



Picture Perfect Detours

Cycling offers you so much flexibility so please enjoy these recommended explorations beyond the route guidance.



Cycling is one of the best ways to enjoy this unique area of rural England. Take your time exploring the gentle hills and vales, the intriguing Somerset Levels, charming hamstone villages and historic market towns.

Download FREE section maps & cycling route information

To access and download FREE route section descriptions, useful visitor information and inspiration to help make the most of your visit, please go to our website www.visitsouthsomerset.com and explore the Cycling section in Things to Do.

Staff at the South Somerset Visitor Information Centre & Gift Shop also offer a wealth of local knowledge and friendly advice, as do the local information centres who provide wonderful insights and experiences.

Useful information

South Somerset Visitor Information Centre & Gift Shop, Cartgate Picnic Site, A303/A3088, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6RA.

Tel: 01935 829333

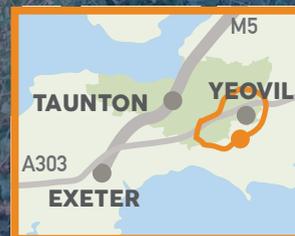
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South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

A Legendary Cycle Ride

The South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway will take you on a journey through idyllic country villages and bustling independent towns but there's also some stories of old to discover too...



Cadbury Castle is an Iron Age hill fort which on a clear day offers incredible views across to Glastonbury Tor and beyond.

High Ham and Low Ham: Stembridge Tower Mill is the last remaining thatch windmill in the whole of the UK and is close to Low Ham Church also known as the 'Church in the field'.



East Coker is known as one of the county's prettiest villages with thatched cottages aplenty, and is also the burial home to the poet T.S. Eliot. Sutton Bingham (pictured) adjoins the village and can be a peaceful picnic stop as you watch the local wildlife.

Ham Hill Country Park and Montacute House: A climb to the 'summit' offers the most rewarding views of the county before you whizz down the hill to the National Trust's Elizabethan mansion, Montacute House.



What do you look for in a cycle ride?

If you're keen to escape the busy roads and ride along quiet, almost forgotten lanes, then this is the route for you.

The Somerset landscape is incredibly diverse so you can expect breathtaking landscape views (after a climb or two!) whilst also enjoying leisurely stretches of flat terrain as you cycle along the peaceful riverbanks on the Levels.

The villages and towns will introduce you to the local culture, where artisan food and drink providers offer you a true taste of Somerset.

And then, you'll be time travelling over several eras as the route introduces you to the legend of King Arthur, takes you past a monastery, a grand stately home and even an 18th century lock-up!

Go Green

Cycling generates less noise and air pollution and emits fewer gases that contribute to global warming; it also protects green spaces and the wildlife that exists within them.





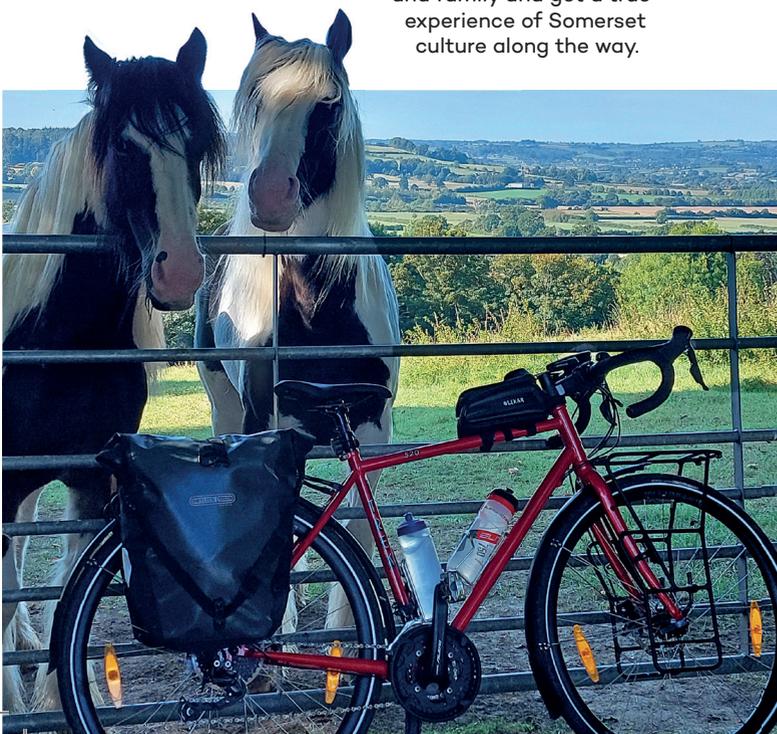
Cycle South Somerset

Pump up those bike tyres and pack your panniers so you too can explore the rural lanes of South Somerset on two wheels!

The South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway will lead you on a cycling adventure along a hedge-lined network of sleepy country lanes whilst calling into some of the county's finest market towns and historic villages. This cycle trip will take you deep into the county and guarantees that you'll be tasting some of Somerset's finest food and drink along the way.

The 80-mile route is fully waymarked, and you can break it down into shorter sections if you prefer. When used in conjunction with the downloadable maps, you can pedal at your leisure whilst soaking up the West Country hospitality and rewarding views.

Ancestral landmarks, heritage homes and King Arthur's Camelot all feature along this enjoyable bike trail as it weaves its way around the county. Ride off into the Somerset sunset with your friends and family and get a true experience of Somerset culture along the way.



Langport

Formerly a river port on the Parrett with distinctive houses on Bow Street and 'hanging chapel' gatehouse.



Somerton

Attractive busy town with interesting architectural buildings, including 17th century square, market cross and elegant houses.



Castle Cary

Vibrant market town with winding main street of thatch and golden stone and rare 18th century 'pepper pot' lockup.



Ham Hill Country Park

Stunning wildlife haven centred around an Iron Age hillfort, with far reaching views across Somerset.



Ilminster

Fine Minster church towers over charming town with mellow hamstone architecture and vibrant arts centre.



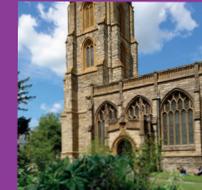
Dowlish Wake

Attractive village and home to award-winning Perry's Cider Mills with productive orchard.



Yeovil

Major town in South Somerset, rich in heritage, with great leisure facilities, Green Flag park, popular high street shops and independent cafes.



Sherborne

Picturesque and historical market town with 15th century abbey and two castles on the outskirts.



Go to www.visitsouthsomerset.com to download free section maps and route guidance.

SECTION 1

Yeovil Junction to Sherborne

7.4 miles, 11.8 km

SECTION 2

Sherborne to Castle Cary

12 miles, 19.3 km

SECTION 3

Castle Cary to Somerton

13.7 miles, 22.1 km

SECTION 4

Somerton to South Petherton

14.9 miles, 24 km

SECTION 5

South Petherton to Ilminster

8.6 miles, 13.9 km

SECTION 6

Ilminster to Merriott

6.5 miles, 10.5 km

SECTION 7

Merriott to Montacute

7.4 miles, 11.9 km

SECTION 8

Montacute to Yeovil Junction

8.1 miles, 13 km