



The Market House

There are excellent accommodation options and there is a great selection of cafes, pubs and restaurants with cuisines to suit all tastes.

The town also boasts a nine day Arts Festival which includes music, art, talks, etc., during early July. So, stay awhile, enjoy your visit and tell your friends about Somerton.



The Viaduct (View over the fishing lakes)

There is more local tourist information in the Library in Cox's Yard along with other general information. Visit the Somerton Community website:- [www.somerton.co.uk](http://www.somerton.co.uk) where you will find a virtual tour of the town plus further information on local walks and what's happening in town.

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# SOMERTON

[www.somerton.co.uk](http://www.somerton.co.uk)

## ROYAL CAPITAL OF ANCIENT WESSEX



Mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, our ancient hilltop town has maintained its historic charm. Local stone Blue Lias and Ham Hill Oolites are the silver and gold of our buildings, with a 17th century Market Square and an octagonal Market Cross as a focal point in the centre. We are fortunate in not being on the way to anywhere else, so our roads have not cut us up into shreds. Somerton was on the London South West Coaching route but the arrival of the railway in 1906 changed all that! The town is strategically placed for trips to many tourist places whilst remaining unspoilt itself. Haynes Motor Museum at Sparkford, the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton, National Trust properties at Lytes Cary, Montacute & Stourhead, the city of Wells, the towns of Glastonbury & Cheddar and a host of places of interest are all within easy reach. The town is easily accessed by train via stations in Taunton, Castle Cary and Yeovil or by road, from the A303 (10 minutes) or M5 (30 minutes).

# SOMERTON



## MINI GUIDE 2023



# SOMERTON

## ROYAL CAPITAL OF ANCIENT WESSEX



Buttercross (Market Square)

One of Somerset's most pleasing arrangements of 17th century town buildings and its market cross make Somerton a town that should be on every visitor's itinerary. Shopping, sightseeing, eating and drinking in Somerton are all a refreshing pleasure.

A warm welcome awaits you in a range of individual and specialist shops, traditional pubs and good restaurants. We suggest your visit begins with a short walk from one of the town's free car parks.



St. Michael & All Angels Church

Start your walk with the 13th century church of St. Michael & All Angels where the carved ceiling dates from circa 1510. There are barrels concealed in the ceiling - see if you can find them both!

Behind the Church is Cow Square, with its 1902 gas lantern, water fountain & horse trough and The Old Hall, an elegant 18th century town house built on the site of Edward the First's 1278 Court of Assize.



Cow Square

Opposite Cow Square is New Street; however, be wary of 'New' for this is one of the oldest streets in town, built in 1349 following the replanning of the town more than fifty years earlier. From Cow Square, turn right into Broad Street



Old Town Hall



War Memorial (Market Square)

where you will find some fine old houses. Despite the apparent grandeur, they are on the site of the old pig market. On reaching the Market Square you will see the Buttercross and the Old Town Hall both from the 17th century and opposite, the fine 17th century Market House and the War Memorial.

Leading out of the square is West Street with its specialist shops, much bigger than their frontages suggest. Of particular interest are West Street Church of 1845, Leaver's Court, a timber-framed house dating from 1500 and the 1807 United Reformed Church (now residential). Set back from West Street is the Brunel Shopping Precinct with a supermarket and more shops in buildings that used to be a brewery. Beyond, you'll find the Unicorn Inn from the 16th century and the 1626 Hext Almshouses. There are over 130 listed buildings in the Somerton parish!



Hext Almshouses West Street

