

EXMOOR

National Park

Pocket Guide

Discover one of
England's finest
landscapes....



EXMOOR
NATIONAL PARK

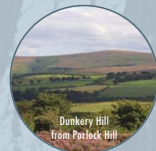
Welcome to Exmoor

One of
Britain's breathing spaces

A unique landscape of moorland, woodland, valleys and farmland, shaped by people and nature over thousands of years. Where high cliffs plunge into the Bristol Channel, and cosy pubs and tearooms offer delicious local produce.

On Exmoor it is still possible to find tranquillity and peace as well as rediscover your sense of adventure; to catch a glimpse of wild red deer, be amazed by dark skies full of stars, and explore villages full of character.

5 things not to miss...



Dunkery Hill
from Parlock Hill

Enjoy the space and views of the open moor



Exmoor Ponies of
Little Ash Combe

Find the famous Exmoor Ponies



River Exe at Winstford

Listen to one of Exmoor's beautiful rivers



Foreland Point

Explore Exmoor's dramatic coastline



Allerford

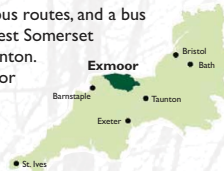
Treat yourself to a cream tea in one of Exmoor's historic villages

How to get here

Exmoor has some great travel links with the rest of the UK. The mainline railway skirts south of Exmoor. Taunton and Tiverton Parkway are ideally placed to link with other transport services to Exmoor including numerous bus routes, and a bus connection to the West Somerset Railway line from Taunton.

To the west of Exmoor the Tarka Line runs from Exeter to Barnstaple, which is also linked by buses to Exmoor.

There are also coach services available to Taunton, Tiverton, Minehead and Barnstaple. Exmoor can be reached in 30-60 minutes from junctions 24, 25 and 27 of the **M5** - follow the brown tourist signs.



How to get around

For information, inspiration and ideas to get around the National Park without a car, visit www.exploremoor.co.uk which includes an interactive transport map, timetable links and car free itineraries.

For up to the minute public transport information call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 (BT calls charged at 10p per minutes, plus 6p call set up fee, mobile and other providers' charges vary).

Where to stay

Local accommodation, as well as events listings and attractions, can be found online at www.visit-exmoor.co.uk. To help keep Exmoor special you can also search for green accredited accommodation. A brochure can also be requested via the site or by calling 01643 702624.

Where to find out more

We have three National Park Centres, where our friendly and knowledgeable staff will help you make the most of a visit to Exmoor. Each Centre has a range of information, publications and displays.

Dulverton National Park Centre
7-9 Fore Street, Dulverton, TA22 9EX
Tel 01398 323841

Dunster National Park Centre
Dunster Steep, TA24 6SE
Tel 01643 821835

Lynmouth National Park Centre
Lyndale Car Park, Lynmouth
Tel 01598 752509

Contact us:

Exmoor National Park Authority
Exmoor House
Dulverton
Somerset, TA22 9HL
Telephone: 01398 323665
Fax: 01398 323150
info@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk



Ponies at Landrace Bridge



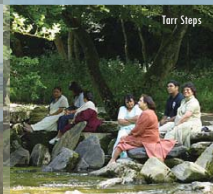
Doone Valley



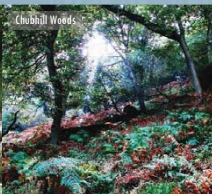
Parlock Weir



Wimbleball Lake



Tarr Steps



Chubbill Woods

Cover photo by Adam Burton, other photos by Exmoor National Park Authority staff



www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Red Deer Stag



Did You Know?

- Exmoor has the longest wooded coastline in Britain.
- The Exmoor coast has the highest and lowest tides in Europe.
- Exmoor is home to England's tallest tree, a Douglas fir near Dunster.
- Exmoor has the highest sea cliffs on the British mainland.
- Exmoor ponies are Britain's oldest native breed of horse.
- The Exmoor Coast is the most remote in England.
- Exmoor has plants that grow nowhere else in the world, including two species of whitebeam tree.
- Britain's longest footpath, The South West Coast Path, begins on the Exmoor coast.
- Beech trees grow at greater altitudes on Exmoor than anywhere else in Britain.
- Exmoor National Park has some of the darkest skies in the UK, and is a great location for stargazing.
- 71% of Exmoor National Park lies within Somerset and 29% within Devon.
- The highest point on Exmoor is Dunkery Beacon at 519m above sea level.

What makes Exmoor special?

An inspiring landscape

Within its 267 square miles Exmoor National Park contains an amazing variety of landscapes that provide inspiration and enjoyment to visitors and residents alike. Large areas of open moorland provide a sense of remoteness, wildness and tranquillity rare in southern Britain, while spectacular coastal views, deep wooded valleys, high sea cliffs and fast flowing streams all combine to form a rich and distinct mosaic.

Long Stone



A wealth of wildlife

The moorland, woodland, streams and farmland of Exmoor support a great diversity of wildlife including herds of wild red deer, rich lichen communities, rare butterflies, bats, and other species uncommon in southern Britain. Salmon still return from years at sea to travel up rivers such as the Exe and Barle to the same spawning grounds they hatched from.

Treasuring the past

The landscape of Exmoor tells the story of how people have lived in, exploited and enjoyed Exmoor over the last 8000 years. Burial mounds on high ridges, unique and ancient patterns of standing stones, cliff top Roman forts, astonishingly preserved medieval villages and incredible Victorian industrial engineering are all there to be explored.

Looking to the future

Exmoor is a deeply traditional place, where rural skills and knowledge are still valued, and locally distinctive breeds such as Exmoor Horn sheep and herds of free-living Exmoor Ponies are a common sight. But Exmoor is also a place with an exciting future, where "green" tourism and sustainable energy is encouraged and our moorlands are valued for their ability to provide clean water and store carbon in deep peat.

Shingle ridge, Porlock



Packhorse Bridge, Allerford



Deer spotting on Porlock Hill



Tour of Britain, Brendon Common



Hawkcombe, view to Dunkery



Gallox Bridge



Heath Fritillary, Alcombe Common



Butterfly Walk



Confidence in the countryside

Exmoor's well maintained Footpaths and Bridleways offer great opportunities for exploring. You will find routes to suit everyone including a range of more accessible routes. For more information please contact one of the National Park Centres. Public rights of way are signed from the roadsides with the following colours:



Yellow
Public Footpath
walkers only



Blue
Public Bridleway
walkers
horse riders
cyclists



Purple
Restricted Byway
walkers
horse riders
cyclists
carriage drivers

All our wooden signposts are made using timber from sustainably managed woodland in Exmoor National Park.

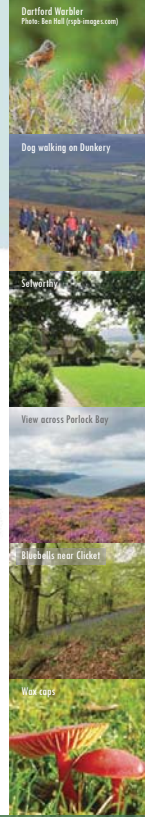
The Countryside Code:

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



This map is only intended as a guide. For more detailed mapping we recommend OS Explorer map 0L9 (Exmoor), available from National Park Centres and many other outlets throughout the National Park, which shows Access land where the public has a right of access on foot for open air recreation. For more information visit www.openaccess.gov.uk

Find walks and more on our new interactive mapping section online at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/visitor-map



Some of the best places on Exmoor for...

Inspiring Landscapes

Dunkery Beacon **1** is the highest point on Exmoor and has spectacular 360 degree views. Haddon Hill **2** has an easily accessible moorland walk with views over Wimbleball Lake and beyond. The southern moorlands of Exmoor have views reaching right across rolling Devon countryside to Dartmoor. Great Hangman **3** near Combe Martin, Hurlestone Point **4** near Bossington and the famous Valley of Rocks **5** near Lynton all have amazing views along the coast. One of the best ways to see coastal views is on the open topped bus that runs between Minehead and Lynmouth.



The 300 bus on the A39 between Parlock and Lynmouth

Seeing Exmoor Ponies

Exmoor's ponies are free-roaming and likely to be seen on any areas of high moorland, although Winsford Hill **6**, Porlock Hill **7** and Molland Moor **8** are particularly good places to look. For a more hands on experience, the Exmoor Pony Centre, at Ashwick **9** near Dulverton is the place to go.



Exmoor Pony - Haddon Hill

Exploring Exmoor's Past

With a history going back thousands of years the past is all around you on Exmoor. The higher ground is rich in ancient standing stones and earth mounds or "barrows" from the Neolithic and Bronze ages (3000 to 700 BC). In the Iron age (700BC to the Roman Invasion in 43AD), hillforts were constructed on high ground and these can still be found at places such as Bat's Castle, **10** near Dunster. The Romans too left their mark, with the small forts at Martinhoe **11** and Old Burrow **12** built to keep a watch over the important seaways of the Bristol Channel.



Dunster Pottery Kiln

By the 11th century, the "forest" of Exmoor was established as a royal hunting ground. Dunster, with its famous castle, is probably the best preserved medieval village in England, while the Victorians built the still working Cliff Railway **13** that links Lynton and Lynmouth, and the recently preserved West Somerset Mineral Railway **14** linking the iron mines of the Brendon Hills with the port of Watchet.

Enjoying local produce

Whether visiting one of the larger settlements or exploring our many villages you should never have to go hungry on Exmoor. In places such as Bossington **15**, Brendon **16**, Challacombe **17**, Exford **18**, Luxborough **19**, Malmsmead **20**, Parracombe **21**, Roadwater **22**, Selworthy **23**, Simonsbath **24**, Wheddon Cross **25**, Winsford **26**, Witherpool **27**, and Wootton Courtenay **28** you will be able to find everything from a traditional cream tea to a satisfying pub lunch made with top quality local ingredients. One of the delights of exploring Exmoor off the beaten track is coming across a local farm, pub or cottage offering real home baked food in beautiful surroundings.

Adventure

Exmoor, with its great network of bridleways and lanes quite rightly has a reputation as one of the best places in England for horse riding and mountain biking. National Park Centres **1** sell a variety of maps and route guides to help you get the best out of a visit. For those who prefer paddle to saddle, Wimbleball Lake **29** near Brompton Regis offers a great range of watersports and fishing as well as lakeside walks. For more information on outdoor activities see www.activeexmoor.com.



Abseiling at the Valley of Rocks

Wandering in the woods

The woodland walks that start at the famous Tarr Steps **30** and run alongside the beautiful river Barle, are popular places for family walks. Horner Wood **31**, to the south of Porlock and Watersmeet **32** near Lynmouth, both owned by the National Trust, are beautiful and very special areas of Exmoor oak woodland rich in rare lichens that thrive in the clear moist air. To see England's tallest tree, then the specially built "Tall Trees Trail" **33** near Dunster is the place to go with a range of level and accessible woodland walks.



Bossington

Towns & Villages

Lynton and Lynmouth: 13 Victorian charm and dramatic coastal views. Close to the famous Valley of Rocks and home to the Cliff Railway. The National Trust owned Watersmeet Estate offers beautiful woodland walks from Lynmouth along the East Lyn River. **Dunster: 34** Famous for its castle, historic yarn market and picturesque charm, Dunster is understandably one of the most popular places to visit in the National Park. **Dulverton: 35** A small friendly town nesting in the Barle Valley with steep wooded hills around. It makes an ideal centre from which to explore Exmoor.

Minehead: 36 Although just outside the National Park boundary, Minehead acts as the eastern gateway to Exmoor and has all the services, shops and facilities you would expect in a bustling coastal town. For a nostalgic journey go on a West Somerset Railway train often pulled by steam locomotives.

Porlock: 37 Set in its own vale, on one of the few areas of low ground along Exmoor's rocky high coast, Porlock and the nearby historic port of Porlock Weir **38** are full of character and historic interest. A great base to explore the South West Coast Path.

Combe Martin: 39 Located at the western edge of Exmoor National Park and the eastern edge of North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

- Other places to visit**
- Combe Martin Museum 39** 01271 889 031
 - Dunster Doll Museum 34** 01643 821 220
 - Lyn & Exmoor Museum, 13** Lynton
 - West Somerset Rural Life Museum, 40** Allerford 01643 862529
 - Doverly Manor Museum, 37** Doverhay, Porlock
 - Exmoor Owl & Hawk Centre, 40** West Lynch Farm, Allerford 01643 862816



Doverly Manor Museum



The Valley of Rocks

Exmoor Pony - Haddon Hill

Newcombe

Man and child

Dunkery Beacon

Dunster

Great Hangman

Lynmouth Harbour

The Milky Way as seen from Exmoor

Robber's Bridge - Hair Water