

Below are suggestions only and we cannot guarantee that they will be open on the day, so please check before you decide to visit.

## Fun Days Out

**Paignton Zoo** Home to thousands of amazing animals and plants, Paignton Zoo is a scientific charity dedicated to conserving our global wildlife heritage and inspiring in its many visitors a lifelong respect for animals and the environment.

**Living Coasts** Take a journey around the coasts of the world where amazing plants and animals live life on the edge. You'll see birds and mammals in specially designed naturalistic habitats, and with both indoor and outdoor exhibits, there's plenty to see and do whatever the weather.

**River Dart Adventures** Located in 90 acres encompassing woodland, lakes, the River Dart and breathtaking parkland, this is a beautiful location for a day of activities. An indoor climbing wall, canoeing, mega zip wire, abseiling and sailing are all available here.

**River Cruise** Take a trip on the River Dart, passing delightful scenery and arriving in picturesque, lively Dartmouth or vibrant Totnes. Explore the town's many stylish shops, cafes, galleries, museum and market-place, before enjoying the return journey.

**Canonteign Falls** Home to England's highest waterfall, descending 220 ft, Canonteign Falls is a breathtaking tourist attraction as well as a great family day out. There's a children's assault course, forest garden and nature trail, the giant spider and the trampolines and play area.

**Becky falls woodland park** It's easy to see why Becky Falls was voted Top Beauty Spot in Devon and why visitors have been returning since the park opened over a hundred years ago. Animals to meet and feed include Dartmoor ponies, miniature Shetland ponies, chipmunks, rescued birds of prey, owls and pygmy goats. (Wheelchair users welcome in the petting zoo and viewing areas, however the walks are not suitable for wheelchairs.)

**Miniature Pony and animal park** In 20 acres of beautiful Dartmoor parkland you will meet lots of friendly animals including pigs, goats, lambs, calves and birds. Enjoy scenic walks along nature trails, take time to relax by the tranquil lakes or have a picnic.

**World of Country Life** From animals to feed, to steam engines and vintage cars and bikes, there's lots to see and do on a trip to the World of Country Life. There's also a Victorian Street and an exhibition of agricultural machinery from yesteryear.

**Salcombe** Salcombe must be one of the most beautiful harbour towns in the world. Situated in the South Hams, at Devon's most southerly tip, Salcombe attracts visitors from all over the world at all times of year to enjoy many coast and country activities. Famous as a centre for sailing, diving and fishing the estuary has many sheltered, sandy beaches and is a base for walkers and others with a love of nature. The estuary also acts as home to a fleet of fishing boats which catch crab and lobster in local waters. Sometimes the arrival of dolphins and seals in the estuary generates excitement. Salcombe hosts a week long sailing regatta during the summer. In addition to sailing, visitors to Salcombe can visit fashionable shops, bars and restaurants, explore the popular sandy beaches using the local Salcombe ferry services or go for a hike on the South West Coast Path

**Crealy Adventure Park** Enjoy a wild day out with lots to keep everyone entertained. Play in the adventure zone, the UK's greatest indoor playground, or brave the Battle of the Bears. Thrill to massive rides, or take a more peaceful train tour through the Realm of Nature.

**Yelverton Paperweight Centre** An unusual attraction, displaying hundreds of glass paperweights. The collection was accumulated by Bernard Broughton and is now featured regularly in newspaper and magazine articles. The centre also has for sale a wide variety of glass paperweights, some of which are a limited edition.

**Plymouth Ski and Snowboard Centre** Open throughout the year and with three slopes to choose from including the longest artificial slope in the South West, the centre offers skiers and snowboarders of all levels the facilities to practice and learn new skills.

**Sidmouth** Sidmouth lies on the Jurassic Coast, and its Millennium Walkway passes beneath vivid red Triassic sandstone cliffs scoured and sculpted into fantastic shapes by the passage of ancient rivers. From here you can climb the South West Coast Path to Ladram Bay with its stunning red rock chimneys in one direction or picturesque Branscombe in the other. Sidmouth approaches perfection as it has everything you could possibly want - beaches, stunning coastal walks, gardens, a theatre and cinema, stylish eating places, and some of the best shops in East Devon selling desirable items such as unusual gifts, designer clothing, and lifestyle goods.

**National Marine Aquarium** The aquarium houses 50 live exhibits including 3 massive tanks. Over 4000 animals and 400 species are displayed in realistic habitats from local shorelines to coral reefs. Each of the six zones is packed full of amazing sea creatures and facts.

**The Donkey Sanctuary** As well as working on worldwide projects of national and international importance, the Donkey Sanctuary has many resident donkeys for you to meet. Spend time with these delightful animals — they love all the fuss and attention!

**Branscombe** On your way back from Beer, curving along a spectacular valley to the sea, Branscombe is believed to be the longest village in the country. It is one of the most relaxing and picturesque villages in Devon, with its thatched cottages and colourful hanging baskets appearing on many Devon Picture postcards. The beach at Branscombe Mouth has plenty of parking, a thatched, licensed restaurant and an abundance of rock pools just waiting to be explored. Those keen on fishing can take a trip out on a boat to catch mackerel. We think it is truly beautiful here and worth a visit!

**Pecorama** Home to the award winning Beer Heights Light Railway and PECO Model Railway Exhibition, Pecorama also has five steam miniature locomotives pulling passenger carrying trains on a mile long route over bridges, through steep sided cuttings and even a long dark tunnel.

**Honiton** Honiton is a pleasant, busy market town with a growing population of over 12,000. Historically, the town was one of the centres of the medieval West Country cloth trade and later became famous for its lace. There is an excellent museum containing the main collection of Honiton Lace, while the High Street hosts specialist shops for both lace and pottery. Indeed just about everything is on the High Street, wide enough to allow parking on both sides and lined with Georgian buildings, many of which are former coaching inns which became favourite resting places for travellers. Small courtyards and alleyways immediately off the High Street provide compelling market places in their own right with a variety of small shops. Renowned for its antiques, Honiton's world-wide reputation is justified by the large number of antique shops and centres situated on or near the High Street itself, together with one auction house. With more than 30 dealers to choose from, the sheer number and range of antiques available attracts collectors, dealers and visitors from all over the world to visit what has become the major antiques centre in the south-west of England.

**Tiverton** A bustling, historical market town in the heart of Mid Devon, Tiverton has a wide range of attractions to interest the visitor. The castle was occupied by the Earls of Devon up to the 16th Century and the restored canal with a horse drawn passenger service follows a glorious route through unspoilt countryside. The town itself has a lively market with a farmers market the third Wednesday of every month as well as a number of shops, tearooms and restaurants. A church trail exploring many of the outstanding churches in the area, as well as a local town trail, are available, enabling you to discover the hidden historic and architectural gems of the town and offering a fascinating insight into their history. The recently restored historic pannier market holds regular events including antiques and farmers markets. Canal walks and horse-drawn boat cruises take place on the Grand Western Canal with an amazing 24 bridges along its 11-mile stretch! Take a trip to Tiverton Castle, built in 1106 by Richard de Redvars on the orders of Henry I.

## **Beach**

**Broadsands Beach** A great sandy beach with easy access. Safe and sheltered, the beach rests between rock headlands and the long promenade with its colourful beach huts provides a level walk to both ends of the beach.

**Elberry Cove** Beautiful clear waters in an idyllic setting make Elberry Cove a lovely place to visit. Visitors can reach the shingle beach on a footpath from nearby Broadsands.

**Torquay Inner Harbour** Located along the northern shore of Tor Bay, the Torquay Harbour is an important landmark for local business and industry. This commercial port provides access to a vibrant selection of bars, restaurants and shops. The inner harbour can be found behind a cill and bridge and includes 170 trot moorings that can accommodate boats up to 9 metres in length.

**Babbacombe** Located near Torquay, Babbacombe offers a tranquil green space surrounded by glistening waters. This independent region offers a lovely theatre, promenade, hotels, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, shops and the renowned Babbacombe Model Village. These many enticing attractions are found above a pair of peaceful beaches and harbour. Footpaths and road access is available as well as the historic cliff railway.

**Goodrington Sands** Recommended by the Good Beach Guide, this award winning sandy beach has rock pools to keep children of all ages entertained. It's also a good beach for swimming, and there is easy access for all as well as ample parking.

**Meadfoot Beach** Meadfoot Beach is a small seaside region that offers a tranquil shingle beach setting. This beautiful natural landmark overlooks Torbay. Parking is available in a small local car park and along the road as well a public toilets, cliff top walks and a cafe. Enjoy a peaceful afternoon by relaxing along Meadfoot Beach!

**Breakwater Beach** Breakwater is a small shingle beach adjacent to picturesque Brixham Harbour. It's popular with divers because of its blue waters and there are plenty of facilities including a shop and restaurant with views over the bay.

**Teignmouth Beach** Dolphins are often spotted from this long sand and shingle beach, which stretches from the mouth of the River Teign towards Dawlish and is dominated by the grand Victorian pier. Look out over the famous Jurassic Coastline and see how the sand bars here can change shape overnight. (Dogs banned from the beach from May to September)

**Challaborough Beach** A winner of the coveted Blue Flag Award, this pretty little beach has something for everyone. Located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it has beautiful sands and great rock pools to explore. It also has a good reputation with surfers and bodyboarders.

**Bantham Beach** One of the most popular surfing beaches on the south coast, this fine sandy beach is backed by marram covered sand dunes and has lots of rock pools. Its location is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) at the mouth of the River Avon.

**Hope Cove** Located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this gorgeous sandy beach is perfect for a family day out. Little shops and a variety of charming restaurants can be found in the little villages of Inner and Outer Hope.

**Mill Bay** This privately owned beach is set in a cove across the estuary from Salcombe. It is a huge sheltered beach in beautiful surroundings with fine golden sands, rock pools and a stream running through. Bathing here is very safe.

**Thurlestone Beach** A beautiful, wide and sandy beach which borders an excellent local nature reserve. Popular with surfers, water sports enthusiasts and bird spotters; this is the perfect place for a game of cricket or football with sports equipment available for hire on the beach. Alternatively visitors can simply relax and enjoy the impressive views out to sea.

**Bovisand Beach** Bovisand beach can be found in a charming secluded bay, framed by impressive cliffs with yellow sands. Favoured by tourists and locals alike, it has a great flat expanse when the tide allows which is perfect for beach sports.

## **Biking & Hiking**

**A Dart Estuary Walk** This walk is among the most popular walks in this part of the county: a winning combination of wonderful sea views and the chance to explore part of Dartmouth, one of Devon's most attractive historic towns.

**Brixham and Berry Head Walk** Berry Head is a prominent feature on the South Devon coast, with views as far as the East Devon Coast. Within Tor Bay, next to the headland and largely sheltered by it, is the ancient fishing port of Brixham.

**Haldon Forest Park** Fun for all the family on an extensive network of traffic free trails. Choose from the many walking trails or cycle on the family and adventure cycle trails to challenge yourself on the freer ride, mountain bike areas.

**Exe Valley Ride** Take a journey through the city along the banks of the River Exe. Admire the beautiful cathedral and Quayside and get to know this great city.

**Exmouth to Budleigh Circuit** This is a short route, just six miles long, and takes in views of the coast line and the rural hinterland. The inland section follows the path of a former railway. Exmouth lies at the western gateway to the Jurassic coast.

**Plym Valley Trail** This route, part of Devon Coast to Coast NCN Route 27, follows the scenic former railway path that leads from Plymouth to the wild expanses of Dartmoor. Extensively resurfaced for long stretches, it offers a leisurely and pleasurable ride.

**Sticklepath cycle route** There are wonderful Dartmoor views on this route which takes you mainly along Devon's quiet country lanes, with a short stretch of the Tarka Trail; passing many places of historic interest on the way.

**Meldon Viaduct** Encompassing industrial history and natural beauty, this route is worth it for the views alone. Just south of Okehampton, the viaduct was built in 1874 and spans 165 metres over the remains of mineral mines. The view of Meldon Dam is almost 50 metres high.

**The Granite Way cycle route** This is an easy route of 11 miles with the least traffic in Devon. You'll cycle through rural Devon, enjoying spectacular views of Dartmoor and its wildlife on the way.

**The Dartmoor Way Hiking** Why not walk a short section of the Dartmoor Way? This circular 78 mile walking trail meanders across rolling moorland, through quaint Devon thatched villages along secluded wooded valleys, over clapper bridges and around Dartmoor's unique tors.

**Honiton's Circular Route** This circular 11 mile route straddles the border between Devon and Somerset, through the relatively unspoilt and forgotten landscape of the Blackdown Hills. Lots of wildlife and places of historical interest to see on the way.

**Grand Western Canal** Ideal for families with children, this route is flat, easy and mainly off road. There are open views of superb landscape along the way, varying between the sheltered woodland and sweeping vistas of the Blackdown Hills.

## **Golf & Sports**

**Town Parks Fishing** Town Parks have a great range of facilities to cater to both professional and amateur fishing enthusiasts alike. They offer angling tuition and night fishing, and the lakes are stocked with Rudd, Perch, Carp, Bream, Tench and Roachland Chub.

**Dartrock** Beginners and pros will love this indoor and outdoor climbing centre. Built at 10m high and boasting the best equipped wall in the Southwest this is an experience for both the young and old to enjoy. There is also a relaxing lounge where cake and coffee can be enjoyed.

**CRS Adventures: White Water Rafting** Based at the River Dart Country Park in Ashburton, Devon, CRS Adventures is situated in the heart of Dartmoor on the banks of the River Dart — ideal for enjoying a great range of exciting activities. White water rafting in Devon is often overlooked, but with many steep, granite rivers the courses encompass routes with varying degrees of difficulty so everyone can find something for them!

**Finlake Riding Centre** Located in the spectacular Teign valley on the edge of Dartmoor National Park is Finlake Riding centre. This riding centre caters for everyone - you can enjoy exhilarating rides which can include cream teas and evening pub rides, or, if you have small children, they can ride on the tiny miniature Shetland pony called 'Diddy mouse' or the slightly bigger 'Tinkerbelle'.

**Shilstone Rocks Stud and Dartmoor Riding** A family run riding centre which was established in 1962. Approved by the British Horse Society, it showcases a famous, prize winning stud and many other mares, foals and horses. Learn to ride or go for a trip across Dartmoor.

**Discovery Surf School** Discovery Surf School provides professional coaching for all ages and levels, with an emphasis on safe, high quality tuition in small groups.

**Plymouth Sailing School** Plymouth Sailing School is one of the UK's longest established sea schools with courses for everyone, from beginner to professional yachtsman, both RYA scheme courses and informal courses for a fun, yet relaxing and educational weekend.

**Dartmoor Gliding Society** A great local club in the picturesque location of South Devon. Originally founded in 1983, the club started with a twin seat open cockpit glider and a small group of enthusiastic members. Now the club has a grass runway, club house and a hangar for a fleet of gliders.

**Axe Cliff Golf Club** Founded in 1884, Axe Cliff Golf Club is not only one of the oldest courses in Devon but was designed by legendary golf course architect and five times open winner in the early 1900s, Scotland's James Braid.

**Dainton Golf Club** Located between Newton Abbot and Ipplepen opposite Fermoys the Garden Centre.

## Nature Reserves

**East Dartmoor Woods and Heath National Nature Reserve** Yarner Wood, Trendlebere Down and the Bovey Valley Woodlands all make up the East Dartmoor Woods and Heaths area. This special area is home to a number of birds and lower plant communities and are a continuing site for wildlife diversification.

**Berry Head National Nature Reserve** Berry Head to Sharkham Point is special area of flora and fauna that is a haven for several nationally rare and threatened species including endangered greater horseshoe bats, who have found a home in the caves at Berry Head.

**Coleton Fishacre National Trust Garden** The perfect wildlife garden, set in a shelteredcombe on the Devon coast near Dartmouth. The garden is great for spotting butterflies, in August and September you are likely to see the Clouded Yellow, Red Admiral and Painted Lady.

**Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve** The nature reserve is located at the mouth of the River Exe on a long sand spit that is home to many species of wildlife and holds geomorphologic interest. Habitats include dunes, grassland, ponds, salt marsh and mudflats.

**Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve** Slapton Ley is a unique, reed fringed wetland and home to otters, mink, badgers, birds and bats. It is split into two leys, or lakes, the Lower Ley being the largest natural freshwater lake in South West England.

**Exmouth Local Nature Reserve** Located at the southern end of the Exe estuary, this reserve encompasses a large area of tidal sand and mud and is one of the biggest of its type in Devon. In autumn thousands of birds fly from the freezing Arctic to winter here. Dark-bellied brent geese, widgeon and pintail ducks can all be seen.

**Prawle Point** This is a well known migration watch point for land and sea birds, and is possibly the best location in the UK for seeing Cirl Bunting in their breeding grounds. Sooty Shearwater's have also been spotted from this area.

**The Old Sludge Beds** The reed beds here are home to a large number of wetland birds. The reserve has emerged as an important stop-off point for the huge amounts of migrating birds which use it as a feeding area. Keep an eye out for Cetti's Warblers.

**Chapel Wood RSPB** Chapel Wood is a broadleaved woodland, sited on a steep hillside, crowned by an Iron-Age hill fort, with a stream running down either side. As well as an impressive variety of birds, you might spot red deer, badgers and brown hares.

**Plym Bridge Peregrine Watch** Peregrines have been breeding on the quarry face in Plymbridge for many years. You can watch them hunt for prey — they are the world's fastest birds, reaching speeds of 124 mph when diving for fish.

**Aylsbere Common RSPB** Stroll around the lovely heathland and keep an out for Dartford warblers and stonechats over the summer months. Keep your eyes peeled for the many dragonflies, butterflies and damselflies that have made the area their home.

**Escot Park Beavers** Spend an evening watching wild caught Bavarian beavers in their two acre enclosure encircling ponds, woodland and a section of stream within Escot Park. The beavers have built the first dam in the South West in 800 years.

**Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve** Between the Tamar and the Lynher estuaries is a picturesque stretch of country which is now managed for wildlife. Mainly farmland, its habitats of wetland, hay meadows, arable land and hedgerows attract large flocks of goldfinches.

**Tincombe nature reserve** Composed of primarily wet meadows, this reserve also has a shallow pool, woodland and hedgerows. Keep your eyes peeled for toads and frogs among the pond's water lilies and yellow flag irises and orchids in the southern marsh.

## **Gardens & Woodlands**

**Cockington Country Park** Cockington Country Park is a gorgeous green space that offers travellers much to do during their stay in Torquay. Go on an adventure through the many gardens, walks and landmarks that make this such a culture-rich region. The Geopark is a UNESCO recognised site that includes 400 million years of fascinating history.

**Burnham Nurseries** A beautiful family run nursery that is well worth a visit. Take a walk around some of the most impressive collections of orchids in the country. Open since 1950, this award winning assortment of species has been featured at The Chelsea Flower Show for the last 52 years and is open year round.

**Avenue Cottage Garden** This 11 acre garden, 200 years old and much restored in recent years, features many rare and unusual species. See the stunning driveway lined by 150 year old turkey oaks and follow it up to the beautiful landscaped gardens dating from the 1700s.

**Dartmoor** Dartmoor is not just about the landscape; there's a lot more to it than that. It's not just about the ponies, or the tors, the history or the heritage; but that's a good start. It's about getting out there, experiencing new things. This living, breathing, working landscape holds the secret to a past that stretches back over the centuries, and a future that is both sustainable and green. From rare birds and butterflies, Neolithic monuments and ancient woodland, to tradition, folklore and farming on horseback, Dartmoor has it all. Leading the way for the arts, all things organic, a haven for literary greats and explorers, you will be walking in some awesome footsteps.

**Stone Lane Gardens** Stone Lane Gardens is a 5 acre arboretum holding important national collections of wild-origin Birch and Alder trees in a lovely landscaped water and woodland setting. The Mythic Garden Sculpture Exhibition showcases the work of West country's artists and designers.

**Lukesland Gardens** A small valley, with a brook cascading from its source on Dartmoor through ponds and over waterfalls towards the River Erme, is the beautiful setting for this 24 acre woodland garden. Flowering shrubs, trees and a wealth of wild flowers feature here. (Limited wheelchair access)

**Bicton Park Botanical Gardens** Enchanting gardens which are set in Devon's lovely Otter Valley. Enjoy the tranquillity and peace of this beautiful site and perhaps try your hand at some of the many activities on offer, such as mini golf or have a ride on the Woodland Railway.

**The Garden House** A magnificent 10 acre garden created after World War II by Lionel Fortescue, a noted plant collector, and now owned by the Fortescue Garden Trust. Its romantic 2 acre walled garden is one of the finest in the country and surrounds the ruins of a 16th century vicarage.

**Cotehele Gardens** Gorgeous gardens surrounding a 15th Century house, including a lush valley garden with a medieval dovecote, pond, Victorian summerhouse and 18th century tower. There's a great tea room and museum down at the Quay.

## Local Attractions

**Cockington Court** Cockington Court invites creative individuals to explore its spacious crafts centre. This attraction can be found within an award-winning Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust park. The facility is housed in a historic manor and includes more than 20 studios and tea rooms. The grounds also include a Tudor rose garden, walled art garden, children's play area and contemporary art gallery.

**The Play Cafe** The whole family will love the Play Cafe! This exciting attraction includes a multi-level entertainment venue that provides young travellers with many ways to have a great time. Along with colourful play areas, the facility includes a relaxing lounge which serves delicious food, fair trade coffee and free Wi-Fi. Private hire and party services are available.

**Princess Theatre - Torquay** Set on the seafront overlooking the marina, the theatre hosts a wide variety of shows all year round from comedians, tribute acts and opera, to West-end musicals and ballets. Great choice of restaurants and bars close by.

**Babbacombe Model Village** The Babbacombe Model Village is a unique attraction that has been fascinating visitors and locals for over 50 years. Travellers can explore 4 acres of gorgeous award-winning gardens while observing many classic architectural styles, including Tudor, Victorian, Georgian and Medieval. Many key landmarks are featured. The facility also includes a tea room and shop.

**Totnes Elizabethan Museum** Lively presentation for families and children is a feature of the Totnes Museum. Like a time machine, it takes visitors back to other worlds: from prehistoric times, through the Elizabethan period (from which the building dates) and on to the Victorian age.

**Big wheel** The enormous Torquay Big Wheel stands a massive 60 metres along the beautiful seafront. The outer frame includes 40 enclosed gondolas complete with lighting. This attraction reaches higher than Nelson's Column and offers one of the best views of the glistening bay. The entire loop spans approximately 12 minutes and includes audio commentary covering local events, history and attractions.

**Riviera Life Church** The Riviera Life Church in Torquay strives to help individuals and families "build strong and healthy lives with God at the centre." This modern religious organisation hosts regular weekly services along with an array of additional events. Travellers are welcome to attend and become part of the church's vibrant congregation.

**Babbacombe Theatre** Get ready to be entertained at the Babbacombe Theatre! This refurbished venue has become a staple in town, with a history dating back seven decades. Each year brings in new, exciting shows that will captivate the imagination. If you love live performances, then the Babbacombe Theatre is a must-see attraction!

**Ashburton** A lively centre for inland tourism, with walking, canoeing, pony trekking and fishing bringing many visitors to the town. Beside specialist shops for walkers, there are plenty of antique shops, galleries and a variety of eateries to sustain your interest. There is an amazing 'Fish Deli' here which you must try, they have the most amazing hand dived scallops, the biggest I have ever seen! and a huge selection of stuffed olives! Ashburton has had a reputation for its pubs, inns and coaching houses for hundreds of years. Its importance as a Stannery Town and its location on the main road to London meant that many a weary and hungry traveller tarried a while.

**Dartmouth** The Jewel of South Hams, A mesh of narrow lanes, stairways and corridors, with plenty of medieval and Elizabethan streetscapes, make Dartmouth a must-see for anyone visiting this part of Devon. The town has a nautical charm and fascinating history, reflected in its architecture. It also has a reputation for good food - with many fine restaurants, as well as arts, antiques and craft shops just about everywhere. Dartmouth is a truly magical place a mad hotch potch of architectural styles with creatures of myth, filled with artistic talent, bursting with English eccentricity. A town where history is alive, where shops are unique, charming, quirky and individual, where organic and local produce is proudly represented by a host of top quality restaurants and cafes

**Dawlish** Dawlish is a fascinating Regency resort town nestled attractively between steep surrounding hills with the railway sweeping along the entire seafront. Character cottages, impressive villas, Regency and early Victorian architecture, which has inspired authors to put pen paper. The narrow streets, bustling shops, famous Black Swans, the brook that gurgles merrily through the Pleasure Gardens and of course the welcoming tea rooms offering the traditional scrumptious Devon Cream Tea.

**Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World** Set in beautiful Haldon Forest, the centre explores the social, environmental and scientific issues involved in our changing relationship to nature through the work of contemporary artists. Exhibitions and events are held throughout the year.

**Exmouth** Exmouth is the oldest seaside town in Devon. It is a beautiful estuary town in a glorious setting on Devon's south coast. It boasts the longest seafront in Devon with 2 miles of golden sandy beach, fascinating rock pools and sparkling sea, it truly represents British seaside at its best. Exmouth is the western gateway to the Jurassic Coast. The town, too, is full of life all the year round, with a spring arts festival, the Summer Fun Time programme, the Sailing Regatta, the October Carnival, the Christmas Cracker and, of course, the famous Christmas Day Swim.

**The Reel Cinema** The Reel Cinema is an independent family run traditional cinema showing blockbuster titles on 35mm film, Dolby stereo sound and screen system. New releases shown two to three times daily — see website for details.

**St Tudy** St Tudy is a tranquil village with pretty cottages and craft shops and a beautiful 15th century church made from Delabole slate. With Bodmin Moor on the doorstep, it makes an ideal location for exploring both coastal and inland regions.

**Northcott Theatre** Productions at the Northcott Theatre vary from comedies to tragedies, new writing to classics. The theatre describes itself as a creative platform where people can meet to be inspired.

**Ottery St Mary** The birthplace of Coleridge and also the town of William Thackeray, author of Vanity Fair, more recently JK Rowling drew inspiration from Devon, and fans of Harry Potter will know the name of Ottery St. Catchpole. The Church of St. Mary is an accurate scale replica of Exeter Cathedral. The old wooden stocks were used as an alternative to a night in jail for drunkenness. Ottery St. Mary sits on the banks of the Otter River. Escot House and its Capability Brown gardens are nearby. Mention Ottery St. Mary to locals and they will talk about November 5th and the world famous tar barrels event which originated in the 17th century. On the Saturday nearest to midsummers day the pixies take their revenge! Children re-enact a legend and run to the church where they capture the bell ringers and spirit them off to their cave in the town square.

**Morwellham Quay Museum** Authentic costumes, trips underground to witness the harsh working conditions of Victorian copper miners and your children acting as servants or working on the mine 'dressing floor', this is the award winning living history experience at Morwellham Quay.

**Bickleigh** Picturesque village in the Exe valley on the main road between Exeter and Tiverton. It has lovely thatched cottages, a railway museum, gardens, a 14th century bridge, a working water mill, shopping and crafts centre. Today's Mill blends the traditions of a bygone age with contemporary living and offers out of town shopping and dining in the most idyllic of settings.

**Seaton Tramway** Ride the heritage railway along the Axe Valley between Seaton, Colyford and Colyton. The journey takes you through two nature reserves in which you can get some great views of the local wildlife.

**Allhallows Museum of Lace** Dating from around 1327, the building housing the museum is the oldest in Honiton. As well as the 100,000 year old bones of the Honiton Hippos, the area's earliest known inhabitants, the museum holds one of the most comprehensive collections of lace in the world.

**Seaton Bay** Situated at the mouth of the River Axe, Seaton is famous for its heritage from railway. Seaton Tramway's fleet of gleaming lovingly restored heritage trams makes a nostalgic progress along a three mile narrow gauge electric tramway through the beautiful Axe Valley with stops at Colyford and Colyton. Seaton also have a Marshes Nature Reserve where you may see wildfowl and wading birds in winter and dragonflies and butterflies in summer. The town itself has a good mix of beach themed shops, galleries, bookshops, antiques, crafts and gifts. Also excellent for walkers, there are stunning views of the Jurassic Coast from the South West Coast Path of Seaton.

## Historical & Heritage Sites

**Compton Castle** A rare survivor, this medieval fortress with high curtain walls, towers and two portcullis gates, set in a landscape of rolling hills and orchards, is a bewitching mixture of romance and history. Home for nearly 600 years to the Gilbert family, including Sir Humphrey Gilbert, half-brother to Sir Walter Raleigh.

**Tuckers Maltings** Producing malt in the conventional fashion, this company are also unique as they are the only traditional maltings in the country that give guided tours to the public. Spend some time in their speciality bottled beer shop and take home the perfect souvenir for your trip.

**Bygones** Be transported back to the Victorian age by exploring Bygones! This unique landmark actually includes four attractions in one. Walk the life size street with Victorian shops, including the general store, toy shop and apothecary. Military memorabilia can be seen at the World War I trench. Visitors can also observe 28 feet of working model railway complete with highly detailed mountains, brass nameplate and much more!

**Agatha Christie Mile** The Agatha Christie Mile takes travellers back to the golden age of Jazz as they take a tour based around one of the world's best selling authors. This unique tour starts at either the Grand or Imperial Hotel and covers a stretch of gorgeous seafront property. The journey includes the Princess Pier, Beacon Cove, Princess Gardens, The Pavilion, Royal Torbay Yacht Club and the Agatha Christie Bust.

**Kents Cavern** Kents Cavern is a must-see attraction for anyone who loves to learn about prehistory. This fascinating landmark is known as Britain's premier prehistoric cave. See where ancient humans took shelter thousands of years ago. The caves are a protected national monument. Visitors can also explore the Woodland Trail or go on a fossil hunt!

**Buckfast Abbey** Home to a community of Benedictine Monks, Buckfast Abbey is a spot of natural beauty and tranquillity where many find a connection with God. The Monks still keep the traditions of bee keeping and tonic wine making and you can buy the fruits of their efforts in one of the shops.

**Dartmouth Castle** Dating from the 14th century, this well preserved castle juts out into the narrow entrance of the Dart Estuary, and was intended to protect the homes of Dartmouth merchants from shipbourne attack. Explore 600 years of history, journeying through time from the Tudor period and the Civil War to World War II.

**Powderham Castle** Set amid an ancient deer park, this magnificent medieval castle has been a family home to the Earls of Devon for over 600 years. Tour guides will entertain you with fascinating stories of the castle as you explore its impressive rooms.

**Castle Drogo** The last castle to be built in England, and one of the most remarkable works of Sir Edwin Lutyens. Constructed between 1910 and 1930, it commands spectacular views over Dartmoor from its 900ft high perch above the River Teign, and its interior combines the grandeur of a medieval castle with the comfort of the 20th century.

**Saltram House** Exquisite Georgian Mansion in a landscaped park which was the film location for Sense and Sensibility. The historic tack room in the stables and the rolling wooded landscape park with 19th century gardens, orangery and follies make it a lovely day, out full of English heritage.

**Finch Foundry** Run by the Finch family from 1814 to 1960, the Foundry harnessed the power of the River Taw in Sticklepath village to produce agricultural implements and mining tools for the tin and copper mines and china clay industry of Devon and Cornwall.

**Buckland Abbey** Buckland's peaceful setting today belies its swashbuckling past, brought to life through exhibitions and redesigned galleries, including new introductory film and interactive displays. Sir Francis Drake, its one time owner, is rumoured to haunt the place with 'accompanying hell hounds.' (See website for specific wheelchair information)

**Killerton** A family home famed for costumes and comfortable living, this elegant 18th century house boasts wonderful views and period rooms displaying over 9,000 outfits of the 'Paulise de Bush' costume collection. There are some lovely walks in the park and a great tea room/restaurant.

**Plymouth City Museum and art gallery** A magnificent Edwardian building, which opened in 1910, houses a wide collection of art and human and natural history. The events and activities programmes include workshops, children's holiday activities and concerts.

**Lydford Gorge** This famous and geologically important gorge is 1½ miles long and can be viewed from an enchanting woodland and riverside circular walk, which passes the spectacular 30m-high White Lady waterfall and thrilling Devil's Cauldron.

**Mary Newman's Cottage** Reportedly the home of Sir Francis Drake's first wife this charming little house also has a lottery funded garden with traditional 16th century varieties of herbs, flowers and vegetables. Get a flavour of Elizabethan life in the replica rooms of this little Tudor cottage.

**Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre** A fun and informative day for all the family, with working and static exhibits of fairgrounds, steam engines and vintage machinery, combined with a wealth of heritage material, and all set in beautiful rural surroundings.