



South Devon, England

May 21 - 28, 2011

The trip to the South Devon Coast of England begins and ends in Dartmouth, England. You can fly to London or Bristol then take the train to South Devon. After the minimum of 10 reservations is reached we will advise you to make your air travel reservations.

Trip Start: May 21, Dart Marina Hotel, Dartmouth, England
Trip Finish: May 28, Dart Marina Hotel, Dartmouth, England
Trip Length: 8 days, 7 nights
Trip Cost: \$2690 per person sharing a room
\$3290 for a single room

(Trip cost includes everything except airfare, 2 dinners, 1 lunch, beverages, tips, and all items of a personal nature.)

Day by Day Overview

Saturday, May 21 – Arrival

Arrive in Dartmouth and check in at the Dart Marina Hotel, 69 Sandquay Rd, Dartmouth. The tour officially begins with our 7:30PM dinner at the hotel, however please meet for a welcome drink in the hotel bar at 7PM. After dinner our guide will give us a preview of our program for the week ahead.

Lodging: Dart Marina Hotel - www.dartmarina.com tel: 011 44 1803 832 580

Sunday, May 22- Forest, Ferries and Estuaries

We leave our hotel at 9:00AM and walk through the lanes of Dartmouth over Fire Beacon Hill to fantastic views of E. Brixham and the sea. Our lunch spot is near the riverside then we ferry across to Greenway, the holiday home of Agatha Christie. From the near-by hilltop, we enjoy views of the Dart estuary in both directions. Turning south along the Dart Valley trail, we wind through woodland and finally along the estuary edge to Kingswear. Ferry back across from Kingswear to Dartmouth.

Distance: 8 miles; about 1,000ft total elevation gain over the day.

> Dinner together.

Monday, May 23 - Cliffs, Combes and Stately Homes

This morning another 9:00AM crossing on the Kingswear ferry then walk up to Banjo for bus to Gattery Lane, Hillhead. Our first 5 miles are down along winding tracks to Man Sands followed by our picnic lunch on Scabbacombe Sands. Beautiful visit to Coletton Gardens (National Trust) in the afternoon—maybe you will choose a famous Devon cream tea in the garden tearoom? Our last 3 miles of the day round Froward Point coastguard lookout for a dramatic descent back into Kingswear, and our ferry home.

Distance: 8 miles with about 1,000ft total elevation gain over the day.

> Dinner on your own.

Tuesday, May 24- Dartmoor: Moors, Tors, Heather and Gorse

An 8:30 a.m. start with a minibus trip up to Bel Tor, E Dartmoor. A 7.5mile circuit takes in Bronze Age field systems, fragments of original wild oakwood, abandoned Saxon settlements, and the wild pony-grazed landscape of heather and bracken punctuated by eroded granite tors (bare rock pinnacles). We finish by dropping down to Dartmeet, where east and west Dart River converge, with a chance for a welcome cup of tea before leaving at 4:00 p.m. to drive back to Dartmouth.

Distance: 7.5 miles with total elevation gain of 600ft.

> Dinner together.

Wednesday, May 25- Day at Leisure

Our guide will lead a 1-2 hour historical tour of the old town for those who wish it (churches, guildhall, and historical characters). After which there are many options for your personal day: take the boat trip up the estuary to Totnes; the ferry to Greenway to visit Agatha Christie's holiday home, now restored; steam train from Kingswear to Torquay (and coastal tour back to Dartmouth); visit a local vineyard; or just relax in town and watch the boats, the visitors, and try out Devon pasties and clotted cream teas.

> Lunch on your own.

> Dinner together.

Thursday, May 26 - Cliffs,Crags and D-Day flags

We start at 9:15a.m with a bus from Dartmouth to Chillington, then a minibus lift out to East Prawle. Walk from here to Prawle Point (most southerly point of Devon), along the undercliff towards the Start Point lighthouse. Following our picnic lunch we pass the lighthouse arriving at the ruined village of Hallsands, (destroyed by the sea in 1917). Cream teas at Beesands, should you chose, then journey's end at Torcross village. Maybe we can get in some birdwatching along the edge of Slapton Ley Nature Reserve.

Distance: 9 miles today and 500 feet total elevation gain for the day.

> Dinner on your own.

Friday, May 27 - Ups and Downs to Dartmouth Town.

We take the 9:15AM bus from Dartmouth to Strete village, and then walk the 6.5mile coastline back to Dartmouth. Our walk takes us past a cluster of old thatched cottages to Blackpool Sands, then up through Stoke Fleming village (old church and village pub and a chance for a picnic and pint). We enjoy a splendid open coast mile to Dartmouth Fort and the church of St.Petrox. For the weary there is a local ferry (£2.00) to run you the last mile up the estuary to the town, but this last walk into Dartmouth is a spectacular approach to the old town, and magnificent on foot. This is designed as an easy last day, with plenty of chances to cut the day short for either last shopping or packing.

Distance: 6.5 miles today with a total elevation gain of 500 ft.

> Farewell dinner together.

Saturday, May 28- Breakfast and departure.

Please Note: The above schedule is subject to change due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control.

Flight and Airport Info

Getting to Dartmouth—Fly from the US to either London Heathrow, London Gatwick or Bristol, England. Arriving Heathrow you will take the express train from the airport into London Paddington (about 15 minutes and cost of 15 pounds). From there take a train to Totnes—about a 3 hr. journey. Trains arrive in Totnes from Paddington (London) at 1204, 1302, 1503, 1600, 1657, 1755, 1953, 2108; (2010 timetable) From Gatwick (London) Airport, it is possible to take a train from the airport to Reading then change for Totnes. The train time from Gatwick to Totnes is about 4 hrs. Taxi from Totnes to Dartmouth takes about 20 minutes and costs 25-30 Pounds; bus takes 30-45 minutes and cost is about 3 Pounds.

From Bristol Airport there is a shuttle bus (6 Pounds) hourly to Bristol Temple Meads train station. Trains depart about every hour for Totnes arriving 1.5 hrs later.

Weather:

Mild spring weather with possible rain.

Helpful Websites:

UK Train info- www.nationalrail.co.uk
Dartmouth - www.discoverdartmouth.com
www.dartmouth.org.uk
Dart Marina Hotel: www.dartmarina.com

Reading:

Non-fiction:

Secret Channel--Mike Williams

The Forgotten Dead--Ken Small

Dartmouth and its Neighbors: History of the Port and Its People--Ray Freeman

Fiction:

Slapton Sands-- Francis Cottam

Lily's Journey--Tania Crosse

Fly the Storm--James Stevenson

The Magic Army--Leslie Thomas

Agatha Christie: Five Little Pigs

Dead Man's Folly

Regatta Mystery