

SECRET SOMERSET & EXMOOR

#SECRETSOMERSET

A

LEE BAY, NEAR LEE ABBEY AND LYNTON EX35 6JJ

SECRET 10: EXPLORE HIDDEN COVES AND WILDLIFE AT LEE BAY

Visit the secluded Lee Bay for plenty of rock pooling, discovering wildlife, sandy beaches and rocky coves. The coastal cliffs here are amongst the highest in Britain and provide a real challenge for climbing enthusiasts. For those who love discovering hidden coves, why not explore Wringcliff and Woody Bay as well?



C

CONYGAR TOWER AND WOOD, DUNSTER TA24 6SE

SECRET 9: FOLLOW THE QR CODE TRAIL TO ENJOY POETRY BY LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN

Pupils of Dunster, Nether Stowey and Porlock schools created poetry which was inspired through their immersion in the Somerset countryside. Each school walked out of the classroom to brave the snow, rain, and icy winds in pursuit of their poetic art. To read the words the children were able to harvest from the clean bright air of Somerset 200 years after Coleridge and Wordsworth, step out onto the trail and decode yourself a poetry walk at Conygar Tower.

B

HOAROAK WATER VIA PRAYWAY HEAD, NEAR SIMONSBATH, EXMOOR FOREST TA24 7SS

SECRET 1: EXPLORE THE ANCIENT ROYAL HUNTING FORESTS RESERVED FOR KINGS

Somerset had a number of royal forests, including at Exmoor, Kingswood, North Petherton and Mendip, which were retained specifically for hunting by kings. The Exmoor Royal Forest landscape is one of rolling open grass moorland, interspersed with steep combs and rivers. Its attraction for kings was its abundance of Red Deer, something which you have a good chance of seeing today on any walk in the area.



D

WATERFALL AT ST.AUDRIES BAY, NEAR WEST QUANTOXHEAD TA4 4DP

SECRET 2: DISCOVER THE WATERFALL ON THE NEWEST STRETCH OF ENGLAND COAST PATH

The newest section of England's coastal path is now open, and its home is in beautiful Somerset! The 58 mile stretch follows two thirds of the county's coast from Brean Down to Minehead, which represents a significant step towards the creation of the completed England Coast Path by 2020. The waterfall at St.Audries Bay plunges straight down onto the beach and can only be reached on foot at low tide. Park at Home Farm and walk down to explore the great coast.



ACTIVE ITINERARY



For those of us who like to be up and active on our holidays, this two day itinerary packed full of fun and active secrets is just what you'll need to explore Secret Somerset. So pack your walking boots and a picnic and set out to explore some of the best hidden secrets Somerset has to offer! For more information on each secret, including access, please take a look at the website www.secretsomerset.uk and use the checklist map.



WWW.SECRETSOMERSET.UK



E

PALMERSTON FORT AT BREAN DOWN TAB 2RS

SECRET 11: CLIMB UP BREAN DOWN FORT TO DISCOVER WW2 HISTORY AND SWEEPING VIEWS ACROSS SOMERSET

Brean Down Fort has a long history because of its prominent position - its earliest recorded settlement is from the Early to Middle Bronze Age. The current buildings were built in the 1860s as part of one of the Palmerston Forts protecting the ports of the Bristol Channel. It was decommissioned in 1901. After briefly being rearmed during World War II, the site is now owned by the National Trust and is open to the public. It offers great views of the Bristol Channel, Steep Holm and Flat Holm islands and Wales.

G

CHEDDAR GORGE BS27 3FQ

SECRET 8: CLIMBING AND CAVING ON THE LARGEST NETWORK OF UNDERGROUND CAVES IN THE UK

Somerset is famous for the Cheddar and Wookey Caves but did you know that this network of caves is the largest in the UK? With professional guides and in a group, you can spend the whole afternoon exploring it in new ways. The caving system also means that there is great rock climbing too. You need to be a member of the British Mountaineering Council or affiliated clubs to climb, but Xtreme Cheddar offers climbing for beginners as well.

F

BLACK DOWN, MENDIP HILLS AONB BS40 7XU

SECRET 12: UNMASK A LANDSCAPE LAID OUT TO FOOL WW2 ENEMY BOMBERS AT BLACK DOWN

During World War II a bombing decoy town was constructed on Black Down, which was intended to represent the blazing lights of a town which had omitted to follow black-out regulations. The decoy, known under the code name Starfish from the original code SF (Special Fire) used fires of creosote and water to simulate incendiary bombs exploding. As well as its wartime connections, Black Down is a Site of Special Scientific interest because of its wildlife and a Scheduled Monument for its archaeology dating from the late Stone Age and Bronze Age.

ACTIVE ITINERARY

DAY 2

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