

ENGLAND / DEVON COAST & MOORS 8-DAY ITINERARY:-

DAY 1:- Arrival

For guest arriving by air we pickup at both Heathrow & Gatwick Airports at 11 a.m.. please see travel information below.

For guest arriving early and making their own way to our first night lodging, please see travel logistics below.

Our journey begins in the scenic 'North Downs' chalkland of Surrey in South-East England. The trip begins with dinner the first night at the charming White Horse Hotel in Dorking within striking distance of both London and some fine country walking along the 'North Downs Way' footpath.

DAY 2:-

Our first day of walking leads along "the downs", high above the Surrey villages to the picturesque and ancient villages of Gomshall and Shere. Shere was voted the most beautiful village in Surrey and has an 800 year old church and Gomshall has an old mill and tea house where you will experience your first of many cream teas! Hiking options are either 6 or 8 miles depending on whether you choose to start at the top of "the downs" or walk the first two uphill miles that wind through the vineyards of the Denbies Winery.

DAY 3:-

The next day we drive down to the South-West peninsula of England, stopping at a pub along the way for lunch. We will arrive at the beautiful harbor village of Lynmouth on foot. Our walk along the East Lynn River takes us through the gorgeous National Trust property of Watersmeet (with the choice of a more strenuous route up and over the moorland of Exmoor) and brings us to the doorstep of The Rising Sun Hotel. The shorter (and less steep) hike along the river bank is a total of about 4 miles, while ascending the switchbacks up on to the moors before dropping into the village adds a couple of miles (about 6 miles). The hotel is a 14th century smugglers inn and a one time haunt of Shelley and R.D. Blackmore! We spend 2 nights at this waterside inn with its wonderful character and truly gourmet dining.

DAY 4:-

The next day we explore a famous section of the North Devon coastpath (this is Lorna Doone country) with its craggy shoreline and endless views. The longer option involves a fair bit of up and down on the 8 mile route into the next valley and ends at one of England's more picturesque public houses (pubs!). The shorter route loops inland and returns to Lynmouth via the hilltop town of Lynton (anywhere from 4 to 6 miles depending on whether people choose to walk between the two villages or take the famous "Cliff Railway".)

DAY 5:-

Onward now to Dartmoor and a moorland walk past wild Dartmoor ponies and across a stark but fascinating landscape on route to the village of Peter Tavy and lunch at the 15th century Peter Tavy Inn. From the pub we head up over "Cox Tor" in the heart of the moors. This 3 to 4 mile hike can be made easier by walking around the tor rather than over it! Time permitting we may also visit the lovely Lydford Gorge with its scenic pools and waterfalls. Walks of 1 to 3 miles are possible.

From Dartmoor we head down to the South Devon coastline, to the narrow lanes and fishing boats of Salcombe and to the secluded Soar Mill Cove Hotel. This luxury family-run hotel is situated just minutes from the coast path and is ideally located for our walks along the coastline and our visits into the picturesque town center.

DAY 6:-

Over the next few days our walks take us along some of the finest stretches of Devon's coastpath. From Salcombe there is an option of a gentle 5 mile loop that winds around Bolt Head and offers some spectacular views both down the coast and up the estuary towards town. Those looking for a longer day can choose to cover between 8 and 11 miles along the coastpath ending in the lovely villages of Inner and Outer Hope!

DAY 7:-

The next day, rolling farmland, hedge-lined country lanes, rocky headlands and the added attraction of Dartmouth Castle awaits us. We may also visit the strange village of Hallsands, a cliffside fishing hamlet that was destroyed in a freak storm in 1917 and whose eerie ruins now stand silhouetted against the skyline. Walks of between 4 and 8 miles are possible and a highlight is taking the little ferry boat across the estuary to begin the hike. Our last stop is in the historic port of Dartmouth for 2 nights at The Dart Marina Hotel. The hotel sits right on the edge of the estuary and all the rooms enjoy commanding views of the famous River Dart.

DAY 8:-

Walks abound from this point and we again can utilize a small ferry to shorten the route. As we head out of Dartmouth past the famous castle, we round the head and the little village of Stoke Fleming comes into view. Our destination is The Green Dragon Inn and a great pub lunch. Hikers can then walk back to town on a different path or choose to take the van back and explore Dartmouth itself. Distances are between 4 and 8 miles.

DAY 9:-

The final day we pack up after breakfast and head back to the capital again to complete our 8-day hiking holiday.

NOTES ON THE HIKING

As on all our other hiking holidays, the hikes cover between 6 and 10 miles a day and the 2 guides allow you to choose your own pace and route. The Devon coast path can be rugged at times, often dropping down to a secluded bay before winding its way up onto the cliff top again. There are also more gentle trails that lead along quiet country lanes and through seaside villages. As with our other trips we take to the trails in almost all weather in our belief that stormy day walks can be some of the most rewarding! We are, however, always flexible and try to arrange the day's walks and other activities according to the needs of the group.

One note on English weather: the last two years we have had hardly a drop of rain on any of our English hikes!

All our accommodations on this trip are of very high quality and the dining excellent (English cuisine has really improved in the last few years!)

ENGLAND/DEVON TRIP - THE INNS:

NOTE: TO REACH THE UK , DIAL 011 44 THEN THE NUMBER

DAY 1 & 2

The White Horse Hotel

Dorking, Surrey

Tel: (1306) 881138

Fax: (1306) 887241

www.gatwick-hotels-deals.net

DAY 3 & 4

The Rising Sun Hotel

Lynmouth, N. Devon

Tel: (1598) 753223

Fax: (1598) 753480

www.risingsunlynmouth.co.uk

DAY 5 & 6

The Soar Mill Cove Hotel

nr. Salcombe, S Devon TQ7 3DS

Tel: (1548) 561566

www.soarmillcove.co.uk

DAY 7 & 8

The Dart Marina Hotel

Dartmouth, S, Devon

Tel: (1803) 832580

Fax: (1803) 835040

www.dartmarinahotel.com

If you are interested in additional information about the inns and hotels we will be staying with, we invite you to visit their web sites, or call and request a brochure.

ENGLAND NOTES / ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE:-

The trip begins at The White Horse Hotel in Dorking, Surrey. If you want to make your own way to the inn, the Dorking railway station is a 15 minute walk or short taxi ride from the inn and check in is from 2 p.m. on.

From London's Victoria station take a train to Dorking North or from London's Waterloo station change at Epsom station to Dorking North.

AIRPORT INFORMATION:-

We will have a pick up from both Heathrow and Gatwick airports at 11 a.m. on the first day of the trip. People are arriving at many different times, so we are only able to offer one pick up time. If you are in London already you can either meet us at one of the airports or make your own way to the inn (see above).

(We need to know your travel plans so that we can make arrangements to meet you at your arriving airport, or expect me meet you at our first night lodging)

Airport meeting points are as follows:-

GATWICK AIRPORT

"The Meeting Point" in the South Terminal (ARRIVALS)

HEATHROW AIRPORT

"The Meeting Point" in Terminal 3 (ARRIVALS)

Our guides will be wearing NEHH t-shirts, but if we have any problem locating you we will page you over the airport system. If we still have not located you, please call The White Horse Hotel at tel: (1306) 881138 and leave a message with the front desk, we will check in with them.

On the last day of the trip we will be back at London's airports between 3 & 4 p.m. so that you can arrange for a flight from about 5:30 p.m. that evening.

We can also drop you at nearby hotels.

FLIGHTS:-

The most reasonable fares are available if you purchase your ticket well in advance and do not change your dates. As there are penalties in changing dates it is a very good idea to take out travel insurance (see our general

information sheet).

TRAVEL SERVICE:-

You may want to take advantage of our travel service to arrange your travel to the UK. They are: Better Travel and can be reached at (800) 331 6996.

TRAVELERS CHECKS

It is preferable to order travelers checks in pounds rather than dollars as they can then often be used in shops, not just banks

PASSPORTS

If you don't already have a current passport, remember to allow enough time to be processed for one.

PAYMENT

We do require full payment 60 days in advance of the trip departure date. After that time there can be no refund of monies paid unless we are able to fill the space, in which case, we may be able to issue you a credit towards a future trip. Again, we recommend trip cancellation insurance.