



## **South Devon, England**

**May 23 - 30, 2012**

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 23, 2012 - Dart Marina Hotel, Dartmouth, England  
Trip Finish: May 30, 2012 - Dart Marina Hotel, Dartmouth, England  
Trip Length: 8 days, 7 nights  
Trip Cost: \$2,990 per person sharing a room  
\$3,590 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**

#### **Wednesday, May 23 – 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](http://www.dartmarina.com) tel: 011 44 1803 832 580

#### **Thursday, May 24- 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 at picturesque Dittisham Village. Afterwards we ferry across to Greenway, the holiday home of Agatha Christie. At this point we have a choice: tour Agatha Christie's home and gardens then ferry back to Dartmouth—or—walk back through oak woods to Dartmouth.

Distance: 5.5/8 miles; about 750/ 1,000ft total elevation gain over the day depending on option taken

> Dinner together.

#### **Friday, May 25 - Cliffs, Combes and Stately Homes**

Today we walk the harbor shore to the Kingswear ferry, then 2 miles through the green Devon valleys ("combs") to the stately home at Coleton Fishacre. The house and gardens are immaculately maintained by the National Trust and make a perfect lunch spot. We then descend through ornamental shrubs to emerge on the cliffs at Pudcombe Cove. Our return 3-mile walk along a rugged coastline passes Froward coastguard lookout and gives fine views to the fortified entrance of Dartmouth harbor. Once across the ferry we walk back through old Dartmouth to our hotel.

Distance: 5.5 miles; about 500 ft total elevation gain today.

> Dinner on your own.

### **Saturday, May 26 - 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.

### **Sunday, May 27 - 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 (if you didn't already), 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.

### **Monday, May 28 - Cliffs, Craggs and D-Day flags**

We start with a bus ride south to the Start headland. A mile downhill we reach the dramatic coastline of Lannacombe Bay, with views out to Prawle Point (the most southerly landmark in Devon). From here we walk east, round Start Point with its gleaming white lighthouse, then turn north along more sheltered paths....(Hallsands, Beesands). Our reward awaits at Torcross seafront village, famed for its Devon cream teas. A salvaged 1944 Sherman tank here reminds us of the key role this coastline played in the D-Day landings, but the local bus will provide a more comfortable ride home for us.

Distance 7.5 miles; about 500 ft elevation gain

> Dinner on your own.

### **Tuesday, May 29 - 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.

### **Wednesday, May 30 - 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). It is also possible to take the bus (coach) from Heathrow to Reading Rail Station). 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 -	<a href="http://www.nationalrail.co.uk">www.nationalrail.co.uk</a>
Dartmouth -	<a href="http://www.discoverdartmouth.com">www.discoverdartmouth.com</a>
	<a href="http://www.dartmouth.org.uk">www.dartmouth.org.uk</a>
Dart Marina Hotel -	<a href="http://www.dartmarina.com">www.dartmarina.com</a>
Greenway (Agatha Christie's home)	<a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway">www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway</a>
Coleton Fishacre	<a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-coletonfishacrehouseandgarden">www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-coletonfishacrehouseandgarden</a>

## **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