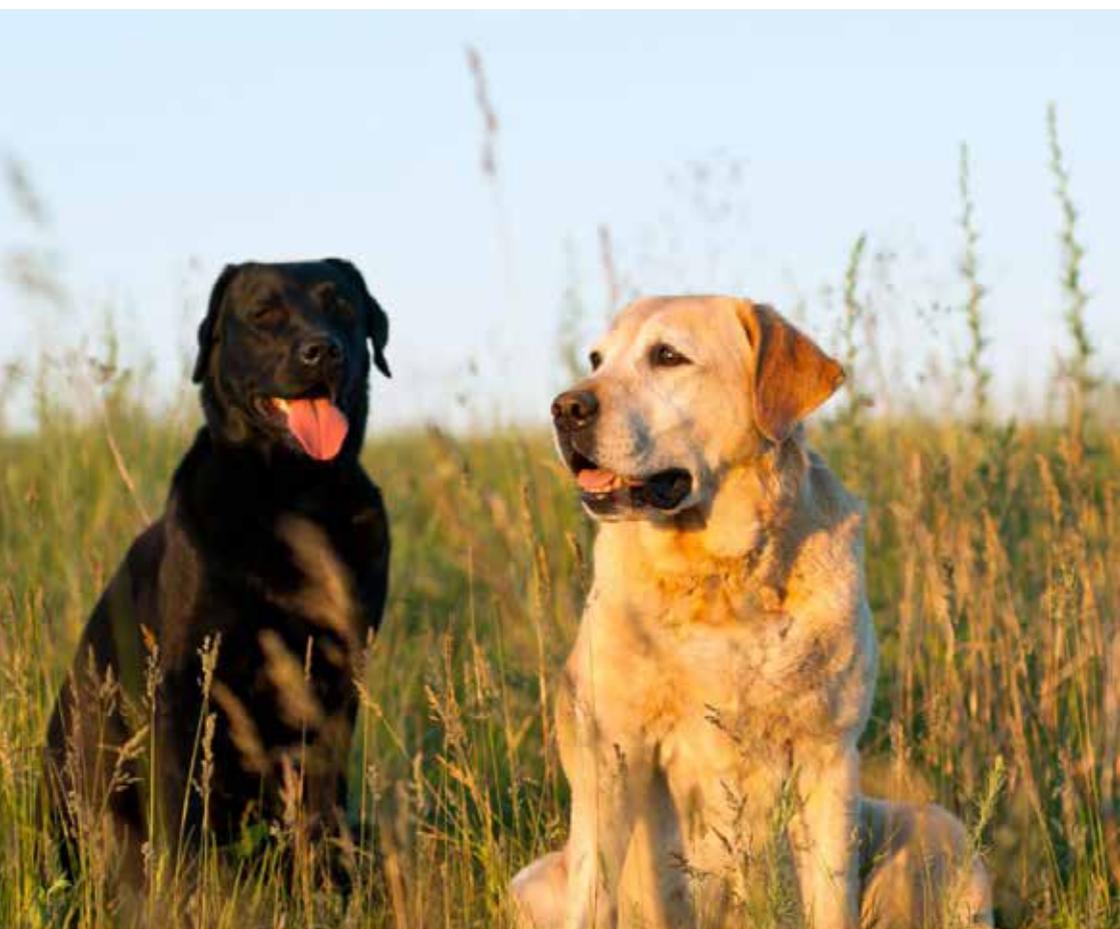


Dog-friendly *Days Out*

FREE
guide



Visit *South Somerset*



Download your free copy at visitsouthsomerset.com



VisitSouthSomerset



VisitSSomerset



visitsouthsomerset



Contents

1. Dog-friendly Accommodation
2. Attractions & Things to Do
3. Trails & Pathways
4. Places to Eat & Drink
5. Additional Information

We love and welcome dogs in South Somerset and there are plenty of places to go and enjoy with your furry friends.

1. Dog-friendly Accommodation



For dog-friendly accommodation check out the websites below which specifically cater for taking your pooch on holiday across the UK including South Somerset. There are plenty of places to choose from and to suit all budgets.

www.dogfriendlycottages.co.uk www.dogfriendlyretreats.com

You can also search our website for accommodation, you'll just need to check those that welcome dogs in our search filter.

www.visitsouthsomerset.com

2. Attractions & Things to Do

Blessed with acres of rolling countryside, award-winning Green Flag country parks and mile upon mile of walking trails, you really are spoilt for choice here...

 **Free entry** Parking fees may apply. Donations where appropriate at discretion.

Attractions & Experiences



Chard Reservoir Nature Reserve

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

Peaceful countryside site of 88 acres - surfaced pathways lead to orchid meadows, native woodlands and excellent bird watching on open water from hide. Green Flag award winner. Dogs must be kept on a short lead through the woods. No dogs on shoreline.

 0300 123 2224  www.visitsouthsomerset.com/chard-reservoir

East Somerset Railway

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

The East Somerset Railway, a small but 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

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

2. Attractions & Things to Do

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

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. Pre booking essential.

 01935 841442  www.worldhorsewelfare.org

Countryside, Parks & Gardens

Burton Pynsent Monument

Curry Rivel, Langport 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. Free to view from footpath.

 www.curryrivel.org.uk/local-info/explore-somerset-footpaths.html

Cadbury Castle

South Cadbury, BA22 7HA

Walk up the to the ramparts to admire the fantastic views of Camelot Country. The nearby village of Corton Denham is picture perfect too and boasts The Queen's Arms, an award-winning country pub with a fantastic beer garden. Dogs receive a very warm welcome with plenty of water bowls to quench their thirst after those lovely scenic walks.

2. Attractions & Things to Do

Coates English Willow



Willows & Wetlands Visitor Centre, Stoke St Gregory, Taunton, TA3 6HY

Learn about the history and art of willow growing and basket making. A warm welcome awaits dogs and owners with access to indoor and outdoor attractions (excluding tearoom). Wonderful riverside walks and miles of footpaths. Waymarked walks with leaflet available. Paid entry to museum and for guided tours.

01823 490249

www.coatesenglishwillow.co.uk

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

Offering 30 acres of glorious gardens surrounding a magnificent 12th century monastery. Seasonal interest all year round. Gift shop, plant nursery and café. Well behaved dogs welcome in the gardens and tearoom.

01460 221290

www.fordeabbey.co.uk



Photo credit: Richard Cochrane

Ham Hill Country Park



Stoke Sub Hamdon, TA14 6RW

Offering incredible views of the South Somerset Moors, Exmoor and the Mendip Hills, Ham Hill is a 427 acre country park centred on an Iron Age hill fort. Green Flag award winner. Prince of Wales pub where dogs are positively welcomed. Dog show held every August. Dogs must be on the lead when livestock are grazing and when skylarks nesting in the summer. Check Facebook for grazing location updates and adhere to signs on gates.

01935 823617

www.visitsouthsomerset.com/ham-hill

Hestercombe Gardens

Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, TA2 8LG

Offering 50 acres of temples, cascades, lakes and formal beds; joint works of design greats Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edward Lutyens. Dogs on short leads welcome in the gardens, shop, plant centre and café.

01823 413923

www.hestercombe.com

2. Attractions & Things to Do

King Alfred's Tower



King Alfred's Tower, South Brewham, BA10 0LB

Enjoy a stroll in Sparkford Woods around King Alfred's Tower. King Alfred's Tower is a 160ft (49m) high folly, designed by Henry Flitcroft for Henry Hoare II in 1772. It is believed to mark the site where King Alfred the Great rallied his troops in 878. The tower commemorates the accession of George III to the throne in 1760 and the end of the Seven Years War. Free to view from footpath. Parking at National Trust Car Park or Stourhead Estate Car Park.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wiltshire/stourhead

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

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/visit/somerset/montacute-house

Swell Wood Nature Reserve (RSPB)



A378, Taunton, TA3 6PX

An ancient oak woodland extending to 10 miles (15km) along a ridge. Nature trails and footpaths. Fantastic views over the Somerset Levels. Spot roe deer, woodland birds and butterflies. Hear a cacophony of nesting herons. Scarp trail woodland trail accessible for dogs - please see website for map. (Please note dogs are not permitted on woodland trail or in the heronry hide).

01458 252805

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

The Bishop's Palace & Gardens

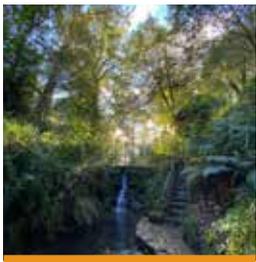
Wells, BA5 2PD

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

2. Attractions & Things to Do



Yeovil Country Park

Brunswick Street, Yeovil, BA20 1QZ

Green Flag award-winning countryside site covering 157 acres. Woodlands and grasslands. River and lakes including Ninesprings Valley Gardens. Dog-friendly Ninesprings Café. No dogs zone around the lake.

☎ 0300 123 2224

🌐 www.visitsouthsomerset.com/yeovil-country-park



Yeovil Recreation Centre

Chilton Grove, Yeovil, BA21 4AW

Yeovil recreation centre is the ideal mix of open green space for dog walkers and outdoor sports facilities located in the middle of Yeovil just off Mudford Road, with footpaths entering from Combe St Lane, Marsh Lane and next to Yeovil College.

The site has multiple sports facilities, 9 hole pitch and putt and mini golf courses, a flagship play space, multi use games area and tennis courts. Indoor community space also available for birthday parties, exercise classes and meetings, next to the very popular dog-friendly Rec Café. Free parking available on site.

☎ 01935 462616

🌐 www.yeovilrec.co.uk



National Trust

Many National Trust properties have shaded parking areas and while dogs are generally not allowed in the properties themselves there are great walks on the estates where entry is generally free of charge.

🌐 www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Barrington Court

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. Dogs are welcome on the estate and in the parkland (not permitted in the formal and walled gardens). Gift shop and café.

☎ 01460 241938

🌐 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/somerset/barrington-court

Lytes Cary Manor

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. Dogs welcome on the wider estate, not permitted in the garden.

☎ 01458 224471

🌐 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/somerset/lytes-cary-manor

2. Attractions & Things to Do



Photo credit: Brian Mounsher

Montacute House

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. Dogs welcome in the garden, parkland and the courtyard located outside the cafe. Gift shop and café.

☎ 01935 823289

🌐 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/somerset/montacute-house

Arts, Crafts & Museums

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

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. Donations appreciated.

☎ 01935 862938

🌐 www.westcoker.net/home-page/ropewalk

Great Bow Wharf

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

Pop up gallery supporting local and regional artists showcasing their work, skills and talent. Cafe on site.

☎ 01458 254257

🌐 www.greatbow.org.uk/home-great-bow-wharf

SomARTon

1 West Street, Somerton, TA11 7RS

Pop up style gallery showcasing local artists and makers.

🌐 www.somarton.org

3. Trails and Pathways



There are several long distance footpath routes through South Somerset. Details can be found on Idwa's website and The Leland, The Liberty and The River Parrett Trails listed below can also be downloaded from our Active Life, Walking section from our website.

www.idwa.org.uk

www.visitsomerset.com

The Leland Trail



The Leland Trail is a 28 mile regional footpath route which uses definitive rights of way, tracks and lanes, following the footsteps of John Leland who travelled through South Somerset at some time during the period 1535-1543.

The Liberty Trail



The Liberty Trail is a 28 mile footpath from Ham Hill in South Somerset to Lyme Regis in Dorset using definitive rights of way, tracks and lanes. It follows the route which villagers walked to join Monmouth at Lyme in June 1685.

The Macmillan Way West



The Macmillan Way West is a long distance footpath in Somerset and Devon. It runs for 102 miles from Castle Cary in Somerset to Barnstaple in Devon. It is one of the Macmillan Ways and connects with the main Macmillan Way at Castle Cary.

www.macmillanway.org

3. Trails and Pathways

The River Parrett Trail



The River Parrett Trail follows the River Parrett 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. There are many welcoming pubs and cafés along the route to enjoy local food and drink.

www.visitsouthsomerset.com/river-parrett-trail

'Walking the Hills and Vales around Yeovil'



A collection of nine circular walks, between 3 and 7 miles discovering the countryside around Yeovil. A handy leaflet is available to download from our website, or you can pick up a copy at our South Somerset Visitor Information Centre, Cartgate Picnic Site on the A303.

OS Explorer Maps

OS Explorer Maps, 4cm to 1km are ideal for planning walking routes and now include mobile downloads. Map 129 Yeovil & Sherborne and 128 Taunton & Blackdown Hills cover the South Somerset area. A full range of OS maps are available from our South Somerset Visitor Information Centre at Cartgate Picnic Site.

Somerset Walking Maps

County Hall, The Crescent, Taunton, TA1 4DY

Somerset has over 9000 rights of way, totalling 3808 miles (6129 km). The extensive path network is varied ranging from long distance routes like the South West Coast Path and the River Parrett Trail, to a number of promoted circular walking routes and local country paths.

Somerset Council has produced a number of maps and trails covering many of the towns in the region, including these in South Somerset: Chard, Crewkerne, Ilminster, Langport & Ham, Martock & South Petherton, Somerton, Castle Cary & Bruton, Wincanton and Yeovil.

Please do double check some of the information listed as these were produced some time ago. But the maps are still in use and very popular.

www.somerset.gov.uk

The Countryside Code

Please follow the Countryside Code when walking and please be responsible and do not let your dog foul a public right of way or open access land. Please clear up after your dog and dispose of in bins provided, or safely at home by double wrapping and putting it in your standard household refuse.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code

4. Places to Eat & Drink



A Paw-fect Afternoon Treat

Saville Row Hounds

The Emporium, 39 Princes Street, Yeovil, BA20 1EG

If you're looking for something rather decadent for your special pooch, then this doggy boutique will delight. Filled with handcrafted luxury dog coats, bandanas, bow ties, collars, leads and much more. Ask about their incredible paw-fect afternoon tea events for you and your dog. A quintessentially English affair.

☎ 07930 633722

🌐 www.facebook.com/savillerowhoundss

Dog-friendly Places to Eat and Drink

Candlelight Inn

Bishopswood, Chard, TA20 3RS

☎ 01460 234476

🌐 www.candlelight-inn.co.uk

Cow & Apple

8-10 Church Street, Yeovil, BA20 1HE

☎ 01934 433292

🌐 www.cowandapple.co.uk

4. Places to Eat & Drink

Farm & Field Café

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

☎ 01460 242775

🌐 www.frogmarygreenfarm.co.uk

Lord Poulett Arms

High Street, Hinton St George, TA17 8SE

☎ 01460 73149

🌐 www.lordpoulettarms.com



Ninesprings Café

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

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



Pip's Railway Carriage Café

Lopenhead, South Petherton, TA13 5JH

🌐 www.pipsrailwaycarriage.co.uk

The Art Gallery Cafe

6a Holyrood Street, Chard, TA20 2AH

☎ 01460 261001

🌐 www.facebook.com/artcafeandbistro

The Bridge Bakery & Canteen

Westover Trading Estate, Langport, TA10 9RB

☎ 01458 897100

🌐 www.thebridgelangport.co.uk

The Camelot Inn

Chapel Road, South Cadbury, Yeovil, BA22 7EX

☎ 01963 441685

🌐 www.houseofcamelot.co.uk

The Green House

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

☎ 01460 55898

🌐 www.theghouse.co.uk

4. Places to Eat & 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 Kitchen at the Wharf

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

☎ 01458 254354 🌐 www.kitchenlangport.com

The Masons Arms

41 Lower Odcombe, Yeovil, BA22 8TX

☎ 01935 862591 🌐 www.masonsarmsodcombe.co.uk

The Montague Inn

Shepton Montague, Wincanton, BA9 8JW

☎ 01749 813213 🌐 www.themontagueinn.co.uk

The Muddled Man Inn

West Chinnock, Crewkerne, TA18 7PT

☎ 01935 881235 🌐 www.themuddledmaninn.co.uk

The Old Pound Inn

High Street, Aller, Langport, TA10 0RA

☎ 01458 250469 🌐 www.oldpoundinn.com

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

4. Places to Eat & Drink



The Rec Cafe

Yeovil Recreation centre, Chilton Grove, Yeovil, BA21 4AW

☎ 01935 462616

🌐 www.facebook.com/people/The-Rec-Cafe/100070237591225

The Red Lion

North Street, Babcary, Nr Somerton, TA11 7ED

☎ 01458 233230 🌐 www.redlionbabcary.co.uk

The Rose and Crown

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

☎ 01460 240433 🌐 www.roseandcrowneastlambrook.com

The Royal George

11 High Street, West Coker, BA22 9AN

☎ 01935 862334 🌐 www.palmersbrewery.com/pubs/royal-george

The White Hart

Market Place, Somerton, TA11 7LX

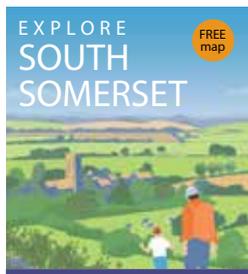
☎ 01458 272273 🌐 www.whitehartsomerton.com

Of course there are plenty more places to discover while you are here and for more inspiration, please visit our website.

🌐 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

5. Additional information

South Somerset Map



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

 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

 VisitSS@Somerset.gov.uk

 [VisitSouthSomerset](https://www.facebook.com/VisitSouthSomerset)

 [VisitSSomerset](https://twitter.com/VisitSSomerset)

 [VisitSouthSomerset](https://www.instagram.com/VisitSouthSomerset)

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com



 **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. 2023.