

# 3-Night Exmoor Outdoor Escapes Holiday

**Tour Style:** Guided Walking

**Destinations:** Exmoor & England

**Trip code:** SLBOE

1, 2 & 3



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

---

Experience the very best of Exmoor on our walks. Each day we'll offer three options, ranging from relaxing shorter strolls, to more challenging, longer walks. Our flexible programme allows you to choose the option that suits your mood.

## TRIP SUITABILITY

---

The sweeping hills, wooded combes and glorious seascapes of the Exmoor National Park reward every footstep this weekend, with an astonishing range of landscapes and moods to enjoy. Vibrant yellow gorse, purple heather, wild ponies and Red Deer add to the great variety of this holiday, making the ideal Outdoor Escape.

## ITINERARY

---

### Day 1: Arrival Day

Join us at Holnicote House for an action-packed short break. If the weather is fine we can take a short pre-dinner stroll down around the estate to help get your bearings. After a delicious 3-course evening meal, there's time to relax with the rest of the group and look forward to the adventures to come.

### Day 2: Dunkery Beacon, Steam Trains & Dunster

#### Option 1 - Steam Trains, Seaside And Scenic Dunster

Distance: 3 miles (5km)

Total ascent: 400 feet (120m)

**In Summary:** Take the steam train from Minehead to Blue Anchor Bay, then a short walk takes us across the fields to the medieval village of Dunster, with plenty of time to explore.

**Highlight:** Ride the steam train along some of Britain's most scenic coastline, a short countryside walk (enough to burn off the calories of a few cakes in Dunster), and charming Dunster itself.

#### Option 2 - Cross-country To Charming Dunster

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

Total ascent: 1,600 feet (500m)

**In Summary:** We head straight from our door for the charm of historic Dunster. Cracking views from Webber's Post, then ones to rival this as we stride out along the ridge over Wootton Common.

**Highlight:** Soaking up the charm of Dunster and exploring its cobbled streets before taking a pew in the Stags Head to celebrate a great day.

#### Option 3 - Dunkery Beacon - The High Point Of Exmoor

Distance: 12½ miles (20km)

Total ascent: 2,500 feet (760m)

**In Summary:** Stretch your legs and head up onto Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor, for stunning views as far as Wales. Down across the moor to Wootton Courtenay, then we're over the hills to Dunster.

**Highlight:** Fantastic walking, with a well-deserved pint or two at the end of the day. Join the others in the Stags Head to celebrate the weekend.

## Day 3: The South West Coast Path

### Option 1 - Porlock Weir, Scenic Paths & Pictures

Distance: 4 miles (7km)

Total ascent: Minimal

**In Summary:** An easy walk exploring the beautiful scenery surrounding Porlock and Porlock Weir. Thatched cottages, craft shops, and great chances to spot birdlife as you walk beside the marsh.

**Highlight:** The chance to try your hand at a little landscape photography on route. We've an expert on hand to show you how to snap the best shots.

### Option 2 - The South West Coast Path & Selworthy Beacon

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Total ascent: 1,550 feet (480m)

**In Summary:** This first section of the famous South West Coast Path, takes us on a rollercoaster - along steep cliff paths, up and down wooded combes, with spectacular views from Selworthy Beacon, before reaching picturesque Porlock.

**Highlight:** Some fantastic flora and fauna en route, including Whitebeam trees (unique to Exmoor) and the magnificent Red Deer.

### Option 3 - The "Rugged Coast Path" & Porlock Weir

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Total ascent: 1,900 feet (580m)

**In Summary:** Cross some of the highest coastline in England, following the dramatic route of the "rugged coast path". Enjoy the perfect post-walk pint to finish, in Porlock Weir, after an induction to Britain's favourite trail - the South West Coast Path.

**Highlight:** One heck of a work out, accompanied by stunning views - on a clear day you can see across to the Brecon Beacons.

## Day 4: Departure Day & Local Walk

Make the most of your final morning with the opportunity to join a half-day guided walk to Horner.

### Luccombe & Horner

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Total ascent: 400 feet (120m)

**In Summary:** Explore local estate roads and lanes to the pretty village of Luccombe then on to Horner with its tea gardens. Kick back and relax there a while before we head back to Holnicote House, with plenty of time

for a last swim.

**Highlight:** A relaxing end to the holiday with plenty of time to appreciate the beauty of Exmoor.

## ACCOMMODATION

---

### Holnicote House

Lying near the attractive village of Selworthy, in the heart of the Exmoor National Park, historic Holnicote House stands within a series of peaceful gardens with spreading lawns. Once the centrepiece of an extensive 12,500 acre estate, the charming and characterful house was gifted to the National Trust in 1944. Since then it has been reimagined as a walkers' retreat, with wonderful access to the countryside. As well as 32 delightful bedrooms, there are two comfortable lounges and a sociable bar. The landscaped gardens are still part of the wider Holnicote Estate and provide a wonderful area to wander. Outside the house, explore wild Exmoor, walk in the Quantocks, climb Dunkery Beacon and stroll on the Somerset Coast Path with the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, drop in Dunster Castle, ride a Victorian cliff railway and watch for wildlife including the majestic red stags.

### Matchless Country House Accommodation

#### Accommodation Info

#### Rooms

*Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi*

Stay in one of the main building's bright, beautifully presented rooms or in the thatched cottages in the grounds, called Butlers and Guns respectively. With 32 bedrooms, Holnicote House has plenty of space and there's a range of Good, Better and Best Rooms to choose from: best rooms are on the first floor and decorated in keeping with the National Trust estate, with plenty of space and great views over the back garden, reaching out across Cawter Hill and Dunkery Hill, Somerset and Exmoor's highest point. Ask for numbers 1, 4 or 9 to feel suitably special.

*All 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' and 'Best' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress, larger television, enhanced toiletries and a fluffy bathrobe & slippers – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-20 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.*

#### Facilities

*Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, attractive garden, outdoor swimming pool, multi-purpose activity room, lounge, library and board games to borrow*

After a day walking on Exmoor or exploring the heath and moorland, come back to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Relax by sitting in the pretty gardens or challenge a fellow guest to a game of croquet. Take a dip in the large heated outdoor pool. For something less strenuous, snag a comfy chair in one of the cosy lounges, borrow a book, join a game of cards or scour the countryside through the large telescope. Head to the bar before dinner for a drink and a chance to catch up with your companions, best enjoyed by the windows overlooking the estate.

#### Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through

that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at Holnicote House is hearty and has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Once a week the wood panelled dining room with its giant fireplace hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might try classic Porlock oysters or Priddy Oggies, a local pasty of chicken, bacon and cheese. Mains might include Exmoor venison or Bellbrook valley trout, while you could cap it all with a Somerset apple cake, dressed with cream.

## Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865

## TRAVEL DETAILS

---

Our address is: Holnicote House, Selworthy, Minehead, Somerset TA24 8TJ  
Tel: [01643 862013](tel:01643862013)

### By Train:

The nearest railway station is at Taunton. For train times and route planning by train visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or phone 03457 48 49 50.

### By Taxi:

The 30-mile journey from Taunton railway station takes approximately 55 minutes. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, Bossington Private Hire. As a guide price, it costs £56 per 4-seat taxi in 2020. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. A shared taxi will be arranged wherever possible. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Bossington Private Hire\*  
Tel: +44 (0) 7971 044871  
Email: [inbossington@gmail.com](mailto:inbossington@gmail.com)

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Holnicote House Manager.

\*Bossington Private Hire is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

### By Bus:

The number 28 bus operates between Taunton station and Minehead. At Minehead change for the number 10 bus that will take you to the Selworthy turn (which is at the end of Holnicote House drive). A 2 minute walk along the drive will bring you to the house. Alternatively pre-book a taxi from Minehead; the 6 mile journey will cost you approx £10 for a 4-seat taxi from our recommended taxi provider. For bus times see [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

### By Car:

From Bridgewater take the A39 though the southern outskirts of Minehead towards Porlock. Holnicote House is on the left about 4½ miles out of Minehead, and about ¾ mile after the signpost to Luccombe (do not follow the signs to Selworthy). After the Selworthy Village sign look out for our sign 500 yards further on, on the left. Free car parking is available in the grounds.

## Travelling From Overseas

For most guests, travelling to London Heathrow airport is the most convenient option.

From Heathrow first take the train to London Paddington station. From here there are direct trains to Taunton. Its a relatively straightforward journey - allow 2½ hours. See [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for train times.

Bristol Airport may also be convenient for some guests. Take the train to Taunton

From Taunton you can travel on to Selworthy by bus or taxi (see above).

---

## LOCAL AREA

---

During your stay at Holnicote House you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest, either in your free time, or on your journey to and from Selworthy:

### Selworthy Village

Less than a mile from Holnicote House is Selworthy village. At first glance the thatched cottages seem typical of many ancient settlements in this area. However, Selworthy is not as old as it looks, having been rebuilt in 1828 by Sir Thomas Acland. Sir Thomas was a philanthropist and designed the 'model' village himself to provide housing for the aged and infirm of the estate. He used traditional designs and materials to create a deliberately old-fashioned village.

### West Somerset Railway

Travel on Britain's longest steam railway from Minehead to Bishops Lydyard. Now lovingly restored by volunteers, the line recreates a classic Great Western Railway branch line with steam trains operating daily from April to October. Minehead station is 10 minutes' drive from Selworthy, or can be reached on the number 300 bus. [www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk](http://www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk)

### Dunster Castle

An historic castle transformed into a comfortable stately home for the Luttrell family. Some highlights include the 'modern' 1950s kitchen and the snooker room. Dunster Castle sits in extensive gardens, complete with its working watermill. The adjacent town of Dunster is full of character and also well worth a visit. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunster-castle](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunster-castle)

### Lynton & Lynmouth

The quaint Victorian town of Lynton sits high on a hill, overlooking the coast and Lynmouth harbour. The two settlements are connected by the historic cliff railway. The short walk from Lynton to the Valley of Rocks is highly recommended.

### Coleridge Cottage

The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) and his wife Sara lived in the village of Nether Stowey, about 45 minutes' drive from Selworthy, from 1796 to 1799. In 1909 it was acquired by the National Trust, and later restored and opened to the public. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coleridge-cottage](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coleridge-cottage)

### Hestercombe Gardens

Hestercombe Gardens, around an hour's drive away near Taunton, were constructed in three periods - a

landscape garden from the 1750s, a Victorian terrace and shrubbery from the 1870s, and Edwardian gardens of 1904-1908 designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll. [www.hestercombe.com](http://www.hestercombe.com)

## Arlington Court

Arlington Court, about an hour's drive away near Barnstaple is a fine Regency house set in an extensive estate. The grounds include a formal Victorian garden whilst the stables house the National Trust's carriage collection of over fifty horse-drawn vehicles. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/arlington-court](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/arlington-court)

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

---

### What To Bring

"There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong type of clothing!" goes the adage. Come prepared for all eventualities and you'll walk in comfort as well as safety. Britain's famous for its changeable weather, so here's our advice on what to wear and bring.

#### Essentials

- Waterproof walking boots providing ankle support and good grip.
  - A waterproof jacket and over-trousers
  - Gloves and a warm hat (it can be chilly at any time of the year)
  - Rucksack
  - Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
  - A small torch (everywhere in winter, year round in mountains)
  - Sun hat and sunscreen
- Denim jeans and waterproof capes are not suitable on any walks.*

#### Recommended

- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed
- Specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- A first aid kit inc plasters– your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication
- Sit mat (insulated pad to sit on when you stop for a break)

#### You Might Also Want

- Walking poles, particularly useful for descents.
- Insect repellent
- Flask for hot drinks
- Rigid lunch box
- Gaiters
- Blister kit (eg Compeed) just in case
- Waterproof rucksack liner

### Safety On Your Holiday

On the first evening of your holiday your leaders give a short talk about safety on walks which we would like you to attend. Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests. Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest while clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks.

## HOW TO BOOK

---

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

### PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

### NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

### BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

### MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

### YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

### PEACE OF MIND

#### ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

#### MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

#### TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

#### PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

**Document produced:** 29-02-2020

