

**ENGLAND – EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK, SELWORTHY**

8-day / 7-night centre-based at Selworthy GUIDED walks in England's magnificent South-West



Experience the best of Exmoor – dramatic coastline, high sea cliffs, wild moorland, rolling hills covered with heather, wooded combes and valleys cutting steeply into the landscape, ruined medieval villages, Iron Age settlements, and prehistoric barrows. Visit the locations made famous by the tale of *Lorna Doone* and the poets Coleridge and Southey, and perhaps see the ponies or famous red deer on Exmoor and the Quantock Hills. Vibrant yellow gorse and wild purple heather blanket the countryside in season. Selworthy Beacon, with its extensive views, is nearby, and Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor, is easily accessible. Based near the picturesque village of Selworthy at a historic country house, this guided walking tour is an ideal way to explore the contrasting scenery – high moorland and rugged coastline – of the Exmoor National Park.

A typical centre-based walking holiday offers a choice of up to three guided walks each day. You choose the option which best suits your interests and fitness. There is also a free day mid-week, allowing you to relax, explore independently, or join your tour leaders for a local excursion (paid locally) if there is enough interest.

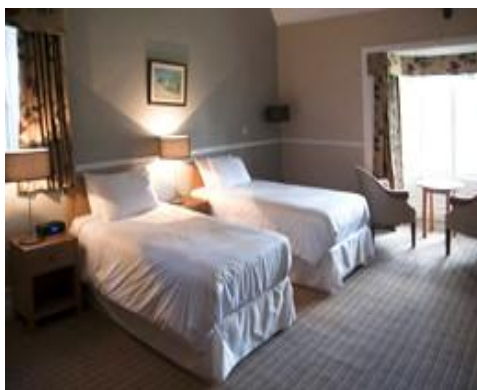
**Cost from:** \$1855 per person (twin share). Single room supplement on request

**Departs:** 27<sup>th</sup> March; 3<sup>rd</sup> April; 1<sup>st</sup> May; 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> June; 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> July; 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> August; 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> September; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> October; 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Includes:** 7 nights in comfortable room with ensuite bathroom, full board (breakfast, picnic lunch and dinner), experienced walks leader, guided walks, transport with the walks and social activities in the evenings.

**Not Included:** Transport to/from the house, drinks, personal expenses, transport or activities on your free day.

**Accommodation:** **Holnicote House** lies at the heart of a large estate in Exmoor National Park. Leased from the National Trust, this historic building is set amongst peaceful gardens and has a heated outdoor pool. There are 32 bedrooms, located in the main building and in the Butlers and Guns cottages in the grounds. A limited number of **premium rooms** are available – with a surcharge – ask for details.



**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

## Suggested itinerary:

- Day 1** Arrival day – plan to arrive at your accommodation mid-afternoon. Taunton is the closest railway station with regular connections to London. Meals begin with dinner on the first night.
- Day 2 to 4:** Full day walking options
- Day 5:** Free day. You may like to explore the area independently, or relax at the hotel. Travel on the West Somerset Railway, Britain's longest steam railway or visit historic Dunster Castle.
- Day 6 to 7:** Full day walking options
- Day 8:** Departure day. The tour ends after breakfast.

## The routes each day are determined by the walk leaders, some possible walking routes may include:

**Holnicote & Selworthy Beacon:** We explore the area around Holnicote House including Selworthy, rebuilt in 1828 by the Acland family to house the elderly workers of the Holnicote estate. The tea room is a delightful spot for refreshments at the end of the walk. The medium and harder walks both ascend to the summit of Selworthy Beacon which offers great views (weather permitting) that stretch across the Bristol Channel to the Welsh coast.

**The Doone Valley to Watersmeet:** We explore 'Doone Country', with several of the buildings and sites made famous by RD Blackmore's tale of feuding families, including Oare Church, where the fictional John Ridd and Lorna Doone were married. We walk along the wooded gorges and valleys of Oare Water and Badgworthy Water, whilst the harder walk crosses wild moorland and descends alongside waterfalls. All walks finish at the National Trust tearoom in Watersmeet.

**Along the coast to Lynmouth:** The easier walk is a delightful route from Countisbury Common mostly downhill through forest to the harbour at Lynmouth. The medium and harder walks both follow coastal paths, with extensive sea views to charming little Lynmouth, with its many tearooms and pubs.

**Dunkery Beacon & Horner Water:** From various starting points we walk to Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor and ascend to its summit for views that stretch to Dartmoor and across the Bristol Channel to Wales. This walk is another good opportunity to spot red deer.

**Along the rivers to Exford:** Delightful walks in the River Exe or River Barle valleys to Exford village. We may see buzzards and Exmoor ponies.

**The Quantocks:** We walk along the ridge of the Quantock Hills, taking in Will's Neck, the highest point. The easier walk finishes in Nether Stowey, where there is time to visit the Coleridge Cottage, while the medium and harder walks both descend to the sea at East Quantoxhead. The beach here has interesting tessellated pavement and rock formations along with a wealth of fossils, including ammonites and reptile remains.

## Footpath information:



**Easier Walks:** Up to 8 miles (13km) along well-graded paths, with up to 1550ft (480m) of ascent in a day.



**Medium Walks:** Up to 10 miles (15km) on undulating paths with up to 1800ft (560m) of ascent in a day.



**Harder Walks:** Up to 13 miles (21km) on undulating paths with some steeper sections and up to 3200ft (980m) of ascent in a day.

**Outdoor Travel** walking holidays – guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers and meals – are available in many parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland and across Europe including the challenging **Coast-to-Coast** trail, the Cotswolds Way, the spectacular coast of Cornwall, the Yorkshire Dales, the **West Highland Way** in Scotland or in **Snowdonia**, Wales or in Ireland on the **Ring of Kerry**. In France see the Dordogne, Alps, Provence or Riviera Coast, walks too in Austria, Spain or Italy. Walk the **Way of St James** from Le Puy in France to Santiago in Spain or the **Via Francigena** – the pilgrims' Road to Rome.

## Contact OUTDOOR TRAVEL for more details and reservations:

- Call Toll free on 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
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