

Cycling Safaris

DEVON 2017

Self Guided Tour 8 days/7 nights

The Devon cycling tour explores spectacular and beautiful coastline and open moorland. We cycle through ancient villages and towns and the historic naval city of Plymouth, from where the Pilgrim Fathers set off for America in 1620.

In the South Hams we cycle on backroads through a hilly but beautiful rural landscape with some of the most beautiful coastline in Britain. When we leave Plymouth we spend two days on a special bike path that contours round the West and the North of Dartmoor.

We'll meet wild ponies, visit the bronze-age village of Grimspound, visit a 19th century forge in Sticklepath and the world's oldest steam engine in Dartmouth.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Arrival Ashprington

We start from the delightful Waterman's Arms next to Bow Creek, Ashprington.

This tidal creek flows into the Dart estuary between Totnes and Dartmouth.



DAY 2

Ashprington to Buckland-Tout-Saints

43 km



Although we're following an estuary, our first morning is a hilly ride as we go through Cornwood and Dittisham to Dartmouth. This delightful sailing town boasts the oldest working steam engine in the world, as well as a beautiful old harbour, Dartmouth Castle and a vibrant sailing community.

Leaving Dartmouth we cycle into the South Hams, and our ride through East Portlemouth, Salcombe and Kingsbridge features some of the most beautiful scenery of our week.

We'll also visit the poignant memorial at Slapton Ley, where 749 American soldiers were killed in 1944 when German torpedo boats interrupted rehearsals for the D-Day landings at 'Utah' beach. Forty years later a US tank was recovered and now stands as a memorial to a shocking night.

Tonight we stay at Buckland-Tout-Saints, a beautiful stately home in its own gardens.

DAY 3**Buckland-Tout-Saints to Hope Cove****40 km**

Still in the South Hams today we visit Start Point with its famous light house, and aim for lunch at a famous pub in East Prawle, The Pig's Nose.

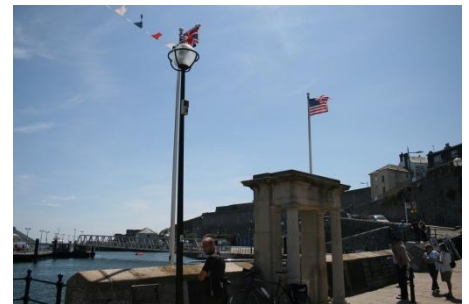
We reach the Kingsbridge estuary via a beautiful downhill stretch and take a ferry across the estuary to Salcombe. There's something a bit unworldly about Salcombe - it's beautiful, completely devoted to sailing, and very well-to-do. But as somebody once asked me "Don't they have any proper shops? What do the locals do if they want a haircut or a pint of milk?" We're visiting, not house-hunting, so enjoy one of the most stunning panoramas of the week.

Tonight we stay at Hope Cove, a delightful, hidden cove with spectacular views across Bigbury Bay to Burgh Island.

DAY 4**Hope Cove to Wotter****61 km**

A memorable day. We'll follow a little-known route that brings us into the heart of Plymouth, Devon's largest City, by ferry. We land at the Barbican, from where the Mayflower set sail for America in 1620, and where the names of all the Pilgrims are listed.

Before we leave Plymouth, if time permits, we'll visit the famous gin distillery, then we'll follow a fantastic cycle path up the Tamar Valley, past Saltram House, and up onto the (lower!) slopes of Dartmoor.

**DAY 5****Wotter to Lydford****38 km**

Back to the Tamar Valley cycle path, and through the traditional 'Stannary Town' of Tavistock - granted the right to assay local tin, these towns were given peculiar rights including law-making, which in theory still exist.

We'll cycle along the edge of Dartmoor, through the delightful villages of Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy, along a beautiful National Cycle Route to Lydford House close to the famous gorge and waterfall

DAY 6**Lydford to Chagford****37 km**

A lovely day today, starting with a 10-mile stretch along a converted railway to Okehampton. We'll visit a memorable 18th century blacksmith with a forge powered by water wheel, and make our way back into the Dartmoor National Park to Chagford, perhaps the most beautiful village of our week.

We'll stay at The Globe Hotel, and you'll wonder once again how you've never heard how good the food is in Devon.



DAY 7

Chagford to Yetson

51 km



Dartmoor is hilly, no way to avoid that even though we're leaving the National Park.

We'll visit an Iron Age village at Grimspound and the beautiful moorland villages of Buckland and Widecombe-In-The-Moor as we make our way off the moor at Buckfastleigh.

Then we'll follow a special cycle route along the Dart valley, through Totnes to the Waterman's Arms at Bow Creek. Another traditional pub developed into a hotel, if there is a pub in a more beautiful location than the Waterman's, we haven't seen it!

DAY 8

Departure

Tour is complete after breakfast.



2017 TOUR DATES

Self guided tours can start daily from May to September.

2017 TOUR PRICE (tours are priced in sterling)

£1,065.00 per person sharing

£1,415.00 single room occupancy

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 nights bed and breakfast accommodation in 3* accommodation
- 24 speed touring bike with a pannier bag, bike lock, repair kit, pump
- Tour Information pack
- Route details/Maps
- Luggage transfer each day

JOINING TOUR

For an additional £20 per person local transfers can be arranged from Totnes train station to the first hotel, and from the last hotel to Totnes train station.

Trains to and from London

Joining tour	London Paddington Departure @ 15:06	Totnes, Devon Arrival @ 18:06
Departure	Totnes, Devon Departure @ 08:14	London Paddington Arrival @ 11:24

Local transfers are from Totnes station to the first hotel, and from the last hotel to Totnes station.

You can arrive in Totnes at whatever time you choose, and we will arrange transfers.

We recommend you aim to arrive between 4pm and 6pm.

Please take careful note of the train times above. Our transfers are scheduled to meet these designated trains; if these train times are inconvenient, please contact us so that we can be sure of arranging appropriate transfers.

Travelling From Local Airport

Exeter has an international airport (www.exeter-airport.co.uk/) with arrivals from some UK and European destinations. Transfers can be arranged from and to Exeter Airport.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is allocated on a twin-sharing basis with a combination of 3* hotels and 3* guesthouses. We ensure private facilities almost all of the time. We would be happy to help you organise extra accommodation for the start or the end of the week, you can contact the office directly for this and we will help with bookings or phone numbers if possible.

WHAT TO BRING

*We would seriously recommend that you bring **padded cycling shorts and / or a gel saddle cover** which will definitely make your days cycling more comfortable. Cycling gloves are also a good investment. You can also bring your own saddle which should fit on our bikes.

*We do not provide **rain gear** so be sure to bring your own light weight waterproofs.

*We do not provide **helmets**, it is recommended you wear one, so please bring your own.

*Don't forget sun cream, sunglasses, sun hat.

BIKE & FITNESS



We use Trek 7.3 FX Hybrid 24 speed touring bike with aluminum frame and Shimano gear system.