

Things to Do

FREE
guide



Visit *South Somerset*

Download your free copy at visitsouthsomerset.com



VisitSouthSomerset



VisitSSomerset



visitsouthsomerset



Contents

1. Attractions & Experiences
2. The Great Outdoors, Nature & Wildlife
3. Activities & Lifestyle
4. Entertainment
5. Festivals, Carnivals & Events
6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink
7. Discover Further Afield
8. Additional Information

South Somerset offers endless opportunities to enjoy exciting attractions, relax in beautiful countryside and best of all, have fun together.

For current opening times, prices and more detailed visitor information, we encourage you to call the attraction or place of interest directly and to check their website.

We hope this guide gives you a picture of the wonderful sights, tastes and sounds of South Somerset.

1. Attractions & Experiences

Discover exciting museums, glorious gardens, unforgettable experiences and fascinating arts and crafts. Immerse yourself in history and heritage in every nook and cranny of South Somerset.

Animal Attractions & Experiences

Ferne Animal Sanctuary

Wambrook, Chard, TA20 3DH

Set in 72 acres of stunning countryside the Sanctuary is a great place to come and explore! Ferne was set up through the foresight of a local lady – the late Nina, Duchess of Hamilton & Brandon – who realised that men and women going off to war had no-one to take care of their animals so would require a temporary refuge for them. The Duchess put a call out on the BBC and legend has it that when she returned to her London home there were a number of cats and dogs on her doorstep and also a parrot! The need for caring and re-homing animals continues at Ferne. There are over 300 resident animals to see. Visitor Centre and café.

 01460 65214

 www.ferneanimalsanctuary.org/visit-the-sanctuary



World Horse Welfare Glenda Spooner Farm

Kingsdon, Somerton, TA11 7YA

Home to around 65 horses at any one time. Meet the horses and ponies. Learn about the work of World Horse Welfare and the rehabilitation programme. The farm sits in 220 acres of unspoilt countryside and there are many opportunities to spot wildlife around the lake. Admire the amazing views. Walk the paddock trail and meet the ponies. Café. Free entry - donations to the charity most welcome.

 01935 841442

 www.worldhorsewelfare.org

Frogmary Green Farm

West Street, South Petherton, TA13 5DJ

Frogmary is a working farm and there are events organised throughout the year aiming to entertain and enlighten guests about country living and farming. Farm & Field café.

 01460 242775

 www.frogmarygreenfarm.co.uk

1. Attractions & Experiences

The Cary Alpacas Experience

Rag Barn, Rag Lane, Cary Fitzpaine, BA22 8JB

The two hour Alpaca experience gives you the opportunity to visit their home, learn about their needs and requirements, hand feed them and join them on a walk through the lovely Somerset countryside.

 01458 224611

 www.caryalpacas.co.uk

Wincanton Racecourse

Wincanton, BA9 8BJ

Home of the Badger Chase and Kingwell Hurdle, Wincanton Racecourse is surrounded by beautiful Somerset countryside and hosts many jump racing fixtures each year.

 0344 579 3014

 www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/wincanton

Museums

Bruton Museum

26 High Street, Bruton, BA10 0AA

The museum tells the story of Bruton's past and present through the display of artefacts from the Jurassic, Roman, Saxon and medieval times, along with more contemporary displays. Particular highlights include domestic objects, 20th century shoes, the unique sculptures of WWII German refugee, Ernst Blensdorf and the writing desk used by the American writer John Steinbeck, who lived in Bruton in 1959.

 01749 813772

 www.brutonmuseum.org.uk

Castle Cary and District Museum

First Floor, Market House, Market Place, Castle Cary, BA7 7AH

Museum of local town and country life, run by enthusiastic volunteers.

 castlecarymuseum@hotmail.co.uk

 www.castleacarymuseum.org.uk

Chard & District Museum

Godworthy House, High Street, Chard, TA20 1QB

The museum exists to help today's community uncover yesterday's heritage, history and hidden stories. The collection dates from around 1880. Exhibits tell the story of the town and there are significant displays on notable people with connections to the town including John Stringfellow, who with another local man William Samuel Henson achieved the first powered flight in 1848, in a disused lace factory, with a 10 foot (3m), steam driven flying machine.

 01460 65091

 www.chardmuseum.co.uk

1. Attractions & Experiences

Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre, Market Square, Crewkerne, TA18 7LP

Crewkerne has a long and interesting history. It once had the status of being a Saxon royal mint, was an important stopping place for travellers and its thriving textile industry brought prosperity. Founded in 1988, the museum illustrates these things, but equally shows how ordinary local people lived and worked at various periods.



01460 77079



www.crewkernemuseum.co.uk



Fleet Air Arm Museum

RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, BA22 8HW

A major attraction in South Somerset and a great place for a day out. You'll fly by helicopter to the replica of the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal. You'll experience the thrills and sounds of a working flight deck and even see a nuclear bomb! You can go on-board the first British built Concorde and see the largest collection of Naval aircraft anywhere in Europe. Restaurant, shop, adventure playground. Excellent disabled facilities. Ample free parking.



01935 840565



www.fleetairarm.com



Haynes International Motor Museum

Sparkford, BA22 7LH

Explore the UK's largest collection of cars and motorbikes from around the world. Packed with over 400 beautiful and historic supercars. Gift shop and café.

Advance discount tickets available from South Somerset Visitor Information Centre. Tickets valid for 12 months.



01963 440804



www.himm.co.uk

Ilchester Museum

The Town Hall, Ilchester, Yeovil, BA22 8NQ

The Ilchester Museum is a small, private museum run by the Ilchester Town Trust, to show the fascinating life and history of this one-time Roman town and county town of Somerset. Limited opening hours, please call for more information.



01935 841247

Montacute TV Radio Toy Museum

1 South Street, Montacute, TA15 6XD

Walk back in time from the birth of TV and radio to the modern day. The museum is like a Tardis! A delightful tea room is also on site.



01935 823024



www.montacutemuseum.co.uk

1. Attractions & Experiences



Perry's Somerset Cider & Rural Museum

The Cider Mills, Dowlish Wake, Ilminster, TA19 0NY

Our countywide tradition of cider making is evident in many beautiful orchards that pepper the landscape. Visit the small museum housed in the original 16th century thatched cider barn, taste and treat yourself to the award winning ciders and relax in the tea room and superb on site local farm shop.

 01460 55195

 www.perryscider.co.uk

Somerset Rural Life Museum

Chilkwell Street, Glastonbury, BA6 8DB

Explore rural life from the 1800s onwards and discover more about the county's heritage including its landscapes, food and farming, working life and rural crafts. Café.

 01458 831197

 www.srlm.org.uk



South Somerset Heritage Collection

7 Artillery Road, Yeovil, BA22 8RP

Have you ever wondered where objects are stored? Visit by appointment to see anything from gloves, industrial machinery and paintings, to poison bottles and guns. Telling the story of Yeovil and South Somerset, SSHC gives you a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes and explore a museum store.

Traditionally Yeovil has had a rich past of industry and has an important role to play in the history of South Somerset. SSHC's collections reflect this and range from an extensive photo archive, local history, archaeology and even an internationally significant firearms collection. SSHC was previously known as Community Heritage Access Centre (CHAC).

 01935 462855

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

The Museum of Somerset

Taunton Castle, Castle Green, Taunton, TA1 4AA

Housed in Taunton's historic castle the museum tells the county's fascinating story from prehistoric times to the present day.

 01823 255088

 www.museumofsomerset.org.uk

Wincanton Museum

Library Building, Carrington Way, Wincanton, BA9 9JS

The museum is situated in the Library Building, while being one of the smallest museums in Somerset the artefacts are regularly changed so it is always a treat to visit!

 01963 31458

 www.wincantonmuseum.org.uk

1. Attractions & Experiences

Churches



Copies of 'Discover Somerset Churches' maps produced by the Diocese of Bath and Wells are available from our South Somerset Visitor Information Centre, Cartgate Picnic Site on the A303.

Check out the South Somerset 'hunky punks'! These are decorative 'grotesque' architectural stone carvings, similar to gargoyles, found on the side of buildings especially late Gothic churches. There are eight fine examples on the church tower of Isle Abbots church four miles north of Ilminster.

Follies



Discover the weird and wonderful follies in Barwick Park estate near Yeovil, BA22 9TA. Follow the follies walk, a fairly level 1.25 miles (2km) walk along lanes and tracks with good views of three of the follies.

Leaflet available from the South Somerset Visitor Information Centre at Cartgate Picnic Site.



Bruton Dovecote (National Trust)

Bruton, BA10 0NS

Probably erected in the 16th century as a watch tower, possibly on the site of an earlier lookout tower. Converted into a dovecote in the 18th century.

 www.heritagerecords.nationaltrust.org.uk

Burton Pynsent Monument, TA10 0PB

Follow the footpath from Curry Rivel village centre to Burton Pynsent Monument, standing on Troy Hill at the top of a steep slope and marvel in the fantastic views of the Levels and West Sedgemoor.

 www.curryrivel.org.uk

King Alfred's Tower

South Brewham, Bruton, BA10 0LB

Enjoy a stroll in Sparkford Woods around King Alfred's Tower.

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stourhead/trails/stourhead-king-alfreds-tower-walk

1. Attractions & Experiences

St Michael's Hill Tower

St Michael's Hill Tower, Montacute, TA15 6UA

Follow the footpath from Ham Hill or through the landscaped parkland of Montacute House to St Michael's Hill. Climb the hill to St Michael's Hill Tower, where you can enjoy extensive views of the surrounding countryside.

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/montacute-house

Heritage Sites



Cadbury Castle

South Cadbury, BA22 7HA

Steeped in history and mythology, explore the site of the long-forsaken Cadbury Castle. A military stronghold for over 4000 years, the first earthen ramparts were raised in the Stone Age. In the 16th century it was suggested that this site was indeed the stronghold of King Arthur during the 6th century. Follow the footpath to enjoy amazing views from the earthen ramparts to Glastonbury Tor and the Somerset Levels.



Fives Walls

Spot the unique South Somerset 'Fives Walls' in Shepton Beauchamp, South Petherton, Hinton St George and Stoke sub Hamdon. Fives was a ball game often played between the buttresses of church walls. In 1754 the Bishop of Bath and Wells banned the game due to the damage caused to the church walls and these purpose built 'walls' were constructed. A more modern version of Fives is still played at some public schools.

1. Attractions & Experiences

Family History

Somerset and Dorset Family History Society

Broadway House , Peter Street, Yeovil , Somerset, BA20 1PN

Extensive library and helpful volunteers to research your Somerset and Dorset ancestors. Research library and computer suite available. There is a small charge for non-Society members, currently £2 per day. Please visit the website for more detailed information and latest opening hours.

 01935 429609

 www.sdfhs.org

South Somerset Heritage Collection

7 Artillery Road, Yeovil, BA22 8RP

Book an appointment to view objects and images relating to your family's history at the South Somerset Heritage Collection.

 01935 462855

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

Somerset Heritage Centre

Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, TA2 6SF

The Somerset Heritage Centre provides state-of-the-art storage for historic records of the county of Somerset and there is public access to view them. Pre-booking essential.

 Enquires: 01823 278805

 www.swheritage.org.uk/somerset-archives

 Appointments: 01823 337600

Arts & Crafts

Somerset Arts Week

Our beautiful landscape provides inspiration for our large and vibrant community of artisan and craft people – many of whom you can watch at work. Every autumn Somerset Arts Week holds an arts festival with open studios for visitors to explore and buy original artworks direct from the artists themselves. Pick up a copy of the comprehensive guide from the South Somerset Visitor Information Centre in early September.

 01458 253800

 www.somersetartworks.org.uk

ACEarts

The Old Town Hall, Market Place, Somerton, TA11 7NB

Gallery showcasing contemporary craft and art alongside an inspiring exhibition programme of work by local and national artists.

 01458 273008

 www.acearts.co.uk

1. Attractions & Experiences

Artisan Workshops

Barrington Court, Barrington, Ilminster, TA19 0NQ

There are five independent artisan workshops located in the old farm buildings along the avenue at Barrington Court where visitors can appreciate traditional craftsmanship and creativity.

 01460 241938

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/barrington-court/lists/artisan-workshops



Coates English Willow, Willows & Wetlands Visitor Centre

Stoke St Gregory, Taunton, TA3 6HY

Willow is as traditional to Somerset as cheese and cider although perhaps not so much is known about it. At the Visitor Centre the Coate family has thoughtfully put together displays and collections to tell the fascinating story of willow. Willow and wetland walks, craft studios, basket museum, guided tours. Café.

 01823 490249

 www.coatesenglishwillow.co.uk

Dawe's Twineworks

94 High Street, West Coker, BA22 9AU

Explore the only surviving Victorian Twineworks with original working machinery. 10am to 4pm, fourth Saturday of each month, or by appointment. Groups welcome.

 01935 862938

 www.westcoker.net/home-page/ropewalk

Dennis Chinaworks

Shepton House, Shepton Beauchamp, Ilminster, TA19 0JT

Founded in 1993 by Sally and Richard Dennis the pottery is run from the converted stables of a Victorian Gothic rectory. Beautiful hand thrown pottery with unique designs. Appointment only.

 01460 240622

 www.dennischinaworks.com

Great Bow Wharf

Bow Street, Langport, TA10 9PN

Pop up gallery supporting local and regional artists showcasing their work, skills and talent. Café, Kitchen at the Wharf.

 01458 254257

 www.greatbow.org.uk

1. Attractions & Experiences



Hauser & Wirth Somerset

Durslade Farm, Dropping Lane, Bruton, BA10 ONL

A pioneering world-class gallery and multi-purpose arts centre which acts as a destination for experiencing art, architecture and the remarkable Somerset landscape through new and innovative exhibitions of contemporary art. An impressive landscaped garden, designed by internationally renowned landscape architect Piet Oudolf, sits behind the gallery buildings. Roth Bar & Grill restaurant.

 01749 814060

 www.hauserwirth.com

John Boyd Textiles Ltd

Higher Flax Mills, Castle Cary, BA7 7DY

First established in Castle Cary in 1837 John Boyd Textiles is proud to continue the tradition of horsehair weaving using the original looms and techniques from 1870. Now one of the remaining weavers of horsehair fabrics. Horsehair fabric is exported worldwide and has been used in many prestigious royal palaces and hotels. Group visits only by appointment - min 10, max 25. Call to check latest opening hours and booking options.

 01963 350451

 www.johnboydtextiles.co.uk

Mary Kembery Somerset Countryware

Smocklands Farmhouse, Drayton, Langport, TA10 0JS

Somerset Countryware is a range of stoneware pottery made and decorated by Mary Kembery in her studio at Drayton. Mary has been working in Somerset her native county, for the past 40 years. Apart from the Somerset landscape, she also draws inspiration from fish, fruit and flowers. Coloured slips and underglaze colours with a combination of decorating techniques, including waxing, stencilling and scraffitto, may be used on a single piece to achieve the desired effect. Visitors are welcome by appointment.

 01458 251640

 www.marykembery.co.uk



Muchelney Pottery & John Leach Gallery

Muchelney Pottery, Muchelney, TA10 0DW

John Leach set up the pottery in 1965 having trained with his grandfather Bernard and his father David to continue the tradition of quality ceramics on the fringe of the ancient village of Muchelney. Visit the pottery, shop and contemporary John Leach Gallery which hosts a programme of exhibitions throughout the year supporting West Country artists and craft workers.

 01458 250324

 www.johnleachpottery.co.uk

1. Attractions & Experiences



Shakspeare Glass & Arts

Westover, Langport, TA10 9RB

Will Shakspeare is one of the country's best known glass blowers. Will set up Shakspeare Glass over 25 years ago and has supplied many galleries and well-known stores in that time. Wide range of Shakspeare Glass on display in the gallery as well as work from selected other British makers including jewellery.

 01458 252477

 www.shakspeareglass.co.uk

The Emporium

39 Princes St, Yeovil BA20 1EG

Offering customers a unique browsing and shopping experience – around 60 shops over three floors - where antiques meet artisan made crafts and fashion meets interior design. Café

 01935 579482

 www.theemporiumyeovil.co.uk



Tom Clark Stone Carving Courses, Hurst, Martock, TA12 6JU

Tom feels strongly about making the forgotten skill of stone carving accessible to all and promotes the satisfaction derived from the creative process and the creation of a carving that can be shared and enjoyed. Booking essential.

 01935 822833

 www.tomclarkstonecarver.co.uk

Yandles Woodworking, Arts & Crafts

Hurst, Martock, TA12 6JU

Yandles was founded in 1860 by Henry Yandle. Visit the sawmill, woodworking centre, gallery, arts and crafts store and gifts and home store with beautifully crafted gifts and artwork by local artists. Café.

 01935 822207

 www.yandles.co.uk

 01935 822571

 www.yandlesartandcrafts.co.uk

Masters of their Craft

This brochure provides information of a selection of businesses in the heart of South Somerset which use their creativity and talent to turn resources into things we need in our daily lives. Download the brochure from our website or pick up a copy at our South Somerset Visitor Information Centre.

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

1. Attractions & Experiences

Glorious Gardens & Historic Houses



Barrington Court (National Trust)

Barrington, Nr Ilminster, TA19 0NQ

An atmospheric fragment of old Somerset: an empty Tudor manor house, beautifully restored in the 1920s, with farm buildings, abundant flowers and orchards. Gift shop and café.

 01460 241938

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/barrington-court

Dillington House

Ilminster, TA29 9DT

One of England's special places – a truly lovely rural surrounding in which to learn and study. A rich and varied programme of adult education courses appealing to all ages and abilities. Courses range from art to archaeology, craft and concerts, lectures, literature, photography to singing and yoga. Day and residential courses.

 01460 258648

 www.dillington.com

East Lambrook Manor Gardens

East Lambrook, South Petherton, TA13 5HH

Gardening legend Margery Fish's quintessential English cottage garden. A beautiful plantsman's paradise and specialist nursery. Café.

 01460 240328

 www.eastlambrook.com



Forde Abbey & Gardens

Chard, TA20 4LU

Thirty acres of glorious gardens surrounding a magnificent 12th century monastery. Seasonal interest all year round. Gift shop, plant nursery and café.

 01460 221290

 www.fordeabbey.co.uk



Hauser & Wirth Somerset

Durslade Farm, Dropping Lane, Bruton, BA10 0NL

An impressive landscaped garden, designed by internationally renowned landscape architect Piet Oudolf. Roth Bar & Grill restaurant. Durslade Farm Shop.

 01749 814060

 www.hauserwirth.com

1. Attractions & Experiences

Hestercombe Gardens

Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, TA2 8LG

Explore 50 acres of beautiful gardens, steeped in history and brimming with wildlife. Woodland walks and a restored watermill. Gift shop, café and restaurant.

 01823 413923

 www.hestercombe.com

Kilver Court Gardens & Nursery

Kilver Street, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5NF

Explore this little known treasure created over 100 years ago as an oasis of tranquillity for a factory workforce. Step into another world, wander by the millpond and discover the formal and informal gardens all set against the stunning backdrop of the Charlton viaduct. Plant nursery. Designer shopping village. Café and restaurant.

 01749 340410

 www.kilvercourt.com

Lytes Cary Manor (National Trust)

Nr Somerton, TA11 7HU

This intimate medieval house, once home of a Tudor herbalist, was lovingly restored in the early 20th century, when its magical garden was created. Riverside walks and trails, children's play area. Gift shop and café.

 01458 224471

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lytes-cary-manor



Photo credit: Brian Mounsher

Montacute House (National Trust)

Montacute, Nr Yeovil, TA15 6XP

Once seen, never forgotten; the first glimpse of this golden Elizabethan masterpiece, glittering with windows and bristling with chimneys, is breathtaking. Gift shop and café.

 01935 823289

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/montacute-house

Muchelney Abbey (English Heritage)

Muchelney, Langport, TA10 0DQ

Discover monastic life at Muchelney, where you can see the Tudor abbot's house and foundations of a Benedictine abbey.

 0370 333 1181

 www.english-heritage.org.uk/muchelney

Priest's House (National Trust)

Muchelney, Langport, TA10 0DQ

This medieval hall/house built in 1308 for the parish priest, has been little altered since the early 1600s. Please note the house is tenanted so please check the website for opening hours.

 01458 253771

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/priests-house-muchelney

1. Attractions & Experiences

Sherborne Castle & Gardens

New Road, Sherborne, DT9 5NR

A fascinating castle covering 400 years of history set in beautiful landscaped gardens. Discover walks around the lake to garden features such as Raleigh's Seat and the Cascade and Fossil House. Other walks take you to the courtyard garden, the Ginkgo Lawn and Orangery, the boathouse and pier where there are wonderful views of the old castle ruins. Gift shop and café.

☎ 01935 813182

🌐 www.sherbornecastle.com

Stoke Sub Hamdon Priory (National Trust)

North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6QP

Complex of buildings from the 1300s-1400s, formerly used as a priest's residence. Check website for opening hours.

☎ 01935 823289

🌐 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stoke-sub-hamdon-priory

The Bishop's Palace & Gardens

Wells, BA5 2PD

Explore 14 acres of beautiful gardens located in the heart of the historic city of Wells. Formal Dutch gardens and fine specimen trees with diverse and luxuriant borders, complete with restored 19th century picturesque style planting surrounding the Palace and the ruins of the Great Hall. Café.

☎ 01749 988111

🌐 www.bishopspalace.org.uk

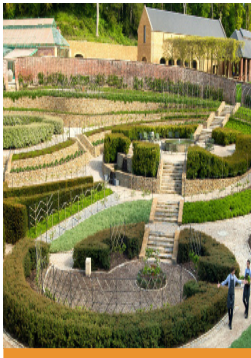


Photo credit: The Newt Somerset

The Newt in Somerset

Bruton, BA7 7NG

Ab ovo usque ad malus is Latin for 'From the egg to the apple' or 'From start to finish' as in hors d'oeuvre to desert. This phrase was the inspiration to create an historical timeline for the Estate, with individual gardens and landscapes shaped by ideas, skills and traditions from past to present. Only plants and trees authentic to the period are grown in each garden – though sometimes with a modern twist. Roam the estate and you'll travel through two thousand years of history. Farm shop with estate produce and the finest traditionally made foods. Garden Museum. Tree walkway and deer park. Restaurant and cyder bar/café. Gift shop.

☎ 01963 577777

🌐 www.thenewtinsomerset.com

1. Attractions & Experiences

Tintinhull Garden (National Trust)

Farm Street, Tintinhull, Nr Yeovil, BA22 8PZ

Secluded and harmonious this exquisite garden was the vision of one remarkable woman: Phyllis Reiss. Café.

 01458 224471

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tintinhull-garden

Treasurer's House (National Trust)

Church Street, Martock, TA12 6JL

Small early medieval house, with great hall completed in 1293. Check website for opening hours.

 01935 825015

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/treasurers-house-martock

The Walled Gardens of Cannington

Church Street, Cannington, Nr Bridgwater, TA5 2HA

Fascinating gardens with a Grade 1 listed medieval priory backdrop. A mix of classic and modern features, including a 'hot' herbaceous border, sub-tropical walk and a national collection of deschampsia and santolina. Home to Somerset's only botanical glasshouse featuring species from around the world. Specialist plant nursery. Gift shop. Tearoom.

 01278 655042

 www.canningtonwalledgardens.co.uk



The National Garden Scheme

The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique access to over 3,700 exceptional private gardens in England and Wales, and raises impressive amounts of money for nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake. NGS Gardens and their opening dates are listed in their county Yellow Books. Collect a copy from our South Somerset Visitor Information Centre.

 www.ngs.org.uk

1. Attractions & Experiences

Steam Railways

A journey by steam train in Somerset takes you not only from one beautifully tended station to another, it takes you back in time to a less hurried age where the guard has time to chat and the engine chugs cheerily through the rolling countryside.

West Somerset Railway

The Railway Station, Minehead, TA24 5BG

The longest standard gauge heritage railway in the UK, the West Somerset Railway, runs between Bishops Lydeard just outside the county town of Taunton all the way to Minehead. The 20.5 mile track, supported by ten stations, gives ringside views of cottages, churches, grazing cattle and coastal communities. A busy programme of events throughout the year includes chances to see Santa, snowdrops, gardens and visiting engines. There are even courses for budding drivers. Please check website for latest events and timetables.

 01643 704996

 www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk

East Somerset Railway

Cranmore Railway Station, Cranmore, Shepton Mallet, BA4 4QP

The East Somerset Railway, a smaller but equally characterful railway runs through the Mendip Hills near Shepton Mallet. The train journey takes approximately 40 minutes over the five mile round trip. The David Shepherd Discovery Centre explains the history of the railway and you can visit the engine shed and workshop and see restoration work in progress. Museum and miniature railway. Shop. See the website for timetable.

 01749 880417

 www.eastsomersetrailway.com



Gartell Light Railway

Common Lane, Yenston, Templecombe, BA8 0NB

Two foot narrow gauge railway along the old Somerset and Dorset railway line. Train rides, restaurant, picnic area and caravan site. Please check the website for latest information and timetable.

 01963 370752

 www.newglr.weebly.com

Yeovil Railway Centre

Yeovil Junction Station, Yeovil, BA22 9UU

The Centre was formed in 1994 to preserve the original Southern Railway turntable installed in the late 1940's and to provide facilities for main line steam. Since then the turntable has been overhauled and visitors can watch, from a special viewing platform, the spectacle of large steam engines being turned and serviced when they call at Yeovil Junction. An Andrew Barclay steam engine 'Lord Fisher' is currently operational and provides the power for public rides on the demonstration line of approximately a third of a mile. Visitors ride either in a historic brake van or in a coach. There are several industrial diesels on site. Special Events (including Model Railway, Tractors and Halloween and Santa Specials) operate on a regular basis. Visitor Centre and café. See the website for more details.

 01935 410420

 www.yeovilrailway.freesevers.com

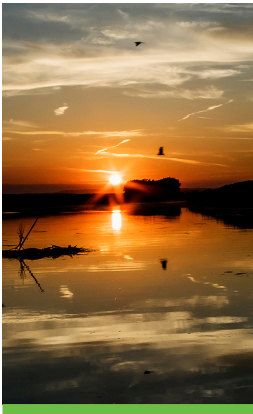
2. The Great Outdoors, Nature & Wildlife



2. The Great Outdoors, Nature & Wildlife

South Somerset is the real deal, working, living countryside. Farming runs through our veins and our connection to the landscape is a strong one. The rolling hills, wooded valleys, levels and moors of South Somerset provide the perfect base for those who love to explore the great outdoors.

Somerset Levels, Moors & Marshes



The Somerset Levels & Moors

The diverse landscape includes wooded hills and valleys and the Somerset Levels and Moors - one of the lowest and flattest places in the UK and an important habitat. The perfect place for a stroll through beautiful countryside to enjoy wildlife and nature!

There are beautiful areas of orchards, woods, withy beds and medieval churches crossed by a complex network of rhynes and ditches. The remoteness of the area provides an ideal atmosphere for nature lovers, cyclists and walkers. The Somerset Levels landscape is a haven for water birds.

The Avalon Marshes

To the north of the South Somerset Levels and Moors are the internationally important and beautiful Avalon Marshes, rich in wildlife, heritage and culture. Throughout the year you may see marsh harriers, bitterns and great white egrets. In spring the reedbeds come alive with the cacophony of bird song and in winter the star attractions are the massive murmurations of starlings and flocks of wildfowl.

 www.avalonmarshes.org

The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

To the west the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a tranquil and relatively isolated landscape, on the border of Somerset and Devon. The area is rich in wildlife and heritage. Spanning less than 15 miles in each direction, it is small when compared with many other AONBs, yet it is remarkably diverse, epitomising the English countryside, with hedgerows and copses, small farms with intricate field patterns, deep valleys and winding lanes. The unique geology of the area gives rise to a wide variety of habitats, creating an exceptional environment where rare plant, insect, bird and mammal species can flourish. The Blackdown Hills was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1991. Walking, cycling and horse riding routes available to download from the website.

 www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk

2. The Great Outdoors, Nature & Wildlife

Green Flag Country Parks



Ham Hill Country Park

Ham Hill Road, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6RW

Offering incredible views of the South Somerset Moors, Exmoor and the Mendip Hills, Ham Hill is a 390 acre country park centred on a huge Iron Age hill fort. Green Flag award winner. A popular spot for scenic dog walks. Pub.



01935 823617



www.visitsouthsomerset.com



Yeovil Country Park

Brunswick Street, Yeovil, BA20 1QZ

Woodlands and grasslands, river and lakes including Ninesprings and Valley Gardens. Footpaths, cycleway, picnic area and children's play areas. Ninesprings Café. Dogs welcome. Green Flag award winner.



01935 462462



www.visitsouthsomerset.com



Ranger Activities

Ranger activities are held at the country parks with a fun packed timetable of events from den-building to campfire cooking, wildflower walks, bug hunts, bat walks, pond dipping, drystone walling, orienteering and much more! The Ranger Rik Nature Trail at Yeovil Country Park gives a wildlife quiz and activities for children.



www.visitsouthsomerset.com

Ham Hill Secret Stories History Trail

Download the Ham Hill's Pits of Perils and Rampaging Romans tour on the Ordnance Survey app called 'Secret Stories', tap 'Map', on the top right hand side of the screen, and then tap the tour on Ham Hill (between South Petherton and Yeovil on the map).

Download and follow the new trail which takes you on an adventure learning about some of Ham Hill's fascinating history. From prehistoric to modern day wildlife and everything in between! There are quizzes and activities along the way to keep everyone entertained. The trail starts at the Rangers Centre TA14 6RW, and is roughly 1.5 hours long. Suitable for kids 4-10 years old, but is also fun for the whole family!



<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/secret-stories/id1504048210>



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details>

2. The Great Outdoors, Nature & Wildlife

Wildlife & Nature Reserves

South Somerset has numerous wildlife and nature reserves to explore. These are managed by various organisations as listed below. Please check websites for full information before visiting.

Aller and Beer Woods, Aller, Nr Langport (SWT)

Babcary Meadows, Babcary (SWT)

Bishopswood Meadows (SWT)

Collard Hill, Compton Dundon (NT)

Dommett Wood, Buckland St Mary (SWT)

Dundon Beacon, Compton Dundon (SWT)

Eastfield Nature Reserve, High Ham (SSDC)

Fivehead and Arable Fields, Fivehead (SWT)

Green Down, Charlton Mackrell (SWT)

Hardington Moor, West Coker (RSPB)

Herne Hill, Ilminster (ITC)

High Ham Millennium Wood (HHPC)

Jan Hobbs, Nr Buckland St Mary (SWT)

Moldrams Ground, Pen Selwood (SSDC)

Perry Mead, Nr Lydford on Fosse (SWT)

Prospect Fields, Coombe, Nr Langport (SWT)

West Coker Fen, West Coker (SWT)

High Ham Parish Council (HHPC)

 www.highhamparishlife.org

National Trust (NT)

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk

South Somerset District Council (SSDC)

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com
www.southsomerset.gov.uk

Wessex Water (WW)

 www.wessexwater.co.uk/community

Ilminster Town Council (ITC)

 www.ilminster.gov.uk

Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)

 www.rspb.org.uk

Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT)

 www.somersetwildlife.org/wildlife/nature-reserves

Bincombe Beeches Nature Reserve

Crewkerne, TA18 7AJ

Crewkerne Town Council owns and manages Bincombe Beeches, a natural and peaceful countryside haven situated on the north side of the town. The reserve derives its name from the magnificent line of beech trees which majestically crown the town side of the hill.

 www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk/facilities-in-crewkerne/town-council-facilities/bincombe-beeches-nature-reserve

2. The Great Outdoors, Nature & Wildlife



Chard Reservoir Nature Reserve (SSDC)

Car Park situated at the end of Oaklands Avenue, Chard, TA20 1HR

Peaceful countryside site of 88 acres - orchid meadows, native woodlands and excellent bird watching on open water from hide. Good surfaced pathways. Green Flag award winner.



01935 462462



www.visitsouthsomerset.com

Greylake Nature Reserve (RSPB)

A361, Bridgwater, TA7 9BP

Spring stronghold and winter haven of waders. View raptors gliding above, while wandering the reed bed loop. Trails and hides.



01458 252805



www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/greylake

Ham Wall Nature Reserve (RSPB)

Meare, Ashcott, Glastonbury, BA6 9SX

Ham Wall is a wetland teeming with wildlife - from rare species like water voles and otters to magnificent birds like bitterns and kingfishers. Enjoy stunning views across the marshes to Glastonbury Tor and make some time to follow secluded paths through the mystical landscape.



www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/ham-wall



Photo credit: John Crispin

Swell Wood Nature Reserve (RSPB)

A378, Taunton, TA3 6PX

An ancient oak woodland extending to 10 miles (15km) along a ridge. Nature trails and bird hide. Fantastic views over the Somerset Levels. Spot roe deer, woodland birds and butterflies. Hear a cacophony of nesting herons. Heronry hide.



01458 252805



www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/swell-wood

2. The Great Outdoors, Nature & Wildlife

West Sedgemoor Nature Reserve (RSPB)

Red Hill, Curry Rivel, Langport, TA10 0PH

West Sedgemoor is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as part of England's largest remaining wet meadow system. Set among the Somerset Levels and Moors, it has the largest lowland population of breeding wading birds such as lapwings, snipe, curlew and redshanks in southern England. The reserve has restricted access to protect ground-nesting birds and over-wintering flocks.

 rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/west-sedgemoor

Carymoor Environmental Centre

Dimmer Lane, Castle Cary, BA7 7NR

Inspiring and educational courses for children, families and individuals regularly running events in the school holidays. Extraordinary site combining a working landfill site with a beautiful nature reserve and buildings with many sustainable features. Please check website for latest event information.

 01963 350143

 www.carymoor.org.uk

Woodlands

Wander through peaceful woodlands and enjoy tranquillity. Look out for wildlife, flora and fauna! The perfect place for family adventures and picnics. The Woodland Trust is the largest woodland conservation charity in the UK, concerned with the creation, protection and restoration of woodland heritage.

 0330 333 3300

 www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Tinkers Bubble

A small woodland community based in South Somerset using environmentally sound methods of working the land without fossil fuels. Open days and coppicing and forestry workshops. Bookings in advance for visitors.

 www.tinkersbubble.org

3. Activities & Lifestyle



Photo credit: Peter Roberts

3. Activities & Lifestyle

South Somerset's varied landscape is great to enjoy on foot or two wheels. You can meander through the Levels at an easy pace or there are impressive hills for the more energetic.

There's plenty to keep you all busy indoors, outdoors and on the water!

Walking



There is a wide range of walks that capture the essence of what South Somerset has to offer from gentle strolls to serious hikes.

Long Distance Footpaths

The Leland Trail, Liberty Trail and River Parrett Trail all route through Ham Hill Country Park and the much longer Macmillan Way and The Monarch's Way form part of national routes.

 www.ldwa.org.uk

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com



The River Parrett Trail

The River Parrett Trail follows the river for 80km from its source near Chedington in the Dorset hills, through tranquil Somerset countryside to its mouth at Steart point on the Bristol Channel. It passes through many pretty South Somerset hamstone villages, market towns and the ancient historic sites of Ham Hill, Muchelney and Burrow Mump.

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

The Stop Line Way

The Stop Line Way is a long distance coast-to-coast walking and cycling route, which in parts is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. The cycle route is 75 miles long and partly follows the 'Taunton Stop Line' built by the Army in 1940 to contain any Nazi German invasion of the South West. These defences ran for 50 miles, from Burnham on the Bristol Channel to Seaton on the South Coast. Canals, railways and rivers were made into a continuous anti-tank obstacle with road blocks and over 380 concrete pillboxes. Between Ilminster and Chard it largely follows the track of the old Great Western Railway.

 www.ilminsterweb.com/Pages/Documents/Publications/The_Stop_Line_Way.pdf

 www.sustrans.org.uk/find-a-route-on-the-national-cycle-network/route-33/

3. Activities & Lifestyle

Circular Walks

Details of a host of circular walks around the region taking you through villages and valleys, along rivers, nature reserves, fields, follies and old railways are available from our Somerset Visitor Information Centre with a selection available to download on our website too. You can also plan your own route by using OS Explorer maps available to buy at South Somerset Information Centre and Gift Shop.

'Walking the hills and vales around Yeovil'

Walking the hills and vales around Yeovil provides details of nine circular walks discovering the countryside around Yeovil. Available to download.

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

Ham Hill Country Park

TA14 6RW

'Four Circular Walking Routes in and around Ham Hill' is available to buy at Ham Hill Country Park or from our South Somerset Visitor Information Centre.

South Somerset Ramblers Association

Organised regular walks led by local experts. If you are a member of the Ramblers Association you can book on South Somerset walks following the link below.

 01935 421235

 www.southsomsetramblers.org.uk

Cycling

Suggested highlights to explore...



80 mile Cycle Route

If you prefer to discover South Somerset on two wheels this 80 mile route enables you to explore the gentle hills and vales to the north east of Yeovil, the intriguing Somerset moors, the hamstone villages and historic market towns. The circular route starts at Yeovil Junction station and is guided by the brown South Somerset Cycle Route signs, covering Sustrans routes 30, 26 and 33. The route is divided into bite-size sections so do as much or as little as you like! Route available to download from our website.

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

Looking for a great two-wheel pit-stop?

Sustrans route 30 runs through the heart of Merriott and past the award-winning Feed Station café, a firm favourite with cyclists, having been voted England's top café for those on two wheels. The route takes you from pretty Ilminster to East Coker and links to many other routes too, all of which can be found on the National Cycle Network website.

 www.sustrans.org.uk

 www.feedstationmerriott.co.uk

3. Activities & Lifestyle

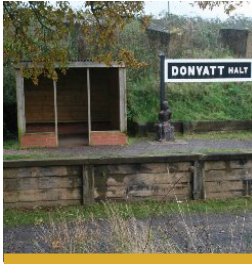


'Pedalling the Scenic Route'

Offers circular cycle rides across the South Somerset Moors. All the routes described are along quiet country roads and start at Langport.

 www.parrettrailbikes.co.uk

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com



The Stop Line Way

Please refer to previous 'Walking' section for information.

 www.ilminsterweb.com/Pages/Documents/Publications/The_Stop_Line_Way.pdf

 www.sustrans.org.uk/find-a-route-on-the-national-cycle-network/route-33/

The Avalon Marshes

The flat landscape of the Avalon Marshes is ideal for cyclists with peaceful lanes, droves and cycle paths. The Avalon Marshes project has developed four heritage circular cycle routes which take in the very best of the area and tell you about the heritage you will encounter too. Discover more and download the heritage routes from the website.

 www.avalonmarshes.org/explore/things-to-do/cycling

Bike Hire

Parrett Trail Bikes

The Bridge, Westover Trading Estate, Langport, TA10 9RB

Hire a selection of bikes suitable for all ages and abilities.

 07510 053746

 www.parrettrailbikes.co.uk

 01458 253626

Somerton Electric Bike Rentals

Somerton Electric Bike Rentals provide a sustainable electric bike rental service.

 07394 911276

 www.facebook.com/pg/SomertonElectricBikeRental

3. Activities & Lifestyle

Apps, Websites & E-Scooters

The following provide details of useful apps and information offering additional inspiration for walking, hiking and cycling trails in the area:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  www.alltrails.com |  www.nationaltrust.org.uk/walking |
|  www.gps-routes.co.uk |  www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk |
|  www.komoot.com |  www.sustrans.org.uk |
|  www.mapout.app |  www.viewranger.com |

Zwings E-Scooter Rental

Britain's leading micro-mobility operator Zwings, in partnership with South Somerset District Council, is providing an e-scooter rental service from bays across Yeovil and other South Somerset towns. The scheme is part of the official e-scooter trials initiative, authorised by the Department of Transport for 12 months, from October 2020. E-scooters provide a sustainable, fun, healthy and socially distant mode of travel. Full or provisional driving licence required. £1 to unlock e-scooter via the Zwings app, then 15p per minute of rental. For full details of the trial and rental bay locations visit:

-  www.zwings.co.uk

Running & Fitness

If your way of unwinding is to pump up the adrenaline, there are plenty of options in South Somerset to keep you active.



The Full Monty Cute

The Full Monty Cute is a gruelling muddy trail run over Ham Hill and around Montacute in December taking in 10 hills in 10 miles.

-  www.fullmontycute.btck.co.uk

Yeovil Parkrun

In the winter months the 5km Parkrun takes place at Yeovil Country Park (Ninesprings). For the latest information about locations in other months, please check the website.

-  www.parkrun.org.uk

3. Activities & Lifestyle

3-2-1 Running Routes

3-2-1 running routes aim to provide a range of free marked routes up to 3km suitable for running, jogging and walking. The two routes in Yeovil Country Park are in Ninesprings and the Riverside Walk (off Lyde Road). Additional routes are also available at Ham Hill Country Park and in Yeovil. Visit our website to download the routes for free or pick one up from Ninesprings Café.

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

The Blackburn Fitness Trail

The Blackburn Fitness Trail at Ninesprings in Yeovil Country Park is a 1 mile loop plotted around the valley gardens. At set points on the route there are exercises and stretches suggested to help up your heart rate and strengthen your muscles.

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com



The Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena

Yeovil Recreation Centre, Off Chilton Grove,
Yeovil, BA21 4AW

The Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena at Yeovil Recreation Centre boasts some of the most comprehensive facilities in the South West. The facilities include, 8-lane synthetic track, field event area, floodlights, terraced seating and public address facility.



Yeovil Recreation Centre's Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) offers the next generation of sand dressed synthetic turf facilities. The pitch is available for competitions, football clubs needing an all-weather training pitch and for groups of friends/colleagues who are just looking for a kickabout.

During the summer and school holidays Mini Tennis courts are set up which are ideal for the whole family to enjoy.

 01935 462616

 www.yeovilrec.co.uk

3. Activities & lifestyle

Water Activities



Langport's stretch of the River Parrett offers ideal conditions for water-based fun. There are modern pontoons for mooring and if you are an angler cast a line from a fishing platform. Please visit www.gov.uk/fishing-licences for full information

Duchess of Cocklemoor

Langport

Enjoy a leisurely and scenic trip on Langport's community boat, The Duchess of Cocklemoor. The boat operates regularly from spring to autumn and can take a group of 12 with a fee to be paid to the skipper on the day. Trips take around an hour.

 www.duchessofcocklemoor.co.uk

Somerset Boat Centre

Maidenmead Moorings, Banklands, North Newton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 0DQ

A little further afield into wider Somerset, is the Somerset Boat Centre, where they offer a variety of ways to get on or be near the water and have some fun. They offer canoes, kayaks, self-drive motor boats and a chartered narrowboat and also have a wheelchair accessible boat.

 07508 959 996

 www.somersetboatcentre.co.uk

 07946 580 050

Sutton Bingham Reservoir

Set in rolling hills on the Somerset/Dorset border offering a range of facilities for all the family including a children's play area, picnic area and wildlife park. Angling and sailing. Hire a Wessex Water Comet Trio dinghy or a Raider 18 keelboat by arrangement with Sutton Bingham Sailing Club.

 www.wessexwater.co.uk/community/activities/sailing-at-sutton-bingham

Canoe Trails

Please visit the following websites for details of canoe trails.

 www.britishcanoers.co.uk

 www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

Fishing

Ash Ponds Lakes

Ash, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6NZ

Coarse & carp fishing.

 01935 823459

 www.stokesubhamdonaa.uk/ash.html



Photo credit: www.bearleylakes.co.uk

Bearley Lakes Fishing Holidays

Bearley Lakes, Tintinhull, Nr Yeovil, BA22 8PR

Fishing holidays. Two carp lakes.

 07964 949730

 www.bearleylakes.co.uk

Chard Reservoir

Chaffcombe Lane, Chard, TA20 1RR

Coarse & carp fishing – permit only.

 07704632077

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

 www.chardanglingclub.co.uk

Highlands Dairy Lake

Highlands Dairy Farm, Hewish, Nr Crewkerne Somerset, TA1 8QY

Coarse & carp fishing – permit only.

 01460 74180

Sutton Bingham Reservoir

Sutton Bingham, Yeovil, BA22 9QP

Fly fishing for rainbow and brown trout.

 01935 872389

 www.wessexwater.co.uk/community/activities/fishing-at-sutton-bingham



Thorney Lakes

Muchelney, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0DW

Coarse & carp fishing – must have rod licence.

A beautiful setting attracting a host of wildlife. Two miles of nature trails to explore. Camping available.

 01458 250811

 www.thorneylakes.co.uk

3. Activities & Lifestyle

Viaduct Fishery

Cary Valley, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 6LJ

Coarse & carp fishing – must have rod licence.

 01458 274022

 www.viaductfishery.com

Water Meadow Fisheries

Pitt Farm, North Perrott, Crewkerne, Somerset, TA18 7SR

Coarse & carp fishing. Booking is essential.

 07517067012

 www.watermeadow-lodges.com/out-and-about/fishing-lake

Baits & Tackle are available from:

The Tackle Shop

27 Forest Hill, Yeovil, BA20 2PH

 01935 47677

 www.tackleuk.co.uk

For further details on fishing in Somerset please visit www.gethooked.co.uk
You may also enjoy fishing at our South Somerset rivers but you will need to buy a fishing licence. Please visit www.gov.uk/fishing-licences for full information.

Golf

Cricket St Thomas Golf Club

Off the A30, near Chard, Somerset, TA20 4DG

 01460 30231

 www.cricketstthomasgolfclub.co.uk

Long Sutton Golf Club

Long Load, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9JU

 01458 241017

 www.longsuttongolf.com

Sherborne Golf Club

Higher Clatcombe, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4RN

 01935 812274

 www.sherbornegolfclub.co.uk

3. Activities & Lifestyle

Wheathill Golf Club

Wheathill, Somerton, Somerset on the B3153, TA11 7HG

 01963 240667

 www.wheathillgolf.co.uk

Wincanton Golf Club

Wincanton Racecourse, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 8BJ

 01963 435850

 www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/wincanton/about/golf-course

Yeovil Golf Club

Babylon Hill, Sherborne Road, Yeovil, BA21 5BW

Entrance off the roundabout to the Retail Park.

 01935 422965

 www.yeovilgolfclub.com

Horse Riding



Pevlings Farm Riding & Livery Stables

Cabbage Lane, Horsington, Templecombe,
Somerset, BA8 0DAA

A friendly and informal stables where you can learn to ride and look after a horse/pony. Lessons available in groups or individually.

 01963 370990

 www.pevlingfarm.co.uk

Drakes Farm Riding Centre

Drakes Farm, Ilton, TA19 9EY

Enjoy horse riding on a network of quiet country lanes with stunning views. All hacks are accompanied by an experienced rider. Horses used for hacking have good road manners and riders can be lead if required. Off-road route around farm fields also available.

 01460 929559

 www.drakesfarm.co.uk

3. Activities & Lifestyle

Shooting

Rifleman Firearms

Bowdens Farm, Hambridge, TA10 0BP

The South West's newest air rifle range perfect for beginners and enthusiasts. Tuition and gun hire available. Hundreds of targets up to 90 yards. Great fun for individuals, groups and colleagues.

 01458 253700

 www.riflemanfirearms.com

Outdoor Activity Centres



Mill on the Brue

Mill on the Brue, Trendle Farm, Bruton, BA10 0BA

Somerset's award winning outdoor activity centre Mill on the Brue is open all year. Week, weekend, residential or day camps available providing exciting activities and challenging outdoor pursuits and studies including environmental course for all ages. Booking essential.

 01749 812307

 www.millonthebrue.co.uk

ROAM Outdoors Activity Centre

Dillington Estate, Whitelackington, Ilminster, TA19 9EG

An outdoor learning facility to inspire individuals of all ages through positive outdoor experiences. Essentially an 'outdoor classroom without walls'. Family fun days available.

 07811 149132

 www.facebook.com/theilminsterwoodland

Somerset Adventures

5 Galmington Road, Taunton, TA1 5NH

If you are looking for a family day out, individual tuition, a group activity session, a multi-activity day, hen or stag party or a course or qualification, Somerset Adventures bring you the best of outdoor activities across the South West.

 07981 826919

 www.somersetadventures.co.uk

Indoor Activity Centres

Flip Out

Unit C, Castle Road, Chelston Business Park, Wellington, TA21 9JQ

The fastest growing trampoline park operator in the world and contains the UK's biggest trampolines.

 01823 746005

 www.flipout.co.uk/view/flip-out-somerset

Hollywood Bowl

Yeo Leisure Park, Old Station Way, Yeovil, BA20 1NP

Ten Pin Bowling.

 0844 248 2193

 www.hollywoodbowl.co.uk/yeovil

Jungle Jungle

4 Artillery Road, Lufton, Yeovil, BA22 8RP

Specially designed children's indoor activity centre and play area for children under 12 years of age.

 01935 433833

 www.junglejungle.co.uk

Little Acorns Play Café

Cricket St Thomas Golf Club, A30 Near Chard, TA20 4DG

Soft play centre for 5 year olds and under.

 01460 30231

 www.cricketstthomasgolfclub.co.uk/little-acorns-play-cafe

Ready2Climb

10 Buckland Road, Yeovil, BA21 5EA

Indoor rock climbing centre.

 01935 413675

 www.ready2climb.co.uk

Rug Ratz

Stourton Way, Yeovil, BA21 3AR

Children's indoor play activity centre for under 11 years of age.

 01935 476989

 www.rug-ratz.co.uk

Safari Tots

Somerton Business Park, 14a Wessex Park, Somerton, TA11 6SB

Indoor play area for 0-10 years.

 01458 270100

 www.safari-tots.co.uk

3. Activities & Lifestyle

Play Parks



Yeovil Recreation Centre

Chilton Grove, Yeovil, BA21 4AW

Free flagship play space. Mini golf, pitch and putt. Fees apply for some activities.

 01935 462616

 www.yeovilrec.co.uk

Parks and Open Spaces

For details of other play parks, including skate parks across South Somerset, go to the website below.

 www.southsomerset.gov.uk/life-events/health-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces



Playdays

Every summer South Somerset District Council hold FREE Playdays across the region allowing children to get involved with a range of activities including rocketbuilding, storytelling, circus skills and more!

 www.southsomerset.gov.uk

Leisure Centres

Crewkerne Aqua Centre

Henhayes Lane, Crewkerne, TA18 7LZ

A high quality facility conveniently located in the town centre with indoor swimming pool.

 01460 77665

 www.aquacentre.co.uk

Goldenstones Leisure Centre

Brunswick Street, Yeovil, BA20 1QZ

Leisure centre and indoor pool tucked away in the folds of Yeovil Country Park.

 01935 845888

 www.freedom-leisure.co.uk

3. Activities & Lifestyle

Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre

Wincanton Road, Huish Episcopi, Langport, TA10 9SS

Leisure centre and 25 metre indoor swimming pool.

 01458 251055

 www.huishleisure.co.uk/huish-leisure/swimming.php

Westlands Sports & Fitness Centre

Westlands Close, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2DD

Fully equipped fitness gym, exercise class studios, squash courts and a multi-use sports hall.

 01935 314652

 www.westlandseyeovil.co.uk/westlands-sports-leisure-complex

Wincanton Sports Centre

West Hill, Wincanton, BA9 9SP

Community sports centre with indoor swimming pool.

 01963 824400

 www.freedom-leisure.co.uk

Lifestyle and Wellness

New Cross Farmhouse

Today New Cross Farmhouse is alive with wellness offerings, culinary and cultural events. Exclusive tours and workshops, holistic fitness and programmes. Luxury accommodation.

 07595 663952

 www.newcrossfarmhouse.com

4. Entertainment



4. Entertainment


South Somerset is lucky to have a great variety of theatres, arts centres and a multiplex cinema. Enjoy everything from national touring productions at Yeovil's Octagon Theatre to Shakespeare's plays and live bands across the region. Westlands in Yeovil also hosts local amateur dramatics shows and many famous comedians on their UK tours.

Entertainment

Cineworld

Yeo Leisure Park, Old Station Way, Yeovil, BA20 1NP

Multiplex cinema.

 0330 333 4444

 www.cineworld.co.uk

Ilminster Arts Centre at The Meeting House

35 East Street, Ilminster, TA19 0AN

Arts Centre with a vibrant programme of art exhibitions, workshops and music performances.

 01460 54972

 www.themeetinghouse.org.uk

The David Hall

Roundwell Street, South Petherton, TA13 5AA

The small hall with the big reputation! Concerts, theatre and film.


 01460 240340

 www.thedavidhall.org.uk

The Octagon Theatre

Hendford, Yeovil, BA20 1UX

Modern theatre and visual arts gallery hosting drama, dance, music and an annual pantomime.

 01935 422884

 www.octagon-theatre.co.uk

The Swan Theatre

138 Park Street, Yeovil, BA20 1QT

An outstanding example of non-professional theatre produced professionally.

 07500 376031

 www.swan-theatre.co.uk

Westlands Entertainment Centre

Westbourne Close, Yeovil, BA20 2DD

Hosting activities such as exercise and dance classes, food and drink fairs, film and music.

 01935 422884

 www.westlandseyeovil.co.uk

5. Festivals, Carnivals & Events



5. Festivals, Carnivals & Events

South Somerset hosts a wonderful range of lively events throughout the year for all ages, attracting a loyal and international following.

The locals love a party, so whatever time of year you visit there will be a festival, celebration, event or unusual custom taking place. Join in and get a real sense of what makes South Somerset tick.

Wassailing ceremony

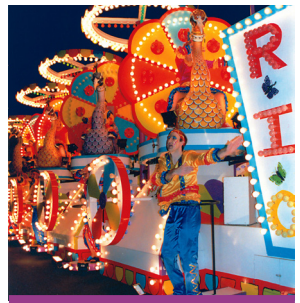
Bless an apple tree, ward-off evil spirits and ensure a good harvest for the coming year by joining a Wassailing ceremony – an ancient January ritual and important part of our cider heritage. There is singing, poetry, dancing and, of course cider consumption!

Celebrations, Festivals & Fetes

Discover May Day celebrations, festivals and fetes a-plenty in South Somerset. During the summer months there are open air theatre productions, vintage fairs, steam fairs and agricultural shows including our unique Scything Festival, and the Royal Navy International Air Day at Yeovilton.

Halloween and Carnivals

Halloween parties include the 100 year old Punkie Night at Hinton St George with lanterns carved from manglewurzels to light up the night. Be wowed in the winter months by the pageantry of the famous Somerset illuminated Carnivals.



5. Festivals, Carnivals & Events

Music & Culture



Photo credit: Home Farm Festival

Music and culture are an important part of life here.

Yeovil's **Octagon Theatre** draws big named acts from the comedy and entertainment world and holds an annual Literary Festival while the **Westlands Entertainment Venue** is gaining a reputation as the perfect venue for films and festivals.

The **Somerton Music and Arts Festival** in July covers all genre of music from rock and roll and choral to country music.

Home Farm Festival in June showcases live performances from local musicians and bands and has raised nearly half a million pounds for its charity 'School in a Bag' – not to be missed.

Children's Activities



Do you have young children to entertain? Don't worry, we have lots of activities for them too! Join one of our SSDC rangers on a bat walk or pond dipping at one of the Country Parks. Watch latest movies or old classics at village screen events or experience an inspiring Take Art production in community halls. Take a blanket, wrap up warm and marvel at the stars from Burrow Hill or Burton Pynsent Monument.

Ranger Activities are held at the Country Parks with a fun packed timetable of events from den-building to campfire cooking, wildflower walks, bug hunts, bat walks, pond dipping, drystone walling, orienteering and much more!

Check our What's On pages on our website for the latest local activities:

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

Latest Events Information

Given the recent coronavirus and the challenges this has presented, UK wide restrictions and guidelines are frequently changing. We suggest that you follow the government updates before travelling. Also check the following websites for the latest events in the local area:

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

 www.visitsomerset.co.uk

 www.facebook.com/WhatsOnSomerset

 www.visitengland.com

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink



6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Our pretty market towns bustle with events and activities, quirky characters, independent shops, café and tearooms and vibrant street markets.

It would be impossible to list all the wonderful traders and local businesses here and no doubt as we're producing this, new and exciting ones will be popping up. We hope you enjoy discovering our towns and villages and the following gives you a small taster of what you might find on your shopping adventures.

Shopping

Clarks Village Outlet Shopping

Farm Road, Street, BA16 0BB

An outlet escape like no other, incredible prices with up to 60% off fashion, homewares and more.

 01458 840064

 www.clarksvillage.co.uk

Kilver Court Designer Village

Kilver Street, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5NF

The Designer Outlet Village houses more than 40 fashion brands, homewares and gifts with discounts of up to 60%.

 01749 340410

 www.kilvercourt.com

Pittards Leather

Sherborne Road, Yeovil, BA21 5BA

Pittards was established in Yeovil by Charles Pittard in 1826. World class leather experts manufacturing high quality and performance leathers. Visit the Factory Shop and Hide and Skin Store selling a wide range of luxurious leather goods and home furnishing items, together with trade priced leathers for all your craft and dressmaking needs. Coffee shop. Free parking.

 01935 474321

 www.pittards.com

Quedam Shopping Centre

Yeovil, BA20 1EY

Located in the heart of Yeovil town centre, the outdoor shopping centre features more than 30 stores ranging from independent local traders to large fashion retailers including New Look, H&M and Primark. Dunelm recently opened here too.

 www.quedamshopping.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Top Tips for Home, Vintage & Curiosity Collectors

Alchemy Bruton

West End, Cole Road, Bruton, BA10 0BQ

Stylish interiors showroom with collection of antiques and contemporary homeware combining classic antiques from 17th-20th century with modern day pieces to suit its broad customer base.

 01749 813770

 www.facebook.com/alchemybruton

Antiques Bazaar

The Old Textile Mill, South Street, Crewkerne, TA18 8AG

A former textiles mill, full of antiques, vintage retro and collectables, unusual furniture, giftware, jewellery silver and gold. Over 95 traders in one single storey warehouse.

 01460 77121

 www.antiquesbazaar.co.uk

Art Café

6A Holyrood Street, Chard, TA20 2AH

A wonderful venue offering good food. The walls are decorated with paintings – all for sale!

 01460 261001

 www.facebook.com/artcafeandbistro

Bailey Hill Bookshop

Fore Street, Castle Cary, BA7 7BG

Run by a team of knowledgeable booksellers. Renowned for its creative window displays as well as its well as its well-stocked shelves.

 01963 350917

 www.baileyhillbookshop.com

Caro Somerset

18-20 High Street, Bruton, BA10 0AA

A local shop offering timeless objects for life and home with a service rooted in knowledge, care and attention and products of quality.

 01749 813368

 www.carosomerset.com

Castle Reclamation

Parrett Works, Martock, TA12 6AE

Architectural antiques, 16th and 17th century style furniture, oak and painted pine kitchens, fireplaces, flagstones and more...

 01935 826483

 www.castlereclamation.com

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Crewkerne Antiques & Interiors

16 Market Street, Crewkerne, TA18 7LA

Antiques, country pine and painted furniture, ceramics, coins, militaria, jewellery art and more...

 01460 77111

 www.facebook.com/crewkerneantiques

Dekorative Kollektive

14 Market Street, Crewkerne, TA18 7LA

A collection of dealers in antique country furniture, architectural and decorative items.

 01460 75500

 www.facebook.com/dekorativekollektive

Grand Interiors

2 The George Shopping Centre, Crewkerne, TA18 7LU

Upcycled furniture, homewares and gift shop. Stock is constantly changed to make your shopping experience fresh and exciting.

 01460 929470

 www.grandinteriors.myshopify.com

Grants of Somerset

1 Market Square, South Petherton, TA13 5BT

Independent retailer of affordable luxury décor and gifts.

 01460 929390

 www.grantsofsomerset.co.uk

Quillon Antiques

16 High Street, Bruton, BA10 0AA

Offers 18th and 19th century oak and country furniture, arms and armour, equestrian paintings, big game taxidermy and decorative items.

 01749 812269

 www.quillonhouseantiques.com

Lafleure

The Corner Shop, Cheapside, Langport, TA10 9PW

Providing everything to make homes beautiful. Lighting, furniture, mirrors, beautiful gifts, glassware and accessories to adorn every room in your home.

 01458 253209

 www.lafleurehome.co.uk

Lawrences Auctioneers

The Linen Yard, South Street, Crewkerne, TA18 8AB

Principal fine art auctioneers in the UK. Visit the website for details on valuations and the auction calendar.

 01460 73041

 www.lawrences.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Market Cross Antiques

West Street, Somerton, TA11 7PS

Over 30 dealers displaying a large range of antiques, collectables and decorative furnishings. Please see their facebook page for up to date announcements and stock.

 01458 274005

 www.facebook.com/marketcrossantiquesinsomerton

Somerset Trading Barn, Kimbers Farm Shop

Charlton Musgrove, Wincanton, BA9 8HD

With 25 traders over 2 floors. Collectables, antiques, up-cycled items, art, fabrics, clothes, gifts and jewellery.

 01963 33177

 www.kimbersfarmshop.co.uk

The Book Rest

4 West Street, Ilminster, TA19 9AA

Selling and finding second hand books. Indulge your thirst for knowledge and love of reading in a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere.

 01460 52516

 www.thebookrest.biz

The Emporium

39 Princes Street, Yeovil, BA20 1EG

Spanning three floors with about 60 independent retailers and artisans selling antiques, vintage clothes and collectables. Great value café with delicious home cooked meals if you need a breather from the browsing!

 01935 579482

 www.theemporiumyeovil.co.uk

The Ilminster Emporium

The Dyers Building, 21 Silver Street, Ilminster, TA19 0BZ

A not for profit company set up to promote local businesses (arts and crafts) and help them prosper and grow.

 enquiries@ilminsteremporium.co.uk

 www.ilminsteremporium.co.uk

Tinhouse Home & Garden Antiques

Sutton Hill, South Hill, Somerton, TA11 7JG

Antique furniture, garden antiques, pots, birdbaths, sundials, statues and garden furniture.

 01458 241298

 www.tinhousehomeandgarden.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Wardon Hill Trading Post

Nr Evershot on the A37 between Yeovil and Dorchester, DT2 9PW

Over 50 traders displaying antiques, vintage collectables, craft and so much more ...

 01935 83069

 www.facebook.com/wardonhilltradingpost/

Wessex Antique Bedsteads

The Old Glove Works, Percombe (A303) Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6RD

One of the largest and most varied collections of brass, iron and wooden bedsteads in the UK from the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

 01935 829147

 www.wessexbeds.co.uk

For a wealth of information on antiques establishments and events across Devon, Somerset and Dorset visit the website below or pick up a copy of the guide from the South Somerset Visitor Information Centre.

 www.theantiquetourist.com

Fans of Fashion

Cool and trendy **Bruton** is home to **Rose and Lyons** - an eclectic modern day emporium of clothes and homeware.

Castle Cary is a deservedly popular destination, with the **Oxford Mill** boutique full of women's and men's clothing, jewellery and accessories. **Needful Things** sell boutique clothing alongside homeware, art and gifts.

Iminster is proud to be home to the new store **Temperley London** at Phoenix Studios. Alice Temperley MBE founded her eponymous label Temperley London in 2000, a year after graduating from the Royal College of Art. Alice continues to head up the creative direction of this British independent brand, now in its twentieth year of business.

Retail Therapy in **Iminster** stocks great occasion ware and clearance lines

With a team of talented seamstresses, **Bespoke of Somerton** is home to brands Waistcoats Unlimited and Me and my Mum. Producing bespoke made and well-fitted clothes for over 25 years in the historic village of **Somerton**.

Bespoke of Somerton

Selwood House, Market Place, Somerton, TA11 7LX

 01458 273970

 www.bespokeofsomerton.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Needful Things

7 High Street, Castle Cary, BA7 7AN

☎ 01963 351352

🌐 www.needfulthings.uk.com

Oxford Mill Clothing

Market Place, Castle Cary, BA7 7AG

☎ 01963 350230

🌐 www.oxfordmillclothing.co.uk

Retail Therapy

2-6 Silver Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DL

☎ 01460 52246

Rose & Lyons

21 High Street, Bruton, BA10 0AH

☎ 01749 813011

🌐 www.roseandlyons.co.uk

Temperley London

at Phoenix Studios, Cornhill, Ilminster, TA19 0AD

☎ 01460 259561

🌐 www.temperleylondon.com

Somerset Farmer Markets



Photo credit: Justin Orwin

Run eight regular markets spread throughout the month across the region of Somerset, including one in Crewkerne, South Somerset. Go to their website for all the latest locations and dates.

🌐 www.somersetfarmersmarkets.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Town & Village Markets

All subject to change, so please check local details at the time of your visit.

Barrington Village Hall

Every fourth Saturday of the month (except August and December) from 10am - 12 noon.

Castle Cary Market Place

Tuesdays between 8.30am - 2pm.

Chard Antiques and Collectors

Guildhall, Chard

Thursdays between 8am - 2pm.

Chard

Fore Street, Near the Guildhall

Saturdays between 9am - 2.30pm.

Crewkerne Indoor Market

Henhayes Centre

Fridays from 9am - 11 am.



Crewkerne Farmers Market

Outside the Henhayes Centre

Every third Saturday of the month between 9am - 1pm.

Drayton Farmers Market

Drayton Village Hall

The third Saturday of the month between 10am - 12 noon.

Huish Episcopi Farmers Market

Rose and Crown Pub (Eli's)

Fridays between 7pm - 9pm

Ilminster Market

The Market Square

Thursdays between 8am - 2pm

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Kingsbury Episcopi Farmers Market

Church Rooms

First Saturday of the month between 10am - 12 noon.

Langport Country and District Market

All Saints Hall

Thursdays between 9am - 11.30am.

Langport Produce Market

Langport Town Square

Last Friday of the month between 10am - 2pm.



Langport Vintage Market

Langport Town Square

Every second Saturday of the month between 10am - 4pm.

Martock Farmers Market

North Street

Second Saturday of the month between 10am - 3pm.

Montacute Levels Best Market

Old Stable Courtyard, Montacute

Last Saturday of the month in March to December between 10am - 2pm.

North Curry Produce Market

North Curry Village Hall

First Saturday of the month between 9.30am - 11.30am.

Somerton/Wessex Country Market

Unicorn Skittle Alley, West Street

Saturdays between 9am - 12 noon.

Somerton Vintage and Artisan Food Market

Market Square

First Friday of the month between 10am - 12.30 noon.

Yeovil Market

Lower Middle Street

Tuesdays and Fridays between 9am - 3pm.

Garden Centres & Nurseries

Are you a gardening enthusiast? Many of the beautiful gardens that are open to the public (see Gardens & Historic Houses section) have plant sales areas. There are also many wonderful garden centres and nurseries across South Somerset to inspire.

Specialist Plant Fairs

Specialist Plant Fairs provide an excellent opportunity for the public to buy direct from professional growers throughout the South West. The plants for sale offer quality, variety and excellent value to customers. Usually the fairs are held at interesting historical properties, all of which are surrounded by superb gardens.



www.plantfairs.co.uk

Garden Centre & Nursery Information

For more detailed information about Garden Centres and Nurseries in the area, please request a copy of our information leaflet from our South Somerset Visitor Information Centre.



email us at visit@southsomerset.gov.uk

The Hardy Plant Society

The Hardy Plant Society (Somerset Group) also publish a Somerset Specialist Nursery List available from their website.



www.hardy-plant.org.uk/somerset

Food & Drink

Cheddar Cheese and cider are synonymous with Somerset but it doesn't stop there. Enjoy locally produced ice creams, buffalo, locally smoked meats and fish including eel from the River Parrett. Cider brandy, local gins and craft beers are all produced here too.

South Somerset's rolling countryside is perfect for picnics and you'll be spoilt for choice with local farm shops, ideally placed to help you put together a delicious al-fresco feast of artisan breads, pies, pasties, cheeses, smoked meats and treats. Just what's needed to savour the stunning views at Ham Hill Country Park.

Cider & Tastings



Visit our local cider farms to sample apple juice, cider and cider brandy. You won't be able to resist buying a bottle to enjoy at home! You'll find plenty of cosy and characterful pubs to enjoy a relaxing Somerset cider or visit one of the cider farms to sample.



Bere Cider Company & Jim's Shack
Woodpecker Lodge, Bere, Aller, Langport,
TA10 9QX

 01458 250166

 www.berecidercompany.com

Bridge Farm Cider

475 Fordhay, East Chinnock, Yeovil, BA22 9EA

 01935 862387

 www.bridgefarmcider.co.uk

Ham Hill Cider

North Down Farm, Haselbury Plucknett, TA18 7PL

 07973 222448

 www.hamhillcider.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Harry's Cider

Littlefield Farm, Long Sutton, Langport, TA10 9NS

01458 241324

www.harryscidercompany.co.uk

North Down Orchard

North Down Farm, Haselbury Plucknett, Crewkerne, TA18 7PL

www.northdownorchard.com

Perry's Cider

The Cider Mills, Dowlish Wake, Ilminster, TA19 0NY

01460 55195

www.perryscider.co.uk



Somerset Cider Brandy & Burrow Hill Cider

Pass Vale Farm, Burrow Hill, Kingsbury
Episcopi, Martock, TA12 6BU

01460 240782

www.ciderbrandy.co.uk

The Cider Shack

87 Greenwood Road, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 3LF

01935 329239

www.thecidershack.co.uk

The Newt in Somerset

Bruton, BA7 7NG

01963 577777

www.thenewtinsomerset.com/cyder

Farm Shops & Local Produce

This is just a small selection of businesses across the region.

A new and useful website www.shopsomerset.co.uk lists many local food and drink businesses too.

Bakery Roy-Al, Martock

6 North Street, Martock TA12 6DL

01935 826667

www.bakeryroyal.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Black Sheep Butchers

6 Parrett Close, Langport, TA10 9PG

☎ 01458 250778

🌐 www.facebook.com/Black-Sheep-Butchers-179998479371678

Bonners Butchers & Deli

37 Silver Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DW

☎ 01460 52465

🌐 www.bonnersthebutchers.co.uk/

Brown & Forrest

Bowdens Farm Smokery, Hambridge, Langport, TA10 0BP

☎ 01458 250875

🌐 www.brownanforrest.co.uk



Cedrics Apple Cake

The White Swan, Misterton, Crewkerne, TA18 8NT

☎ 01458 250875

🌐 www.cedricssomerset.co.uk

Durslade Farm Shop

Dropping Lane, Bruton, BA10 0NL

☎ 01749 717130

🌐 www.dursladefarmshop.co.uk

Gilcombe Farm

Bruton, BA10 0QE

☎ 01749 813710

🌐 www.gilcombefarm.co.uk

Godminster Cheese

Station Road, Bruton, BA10 0EH

☎ 01749 813733

🌐 www.godminster.com

Greensleeves Nursery & Farm Shop

Lower Odcombe, Yeovil, BA22 8TW

☎ 01935 864166

🌐 www.greensleevesnursery.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Hamish's Farm Shop

637 Prowles Cross, Yeovil, BA22 9RF

 01935 873303

 www.hamishsfarmshop.com

Home Farm Shop

Kingweston, Somerton, TA11 6BD

 01458 223765

 www.home.farm-shop.com



Kimbers Farm Shop

Charlton Musgrove, Wincanton, BA9 8HD

 01963 33177

 www.kimbersfarmshop.co.uk

Montgomery Cheese

Village Stores, 6 Woolston Road, North Cadbury, Yeovil, BA22 7DW

 01963 440201

 www.montgomerycheese.co.uk



North Perrott Farm Shop, Pick Your Own & Garden Centre

North Perrott, TA18 7SS

 01460 77090

 www.parrettbrand.com

Perry's Cider Mills Farm Shop

The Cider Mills, Dowlish Wake, Ilminster, TA19 0NY

 01460 55195

 www.perryscider.co.uk

Pinsents Deli

Market Place, Castle Cary, BA7 7AL

 01963 351000

 www.pinsentsdeli.co.uk

Pitney Farm Shop

The Wagon House, Pitney, Langport, TA10 9AP

 01458 253002

 www.pitneyfarmshop.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Red Barn Shop

Hinton Farm, Hinton, Mudford, Yeovil, BA22 8BA

 01935 850994

 www.facebook.com/redbarnfarmshop

School Farm

Muchelney, Nr Langport, TA10 0DN

 01458 251127

 www.schoolfarmmuchelney.co.uk

Smith & Evans Vineyard

Higher Plot, Aller, Langport, TA10 0QL

 01458 259075

 www.schoolfarmmuchelney.co.uk

Teals

1 Orchard Lane, South Cadbury, BA22 7FS

 0773 9553056

 www.teals.co.uk

The Bakery West Camel Ltd

A303 West Camel, Sparkford Road, BA22 7RB

 01935 850450

 www.thebakery303.co.uk

The Bridge Bakery & Canteen

Westover Trading Estate, Langport, TA10 9RB

 01458 897100

 www.thebridgelangport.co.uk

The Jam Shed

Lytes Cary, Somerton, TA11 7HU

 07964 297892

 www.facebook.com/The-Jam-Shed-546247032103016

The Little Bakery

11 Parrett Close, Langport, TA10 9PG

 01458 250025

 www.littlebakerylangport.co.uk

The Lovington Bakery

1 Market Place, Wincanton, BA9 9LD

 01963 824871

 www.facebook.com/lovingtonbakery

The Market Garden

Fore Street, Castle Cary, BA7 7BQ

 01963 350650

 www.facebook.com/somersetstown

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

The Newt in Somerset Farm Shop

Bruton, BA7 7NG

 01963 577777

 www.thenewtinsomerset.com/garden-shop



The Trading Post Farm Shop

Lopenhead, South Petherton, TA13 5JH

 01460 241666

 www.tradingpostfarmshop.co.uk

The Trough Farm Shop

Stone Lane, Yeovil, BA21 4NU

 01935 413027

 www.troughfarmshop.com

28 Market Place

Somerton, TA11 7NB

 01458 333444

 www.28marketplace.co.uk

West Country Water Buffalo

Higher Oakley Farm, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil, BA22 8LS

 01935 840567

 www.westcountrywaterbuffalo.com

Places to Eat & Drink

If you like quirky then you'll be happy in South Somerset – where else can you eat in a restored railway carriage one minute and a double decker bus the next?

Many pubs have decades old skittle alleys and local leagues, as the state of some of the skittles show. Try a game but check the rules carefully as they vary from place to place. You have been warned! Here's just a small selection of some of the most popular and charming places to eat and drink in the area...



Taste of the West Awards

The annual Taste of the Awards scheme has grown over the last two and a half decades to become the UK's largest regional food and drink awards programme, supporting food and drink businesses in the South West to thrive. You'll find many award winners in South Somerset!

 www.tasteofthewest.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

Art Café

6A Holyrood Street, Chard, TA20 2AH

☎ 01460 261001

🌐 www.facebook.com/artcafeandbistro

Art Tea Zen

105 Cheapside, Langport, TA10 9PW

☎ 01458 50635

🌐 www.artteazen.co.uk

At the Chapel

28 High Street, Bruton, BA10 0AE

☎ 01749 814070

🌐 www.atthechapel.co.uk

Brown & Forrest

Bowdens Farm Smokery, Hambridge, Langport, TA10 0BP

☎ 01458 250875

🌐 www.brownandforrest.co.uk

Cow & Apple

8-10 Church Street, Yeovil, BA20 1HE

☎ 01934 433292

🌐 www.cowandapple.co.uk/yeovil-restaurant



Dorothy's Tea Rooms

The Old Post Office, 84 West Street,
Hinton St George, TA17 8SB

☎ 01460 394170

🌐 www.dorothystearoom.co.uk

Farm & Field Café

Frogmary Green Farm, West Street, South Petherton, TA13 5DJ

☎ 01460 242775

🌐 www.frogmarygreenfarm.co.uk

Hamish's Farm Shop & Café

637 Prowles Cross, Yeovil, BA22 9RF

☎ 01935 873303

🌐 www.hamishsfarmshop.com

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink



Haselbury Mill

Haselbury Plucknett, Crewkerne, TA18 7NY

 01460 77095

 www.haselburymill.co.uk

Home

High Street, Castle Cary, BA7 7AN

 07432 731092

 www.facebook.com/HomeCastleCary

Hornsbury Mill

Hornsbury Mill, Eleighwater, Chard, TA20 3AQ

 01460 63317

 www.hornsburymill.co.uk

Kazbar

6-7 South Western Terrace, Yeovil, BA20 1NB

 01935 411388

 www.kazbaryeovil.co.uk

Kitchen Café & Terrace at Jordan's Courtyard

Horton Cross, Ilminster, TA19 9PY

 01460 298608

 www.jordanscourtyard.co.uk

Lord Poulett Arms

High Street, Hinton St George, TA17 8SE

 01460 73149

 www.lordpoulettarms.com

Matt's Kitchen

51 High Street, Bruton, BA10 0AW

 01749 812027

 www.mattskitchen.co.uk

Monks Yard

Horton Manor, Horton Cross, Ilminster, TA19 9PY

 01460 259286

 www.monksyard.co.uk

New Farm Restaurant

Over Stratton, South Petherton, TA13 5LQ

 01460 240584

 www.newfarmrestaurant.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink



Ninesprings Café

Yeovil Country Park, Brunswick Street, Yeovil,
BA20 1QZ



www.facebook.com/Ninesprings-Cafe-Yeovil-Country-Park-BA20-1QZ-684789788302310

Old Dairy Café

Bower Hinton Farm, Back Lane, Martock, TA12 6LH



07801 639937



www.theolddairycafe.uk

Oscars Wine Bar

13 Market Square, Crewkerne, TA18 7LE



01460 77494

Osip Restaurant

1 High Street, Bruton, BA10 0AB



01749 813322



www.osiprestaurant.com



Pip's Railway Carriage Café, bakery & restaurant

Lopenhead, South Petherton, TA13 5JH



www.pipsrailwaycarriage.co.uk

Roth Bar & Grill

Durslade Farm, Dropping Lane, Bruton, BA10 0NL



01749 814700



www.rothbarandgrill.co.uk

The Barrington Boar

Barrington, Ilminster, TA19 0JB



01460 259281



www.thebarringtonboar.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

The Bridge Bakery & Canteen

Westover Trading Estate, Langport, TA10 9RB

 01458 897100

 www.thebridgelangport.co.uk

The Camelot

Chapel Road, South Cadbury, Yeovil, BA22 7EX

 01963 441685

 www.camelotpub.co.uk

The Crooked Swan

4 Church Street, Crewkerne, TA18 7HR

 01460 208414

 www.crookedswan.com

The Cross Keys

East Lydford, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 7HA

 01963 240473

 www.crosskeysinn.info

The Crown and Victoria Inn

14 Farm Street, Tintinhull, Yeovil, BA22 8PZ

 01935 823341

 www.thecrownandvictoria.co.uk

The Devonshire Arms

Long Sutton, TA10 9LP

 01458 241271

 www.thedevonshirearms.com

The Firehouse

Church Street, Curry Rivel, TA10 0HE

 01458 887447

 www.thefirehousesomerset.co.uk

The Flying Fish

Wood Road, Ashill, Windmill Hill, Ilminster, TA19 9NX

 01823 480467

 www.theflyingfishsomerset.co.uk

The Green House

Beech Barn, Eaglewood Park, Whitelackington, Ilminster, TA19 9DQ

 07772 286500

 www.facebook.com/TheGreenHousellminster

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

The Halfway House

Pitney Hill, Langport, TA10 9AB

☎ 01458 252513

🌐 www.thehalfwayhouse.co.uk

The Helyar Arms

Moor Lane, East Coker, Yeovil, BA22 9JR

☎ 01935 8623332

🌐 www.thehelyararms.com

The Kingsdon Inn

Kingsdon, Nr Somerton, TA11 7LG

☎ 01935 840543

🌐 www.kingsdoninn.co.uk

The Kitchen Café & Terrace at Jordans Courtyard

Horton Cross, Ilminster, TA19 9PY

☎ 01460 298608

🌐 www.jordanscourtyard.co.uk

The Kitchen at the Wharf

Great Bow Wharf, Bow Street, Langport, TA10 9PN

☎ 01458 254354

🌐 www.kitchenlangport.co.uk

The Lamb and Lion

The Green, Hambridge, Langport, TA10 0AT

☎ 01460 281774

🌐 www.lambandlionhambridge.co.uk

The Lovington Bakery & Café

1 Market Place, Wincanton, BA9 9LD

☎ 01963 824871

🌐 www.facebook.com/lovingtonbakery



The Masons Arms

41 Lower Odcombe, Yeovil, BA22 8TX

☎ 01935 862591

🌐 www.masonsarmsodcombe.co.uk

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

The Muddled Man Inn

West Chinnock, Crewkerne, TA18 7PT

☎ 01935 881235

🌐 www.themuddledmaninn.co.uk

The Pilgrims Restaurant

Lovington, Castle Cary, BA7 7PT

☎ 01963 240600

🌐 www.pilgrimsrestaurant.co.uk



The Pitney Farm Café

Glebe Farm, Woodbirds Hill Lane, Pitney,
Langport, TA10 9AP

☎ 07769 173682

🌐 www.thepitneyfarmcafe.co.uk

The Prince of Wales

Ham Hill, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6RW

☎ 01935 822848

🌐 www.princeofwaleshamhill.co.uk

The Queen's Arms

Portman House Estates Ltd, Strawberry Hill, Corton Denham,
DT9 4LR

☎ 01963 220317

🌐 www.thequeensarms.com

The Red Lion

North Street, Babcary, Nr Somerton, TA11 7ED

☎ 01458 233230

🌐 www.redlionbabcary.co.uk

The River Parrett Café and Deli

Bow Street, Langport, TA10 9PQ

☎ 01458 259773

🌐 www.facebook.com/The-Parrett-Deli-Dine-104854198043590

The Rose & Crown (Eli's)

Huish Episcopi, Wincanton Road, Langport, TA10 9QT

☎ 01458 250494

🌐 www.facebook.com/pages/category/Pub/Elis-Rose-and-Crown-Somerset-149910561701738

6. Retail Therapy, Food & Drink

The Rose and Crown

Silver Street, East Lambrook, South Petherton, TA13 5HF

 01460 240433

 www.roseandcrowneastlambrook.com

The Trough Farm Shop & Café

Stone Lane, Yeovil, BA21 4NU

 01935 413027

 www.troughfarmshop.com

The White Hart Inn

Market Place, Somerton, TA11 7LX

 01458 272273

 www.whitehartsomerton.com

The White Post

Rimpton, Adber, Yeovil, BA22 8AR

 01935 851525

 www.thewhitepost.com

The Winking Frog

Princes Street, Yeovil, BA20 1EN

 01935 508151

 www.facebook.com/TheWinkingFrogCoffeeShop

28 Market Place

Somerton, TA11 7NB

 01458 333444

 www.28marketplace.co.uk

Find out more information about food & drink in Somerset at the website below or collect a copy of the guide from the South Somerset Visitor Information Centre.

 www.foodanddrinkguides.com

7. Discover Further Afield



Photo: Glastonbury Tor

7. Discover Further Afield

South Somerset is a great base to explore the wider Somerset area. Day trips further afield to our neighbours in Dorset, Devon and Wiltshire are well worth a visit too.

Somerset - The Wider Area

Bristol Zoo Gardens

Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3HA

Step into an amazing animal kingdom and discover over 400 incredible species from across the globe. Adventure playground. Restaurant.

Please note the Zoo will be relocating to Gloucestershire in 2022. Please check the website for latest updates.

 0117 9747300

 www.bristolzoo.org.uk

Dunster Castle and Watermill (National Trust)

Castle Hill, Dunster, Nr Minehead, TA24 6RL

Fortified home of the Luttrells for 600 years, remodelled 100 years ago. Fine 17th century staircase and plaster ceilings. Terrace garden of rare shrubs. Watermill.

 01643 821314

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunster-castle-and-watermill

Exmoor National Park

One of the most peaceful of all National Parks, Exmoor is renowned for its dramatic coastal views, heather moorland, ancient woodlands, steep coombes and Exmoor ponies. A unique and special place.

 01398 323665

 www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Fashion Museum and Assembly Rooms

Bennett Street, Bath, BA1 2QH

One of the world's great museum collections of historical and contemporary dress, showcasing fashions from the time of Shakespeare right up to the present day.

 01225 477789

 www.fashionmuseum.co.uk

Glastonbury Abbey

Abbey Gatehouse, Magdalene Street, Glastonbury, BA6 9EL

The Abbey is connected with legend to a degree that is unparalleled by any other abbey in England. Since Medieval times, the abbey has held legendary status as the earliest Christian foundation in Britain linked to Joseph of Arimathea and the burial place of King Arthur. Today it is a tranquil setting where you can discover the stories, explore the accredited museum and enjoy a packed events calendar.

 01458 832267

 www.glastonburyabbey.com

7. Discover Further Afield

Glastonbury Tor (National Trust)

Nr Glastonbury, BA6 9JZ

This iconic hill has been a spiritual magnet for centuries, for both Pagans and Christians. Tales have grown out of history, becoming blended and embellished leaving the truth, whatever it was, literally lost in the mists of Avalon. Short walk from the town centre, eastwards along A361. Seasonal park and ride service from town. (Please note there is no parking at the Tor). Free entry.



01278 751874



www.nationaltrust.org.uk/glastonbury-tor

Noah's Ark Zoo Farm

Clevedon Road, Wraxhall, Bristol, BS48 1PG

Enjoy a fun packed day out at multi award winning zoo. Over 100 species of animals from around the world all set in 100 acres of lush farmland. Play areas and activities. Café.



01275 852606



www.noahsarkzoo.com

Puxton Park

Cowslip Lane, Hewish, Banwell, Weston Super Mare, BS24 6AH

All weather adventure park with soft play, aerial climbing and slides in 40 acres of countryside. Falconry and mini railway. Water pursuits. Farm shop and café.



01934 523500



www.puxton.co.uk

Roman Baths and Pump Room

Roman Baths, Abbey Church Yard, Bath, BA1 1LZ

Explore the Roman Baths, walk on the original Roman pavements and see the ruins of the Temple of Sulis Minerva. The museum collection, located next to the bathing complex, includes a gilt bronze head of the Goddess Sulis Minerva, and other Roman artefacts. The city's unique thermal springs rise in the site and the Baths still flow with natural hot water. Restaurant in 18th century Pump Room. Refreshments also available in The Roman Baths Kitchen in Abbey Church Yard.



01225 477785



www.romanbaths.co.uk

Somerset Lavender

Horsepond Farm, Faulkland, BA3 5WA

Wander through the Lavender Garden where they trial over 20 varieties of Lavender. In the Lavender Field, see over five acres of Lavender, walk through the field and absorb the sight of more than 50,000 Lavender plants with bees humming, collecting pollen to make honey.



01373 834893



www.somersetlavender.com

7. Discover Further Afield

The Somerset Guild of Craftsmen

23a Broad Street, Wells BA5 2DJ

With as many as sixty members exhibiting work at any one time, the range of skills displayed in the Guild's gallery is very diverse. Many makers use traditional techniques to create contemporary work ranging from pottery and ceramics, glass, metalwork and wood through to furniture and textiles. Most makers are happy to accept commissions. Alongside our own members' work is a changing programme of exhibitions by guest craftsmen and designers.

 01749 671112

 www.somersetguild.co.uk

 admin@somersetguild.co.uk

Wells Cathedral

Cathedral Green, Wells, BA5 2UE

Built between 1175 and 1490 Wells Cathedral has been described as "the most poetic of the English Cathedrals". Set in the medieval heart of England's smallest city, the Cathedral is the earliest English Cathedral to be built in the Gothic style.

 01749 674483

 www.wellscathedral.org.uk

Wells & Mendip Museum

8 Cathedral Green, Wells, BA5 2UE

Discover the natural history, geology and heritage of Wells and the Mendip Hills.

 01749 673477

 www.wellsmuseum.org.uk

Wookey Hole Caves

Wookey Hole, Wells, BA5 1BB

Explore the world famous caves, journey through the prehistoric Valley of the Dinosaurs, discover the Magical Mirror Maze, sit back and relax in the 4D Cinema and much more! Play castle. Café.

 01749 672243

 www.wookey.co.uk



Somerset Tourist Information

For more information about Somerset, go to the website below.

 www.visitsomerset.co.uk

7. Discover Further Afield

Devon

Bicton Park Botanical Gardens

East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Exeter, EX9 7BJ

Devon's magnificent botanical gardens with palm house, woodland railway, countryside museum, indoor and outdoor play areas.



01395 568465



www.bictongardens.co.uk

Crealy Theme Park & Resort

Sidmouth Road Clyst St Mary, Exeter, EX5 1DR

Award winning theme park.



01395 233200



www.crealy.co.uk

Dartmoor National Park

Dartmoor is the largest expanse of unglaciated upland in Great Britain and the largest granite surface in England. A magical, enchanting playground for adults and children alike, full of wide open spaces to explore and see wonderful wildlife and wild ponies.



www.visitdartmoor.co.uk

Diggerland

Verbeer Manor, Cullompton, EX15 2PE

Ride, drive and operate real diggers all in a safe and family friendly setting.



0871 2277007



www.diggerland.com

The Donkey Sanctuary

Sidmouth, EX10 0NU

One of the world's largest equine welfare charities. Explore award winning gardens and scenic coast path walks to engaging exhibits and, of course meeting hundreds of adorable donkeys! Café. Free entry. Donations welcome.



01395 578222



www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk



Devon Tourist Information

For more information about Devon, go to the website below.



www.visitdevon.co.uk

Devon & Dorset

The Jurassic Coast

The Jurassic Coast is a hugely diverse and beautiful landscape underpinned by incredible geology of global importance. In 2001 it became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is England's only natural World Heritage Site, inscribed by UNESCO for the outstanding universal value of its rocks, fossils and landforms.

The Jurassic Coast begins at Orcombe Point in Exmouth, Devon, and continues for 95 miles to Old Harry Rocks, near Swanage, Dorset. Whether you want to hunt for fossils, visit a museum, or simply take in the stunning scenery on a good walk, you'll find there's plenty of things to do, whatever the time of year.

 01308 807000

 www.jurassiccoast.org

Dorset

Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Gardens

Bullers Way, Abbotsbury, DT3 4LA

A garden for all seasons boasting exotic plants and trees from all over the world. Café.

 01305 871387

 www.abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk/gardens

Abbotsbury Swannery

New Barn Road, Abbotsbury, DT3 4JG

Home to the only colony of nesting mute swans in the world. See the cygnets hatching in May-June. Café.

 01305 871858

 www.abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk/swannery

Mapperton House & Gardens

Beaminster, DT8 3NR

Glorious Tudor/Jacobean manor house and romantic valley garden. 15 acres of gardens descend from the croquet lawn, through the formal topiary down to the wild garden. Café.

 01308 862645

 www.mapperton.com

7. Discover Further Afield

Minterne Gardens

Minterne Magna, Dorchester, DT2 7AU

Home of the Churchill and Digby families since 1620. See the fascinating Himalayan collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. A new vista greets you around every corner on the beautiful undulating 1.5 mile walk.

 01300 341370

 www.minterne.co.uk

Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre

Longthorns, Wareham, BH20 6HH

Home to Europe's only orang-utan crèche and over 250 rescued and endangered monkeys and apes. All are now rehabilitated into family groups of their own kind. Café.

 01929 462537

 www.monkeyworld.org

The Tank Museum

Bovington, BH20 6JG

Come face to face with over 300 huge military machines that have seen action in major conflicts of the last century. Hear amazing stories from the soldiers that fought them in nine powerful exhibitions.

 01929 405096

 www.tankmuseum.org

Weymouth Sealife Adventure Park

Lodmoor Country Park, Weymouth, DT4 7SX

Take a fascinating journey from the Jurassic Coast to the ocean depths through 15 themed zones. Check out the amazing green sea turtles in the Ocean tunnel. Find out how it feels to touch a starfish, crab or other creatures living in the interactive Rockpool Experience. Talks, feeds and more! Adventure playground. Café.

 www.visitsealife.com/weymouth



Dorset Tourist Information

For more information about Dorset, go to the website below.

 www.visit-dorset.com

7. Discover Further Afield

Wiltshire

Longleat

Warminster, BA12 7NW

Immerse yourself in the animal kingdom at UK's original Safari Park. Gain hands-on experience feeding the lorikeets and sealions, with opportunities to handle tarantulas or snakes. Delve into history as you enter Longleat House, then discover the Adventure Castle, Hedge Maze, Longleat Railway and much more.

 01985 844400

 www.longleat.co.uk

Stonehenge (English Heritage)

Nr Amesbury, SP4 7DE

Exhilarating, inspiring, moving – there's no one word that quite captures the feeling of walking around this 4,500-year-old marvel of human endeavour. Visitor Centre with permanent exhibitions. Set off from here by foot or by shuttle bus to the Stone Circle. Café, shop and audio tours. Timed tickets must be booked in advance of your visit.

 0370 3331181

 www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge

Stourhead Landscape Garden (National Trust)

Nr Mere, BA12 6QD

One of the world's great landscape gardens, this sublime man-made creation of reflective water, woods, temples, trees and grottoes has a powerful beauty. Seasonal colour throughout the year. Stourhead House. King Alfred's Tower. Estate walks. Café.

 01747 841152

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stourhead



Wiltshire Tourist Information

For more information about Wiltshire, go to the website below.

 www.visitwiltshire.co.uk

8. Further Information



8. Further Information

Free South Somerset Guides

Accessibility

With so much to see and do in South Somerset, it's a wonderful place to visit for all ages and abilities. To plan an accessible break with us, you'll find everything you need in our separate Accessibility Guide to help with supporting additional needs, mobility information, transport and much more. Download your free copy from our website.

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

Dog Friendly Days Out

We love dogs in South Somerset and there are plenty of great places to take your fluffy friends. Download your free Dog Friendly Days Out guide on our website.

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

Other

We intend to continue developing other free guides and these will also be available to download on our website. Watch this space!

South Somerset Map



Download a copy of the South Somerset map from our website or pick one up from our Tourist Information Centres.

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

South Somerset Visitor Information Centre & Gift Shop



South Somerset Visitor Information Centre & Gift Shop

Cartgate Picnic Site, A303/A3088, Stoke sub Hamdon,
TA14 6RA

For more information about this guide or visiting South Somerset, please contact us at:

 01935 829333

 visit@southsomerset.gov.uk

 VisitSouthSomerset

 VisitSSomerset

 VisitSouthSomerset

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com



© Produced by South Somerset Tourism, South Somerset District Council
Design South Somerset District Council

! **Disclaimer** – Every effort has been taken to produce this information with care and accuracy at the time of publication. However, Visit South Somerset does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided, nor implies recommendation by the inclusion of content.