen Street. Today, both The Lawn and Queen Street still retain the elegance of those early 19th-century days and the brook that runs through the area is the home of the famous Black Swans.

In August, Dawlish really comes to life with its colourful Carnival Week. It includes amongst other events a lively town procession and a display by the Red Arrows.

A couple of miles northeast of the town is **Dawlish Warren**, a mile-long sand spit, which almost blocks the mouth of the River Exe. There's a golf course here and also a 55-acre Nature Reserve, home to more than 450 species of flowering plants. For one of them, the Jersey lily, this is its only habitat in

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

mainland England. Guided tours of the Reserve, led by the warden, are available during the season.

Sadly, the last surviving relic of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Atmospheric Railway at Starcross has recently closed. The great engineer had intended that the stretch of railway between Exeter and Totnes should be powered by a revolutionary new system. The train would be attached to a third rail, which in fact was a long vacuum chamber, drawing the carriages along by the effects of air pressure. His visionary plan involved the building of 10 great Italianate engine houses at three-mile intervals along the line. Sadly, the project was a failure, partly for financial reasons, but also because the leather seals on the vacuum pipe were quickly eaten away by the combined forces of rain, salt and hungry rats. The exhibition at Starcross used to display a working model, using vacuum cleaners to represent the pumping houses, and volunteers are even propelled up and down the track to demonstrate the viability of the original idea.

Brunel had to fall back on conventional steam engines, but the route he engineered from Exeter to Newton Abbot is one of the most scenic in the country, following first the

western side of the Exe estuary, then hugging the seaboard from Dawlish Warren to Teignmouth before turning inland along the north bank of the River Teign.

PAIGNTON

3 miles SW of Torquay on the A379

 Oldway Mansion  Paignton Zoo

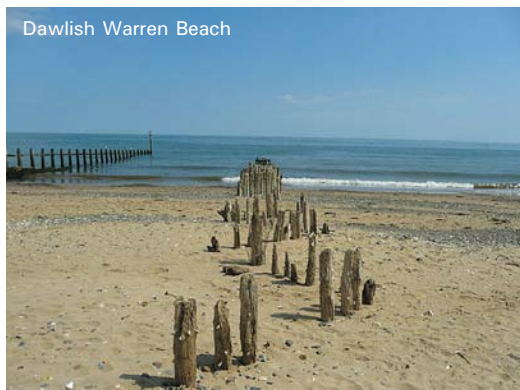
 Paignton and Dartmouth Railway

 Splashdown@Quaywest

Today, Torquay merges imperceptibly into Paignton, but in early Victorian times Paignton was just a small farming village, about half a mile inland, noted for its cider and its "very large and sweet flatpole cabbages". The town's two sandy beaches, ideal for families with young children, were to change all that. A pier and promenade add to the town's appeal, and throughout the summer season there's a packed programme of special events, including a Children's Festival in August, fun fairs and various firework displays.

The most interesting building in Paignton is undoubtedly **Oldway Mansion**, built in 1874 for Isaac Singer, the millionaire sewing-machine manufacturer. Isaac died the following year and it was his son, Paris, who gave the great mansion its present exuberant form. Paris added a south side mimicking a music pavilion in the grounds of Versailles, a hallway modelled on the Versailles hall of mirrors, and a sumptuous ballroom where his mistress Isadora Duncan would display the new, fluid kind of dance she had created based on classical mythology. Paris Singer sold the mansion to Paignton Borough Council in 1946, and it is now used as a Civic Centre, but many of the splendid rooms (and the extensive

Dawlish Warren Beach



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

Orang-utan at Paignton Zoo



gardens) are open to the public free of charge and guided tours are available.

An experience not to be missed in Paignton is a trip on the **Paignton and Dartmouth Steam Railway**, a seven-mile journey along the lovely Torbay coast and through the wooded slopes bordering the Dart estuary to Kingswear where travellers board a ferry for the ten-minute crossing to Dartmouth. The locomotives and rolling stock all bear the proud chocolate and gold livery of the Great Western Railway, and the railway staff are in period costume. On certain services you can wine and dine in Pullman style luxury on the Riviera Belle Dining Train. During the peak season, trains leave every 45 minutes or so.

Another major attraction in the town is **Paignton Zoo**, set in 75 acres of attractive botanical gardens and home to some 300 species of animals. A registered charity dedicated to protecting the global wildlife heritage, the zoo is particularly concerned with endangered species such as the Asiatic lions and Sumatran tigers, which are now provided with their own forest habitat area. Orang-utans and gorillas roam freely on large outdoor islands, free from cages. Crocodiles from the River Nile and Cuba share a swamp

with boa constrictors and pythons. The route of the Jungle Express miniature railway provides good views of these and many other animals.

Opened in the spring of 2006, the Ocombe Farm Project is a 150-acre organic demonstration farm and educational venture. It incorporates a nature trail, a working farm, a butcher's, baker's, a shop selling local produce and an educational centre.

Located on Goodrington Sands, **Splashdown@Quaywest** claims to be Britain's "biggest, best, wildest and wettest waterpark", with the highest water slides in the country. Other amusements include go-karts, bumper boats, and crazy golf, and the site also offers a choice of bars, restaurants and cafés.

BRIXHAM

8 miles S of Torquay on the A3022

-  Battery Gardens  Rev Lyte
-  Berry Head Country Park

In the 18th century, Brixham was the most profitable fishing port in Britain, and fishing is still the most important activity in this engaging little town, although the trawlers now have to pick their way between flotillas of yachts and tour boats. On the quay there are stalls selling freshly caught seafood and around the harbour a maze of narrow streets where you'll find a host of small shops, tearooms and galleries. From the busy harbour, there are regular passenger ferries to Torquay and coastal cruises in the 80-year-old Brixham-built yacht *Vigilance* and other craft.

It was at Brixham that the Prince of Orange landed in 1688 to claim the British throne as William III; an imposing statue of him looks inland from the harbour. And in 1815, all eyes were focussed on the *Bellerophon*, anchored in

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

the bay. On board was Napoleon Buonaparte, getting his only close look at England before transferring to the *Northumberland* and sailing off to his final exile on St Helena.

Moored beside the quay is a full-scale reconstruction of the *Golden Hind*, the ship in which Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the world in 1577-1580. Visitors can go below decks to view the tiny rooms in which the ship's surgeon and captain were housed.

A short walk from the quay brings you to **Battery Gardens**, so named because an Emergency Coastal Defence Battery was established on this site during World War Two. It is now a Scheduled Monument with many of the buildings and structures from that time - and from earlier wars - still standing. A museum on site tells their story.

Also close to the harbour is All Saints' Church where the **Rev Henry Francis Lyte** was the first Vicar from 1823 until his death in 1847. During his last illness, the Rev Lyte composed what is perhaps the best known and best loved English hymn - *Abide with me*. The church bells play the tune each day at noon and 8pm.

On the harbourside itself, the Strand Art Gallery is one of the oldest and largest art galleries in Devon and showcases the work of local artists. There are more than 400 original paintings on display and visitors can often see the artists at work, either in the gallery or on the slipway outside.

To the west of the town is **Berry Head Country Park**, which is noted for its incredible views (on a good day as far as Portland Bill, 46 miles away), its rare plants (like the white rock-rose), and its colonies of sea birds such as fulmars and kittiwakes nesting in the cliffs. The park also boasts the largest breeding colony of guillemots along the entire Channel coast. A

video camera has been installed on the cliffs to relay live close-up pictures of the guillemots and other seabirds. Within the park is a lighthouse that has been called "the highest and lowest lighthouse in Britain". The structure is only 15 feet high, but it stands on a 200-foot-high cliff rising at the most easterly point of Berry Head.

KINGSWEAR

10 miles S of Torquay off the A379

Coleton Fishacre

Kingswear sits on the steeply rising east bank of the River Dart, looking across to the picturesque panorama of Dartmouth stretched across the hillside on the opposite bank. The town is the terminus for the Paignton and Kingswear steam railway and passengers then join the ferry for the 10-minute crossing to Dartmouth. There's also a vehicle ferry. Above the town stand the impressive remains of Kingswear Castle, which is now owned by the Landmark Trust and has been converted to holiday flats. Together with its twin across the river, Dartmouth Castle, the fortresses guarded the wide estuary of the Dart. If an invasion seemed imminent, a huge chain was strung across the river from Dartmouth as an additional deterrent.

About three miles to the east of Kingswear, **Coleton Fishacre** (National Trust) has a delightful coastal garden basking in a mild climate that is ideal for growing exotic trees and shrubs. The garden was created between 1925 and 1940 by Lady Dorothy D'Oyly Carte whose grandfather had produced the Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas. Lady Dorothy introduced a wonderfully imaginative variety of plants. The 20-acre site, protected by a deepcombe, contains formal gardens, wooded areas with wild flowers, tranquil pools and

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

secret paths weaving in and out of glades. The house itself was built in the elegant Arts and Crafts style of the 1920s. Music plays, echoing the family's Gilbert and Sullivan connections and those able to do so can play the Blüthner piano in the saloon.

COMPTON

4 miles W of Torquay off the A381

 Compton Castle

Dominating this small village, **Compton Castle** (NT) dates back to the 1300s and in Elizabethan times was the home of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, Walter Raleigh's half-brother and the coloniser of Newfoundland in 1583. Complete with battlements, towers and portcullis, the castle also boasts an impressive Great Hall, a solar and an ancient kitchen with a huge fireplace. The castle is still occupied by the Gilbert family although owned by the National Trust.

NEWTON ABBOT

7 miles NW of Torquay on the A380

 William III  Racecourse

 Bradley Manor  Tuckers Maltings

An ancient market town, Newton Abbot took on a quite different character in the 1850s when the Great Western Railway established its locomotive and carriage repair works here.

Neat terraces of artisans' houses were built on the steep hillsides to the south; the more well-to-do lived a little further to the north in Italianate villas around Devon Square and Courtenay Park.

The town's greatest moment of glory was on 5 November 1688 when William, Prince of Orange, "the glorious defender of the Protestant religion and the liberties of England", was first proclaimed king as **William III**. This climactic moment of the Glorious Revolution took place in front of St Leonard's Church of which only the medieval tower now remains. The new king had landed at Brixham and was on his way to London. Stopping off in Newton Abbot, he stayed at the handsome Jacobean manor, Forde House, which is now used as offices by the District Council.

To the south of the town is a delightful attraction in the shape of the Hedgehog Hospital at Prickly Hill Farm – where else?

On the northern outskirts of the town is **Newton Abbot Racecourse** where National Hunt racing takes place from the spring through to the autumn. For the rest of the year, the site is used for country fairs and other events.

On the western edge of the town stands **Bradley Manor** (National Trust), a notable

GERALD DAVID & FAMILY

Fermoy's, Ipplepen, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 5TN

Tel 01803 813747

website: www.gerald david.co.uk

Three Generations of Master Butchers

Our family have taken pride in selecting what we believe to be the best fresh, not frozen beef, lamb and pork for over 40 years.

Come and meet our friendly Master Butchers who will happily give you advice on cuts, cooking times and delicious recipes. If you are travelling we can pack your purchase in dry ice to ensure it reaches your onward destination in pristine condition.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

MAGPIES GIFTS & THE NEST CAFÉ

11 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot,
Devon TQ12 1JR

Tel: 01626 353456

e-mail: sales@magpies-gifts.co.uk

website: www.magpies-gifts.co.uk
or www.charliebearsuk.com

'For Something Special'

Located close to Newton Abbot's famous clock tower you will find **Magpies Gifts**.

Owners Carol and Richard Handley-Collins started the business in 1999 and since then, the shop has evolved into a specialist teddy bear business, with many collectables including new and retired bears and a tasteful range of teddy bear memorabilia.



Magpies Gifts is the largest stockist of the full range of Charlie Bears and Isabelle Collection based in Launceston, including many of the most unusual and hardest-to-find bears, each of them sold in a special collector's bag. Other teddy bear brands include Bearington Bears (from the USA), Kaycee Bears, Merrythought and Dean Bears (all made in the UK), Steiff, Hermann and Clemens (all made in Germany) and other collectables come from World of Minature Bears, Brigitte Rive Golliès, Deb Canham, Snoopy, Hansa Animals, Beatrix Potter and several makers of rag dolls as well as various artists from

around the world. Upstairs you will find **Mrs B's Bonnets & Gents Corner**. Mrs B's Bonnets offers a wonderful collection of some 100 varieties of hats for hire along with a variety of accessories for sale— just the place to select a hat for a day's racing at the nearby Newton Abbot National Hunt racecourse. Gents corner provides a wide range of male hats and accessories for sale.



Under the same roof and in the same ownership is **The Nest Café**, where browsers can take a break and treat themselves to some marvellous home cooking. The Café serves all-day breakfasts, lunches and afternoon cream teas, plus home-made cakes and speciality ice creams. At lunchtime there are daily specials such as local Brixham crab salad or chicken casserole served in a giant Yorkshire pudding. When the sun shines customers can enjoy their refreshment in front of the clock tower or on the secluded rear patio.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

example of medieval domestic architecture. Most of it dates from around 1420 and includes a chapel, Solar, Great Hall and porch. By the mid 1750s this quaint style of architecture was decidedly out of fashion and the building became a farmhouse with poultry occupying the chapel. The house was given to the National Trust in 1938 by the then owner, Mrs AH Woolner. Her family continue to live here and manage the property.

Newton Abbot also boasts the only traditional working malthouse open to the public. **Tuckers Maltings** has been malting in Newton Abbot for more than 100 years and claims to offer the finest selection of bottled beers to be found in Devon. The speciality beer shop is open throughout the year and guided tours of the maltings are available during the summer months.

CHUDLEIGH

14 miles NW of Torquay off the A38

Ugbrooke House and Park

Activists who oppose the building of new roads will find little sympathy in this former coaching town on what used to be the main thoroughfare between Exeter and Plymouth. By the 1960s, the volume of traffic had reached unbearable levels, especially during the holiday season. Mercifully, the dual carriageway A38 now bypasses the little town and it is once again possible to enjoy Chudleigh's 14th-century church, containing some fine memorials to the Courtenay family, and its former Grammar School nearby, which was founded in 1668. (It is now a private house.) It was at the coaching inn here that William of Orange stayed after he landed at Torbay. From one of its windows, the new king addressed the good people of Chudleigh. The Dutchman's English was so bad, however,

they were unable to understand what he was saying. They cheered him anyway.

Clifford Street is named after Sir Thomas Clifford, Lord Treasurer to Charles II and a member of the king's notorious Cabal, his secretive inner cabinet. As was the custom then, Sir Thomas used his official position to amass a considerable fortune. This was later put to good use by his grandson who employed Robert Adam and Capability Brown to design **Ugbrooke House and Park**, a couple of miles southwest of Chudleigh and well worth visiting. Dating from the mid 1700s, and replacing an early Tudor manor house, Ugbrooke is named after the Ug Brook that flows through the estate and was dammed to create three lakes in the beautifully landscaped grounds. In the 1930s, the 11th Lord Clifford abandoned the estate as he could not afford to live there. During World War Two, Ugbrooke was used as a school for evacuated children and as a hostel for Polish soldiers. In the 1950s, some of the ground floor rooms were used to store grain, but today the house has been beautifully restored by the present Lord and Lady Clifford. It is noted for its collections of paintings, dolls, military uniforms and furniture.

Exeter

 Rougemont Castle	 St Peter's Cathedral
 St Nicholas' Priory	 Guildhall
 Tucker's Hall	 Piazza Terracina
 Underground Passages	 Sculpture Walk
 Bill Douglas Centre	 Exeter Ship Canal

A lively and thriving city with a majestic Norman cathedral, many fine old buildings, and a wealth of excellent museums, Exeter's history stretches back for more than two millennia. Its present High Street was already

in place some 200 years or more before the Romans arrived, part of an ancient ridgeway striking across the West Country. The inhabitants then were the Celtic tribe of the Dumnonii and it was they who named the river Eisca, a river abounding in fish.

The Romans made Isca their southwestern stronghold, surrounding it with a massive defensive wall. Most of that has disappeared, but a spectacular caldarium, or Roman Bath House, was uncovered in the Cathedral Close in 1971. It was later grassed over but a model of it can be seen in the cathedral.

In the Dark Ages following the Roman withdrawal, the city was a major ecclesiastical centre, and in AD670 King Cenwealh founded an abbey on the site of the present cathedral. That, along with the rest of Exeter, was ransacked by the Vikings in the 9th century. They occupied the city twice before King Alfred finally saw them off.

The Normans were next on the scene, although it wasn't until 20 years after the Battle of Hastings that William the Conqueror finally took possession of the city after a siege that lasted 18 days. He ordered the construction of **Rougemont Castle**, the gatehouse and tower of which still stand at the top of Castle Street.

During the following century, the Normans began building **St Peter's Cathedral**, a work not completed until 1206. Half a century later, however, everything except the two sturdy towers was demolished and the present cathedral took shape. These years saw the development of the Decorated style, and Exeter is a sublime example of this appealing form of church architecture. In the 300-foot-long nave, stone piers rise 60 feet and then fan out into sweeping arches. Equally impressive is



the west front, a staggering display of more than 60 sculptures, carved between 1327 and 1369. They depict a curious mix of Biblical characters, soldiers, priests and a royal flush of Saxon and Norman kings.

Other treasures include an intricately-carved choir screen from about 1320, an astronomical clock built in 1376, which is one of the oldest timepieces in the world, a minstrels' gallery with a wonderful sculpted band of heavenly musicians, a monumental organ, and a colossal throne with a canopy 59 feet high, carved in wood for Bishop Stapledon in 1316.

Another strange carving can be found beneath the misericord seats in the choir stalls where, amongst other carvings, there is one of an elephant. However, as the carver had no model to work from he has given the animal tusks that look like clubs and rather eccentric feet. It has been suggested that the carving was based on the first elephant to come to Britain as a gift for Henry III in 1253. The carver had probably heard stories of the creature and made up the rest.

In 1941 much of the old part of the city was destroyed by a German air raid and, although the cathedral survived, it was badly damaged. When restoration work began in

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

1943, a collection of wax models was discovered hidden in a cavity. Including representations of human and animal limbs, the complete figure of a woman and a horse's head, they are thought to have been brought here by pilgrims who would place their wax models on the tomb of Bishop Edmund Lacy. By placing a model of an injured or withered limb on the tomb the pilgrims believed that they would be cured of their affliction.

Such is the grandeur of the cathedral that other ecclesiastical buildings in Exeter tend to get overlooked. But it's well worth seeking out **St Nicholas' Priory**, an exceptional example of a small Norman priory. The Priory re-opened to the public in April 2008 after a two-year programme of conservation work. Adorned with quality replica furniture, and painted in the bright colours of the period, the Priory is now presented as the 1602 home of the wealthy Hurst family. Visitors can experience Tudor life including Elizabethan music, costume, food, games and stories, and view the original Priory cellar with its chunky Norman pillars, the 15th-century kitchens, and the parlour with its original Tudor plaster ceiling. The church of St Mary Steps also repays a visit just to see its beautifully-preserved Norman font, and its ancient 'Matthew the Miller' tower clock, named after a medieval miller noted for his undeviating punctuality. The church is currently only open for services. It stands in Stepcote Hill, a narrow cobbled and stepped thoroughfare, which until as late as 1778 was the main road into Exeter from the west.

The remarkable **Guildhall** in the High Street has been in use as a Town Hall ever since it was built in 1330, making it one of the oldest municipal buildings in the country. Its great hall was remodelled around 1450, and the Elizabethans added a striking, if rather

fussy, portico, but the interior is still redolent of the Middle Ages.

Another interesting medieval building is **The Tucker's Hall** in Fore Street, built in 1471 for the Company of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen. Inside there is some exceptional carved panelling, a collection of rare silver, and a huge pair of fulling shears weighing over 25lb and almost four feet long. Nearby Parliament Street claims to be the world's narrowest street, just 25 inches wide at one point.

Exeter's one-time importance as a port is reflected in the dignified Custom House, built in 1681, and now the centrepiece of Exeter Historic Quayside, a fascinating complex of old warehouses, craft shops and cafés. There are riverside walks, river trips, Canadian canoes and cycles for hire, and a passenger ferry across the river to the **Piazza Terracina**, which explores five centuries of Exeter's trading connections around the world. The museum contains an extraordinary collection of boats, amongst them an Arab dhow, a reed boat from Lake Titicaca in South America, and a vintage steam launch. A special attraction of the museum is that visitors are positively encouraged to step aboard and explore in detail the many craft on show.

Outstanding amongst the city's excellent museums is the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery, but it is currently undergoing a multi-million pound development and will not re-open until 2011. Other museums in the city include the Devonshire Regiment Museum (regimental history); the Rougemont House Museum near the castle, which has a copious collection of costumes and lace; and the **Bill Douglas Centre** for the History of Cinema and Popular Culture on the university campus, which follows the development of visual media from the late 1600s to the present day.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

One of the city's most unusual attractions lies beneath its streets: the maze of **Underground Passages** (see panel below) constructed in the 14th and 15th centuries as service tunnels for the pipes bringing water from springs beyond the city walls. A guided tour of the stone-vaulted caverns is an experience to remember.

Although Exeter is linked to the sea by the River Exe, a 13th-century Countess of Devon, with a grudge against the city, built a weir across the river so that boats could sail no further upstream than Topsham. Some 300 years passed before action was taken by the city and the world's first ship canal was constructed to bypass the weir. Originally only three feet deep, this was changed to 14 feet over the years, and the **Exeter Ship Canal** continued to be used until the 1970s. However, the M5 motorway, which crosses the canal on a fixed height bridge too low to allow big ships to pass, finally achieved what the Countess of Devon began so many centuries ago.

Exeter University campus is set on a hill overlooking the city, and the grounds, laid

out by Robert Veitch in the 1860s, offer superb views of the tors of Dartmoor. The landscape boasts many rare trees and shrubs, and the University has followed Veitch's example by creating many new plantings, including areas devoted entirely to Australasian plants. **Exeter University Sculpture Walk** comprises 24 sculptures, including works by Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore, set out both in the splendid grounds and within the university buildings.

To the southwest of the city lies the Devon and Exeter Racecourse, one of the most scenic in the country and one that is considered to be Britain's favourite course.

Around Exeter

CADBURY

10 miles N of Exeter off the A3072

 Cadbury Castle  Fursdon House

To the north of this delightful hamlet is **Cadbury Castle**, actually an Iron Age fort. It was built high on the hilltop, about 700 feet

Exeter's Underground Passages

*Romangate Passage, Off High Street, Exeter,
Devon EX4 3PZ
Tel: 01392 665887
website: www.exeter.gov.uk*

Dating from 14th century, the medieval passages under Exeter High Street are a unique ancient monument: no similar system of passages can be explored by the public elsewhere in Britain. They were built to house the pipes that brought fresh water to the city. Their purpose was simple: to bring clean drinking water from natural springs in fields lying outside the walled city, through lead pipes into the heart of the city. The pipes sometimes sprang leaks and repairs could only be carried out by digging them up as we do today. To avoid this disruption the passages were vaulted and it is down some of these vaulted passageways that visitors are guided.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

above sea level, and it's claimed that the views here are the most extensive in Devon. On a good day Dartmoor and Exmoor are in full view, and the Quantocks and Bodmin Moor can also be seen. A little more than a mile away stands **Fursdon House**, which has been lived in by the Fursdon family since around 1260. The varied architecture reflects the many additions made over the centuries. Some fascinating family memorabilia, including old scrapbooks, are on display, there's an excellent collection of 18th-century costumes and textiles. Amongst the family treasures is a letter from Charles I written during the Civil War. Opening times are restricted.

BICKLEIGH

12 miles N of Exeter on the A396

 Bickleigh Castle  Devon Railway Centre

Running due north from Exeter, the Exe Valley passes through the heart of what is known as Red Devon. The soil here has a distinctive colour derived from the red Permian rocks that underlie it. Unlike most land in Devon, this is prime agricultural land, fertile, easily-worked and, for some reason, particularly favourable to growing swedes to which it gives a much sought-after flavour.

One of the most charming villages in the Exe Valley is Bickleigh. With its riverside setting, 17th-century bridge and picturesque thatched cottages with lovingly-tended gardens, Bickleigh is one of Devon's most photographed villages. **Bickleigh Castle** is actually a moated and fortified manor house with an impressive gatehouse dating back to the late 1300s. Even older is the detached chapel, built in the 11th century. Exhibits include Tudor furniture (including a massive four-poster), some fine oil paintings, and a Civil War Armoury. The nearby 17th-century farmhouse is very atmospheric

with its inglenook fireplaces, oak beams and ancient bread ovens. The castle is open daily from the late spring Bank Holiday until the first Sunday in October, and at any time for pre-booked groups.

Railway buffs will enjoy the **Devon Railway Centre** housed in the Victorian station buildings. It has 15 different working model railway layouts and various museum collections, and provides unlimited train rides on two railways. There's also a riverside picnic area, crazy golf and refreshments.

TIVERTON

16 miles N of Exeter on the A396

 Tiverton Castle  St Peter's Church
 St George's Church  Knightshayes Court
 Tiverton Museum

The only town of any size in the Exe valley is Tiverton, originally Twyfyrd, or two fords, for here the Exeter University Sculpture Walk is joined by the River Lowman. The town developed around what is now its oldest building, **Tiverton Castle**, built at the command of Henry I in 1106. Unfortunately, the castle found itself on the wrong side during the Civil War. General Fairfax himself was in charge of the successful onslaught in 1645. A few years later, Parliament decreed that the castle should be 'slighted', destroyed beyond any use as a fortification. Cromwell's troops observed the letter of their instructions, sparing those parts of the castle that had no military significance, and leaving behind them a mutilated, but still substantial, structure. Today, it houses a variety of 17th-century armoury and guided tours are available on Sundays.

During the Middle Ages, the citizens of Tiverton seem to have had a very highly-developed sense of civic and social

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

THE HARTNOLL HOTEL

Bolham, Tiverton, Devon EX16 7RA

Tel: 01884 252777

e-mail: frontdesk@hartnollhotel.co.uk

website: www.hartnollhotel.co.uk

The former dower house of Knights Hayes Court, this privately owned country house is now a luxury boutique-style hotel offering both elegance and comfort with stunning decor, sumptuous fabrics and a wonderful open log fire.

The Hartnoll Hotel has become one of Devon's premier gourmet restaurants. Head chef Steve Cox ensures the menu is suitable for all tastes, and uses honest, locally sourced ingredients. The lunchtime offering includes a comprehensive snack option for those wanting a lighter and speedier meal, whilst at dinnertime you can indulge in some quite spectacular dishes whilst you absorb the relaxed ambience of this lovely venue.

There are 18 superior double rooms, all with Egyptian cotton sheets and goose down pillows. With fine furnishings and understated elegance, the fully licensed hotel has a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere with many areas to enjoy, from the sitting room with its roaring fire in winter, to the airy atrium and function rooms.

The menu includes dishes such as; Goats Cheese Panna Cotta with Crispy Parma Ham, Pea Coulis & Beetroot Salad (starter), Pan Seared Seabass with Pesto Mash, Sautéed Spinach, Crispy Parma Ham, Sundried Tomato Veloute (main course) and Lemon Crème Brûlée Served with a Strawberry Sorbet all encased in a Tuile Cage with Balsamic & Pepper Syrup (dessert).



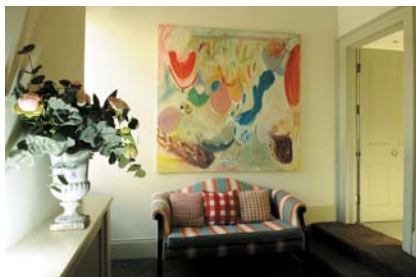
Opening times are as follows:

Mon-Fri 7am onwards (Breakfast), noon-2pm (Lunch), 6.30pm-9.30pm (Dinner)

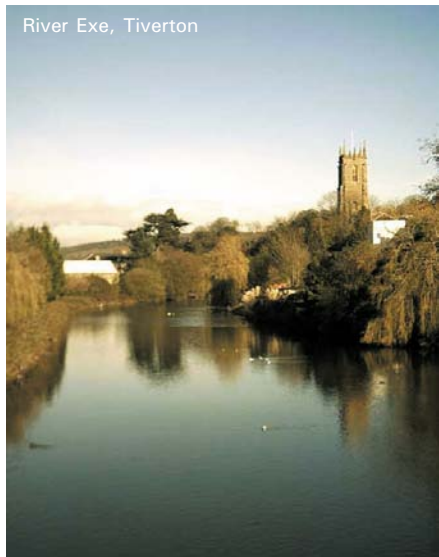
Sat 8am onwards (Breakfast), noon-2pm (Lunch), 6.30pm-9.30pm (Dinner)

Sun 8.30am onwards (Breakfast) noon-2.30pm (Lunch), 6.30pm-9.30pm (Dinner)

Coffee and Cream teas available all day



River Exe, Tiverton



responsibility. Throughout the town's golden age as a wool town, from the late 1400s until it reached its zenith in the 18th century, prosperous wool merchants put their wealth to good use. Around 1613, George Slee built himself a superb Jacobean mansion in St Peter Street, the Great House, and in his will bequeathed the huge sum of £500 to establish the Slee Almshouses, which were duly built right next door. Later almshouses, founded by John Waldron (in Welbrook Street), and John Greenway (in Gold Street) are still in use. As well as funding the almshouse, John Greenway also devoted another sizeable portion of his fortune to the restoration of **St Peter's Church** in 1517. He added a sumptuous porch and chapel, their outside walls richly decorated with carvings depicting sailing ships of the time.

Peter Blundell chose a different method of demonstrating his beneficence by endowing Tiverton with a school. It was in the Old Blundell's School (National Trust) building of

1604, by the Lowman Bridge, that the author RD Blackmore received his education. He later used the school as a setting for the first chapter of his novel, *Lorna Doone*. Now a highly-regarded public school, Blundell's moved to its present location on the edge of town in 1880.

The **Tiverton Museum** is one of the largest social history museums in the southwest, containing some 15 galleries in all. It's particularly strong on agriculture – it has a nationally important collection of farm wagons – and the Great Western Railway. One entire gallery is devoted to John Heathcoat's original lace-making machine.

The more one reads of Devon in the early to mid 18th century, the more one becomes convinced that there must have been a serial arsonist abroad. So many Devonshire towns during this period suffered devastating fires. Tiverton's conflagration occurred in 1731, but one happy outcome of the disaster was the building of **St George's Church**, by common consent the finest Georgian church in the county, furnished with elegant period ceilings and galleries.

A quay on the southeastern edge of Tiverton marks the western end of the Grand Western Canal, which was built in the early 1800s with the idea of linking the River Exe to Bridgewater and the Bristol Channel. It was never fully completed and finally closed in 1920. In recent years, an attractive stretch from Tiverton quay to the Somerset border has been restored and provides a pleasant easy walk. Horse-drawn barge trips along the canal are also available.

A few miles north of Tiverton, up the Exe Valley, is **Knightshayes Court**, a striking Victorian Gothic house designed by William Burges in 1869. It is a rare survivor of his

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

LITTLE TURBERFIELD FARM SHOP

*Tiverton Parkway, Sampford Peverell,
Devon EX16 7EH
Tel: 01884 820908*

Little Turberfield Farm Shop can be found in the lovely mid-Devon village of Sampford Peverell, on the road leading to the Tiverton Parkway Station. Open Tuesday-Saturday from 8am, it stocks a wide range of some of the best locally-produced foods. This includes free-range meat, home-made sausages and burgers, a choice of items for the summer barbecue, and plenty of home-baked pies and pasties. Real Devon ice cream is another tasty treat that can be found here, and there's a good choice of fruit and vegetables, and local and international cheeses. Local jams and home-made bread can also be found in the shop, which is full of old-world charm with its attractive beamed ceilings.

All their meat comes from within a 20-mile radius of the shop. And for anyone who lives or is staying within a 15-mile radius, Little Turberfield Farm Shop is offering a free home delivery service every Thursday. It's the kind of extra service you get from a local business that has been here for over 20 years and run by the present owner, Sue Clifford-Parry, for the last five of those.



work. The grand and opulent interiors, blending medieval romanticism with lavish Victorian decoration, became too much for the owner, Sir John Heathcoat-Amory, the lace manufacturer. So he sacked Burges and employed the less imaginative but competent John Diblee Crace. Discreetly covered during the time of the backlash against the High Victorian style, the rooms have been returned to their original grandeur by the National Trust, who were given the building by the builder's son in 1973. The house is surrounded by extensive grounds that include a water-lily pond, topiary and some rare shrubs.

BAMPTON

21 miles N of Exeter on the B3190/B3227

Exmoor Pony Sale

In medieval times Bampton was quite an important centre of the wool trade but it's now

best known for its dazzling floral displays and its annual **Exmoor Pony Sale**, held on the last Thursday in October. A local farm hosts a collective sale of horses, ponies and tack, while the village itself is filled to overflowing with around 100 stalls, entertainments including craft and music workshops, demonstrations and concerts, and a funfair.

Throughout the rest of the year, though, it's a wonderfully peaceful place with some handsome Georgian cottages and houses, set beside the River Bathern, a tributary of the Exe. To the north of the village, a tree-crowned motte marks the site of Bampton Castle. Bampton's parish church of St Michael and All Angels is popular with collectors of unusual memorials. A stone on the west side of the tower replicates a memorial of 1776, which records the strange death of the parish clerk's son who was apparently killed by a

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

falling icicle. The inscription is remarkably insensitive and reads:

*Bless my I I I I I (eyes),
Here he lies,
In a sad pickle,
Killed by an icicle.*

BROADCLYST

5½ miles NE of Exeter on the B3181

 Killerton

Just to the north of the village and set within the fertile lands between the Rivers Clyst and Culm, lies the large estate of **Killerton** (National Trust) centred around the grand 18th-century mansion house that was the home of the Acland family. Furnished as a comfortable family home, the house contains a renowned costume collection and a Victorian laundry. While the house provides some interest, it is the marvellous grounds laid out by John Veitch in the 1770s that make a visit here special. Veitch introduced many rare trees to the arboretum along with rhododendrons, magnolias and herbaceous borders, and in the parkland are several interesting structures, including a 19th-century chapel and the Dolbury Iron Age hill fort. Here, too, can be found **Marker's Cottage**, dating from the

15th century and containing 16th-century paintings, and **Forest Cottage**, originally a gamekeeper's cottage. Circular walks around the grounds and estate provide ample opportunity to discover the wealth of plant, animal and birdlife that thrives in this, the largest estate owned by the National Trust.

CLYST ST MARY

4 miles E of Exeter on the A376/A3052

 Crealy Park

A couple of miles east of Clyst St Mary is **Crealy Park**, a large all-weather entertainment centre offering a wide range of attractions for children, including the largest indoor PlayZone in the country, bumper boats and go-karts, a farm nursery and pony rides.

WOODBURY

7 miles SE of Exeter on the B3179

 St Swithin's Church  Woodbury Common

St Swithin's Church at Woodbury has achieved a rather sad kind of fame because of the Rev J Loveband Fulford who, in 1846, cut great chunks out of its medieval rood screen so that his parishioners could see him more clearly. Fortunately he left untouched the fine 15th-century font made from Beer stone, the Jacobean pulpit, and the interesting memorials.

A mile or so to the east of the village is the famous **Woodbury Common** viewpoint. More than 560 feet high, it provides spectacular vistas across the Exe estuary to Dartmoor, and along the south Devon coast. It's easy to understand why an Iron Age tribe chose this spot to build their massive fort whose huge ramparts lie close to the viewpoint.



Marker's Cottage, Broadclyst

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks



DARTS FARM

Topsham, Nr Exeter, Devon, EX3 0QH Tel: 01392 878200

e-mail: shop@dartsfarm.co.uk website: www.dartsfarm.co.uk

Darts Farm near the historic estuary town of Topsham is fortunate to be situated in a region that is rich in high quality artisan food producers. With all this wonderful local produce on the doorstep and still with their own working farm it's easy to understand why The Guardian described Darts Farm as..

'like finding Selfridges Food Hall dumped in the middle of a field'

Visit the deli, the cider maker, the florist or sample a bit of everything in the restaurant which uses the food hall as its larder with the chefs preparing fresh dishes everyday letting the good basic ingredients speak for themselves. This philosophy runs throughout Darts Farm whether it be the master butchers – Gerald David and family with their locally reared, naturally fed meat or The Fish Shed which only sells locally caught fish straight off the day boats. The choice is yours, either beautiful wet fish to take home and cook or try their famous fish and chips also open in the evenings for takeaway.

Combine all this with the Aga shop, Fired Earth, Orange Tree and the unusual design led gifts for the home and garden, florist, children's clothes, toys, The Treatment Loft beauty salon, Cotswold Outdoor and the RSPB shop and you will understand why your first visit won't be your last.

As Nick Wyke of The Times said.. *'I've seen the future of shopping and it's not in London, Manchester or Edinburgh but on a road that runs alongside the Exe Estuary in Devon, a few miles south of Exeter.'*



LYMPSTONE

8 miles SE of Exeter off the A376

Set beside the estuary of the River Exe, Lymptstone looks across the water to the impressive outline of Powderham Castle. There's a tiny harbour with a slipway and, on the beach, an Italianate clock tower erected in 1885 by a Mr WH Peters in commemoration of his wife, Mary Jane, who was noted for her good works amongst the poor of the village. It's a delight to wander around the old part of Lymptstone with its narrow streets, small courts and ancient cottages.

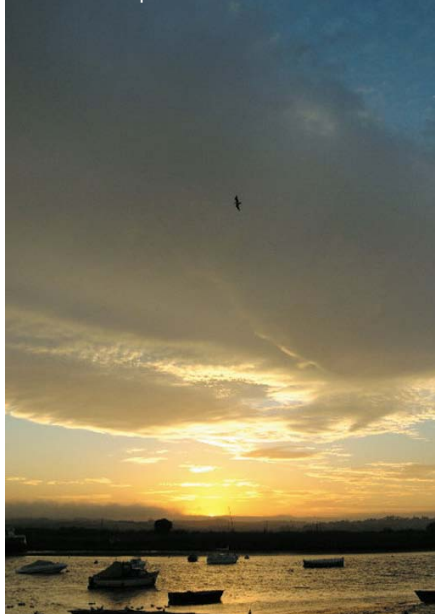
TOPSHAM

4 miles SE of Exeter off the A376

 Topsham Museum

It's not surprising to find that the whole of the old town of Topsham has been declared a conservation area. Its narrow streets are lined with fine examples of 17th and 18th-century merchants' houses, many built in the Dutch style with curved gable ends. One of these contains **Topsham Museum**, which has a model of the town as it was in 1900, local craftwork and records of prominent local families. There's also an exhibit with memorabilia connected with the film star Vivien Leigh whose brother-in-law founded the museum.

Sunset at Topsham



The town has a wealth of specialist and antique shops, and some stunning views over the Exe estuary with its extensive reed beds, salt marshes and mud banks. These provide an important winter feeding ground and summer breeding area for birds from all over the world. The estuary is also home to the largest winter flocks of avocets in the county. There are walks along the banks of the estuary

GERALD DAVID & FAMILY

Dart's Farm, Topsham, EX3 0QH
Tel 01392 878203
webiste: www.geraldldavid.co.uk

Three Generations of Master Butchers

Our family have taken pride in selecting what we believe to be the best fresh, not frozen beef, lamb and pork for over 40 years.

Come and meet our friendly Master Butchers who will happily give you advice on cuts, cooking times and delicious recipes. If you are travelling we can pack your purchase in dry ice to ensure it reaches your onward destination in pristine condition.



THE QUAY CENTRE

Topsham, nr Exeter, Devon, EX3 0JB

Tel: 01392 874006

Open: 10am – 5pm 7 days a week

website: www.quayantiques.com

This vast riverside warehouse on Topsham Quay is 'home' to 65 dealers in almost every facet of the antiques and collectables world. By virtue of its location geographically one will naturally expect to find Exeter Silver, Torquay Pottery, Honiton Lace, Cornish Studio pottery and contemporary art by local artists, but you will also find examples of the best of British design in glass, pottery, cutlery, woodworking tools, furniture, textiles, jewellery and home furnishings, ranging from 1800 – 2000!

Taking advantage of the huge diversity of stock in The Quay Centre, TV programmes like Bargain Hunt, Flog It, Cash in the Attic and The Antiques Road Trip have been regular visitors, and as a result brought customers from all parts of the world!

Specialist interests include Quimper and Gouda Pottery, Whitefriars Glass, Vintage Clothing and Textiles, 50s/60s Retro furnishings, Antique Lighting, Telephones, Books and Prints, Coins, Medals, Stamps, Tools, Clocks, Postcards, Costume Jewellery, Silver – something for everyone.

The Quay Centre is in a spectacular position right on the River Exe; climb to the top floor and you will get a commanding view, up and downstream, of the river and its wealth of bird life, along with an amazing assortment of eclectic merchandise!

Topsham is an interesting and historically important town with a huge variety of shops, restaurants, pubs and cafes, all close to the river and within walking distance of the Bird Reserve on the Marsh. It is well worth a visit and you can be assured of a "Grand Day Out". Get to Topsham by Bike, Train, Bus, on Foot or by Boat. If you come by Car we have a large carpark adjacent to the Quay Centre!



photographs by cdw design artist



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

that lead right from Exeter to the coast at Exmouth, and also river and bird-watching cruises from Topsham quay.

POWDERHAM

7 miles S of Exeter off the A379

Powderham Castle

Powderham Castle has been the home of the Courtenay family, Earls of Devon, since 1390. The castle stands in a beautiful setting alongside the River Exe and is at the centre of a large traditional estate of about 4000 acres. The present building is mostly 18th-century and contains some fine interiors, a breathtaking Grand Staircase, and historic family portraits – some of them by Sir Joshua Reynolds, a Devon man himself. The guided tours take in an 18th-century music room designed by James Wyatt, and a restored Victorian kitchen.

KENTON

7 miles S of Exeter on the A379

All Saints Church

Founded in Saxon times, this picturesque village is famed for its glorious 14th-century **All Saints Church**. The tower stands over 100 feet high and is decorated with a wonderful assortment of ornate carvings. Inside, there is more rich carving in the south porch and in the Beer stone arcades of the nave. The pulpit is a 15th-century original, which was rescued and restored after it was found in pieces in 1866, and the massive rood screen, one of the finest in Devon, is a magnificent testimony to the 15th-century woodcarver's art.

DUNCHIDEOCK

7 miles SW of Exeter off the A30

A beautifully located village, Dunchideock hugs the sides of a deeply-sloping combe. At

THE TURF

Exeter Canal, Exminster, Devon EX6 8EE

Tel: 01392 833128 Fax: 01392 832545

e-mail: info@turfpub.net

website: www.turfpub.net

When they extended the Exeter Ship Canal in 1827 they built **The Turf** to provide accommodation and sustenance for the lock-keeper and the crews of vessels using the canal. Since 1990 this isolated inn has been owned and run by Clive and Ginny Redfern, who have worked hard to maintain this historic timber-framed, slate-hung building and enhancing its reputation as a place to seek out for good food and drink.

The interior has abundant period charm, and outside is a large beer garden with the Exe Estuary on one side and the Turf Locks on the other. As much as possible of the produce that goes into the kitchen is locally sourced, and the West Country also features strongly among the drinks, with two local real ales and a lager, cider, apple juice and two wines. The bar is open all day from 11, and food is served every lunchtime and evening except Sunday evening. The inn has two barbecues that can be hired for a party. They supply the food, cutlery and plates and you do the cooking.

Half the fun is getting to The Turf, as there is no road access. Drivers can leave their cars in car parks off the mini-roundabout on the A379 at the south end of the Exminster by-pass and walk or cycle along the towpath. Alternatively, visitor can take a ferry from the Quay at Topsham direct to the Inn, or to Old Topsham Lock then a walk – or moor by the pub in their own boat!



NOBODY INN*Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter, Devon EX6 7PS**Tel: 01647 252394**e-mail: info@nobodyinn.co.uk**website: www.nobodyinn.co.uk*

Dating back to the sixteenth century, the **Nobody Inn** is set in rolling Devon countryside between the Haldon Hills and the Teign Valley. It is one of the country's leading inns and is renowned for its imaginative wine and whisky list, comprehensive selection of local cheeses and creative cooking based on fresh local produce. The inn has plenty of character and the low ceilings, blackened beams, inglenook fireplace, antique furniture and timeless atmosphere retain its unspoilt olde worlde charm.

The delightful Nobody Inn offers five comfortable guest bedrooms, four of which have en-suite facilities. It is an ideal place for keen walkers, cyclists and horse riders to stay because this traditional English country inn is located about six miles to the south west of the cathedral town of Exeter and on the outskirts of Dartmoor National Park.

The AA four star inn has recently undergone major refurbishment. The bar retains its own traditional charm, but the restaurant and guest rooms have had a makeover, giving them a more modern twist.



the northern end, the modest red sandstone church of St Michael has an unusual number of noteworthy internal features. There's a medieval font, a set of carved pew ends and a richly-carved rood screen, which at one point makes a surprising diversion around three sides of an octagonal roof column. Amongst the monuments is one to Major-General Stringer Lawrence, the Father of the Indian Army, who in 1775 left a legacy of £50,000 to his lifelong friend, Sir Robert Palk. Palk proceeded to build himself a mansion, Haldon House, half a mile to the south, along with a folly in memory of his benefactor. Known locally as Haldon Belvedere, or Lawrence Castle, this tall triangular structure stands on the summit of Haldon Ridge and can be seen for miles around.

CREDITON*8 miles NW of Exeter on the A377*

St Boniface Church of the Holy Cross

Very few Britons have managed to become fully-fledged Saints, so Crediton is rather proud that one of this small and distinguished group, **St Boniface**, was born here around AD680. The infant was baptised as Wynfrith but on becoming a monk he adopted the name Boniface. He rose swiftly through the ranks of the Benedictine Order and in AD731 was sent by the then pope to evangelise the Germans. Boniface was remarkably successful, establishing Christianity in several German states. At the age of 71, he was created Archbishop of Mainz, but three years later he and 53 members of his retinue were

SUSAN'S*131 High Street, CREDITON, Devon EX17 3LQ**Tel: 01363 775818**e-mail: susanscrediton@live.co.uk*

Having been in business now for 20 years, **Susan's** knows its flowers. Susan Tucker established her shop in November 1990 and has, appropriately enough, seen it bloom and blossom into the successful florist's it is today. Customers are greeted not just by the heady aroma and bright colours of the fresh flowers and bouquets, but also by the friendly staff who are happy to go the extra mile to prove that nothing is too much trouble. All the staff are well trained and can offer plenty of experienced advice on choosing the right flowers for weddings and other special occasions.

Susan's likes to source as many of its fresh flowers as possible locally, but will order anything from anywhere if a customer wants it. The shop has a wide range of silk and dried flowers too, alongside its bouquets and individual flowers. There's also a good choice of quality vases to display flowers in, as well as baskets and wicker items. The floral displays spill over onto the pavement, drawing the eye (and the nose!) to this lovely period listed building on CREDITON's pleasant High Street where thankfully many independent shops like Susan's still flourish.

**THORNES FARM SHOP***Hawthorn Gardens, Stockleigh Pomeroy,**CREDITON, Devon EX17 4BH**Tel: 01363 866933 Fax: 01363 866541**e-mail: athorne@thornesfarmshop.co.uk**website: www.thornesfarmshop.co.uk*

Anthony Thorne admits he was definitely born with the 'farming bug' and his enthusiasm and passion for farming is clearly evident to customers at the farm shop he owns. The idea for **Thornes Farm Shop** in CREDITON, Mid Devon, developed after nearby residents started calling in asking if they could buy produce from the farm. A small shop was soon built on the land, which was replaced 17 years later with the current farm shop in the middle of the 'Pick Your Own' field. The owners started growing strawberries on the site in 1986 and now a varied selection of soft fruit and vegetables are grown over an area of 125 acres.

It is an extremely successful and professional business and the Thorne's now supply not only their own farm shop, but many other local shops and wholesalers. The produce is top quality and there is a fine range of preserves on sale in the shop as well as cream, eggs, milk etc. There are toilet facilities for customers and it is hoped there will soon be a coffee shop and a 'walk' created down to a small lake at the bottom of the valley. Ring for details.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

THE DEVON WINE SCHOOL

*Redyeates Farm, Cheriton Fitzpaine, CREDITON,
Devon EX17 4HG*

Tel: 01363 866742

e-mail: alastair@devonwineschool.co.uk

website: www.devonwineschool.co.uk

Described by the *Daily Telegraph* as "One of the top 10 places in the UK to learn about wine", **The Devon Wine School** occupies a lovely 17th century farmhouse in a delightfully rural spot conveniently located just 10 miles north of Exeter. The school was established by Alastair and Carol Peebles and is the only truly residential wine school in the UK. Alastair is a member of the exclusive group of Masters of Wine and was previously the wine director at Royal Warrant Holders Berry Bros. & Rudd in St James's, London. The school offers a range of courses, each limited to 12 people, from beginners to budding Masters of Wine.

Participants sample wines sourced from some of the best producers in the world.

The school boasts a coveted VisitBritain 5-star Gold Award for its outstanding accommodation. The 5 en suite bedrooms, which enjoy lovely views over the garden and beautiful Devon countryside, are all provided with super king size beds draped with Egyptian cotton sheets. Carol is a professionally trained cook and all the delicious food is cooked on the farmhouse Aga. As one appreciative course member put it: "Perfect in every way, location, accommodation, food, wine and knowledge".



ambushed and murdered. They were on their way to the great monastery at Fulda in Hesse, which Boniface had founded and where he was laid to rest.

Boniface was greatly revered throughout Germany and a few years later the pope formally pronounced his sanctification, but it was to be almost 1200 years before the town of his birth accorded him any recognition. Finally, in 1897, the people of Crediton installed an east window in the town's grand, cathedral-like **Church of the Holy Cross** depicting events from his life. A few years later, a statue of the saint was erected in the gardens to the west of the church.

The interior of the early 15th-century church is especially notable for its monuments, which include one to Sir John Sully who fought alongside the Black Prince and lived to the age of 105, and another to Sir William

Peryam, a commissioner at the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots. Most impressive of all, though, is the richly ornamented arch in memory of Sir Henry Redvers Buller, commander-in-chief during the Boer War and the hero of the Relief of Ladysmith. Also of interest is the Lady Chapel of 1300, which housed Crediton's famous grammar school from the time of Edward VI until 1859 when it moved to its present site at the western end of the High Street.

East Devon

No less a traveller than Daniel Defoe considered the landscape of East Devon the finest in the world. Acres of rich farmland are watered by the rivers Axe, Otter and Madford, and narrow, winding lanes lead to villages that are as picturesque and interesting

historic building
 museum and heritage
 historic site
 scenic attraction
 flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes
 famous people
 art and craft
 entertainment and sport
 walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

as any in England. Steep-sided hills rise towards the coastline where a string of elegant Regency resorts remind the visitor that this part of the coast was one of the earliest to be developed to satisfy the early 19th-century craze for sea bathing.

Bounded by the rolling Blackdown Hills to the north, and Lyme Bay to the south, much of the countryside here is designated as of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The best, and for much of the route, the *only* landward way to explore the glorious East Devon coastline is to follow the South West Coast Path, part of the 600-mile South West Peninsula Coast Path, which starts at Minehead in Somerset and ends at Shell Bay in Dorset.

East Devon's most famous son is undoubtedly Sir Walter Raleigh who was born at Hayes Barton near Yettington in 1552 and apparently never lost his soft Devon burr – a regional accent regarded then by 16th-century London sophisticates as uncouth and much mocked by Sir Walter's enemies at the court of Elizabeth I. The Raleighs' family pew can still be seen in Yettington parish church. The famous picture by Sir John Everett Millais of *The Boyhood of Raleigh* was painted on the beach at Budleigh Salterton with the artist using his two sons and a local ferryman as the models.

Honiton

-  Allhallows Museum  Thelma Hulbert Gallery
-  Bishop's Tower  St Margaret's Hospital
-  Copper Castle  Dumpdon Hill

Honiton is the 'capital' of east Devon, a delightful little town in the valley of the River Otter and the 'gateway to the far southwest'. It was once a major stopping place on the Fosse Way, the great Roman road that struck

diagonally across England from Lincoln to Exeter. Honiton's position on the main traffic artery to Devon and Cornwall brought it considerable prosperity, and its broad, ribbon-like High Street, almost two miles long, testifies to the town's busy past. By the 1960s, this 'busyness' had deteriorated into appalling traffic congestion during the holiday season. Fortunately, the construction of a by-pass in the 1970s allowed Honiton to resume its true character as an attractive market town with a street market held on the High Street every Tuesday and Saturday.

Surrounded by sheep pastures, Honiton was the first town in Devon to manufacture serge cloth, but the town became much better known for a more delicate material, Honiton lace. Lace-making was introduced to east Devon by Flemish immigrants who arrived here during the early years of the reign of Elizabeth I. It wasn't long before those who could afford this costly new material were displaying it lavishly as a signal of their wealth and status. By the end of the 17th century, people were engaged in the lace-making industry, most of them working from their own homes making fine 'bone' lace by hand. Children as young as five were sent to 'lace schools' where they received a rudimentary education in the three Rs of Reading, (W)riting, and (A)rithmetic, and a far more intensive instruction in the skills of lace-making. Almost wiped out by the arrival of machine-made lace in the late 1700s, the industry was given a new lease of life when Queen Victoria insisted upon Honiton lace for her wedding dress and created a new fashion for lace that persisted throughout the 19th century.

The traditional material is still made on a small scale in the town and can be found on

Allhallows Museum

High Street, Honiton, Devon EX14 1PG

Tel: 01404 44966

email: info@bonitonmuseum.co.uk

website: www.bonitonmuseum.co.uk

The building housing the museum is the oldest in Honiton, dating from 1327. It started life as part of a chapel when people from the 'new town' grew tired of climbing the hill to St. Michael's. They got permission for a chapel in the town centre and called it All Saints or Allhallows. The first gallery is the chancel of the chapel, which was shortened last century to make room for St. Paul's, just outside. Fifty years ago the chapel was bought by the townspeople and opened as a museum. It has three galleries, Murch, Nicoll and Norman, in which are housed selections of an extensive lace collection as well as local antiquities.



sale in local shops, and on display in **Allhallows Museum** (see panel above). This part 15th-century building served as a school for some 300 years, but is now an interesting local museum housing a unique collection of traditional lace and also, during the season, giving daily demonstrations of lace making. Other exhibits include the bones and tusks of the Honiton Hippos, which have been dated back some 100,000 years.

Allhallows Schoolroom was one of the few old buildings to survive a series of devastating fires in the mid 1700s. However, that wholesale destruction had the fortunate result that the new buildings were gracious Georgian residences and Honiton still retains the pleasant, unhurried atmosphere of a prosperous 18th-century coaching town.

Another building that escaped the flames unscathed was Marwood House (private) in the High Street. It was built in 1619 by the second son of Thomas Marwood, one of Queen Elizabeth's many physicians. Thomas achieved great celebrity when he managed to cure the Earl of Essex after all others had failed. (He received his Devonshire estate as a reward.) Thomas was equally successful in

preserving his own health, living to the extraordinary age of 105.

Honiton boasts the only public art gallery in East Devon. The **Thelma Hulbert Gallery** occupies Elmfield House, an attractive Grade II listed late Georgian/early-Victorian town house that was the home and studio of the artist Thelma Hulbert (1913-1995). Now owned by East Devon District Council, the gallery has strong links with the Hayward Gallery in London, which enables it to exhibit works by artists such as David Hockney, Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein.

Some buildings on the outskirts of the town are worth a mention. **St Margaret's Hospital**, to the west, was founded in the middle ages as a refuge for lepers who were denied entry to the town itself. Later, in the 16th century, this attractive thatched building was reconstructed as an almshouse. To the east, on Axminster Road, an early 19th-century toll house known as **Copper Castle** can be seen. The castellated, pink-washed building still retains its original iron toll gates. And just a little further east, on Honiton Hill, stands the massive folly of the **Bishop's Tower**, erected in 1843 next to his house by Bishop

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Edward Coplestone, apparently to enable him to see his diocese of Llandaff across the Bristol Channel.

On the northern edge of Honiton rises the National Trust-owned **Dumpdon Hill**, an 850 feet high steep-sided outcrop which is crowned by a sizeable late-Iron-Age fort. Both the walk to the summit and the views over the Otter Valley are breathtaking.

Around Honiton

DUNKESWELL

5 miles N of Honiton off the A30

 Dunkeswell Abbey

 Dunkeswell Memorial Museum

A pleasant country lane leads past **Dunkeswell Abbey** of which only the 15th-century gatehouse survives, the rest of the site now occupied by a Victorian church of no great charm. A couple of miles further and the road climbs up the hillside to Dunkeswell itself. This little village lies in the heart of the Blackdown Plateau and its main claim to fame is a 900-year-old Norman font in St Nicholas' Church on which is carved a rather crude depiction of an elephant, the earliest known representation of this animal in England. Almost certainly the stonemason had never seen such a beast, but he made almost as good a fist of it as he did with his satirical carvings of a bishop and a doctor. The font was originally located in Dunkeswell Abbey.

To the west of the village, **Dunkeswell Memorial Museum** stands on the site of the only American Navy air base commissioned on British soil during World War Two. It is dedicated to the veterans of the US Fleet Air Wing 7 and RAF personnel who served at the base.

DALWOOD

6 miles E of Honiton off the A35

 Loughwood Meeting House  Shute Barton

 St Michael's Church  Burrow Farm Gardens

By some administrative freak, until 1842 the little village of Dalwood, despite being completely surrounded by Devon, was actually part of Dorset. Its other main claim to fame is as the home of the **Loughwood Meeting House**, one of the earliest surviving Baptist chapels in the country. When the chapel was built in the 1650s, the site was hidden by dense woodland, for the Baptists were a persecuted sect who could only congregate in out-of-the-way locations. Under its quaint thatched roof, this charming little building contains a simple whitewashed interior with early 18th-century pulpits and pews. The chapel was in use until 1833, then languished for many years until it was acquired by the National Trust in 1969. It is now open all year round with admission by voluntary donation.

About three miles south of Dalwood is another National Trust property, **Shute**

Loughwood Meeting House



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Barton, an exceptional example of a medieval manor house, which dates from the 1380s. Only two wings of the original building have survived, but they include some remarkably impressive features, such as the Great Hall with its massive beamed ceiling, and the ancient kitchen with a huge range capable of roasting an ox whole. Entry is by way of a Tudor gatehouse. Shute Barton was owned by the Pole family, a local dynasty, commemorated by some grand monuments in **St Michael's Church**. Amongst them is an overbearing memorial to Sir William Pole, which depicts the Master of the Household to Queen Anne standing on a pedestal dressed in full regalia. More appealing is the 19th-century sculptured panel, seven feet high and framed in alabaster, which shows Margaret Pole greeting her three little daughters at the gates of heaven.

Close by are **Burrow Farm Gardens**,

beautifully landscaped gardens that provide a peaceful place for a relaxing afternoon's outing, as well as plenty of interest for keen gardeners.

AXMINSTER

10 miles E of Honiton on the A35/A358

 Thomas Whitty  Axminster Museum

This little town grew up around the junction of two important Roman roads, the Fosse and the Icknield, and was important in medieval times because of its Minster beside the River Axe. Its name has entered the language as the synonym for a very superior kind of floor-covering, which first appeared in the early 1750s. Wandering around London's Cheapside market, an Axminster weaver named **Thomas Whitty** was astonished to see a huge Turkish carpet, 12 yards long and 8 yards wide. Returning to the sleepy little market town where he was born, Thomas spent months

BUSY BEE FLORIST

*The Ground Floor Shop, South Street,
Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD
Tel: 01297 33192 / 33136
e-mail: busybee@xln.co.uk*

Winner of "Business of the Year, 2006", the **Busy Bee Florist** was established in 1987. Alison Ayshford-Harris and her staff between them have more than 50 years experience in the floristry business. Alison is passionate about flowers and also makes personal customer service a priority. She likes to offer something a little bit unusual as well as traditional varieties. As well as providing flowers for all occasions, the Busy Bee produces traditional and contemporary design bouquets, basket and vase arrangements, and hand-made confetti. The shop also stocks indoor and outdoor plants, balloons, Filberts Bee products and, during the summer months, a selection of vegetable plants from a local gardener. Alison will also create sympathy tributes from customers' own garden flowers. The Busy Bee has a very green ethos - all waste from the shop, such as cuttings, cardboard and plastic, is recycled or composted. Annual flower arranging classes are available.

The Busy Bee is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday,
Saturday 9am - 1pm.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

MILLERS FARM SHOP

Kilmington Cross, Kilmington, Axminster EX13 7RD

Tel: 01297 35290

website: www.millersfarmshop.com

Run by Malcolm Miller and his family, Millers Farm Shop in Devon has been growing and selling locally sourced produce for over 30 years. The shop is an 'Aladdin's Cave' of most sumptuous food imaginable. Most of the vegetables are grown on the farm, the rest is provided by local suppliers passionate about good quality food. Apart from the fresh fruit, veg, herbs and grow bags, you will also find award-winning products like Colyton butcher pies, preserves and chutneys. You can pick up fresh fish, beef, pork and lamb from local farms, daily deliveries of local milk, cider from Lyme Bay Winery and Perrys Cider Mill and sample a variety of local cheeses. Also very popular with customers are the mouth watering array of breads and pastries, along with an impressive selection of teas, coffees and juices.

In addition to the local produce, Malcolm and Angela travel to France once a week to scour markets in different regions for quality produce for the shop. The friendly atmosphere of a family-run working farm with people who really know their stuff, and are passionate about great food, completes this heavenly shopping experience.



puzzling over the mechanics of producing such a seamless piece of work. By 1755 he had solved the problem, and on midsummer's day that year the first of these luxurious carpets was revealed to the world. The time and labour involved was so prodigious that the completion of each carpet was celebrated by a procession to St Mary's Church and a ringing peal of bells. Ironically, one distinguished purchaser of an Axminster carpet was the Sultan of Turkey who, in 1800, paid the colossal sum of £1000 for a particularly fine specimen. But the inordinately high labour costs involved in producing such exquisite hand-tufted carpets crippled Whitty's company. In 1835, their looms were sold to a factory at Wilton. That was the end of Axminster's pre-eminence in the market for top-quality carpets, but echoes of those glorious years still reverberate. St Mary's Church must be the only house of worship in

Christendom whose floor is covered with a richly-woven carpet.

Opposite the church is the former courthouse, which is now home to the **Axminster Museum** where the old police cells can be visited, and there are collections of vintage agricultural tools and Axminster carpets.

COLYTON

7 miles SE of Honiton off the A3052

Church of St Andrew

The tramway that starts at Seaton runs by way of Colyford to this ancient and very appealing small town of narrow winding streets and interesting stone houses. Throughout its long history, Colyton has been an important agricultural and commercial centre with its own corn mill, tannery, sawmill and iron foundry.

Many of the older buildings are grouped around the part-Norman **Church of St**

MILL HOUSE FINE ART PUBLISHING LTD

*Bellflower Gallery, Market Place,
Colyton, Devon EX24 6JS*

Tel: 01297 553100

Fax: 01297 553608

e-mail: info@millhousefineart.com

website: www.millhousefineart.com

Mill House Fine Art Publishing is located in the Bellflower Gallery, a delightful find in the charming market town of Colyton, Devon.

The Bellflower Gallery specialises in beautiful art work by Anne Cotterill, who is one of the foremost contemporary floral artists in the UK. Inside, visitors are presented with a display of Anne's eminently collectable fine art Greetings Cards, Lithographic and Giclee prints faithfully reproduced from her original oil paintings.

Anne Cotterill's paintings are distinguished by her skill in portraying the natural character and vitality of freshly picked flowers from hedgerows, lanes, meadows and gardens.

The gallery is also home to the wholesale side of the business distributing to galleries and shops throughout the UK and Europe.

Customers of the Bellflower Gallery can be sure of an efficient and friendly service. The gallery is open Monday - Friday between 10.30am and 3.30pm.



Lilacs and other Blossom -
Greetings Card



Pink Roses - Giclee Print

WHITE HART INN

*Swan Hill Road,
Colyford, Colyton,
Devon EX24 6QF
Tel: 01297 553201*

The thriving little riverside village of Colyford is known for the Seaton Tramway that passes through it and for possessing a fine old traditional hostelry, the **White Hart Inn**. It has a warm and friendly ambience, and features such as the stone floor in the bar area, lots of nooks and crannies, and a feature brick-built fireplace in the lounge all add to the charm.

Mine host is Bob Sellins who bought the pub in 2001 and now has an established reputation for selling quality food and well-maintained ales. The bar stocks a good range of local brews, including Otter and Branoc, as well as ciders and lagers, and a tempting selection of fine wines, malt whiskeys and other spirits. Unusually, Bob also stocks lovage, shrub, grenadine and Stone's ginger wine as mixers. There's a restaurant seating 43 and customers can also eat in the bar area or in the beer garden at the rear. Families and dogs are welcome; and there's ample parking.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

Andrew, a striking building with an unusual 15th-century octagonal lantern tower, and a Saxon cross brilliantly reconstructed after its broken fragments were retrieved from the tower where they had been used as building material. Nearby is the Vicarage of 1529, and the Old Church House, a part-medieval building enlarged in 1612 and used as a Grammar School until 1928.

OTTERY ST MARY

5m SW of Honiton on the B3177

 Church of St Mary  Samuel Taylor Coleridge

 Cadhay  Escot Park and Gardens

The glory of Ottery St Mary is its magnificent 14th-century **Church of St Mary**. From the outside, St Mary's looks part mini-cathedral, part Oxford college. Both impressions are justified since, when Bishop Grandisson commissioned the building in 1337, he stipulated that it should be modelled on his own cathedral at Exeter. He also wanted it to be "a sanctuary for piety and learning", so accommodation for 40 scholars was provided.

The interior is just as striking. The church's medieval treasures include a brilliantly-coloured altar screen, canopied tombs, and a 14th-century astronomical clock showing the moon and the planets, which still functions with its original machinery.

Ottery's Vicar during the mid 18th century was the Rev John Coleridge whose 13th child became the celebrated poet, **Samuel Taylor Coleridge**. The family home near the church has since been demolished but in one of his poems Samuel recalls

*"my sweet birth-place, and the old church-tower
Whose bells, the poor man's only music, rang
From morn to evening, all the hot Fair-day"*

A bronze plaque in the churchyard wall

honours Ottery's most famous son. It shows his profile, menaced by the albatross that features in his best-known poem, *The Ancient Mariner*.

It's a delight to wander around the narrow, twisting lanes that lead up from the River Otter, admiring the fine Georgian buildings amongst which is an old wool manufactory by the riverside, a dignified example of early industrial architecture.

An especially interesting time to visit Ottery is on the Saturday closest to 5 November. The town's Guy Fawkes celebrations include a time-honoured, if rather alarming, tradition of rolling barrels of flaming tar through the narrow streets.

About a mile northwest of Ottery, **Cadhay** is a beautiful Tudor mansion built around 1550 but incorporating the Great Hall of an earlier mansion built between 1420 and 1470. The house was built for a Lincoln's Inn lawyer, John Haydon, whose great-nephew Robert Haydon later added the exquisite Long Gallery, thus forming a unique and attractive courtyard. Opening times are restricted.

Close by is **Escot Park and Gardens** where visitors can see an arboretum and rose garden, along with a collection of wildlife that includes wild boar, pot-bellied pigs, otters and birds of prey. The original gardens in this 1200-acre estate were set out by Capability Brown and have been restored by the land artist and television gardener, Ivan Hicks.

BLACKBOROUGH

10 miles NW of Honiton off the A373

Most of the villages in this corner of East Devon nestle in the valley bottoms, but Blackborough is an exception, standing high on a ridge of the Blackdown Hills. It's a comparatively new settlement that sprang up when whetstone mining flourished here for a

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

THE OLD VICARAGE BED AND BREAKFAST

Broadbembury, Honiton, Devon EX14 3ND

Tel: 01404 841648

e-mail: enquiries@broadbemburybandb.co.uk

website: www.broadbemburybandb.co.uk

If you are looking for a luxury and stylish B&B in the picturesque South West county of Devon then look no further than **The Old Vicarage Bed and Breakfast**. The Grade II listed B&B overlooks the 14th century church in the timeless village of Broadbembury.

Owned by mother and daughter - Sarah Carter and Christine Roberts, there are four spectacular guest rooms available. All of them offer striking fabrics, luxurious carpets, crisp linen, waffle towels and Chinese antiques, which blend in beautifully with the gracious elegance of the 18th century Georgian building.

Guests can look forward to a delicious and hearty breakfast. Each is prepared to order and the ingredients and produce are all sourced locally, really adding to the quality of the dish. Breakfast can be served in the modern dining room, the privacy of your own bedroom or, on warmer days, out in the garden.

There are two acres of garden for guests to explore. It has an outdoor heated swimming pool, chickens, an exotic vegetable garden and stunning views of the Blackdown Hills. It is the scenic surroundings that attract many visitors to this part of Devon and The Old Vicarage B&B offers the perfect place to enjoy the area.

Sarah and Christine are both very friendly and guests are left to make themselves at home and indulge in the added luxuries here. The B&B offers a unique combination of Georgian elegance and modern design and is located in one of the most picturesque cob-and-thatch villages in Devon.

Many wedding receptions have been held here and it isn't hard to see why many couples choose to come here. The five-star establishment is impressive and the outdoor area is extremely beautiful, providing the perfect place to have photographs taken.

Whether your visit is for rest and relaxation, outdoor pursuits, historical curiosity or simply to sample the delicious menu at the Drewe Arms, book your accommodation at the Old Vicarage and make your stay a memorable one. Children and pets are welcome here. Ring for further details.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

period in the early 1800s. RD Blackmore's novel *Perlycross* presents a vivid picture of life in these makeshift mining camps where the amenities of a comfortable life were few and far between.

UFFCULME

13 miles NW of Honiton off the A38

 Coldharbour Mill

In medieval times, the charming little village of Uffculme, set beside the River Culm, was an important centre for the wool trade. Profits from this booming business helped build the impressive parish church of St Mary around 1450 and to install its splendid rood screen, believed to be the longest in Devon.

Coldharbour Mill, to the west of the village, is one of the few surviving reminders of the county's industrial wool trade. It closed down in 1981 but has since been converted into a Working Wool Museum where visitors can watch the whole process of woollen and worsted manufacture, wander around the carpenter's workshop, a weaver's cottage and the dye room. On most Bank Holidays, the massive 300 horsepower engine in the boiler house is 'steamed up' - a spectacular sight. Conducted tours are available by advance arrangement and the complex also includes a Mill Shop and a waterside restaurant.

CULMSTOCK

14 miles NW of Honiton on the B3391

 RD Blackmore  Church of All Saints

 Hemyock Castle

Lovers of **RD Blackmore's** novel *Lorna Doone* will be particularly interested in Culmstock since it was here that the author lived as a boy during the years that his father was the Vicar. One of his playmates in the village was Frederick Temple, another bright

boy, and the two friends both went on to Blundell's School at Tiverton where they shared lodgings. Blackmore was to become one of the most successful novelists of his time; Temple entered the church and after several years as Headmaster of Rugby School reached the pinnacle of his profession as Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the centre of the village stands Culmstock's parish **Church of All Saints** with its famous yew tree growing from the top of the tower. The tree has been growing there for more than 200 years and, despite the fact that its only nourishment is the lime content of the mortar in which it is set, the trunk has now achieved a girth of 18 inches. It's believed that the seed was probably carried up in the mortar used to repair the tower when its spire was demolished in 1776. The church's more traditional kind of treasures include a magnificently embroidered cope of the late 1400s, now preserved in a glass case; a remarkable 14th-century tomb rediscovered during restoration in the 19th century; and a richly-coloured memorial window designed by Burne-Jones.

About three miles east of Culmstock is **Hemyock Castle**, built around 1380. Four turrets, a curtain wall, a moat with mallard and moorhen in residence, and a dungeon are all that remain of the Hidon family's sturdy manor house, but it is a peaceful and evocative place. The castle stands behind the church in beautiful grounds and, since it lies close to the head of the lovely Culm valley, is very popular as a picnic spot. Opening times are limited.

The Jurassic Coast

 East Devon Way

The coastal stretch to the east of Exmouth

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

has been named the Jurassic Coast because it was formed during the Jurassic period some 185 million years ago. England's first natural World Heritage Site, the 95 miles of coastline from Exmouth to Studland in Dorset is spectacularly beautiful.

Three river valleys, those of the Axe, the Sid and the Otter, cut through the hills of east Devon to meet the sea at Lyme Bay. They provide the only openings in the magnificent 20-mile-long stretch of rugged cliffs and rocky beaches. Virtually the only settlements to be found along the seaboard are those which developed around the mouths of those rivers: Seaton, Sidmouth and Budleigh Salterton. The intervening cliffs discouraged human habitation, and even today the only way to explore most of this part of the coast is on foot along the magnificent **East Devon Way**, part of the South West Coast Path. Signposted by a foxglove, the footpath travels through the county to Lyme Regis just over the county border in Dorset. Four other circular paths link in with the East Devon Way providing other options for walkers to enjoy and explore the quieter and more remote areas away from the coast.

For centuries the little towns along the coast subsisted on fishing and farming until the early 1800s when the Prince Regent's fad for sea bathing brought an influx of comparatively affluent visitors in search of healthy relaxation. Their numbers were augmented by others whose accustomed European travels had been rendered impossible by Napoleon's domination of the Continent. Between them, they transformed these modest little towns into fashionable resorts, imbuing them with an indefinable 'gentility' which still lives on in the elegant villas, peaceful gardens and wide promenades.

Exmouth

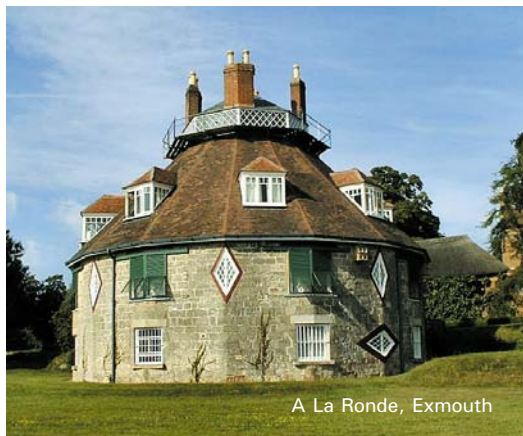
 World of Country Life  Exmouth Museum
 A La Ronde  Point-in-View

With its glorious coastal scenery and splendid two-mile-long beach, Exmouth was one of the earliest seaside resorts to be developed in Devon, "the Bath of the West, the resort of the tip-top of the gentry of the Kingdom". Lady Byron and Lady Nelson came to stay and found lodgings in The Beacon, an elegant Georgian terrace overlooking the Madeira Walk and Esplanade. This early success suffered a setback when Brunel routed his Great Western line along the other side of the estuary (incidentally creating one of the most scenic railway journeys still possible in England), and it wasn't until a branch line reached Exmouth in 1861 that business picked up again. The town isn't just a popular resort. Exmouth Docks are still busy with coasters, and in summer a passenger ferry crosses the Exe to Starcross. There are also services to Dawlish Warren.

Exmouth's major all-weather attraction is **The World of Country Life**, which offers an Adventure Exhibition Hall, a collection of vintage cars and rare steam engines, a Victorian street, safari train, pirate ship, pets centre and restaurant.

Occupying converted 18th-century stables and an adjoining cottage, **Exmouth Museum** provides fascinating insights into the town's rich history and its strong maritime links. Exhibits include the reconstruction of a Victorian kitchen and a 1930s dining room.

While in Exmouth, you should make a point of visiting what has been described as "the most unusual house in Britain". **A La Ronde** (National Trust) is a fairy-tale thatched house



A La Ronde, Exmouth

East of Exmouth

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON

4 miles E of Exmouth on the B3180

Sir John Everett Millais

Fairlynch Museum

With its trim Victorian villas, broad promenade and a spotlessly clean beach flanked by 500 feet-high red sandstone cliffs, Budleigh Salterton retains its 19th-century atmosphere of a genteel resort. Victorian tourists “of the better sort” noted with approval that the two-mile-long beach was of

pink shingle rather than sand. (Sand, apparently, attracted the rowdier kind of holiday-maker.) The steeply-shelving beach was another deterrent, and the sea here is still a place for paddling rather than swimming.

One famous Victorian visitor was the celebrated artist **Sir John Everett Millais** who stayed during the summer of 1870 in the curiously-shaped house called The Octagon. It was beside the beach here that he painted his most famous picture, *The Boyhood of Raleigh*, using his two sons and a local ferryman as the models. Raleigh’s birthplace, Hayes Barton, lies a mile or so inland and remains virtually unchanged.

The town centre has a good number of independently owned shops and the main street to the beach is bordered by a stream. Close to the seafront is the **Fairlynch Museum**, one of very few thatched museums in the country. Built in 1811 as a cottage orne, it houses numerous collections covering all aspects of life through the ages in the lower Otter Valley. There are weekly demonstrations of lace-making, a collection of locally-made Edwardian dolls, and an interesting collection

built in 1765 by the sisters Jane and Mary Parminster who modelled it on the church of San Vitale in Ravenna. Despite its name, the house is not in fact circular but has 16 sides with 20 rooms set around a 45-foot-high octagon. The sisters lived here in magnificent feminist seclusion, forbidding the presence of any male in their house or its 15 acres of grounds. What, therefore, no gentleman saw during the lifetime of the sisters, was the wonderfully decorated interior that the cousins created. These fabulous rooms, common in Regency times, are rare today. Due to their delicacy, the feather frieze and shell-encrusted gallery can be seen only via closed circuit TV. Throughout the house the vast collection of pieces that the ladies brought back from their extensive travels is on display.

The Parminster sisters also paid for the building in 1812 of nearby **Point-in-View**, a tiny Congregational chapel with adjacent almshouses for “four spinsters over fifty years of age and approved character”. The odd design includes a pyramidal roof with triangular windows, topped by a fanciful weathervane. Services are still held in the church.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

of Victorian and Edwardian costumes.

The name Budleigh Salterton derives from the salt pans at the mouth of the River Otter, which brought great prosperity to the town during the Middle Ages. The little port was then busy with ships loading salt and wool, but by 1450 the estuary had become blocked by a pebble ridge and the salt pans flooded.

YETTINGTON

7 miles NE of Exmouth off the B3178

 Sir Walter Raleigh  Bickton Park

Just to the south of the village of Yettington is Hayes Barton (private), a fine E-shaped Tudor house in which **Sir Walter Raleigh** was born in 1552. The Raleighs' family pew can still be seen in All Saints' Church, dated 1537 and carved with their (now sadly defaced) coat of arms. The church also contains a series of more than 50 16th-century bench-ends, which were carved by local artisans into weird and imaginative depictions of their various trades.

A mile or so in the other direction is **Bickton Park**, best known for its landscaped gardens, which were laid out in the 1730s by Henry Rolle to a plan by André Le Nôtre, the designer of Versailles. There is also a formal Italian garden, a remarkable palm house known as The Dome, a world-renowned collection of pine trees, and a lake complete with an extraordinary

summer house, The Hermitage. Its outside walls are covered with thousands of tiny wooden shingles, each one individually pinned on so they look like the scales of an enormous fish. Inside, the floors are made from deer's knucklebones. The Hermitage was built by Lady Louise Rolle in 1839 as an exotic summer-house; any occupation during the winter would have been highly inadvisable since the chimney was made of oak.

OTTERTON

7 miles NE of Exmouth off the B3178

 Otterton Mill

This delightful village has a charming mix of traditional cob and thatch cottages, along with other buildings constructed in the distinctive local red sandstone, amongst them the tower of St Michael's parish church. Nearby stands a manor house, which was built in the 11th century as a small priory belonging to Mont St Michel in Normandy. It is now divided into private apartments.

The Domesday Book recorded a mill on the River Otter here, almost certainly on the site of the present **Otterton Mill**. This handsome, part-medieval building was restored to working order in the 1970s by Desna Greenhow, a teacher of Medieval Archaeology, and visitors can now buy packs of flour

ground by the same methods that were in use long before the compilers of the Domesday Book passed through the village. The site also includes a craft centre, art gallery, shop and restaurant.

An interesting feature of this village of whitewashed thatched cottages is the little stream that runs down Fore Street. At the bottom of the hill, this beck joins the River Otter, which at this point has only a couple of miles to



Orangery, Bickton Gardens

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

go before it enters the sea near Budleigh Salterton. There's a lovely riverside walk in that direction, and if you go northwards, the path stretches even further, to Ottery St Mary some nine or ten miles distant. En route, this path passes the village of East Budleigh where Sir Walter Raleigh's father was warden of the church. Inside, you can still see the family's pews prominently placed at the front on the left hand side.

HARPFORD

11 miles NE of Exmouth off the A3052

 Rev Augustus Toplady  Aylesbeare Common

Attractively located on the east bank of the River Otter with wooded hills behind, Harpford has a 13th-century church with an impressive tower and, in its churchyard, a memorial cross to the **Rev Augustus**

Toplady who was vicar of Harpford for a couple of years in the mid 1700s. In 1775 Augustus wrote the hymn *Rock of Ages, cleft for me*, which has proved to be one of the most durable contributions to English hymnody.

If you cross the footbridge over the river here and follow the path for about a couple of miles you will come to **Aylesbeare Common**, an RSPB sanctuary, which is also one of the best stretches of heathland in the area. Bird-watchers may be lucky enough to spot a Dartford warbler, stonechats, or tree pipits, and even hear the strange song of the nightjar.

SIDMOUTH

11 miles NE of Exmouth on the A375

 Duke of Kent  Sidmouth Museum

 Old Chancel  Sidmouth Folk Week

Sidmouth's success, like that of many other

SIDMOUTH TRAWLERS

Fisherman's Yard, The Ham, Port Royal, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8BG
Tel: 01395 512714

Tucked away in Fisherman's Yard at the far eastern end of the Esplanade is **Sidmouth Trawlers**, a fishmonger well known in the area for the excellent quality of its locally caught fish and shellfish. Established in the 1960s by Stan Bagwell, from a long line of fishermen, this family-run business maintains the highest standards in endeavouring to provide for all lovers of seafood a large variety of fish and shellfish sourced from local fishermen.

The family take great pride in the various national craftsmanship awards they have won over the years, and filleting and preparation is all part of the service. No one coming to Sidmouth should miss the opportunity to visit this superb fishmonger's. Insulated packaging is available to take home a selection of the freshest seafood - from brill, Dover sole, mackerel and scallops to freshly cooked lobster and crab - to be found anywhere in the country. A ready-to-eat service is also available for whelks, cockles, mussels, prawns and crabmeat, and generously filled sandwiches are made to order.



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

THE BARN & PINN COTTAGE

Bowl Cross, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0ND

Tel: 01395 513613

e-mail: barnpinncottage@btinternet.com

website: www.thebarnandpinncottage.co.uk

Just a 5-minute drive from Sidmouth, **The Barn & Pinn Cottage** is a stunning 15th Century thatched cottage surrounded by glorious award winning gardens which received a Gold award from the Sidmouth in Bloom competition in 2009. This lovely old dwelling is the home of Peter and Kim Clinch who extend a genuinely warm welcome to all their guests. Finding the right bed and breakfast can be difficult, especially in Devon, but if you take a look around their website you may just find the decision making process has been made a whole lot easier for you!

Guests have the use of a comfortable and welcoming lounge with a 42" television, games and books. During the cooler months, a log-burning stove adds to the appeal. The 4-star accommodation comprises 10 individually decorated en suite rooms with full central heating, TV and hospitality tray. There's one single with a 4ft bed; 3 doubles, 2 twins, 1 holiday let, 1 king size and 2 luxury rooms with King size 4-poster beds and private patio and garden. Peter and Kim are happy to welcome guests with well-behaved dogs. There are three bedrooms suitable for use by guests with dogs.

Breakfast is served in a cosy room overlooking the garden and many guests enjoy watching the birds and squirrels who are active there. Dinner is available from Thursday to Sunday and is served in 'The Barn', a large vaulted room which in days gone by was a hay barn. This room also enjoys the comfort of a wood-burner and also enjoys lovely views over the gardens. The menu offers good home cooking with a varied menu to choose from. There's also a well-stocked bar.

Guests at the Barn & Pinn Cottage will find plenty to see and do in the area. Sidmouth itself was described by the late Poet Laureate, John Betjeman, as having "beautiful gardens and leisurely walks, Regency history, clean beaches and friendly shops. It's all here in this lovely seaside town that nestles beneath majestic red cliffs and the green hills of the glorious Sid Valley". Other attractions within easy reach include the historic houses of Cadhay, Ugbrooke Park and Powderham Castle; Escot Gardens and the manifold attractions of the historic city of Exeter.



English resorts, had much to do with Napoleon Bonaparte. Barred from the Continent and their favoured resorts by the Emperor's conquest of Europe, the leisured classes were forced to find diversion and entertainment within their own island fortress. At the same time, sea bathing had suddenly become fashionable so these years were a boom time for the south coast, even as far west as Sidmouth, which until then had been a poverty-stricken village dependent on fishing.

Sidmouth's spectacular position at the mouth of the River Sid, flanked by dramatic red cliffs soaring to over 500 feet and with a broad pebbly beach, assured the village's popularity with the newcomers. A grand Esplanade was constructed, lined with handsome Georgian houses, and between 1800 and 1820 Sidmouth's population doubled as the aristocratic and well-to-do built substantial 'cottages' in and around the town. Many of these have since been converted into impressive hotels, such as the Beach House, painted strawberry pink and white, and the Royal Glen, which in the early 19th century was the residence of the royal **Duke of Kent**. The duke came here in 1819 in an attempt to escape his numerous creditors, and it was here that his infant daughter, Princess Victoria, later Queen Victoria, saw the sea for the first time.

To evade his many creditors, the Duke had his mail directed to Salisbury. Each week he would ride there to collect his letters, but in Sidmouth itself he couldn't conceal his delight in his young daughter. He would push Victoria in a little carriage along the mile-long Regency Esplanade, stopping passers-by to tell them to look carefully at the little girl – "for one day she would be their Queen". Half a century later, his daughter presented a stained-glass window to Sidmouth parish church in dutiful memory of her father.

One of the town's early visitors was Jane Austen, who came here on holiday in 1801 and, according to Austen family tradition, fell in love with a clergyman whom she would have married if he had not mysteriously died or disappeared. Later, in the 1830s, William Makepeace Thackeray visited and the town featured as Baymouth in his semi-autobiographical work *Pendennis* (published in 1848). During the Edwardian age, Beatrix Potter was a visitor on several occasions.

A stroll around the town reveals a wealth of attractive Georgian and early-Victorian buildings. Amazingly for such a small town, Sidmouth boasts nearly 500 listed buildings. Curiously, it was the Victorians who let the town down. Despite being the wealthiest nation in the world at that time, with vast resources at its command, its architects seemed incapable of creating architecturally interesting churches, and the two 19th-century Houses of the Lord they built in Sidmouth display a lamentable lack of inspiration. So ignore them, but it's worth seeking out the curious structure known as the **Old Chancel** in Coburg Terrace, a glorious hotch-potch of styles using bits and pieces salvaged from the old parish church and from just about anywhere else, amongst them a priceless window of medieval stained glass.

Also well worth a visit is **Sidmouth Museum**, near the sea-front, which provides a vivid presentation of the Victorian resort, along with such curiosities as an albatross's swollen foot once used as a tobacco pouch. There's also an interesting collection of local prints, a costume gallery and a display of fine lace. One of the most striking exhibits in the museum is the 'Long Picture' by Hubert Cornish, which is some eight feet (2.4 metres) long and depicts the whole of Sidmouth seafront as it was around 1814.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

Fishing Boats, Sidmouth



The town also boasts one of the few public access observatories in Britain: the **Norman Lockyer Observatory**. It has a planetarium and large telescopes, and a radio station commemorating the contribution of Sir Ambrose Fleming, a local hero, to the invention of the radio valve. Opening times are limited.

Demure though it remains, Sidmouth undergoes a transformation in the first week of August each year when it plays host to the **Sidmouth Folk Week**, a cosmopolitan event that attracts a remarkable variety of morris dancers, folk singers and even clog dancers from around the world.

SIDBURY

12 miles NE of Exmouth on the A375

St Peter & St Giles Sidbury Castle

St Peter & St Giles' church at Sidbury boasts the unique amenity of a Powder Room. In fact, the room over the porch contained not cosmetics, but gunpowder, which was stored there by the military during the fearful days when Napoleon was expected to land in England at any moment. The church is also notable for its Saxon crypt, rediscovered during restoration in 1898. It's a rough-walled room just nine feet by ten feet, located under the chancel floor. Other treasures include a remarkable 500-year-old font with a square iron

lock intended to protect the holy water in the basin from witches, and a number of curious carvings on the Norman tower.

Above the village to the southwest stands **Sidbury Castle**, not a castle at all but the site of a hilltop Iron Age fort from which there are some spellbinding views of the coastline extending from Portland Bill to Berry Head.

BRANSCOMBE

14 miles NE of Exmouth off the A3052

Old Bakery, Manor Mill & Forge

MSC Napoli

The coastal scenery near Branscombe is some of the finest in the southwest with great towers of chalk rising from overgrown landslips. The village itself is a picturesque scattering of farmhouses and thatched cottages with an interesting National Trust property within its boundaries – **Old Bakery, Manor Mill and Forge**. Regular demonstrations are held at the Manor Mill, which is still in working order. The water-powered mill provided flour for the adjacent bakery, which, until 1987, was the last traditional bakery operating in Devon. Its vintage baking equipment has been preserved and the rest of the building is now a tearoom. The Forge is still working and the blacksmith's ironwork is on sale to visitors.

The land around Branscombe's beach, with its long expanse of pebbles and painted coastal huts, is also owned by the National Trust. The beach entered the national consciousness in January 2007 when a container ship, the **MSC Napoli** got into difficulties during a gale and was grounded about 100 yards from the beach. Some of the ship's containers broke open and their contents were washed on to the beach. The

historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna
 stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK

flotsam included barrels of wine, shoes, hair care products, beauty cream, steering wheels, exhaust pipes, gearboxes, nappies, foreign language bibles and even BMW motorbikes. As the word spread, the beach was invaded by scavengers, many of whom made away with rich pickings until the police closed the beach 24 hours after the *Napoli* had grounded. It was not until seven months later that the stricken ship was taken by tug to a dry dock at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast.

BEER

16 miles NE of Exmouth on the B3174

 Pecorama  Beer Quarry Caves

 Beer Head

Set between the high white chalk cliffs of Beer Head and Seaton Hole, this stunningly picturesque fishing village is best known for the superb white freestone that has been quarried here since Roman times. Much prized for carving, the results can be seen in countless Devon churches, and most notably in the cathedrals at Exeter, Winchester and St Paul's, as well as at the Tower of London and in Westminster Abbey. Conducted tours around the vast, man-made complex of the **Beer Quarry Caves** leave visitors astonished at the sheer grandeur of the lofty halls, vaulted roofs and massive supporting pillars of natural stone. Not surprisingly, this complex underground network recommended itself to smugglers, amongst them the notorious Jack Rattenbury who was a native of Beer and published his *Memoirs of a Smuggler* in 1837.

A family attraction here is **Pecorama**, which sits on the cliff top high above the village and has an award-winning miniature railway, spectacular Millennium Gardens, the Peco Model Railway Exhibition, play areas and superb sea views.

South of Beer, the coastal path climbs to the summit of **Beer Head**, an imposing 425 feet high, which marks the beginning of the south coast's white chalk cliffs.

SEATON

17 miles NE of Exmouth on the B3172

 Seaton Tramway

 South West Coast Path

Set around the mouth of the River Axe, with red cliffs on one side and white cliffs on the other, Seaton was once a quite significant port. By the 16th century, however, the estuary had filled up with stones and pebbles, and it wasn't until moneyed Victorians came and built their villas (and one of the first concrete bridges in the world, in 1877) that Seaton was accorded a new lease of life. The self-confident architecture of those times gives the little town an attractive appearance, which is enhanced by its pedestrianised town centre and well-maintained public parks and gardens.

From Seaton, an attractive way of travelling along the Axe Valley is on the **Seaton Tramway** whose colourful open-topped tramcars, the oldest of which was built in 1904, trundle through an area famous for its bird life to the villages of Colyford and Colyton. The three-mile route follows the course of the River Axe, which is noted for its abundant wild bird life. Really dedicated tram fans, after a short lesson, are even permitted to take over the driver's seat.

From Seaton, eastwards, the **South West Coast Path** follows the coastline uninterruptedly all the way to Lyme Regis in Dorset. Considered by naturalists as the last and largest wilderness on the southern coast of England, this area of unstable cliffs, wood and scrub is also a haven for wildlife.

ADVERTISERS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

ACCOMMODATION FOOD AND DRINK

The Barn & Pinn Cottage, Bowd, Sidmouth	pg 130
Broomhill Farm, Muddiford, Barnstaple	pg 15
China Blue, Totnes	pg 75
Church House Inn, Holne, Newton Abbot	pg 60
The Corn Dolly Tea Shop, South Molton	pg 30
The Cranford Inn, St Giles in the Wood, Great Torrington	pg 25
The Cricket Inn - 'The Inn on the Shore', Beesands, Kingsbridge	pg 84
The Devon Wine School, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Crediton	pg 116
East Dart Hotel, Postbridge, Yelverton	pg 54
The Fox & Goose, Parracombe, Barnstaple	pg 11
Hampton Manor, Alston, Callington	pg 56
The Hartnoll Hotel, Bolham, Tiverton	pg 106
Lifton Hall Hotel and Village Inn, Lifton	pg 58
The Lobster Pot Bakery, Ilfracombe	pg 8
Magpies Gifts and the Nest Café, Newton Abbot	pg 100
Nobody Inn, Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter	pg 114
The Old Vicarage Bed and Breakfast, Broadhembury, Honiton	pg 124
Pannier Pantry, Bideford	pg 21
The Turf, Exminster, Exeter	pg 113
Victoria Inn, Salcombe	pg 86
White Hart Inn, Colyford, Colyton	pg 122

ACTIVITIES

Babbacombe Model Village, Torquay	pg 92
China Blue, Totnes	pg 75
Darts Farm, Clyst St George, Topsham	pg 110
The Devon Wine School, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Crediton	pg 116

Finishing Touches of Totnes, Totnes	pg 73
Gunns Art Gallery, Lynton	pg 5
Shamanka, Chagford, Newton Abbot	pg 46

ANTIQUES AND RESTORATION

Look Again Antiques & Country Furniture, The Quay Centre, Topsham	pg 112
---	--------

ARTS AND CRAFTS

The Bead Cellar, Black Torrington, Beaworthy	pg 38
China Blue, Totnes	pg 75
Darts Farm, Clyst St George, Topsham	pg 110
Finishing Touches of Totnes, Totnes	pg 73
Gunns Art Gallery, Lynton	pg 5
Hatherleigh Pottery, Hatherleigh, Okehampton	pg 35
Kittiwakes - Home, Garden & Beach, Braunton	pg 19
Mayne Gallery, Kingsbridge	pg 82
Mill House Fine Art Publishing Ltd, Colyton	pg 122
Salar Gallery, Hatherleigh, Okehampton	pg 35
Shamanka, Chagford, Newton Abbot	pg 46
Smugglers Needlecraft, Ilfracombe	pg 9
Vivian Gallery, Dawlish	pg 94

FASHIONS

Angel, Okehampton	pg 42
Birdi's Exquisite Lingerie, Ashburton, Newton Abbot	pg 64
Darts Farm, Clyst St George, Topsham	pg 110
Farley Menswear, Tavistock	pg 48
Jelly, Tavistock	pg 49
Kudos Clothing, Okehampton	pg 40
Liquorice Living, Tavistock	pg 49
Lynmouth Leisure, Lynmouth	pg 6
Magpies Gifts and the Nest Café, Newton Abbot	pg 100

ADVERTISERS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

GIFTWARE

Alison Ware, Totnes	pg 74
The Bead Cellar, Black Torrington, Beaworthy	pg 38
China Blue, Totnes	pg 75
Daisy Park Gift Boutique, South Molton	pg 29
Darts Farm, Clyst St George, Topsham	pg 110
Earth Angel Gifts, Teignmouth	pg 94
In House, Okehampton	pg 41
Kittiwakes - Home, Garden & Beach, Braunton	pg 19
Magpies Gifts and the Nest Café, Newton Abbot	pg 100
Mason Judge, Okehampton	pg 42
Presence, Ashburton, Newton Abbot	pg 66
Smugglers Needlecraft, Ilfracombe	pg 9

HOME AND GARDEN

Alison Ware, Totnes	pg 74
Busy Bee Florist, Axminster	pg 120
China Blue, Totnes	pg 75
Daisy Park Gift Boutique, South Molton	pg 29
Darts Farm, Clyst St George, Topsham	pg 110
Earth Angel Gifts, Teignmouth	pg 94
Hatherleigh Pottery, Hatherleigh, Okehampton	pg 35
In House, Okehampton	pg 41
Kittiwakes - Home, Garden & Beach, Braunton	pg 19
Liquorice Living, Tavistock	pg 49
Mason Judge, Okehampton	pg 42
Presence, Ashburton, Newton Abbot	pg 66
Susan's, Crediton	pg 115

JEWELLERY

The Bead Cellar, Black Torrington, Beaworthy	pg 38
In House, Okehampton	pg 41
Liquorice Living, Tavistock	pg 49
Mason Judge, Okehampton	pg 42

Mayne Gallery, Kingsbridge	pg 82
Silver Lion Jewellers, Ashburton, Newton Abbot	pg 64

PLACES OF INTEREST

Allhallows Museum, Honiton	pg 118
Castle Drogo, Drewsteignton, Exeter	pg 45
Exeter's Underground Passages, Exeter	pg 104
The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton	pg 55
Holsworthy Museum, Holsworthy	pg 37

SPECIALIST FOOD AND DRINK SHOPS

Brickyard Farm Shop, Hatherleigh, Okehampton	pg 36
The Cheese Company at the Taw Valley Creamery, North Tawton	pg 34
Darts Farm, Clyst St George, Topsham	pg 110
The Devon Wine School, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Crediton	pg 116
The Fish Deli, Ashburton, Newton Abbot	pg 65
Gerald David & Family, Clyst St George, Topsham	pg 111
Gerald David & Family, Ipplepen, Newton Abbot	pg 99
Healthwise Health and Wholefoods, Kingsbridge	pg 82
Little Turberfield Farm Shop, Sampford Peverell, Tiverton	pg 108
The Lobster Pot Bakery, Ilfracombe	pg 8
Millers Farm Shop, Kilminster, Axminster	pg 121
N H Creber Delicatessen, Tavistock	pg 50
Pannier Pantry, Bideford	pg 21
Sidmouth Trawlers, Sidmouth	pg 129
Thornes Farm Shop, Stockleigh Pomeroy, Crediton	pg 115

Travel Publishing Order Form

To order any of our publications just fill in the payment details below and complete the order form. For orders of less than 4 copies please add £1 per book for postage and packing. Orders over 4 copies are P & P free.

Please Complete Either:

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Travel Publishing Ltd

Or:

CARD NO:

EXPIRY DATE:

SIGNATURE:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TEL NO:

Please either send, telephone, fax or e-mail your order to:

Travel Publishing Ltd, Airport Business Centre, 10 Thornbury Road, Estover, Plymouth PL6 7PP

Tel: 01752 697280 Fax: 01752 697299 e-mail: info@travelpublishing.co.uk

	PRICE	QUANTITY		PRICE	QUANTITY
HIDDEN PLACES REGIONAL TITLES			COUNTRY LIVING RURAL GUIDES		
Cornwall	£8.99	.....	East Anglia	£10.99	.....
Devon	£8.99	.....	Heart of England	£10.99	.....
Dorset, Hants & Isle of Wight	£8.99	.....	Ireland	£11.99	.....
East Anglia	£8.99	.....	North East of England	£10.99	.....
Lake District & Cumbria	£8.99	.....	North West of England	£10.99	.....
Lancashire & Cheshire	£8.99	.....	Scotland	£11.99	.....
Northumberland & Durham	£8.99	.....	South of England	£10.99	.....
Peak District and Derbyshire	£8.99	.....	South East of England	£10.99	.....
Yorkshire	£8.99	.....	Wales	£11.99	.....
HIDDEN PLACES NATIONAL TITLES			West Country	£10.99	.....
England	£11.99	.....			
Ireland	£11.99	.....			
Scotland	£11.99	.....			
Wales	£11.99	.....			
OTHER TITLES					
Off The Motorway	£11.99	.....			
Garden Centres and Nurseries of Britain	£11.99	.....			
			TOTAL QUANTITY		
			TOTAL VALUE		

Looking for:

- Places to Visit?
- Places to Eat & Drink?
- Places to Shop?
- Places to Stay?

Then why not visit Travel Publishing's fully searchable website?



You'll find it very easy-to-use with:

- Informative pages on places to visit, stay, eat, drink and shop throughout the United Kingdom.
- Information on tens of thousands of places of interest as well as interesting stories, amusing anecdotes and historical facts on over 5,000 villages, towns and cities.



www.findsomewhere.co.uk