

# SECRET SOMERSET & EXMOOR

#SECRETSOMERSET

## MALMSMEAD EX35 6NU

**A** SECRET 39: SEEK OUT SOMERSET'S HISTORIC PACKHORSE BRIDGES JUST PERFECT FOR POOH STICKS!

Packhorse bridges were designed to carry a horse with a heavy load across a river or stream and Somerset has more medieval packhorse bridges than anywhere else in the country. Try visiting picturesque Malmsmead, Robber's Bridge near Oare - it makes a great location for a game of pooh sticks!



## NUTCOMBE BOTTOM, NEAR DUNSTER TA24 6TA

**C** SECRET 48: DISCOVER THE TALLEST TREES IN ENGLAND

To find some of the oldest and rarest trees in Britain, follow the 'Tall Trees Trial' near Dunster. The trail runs for 600m, to where it loops back on itself. Our favourite points of interest are the Tallest Tree in England - a 60.05m tall Douglas-fir planted in the 1870s, the tallest magnolia in England (24m).

## KILVE AND EAST QUANTOXHEAD TAS 1EG

**D** SECRET 45: FOSSICK FOR FANTASTIC FOSSILS AMONG JURASSIC AND TRIASSIC ROCKS

With its Jurassic and Triassic rocks, Somerset's smaller and lesser well-known bays are a real treasure trove for fossil fiends. Some of these bays are also perfect for rock pooling and kite flying.

## HORNER TA24 8HY

**B** SECRET 44: DISCOVER HIDDEN STORIES WITH DIGITALLY INTERACTIVE FAMILY STORY WALKS

Story walks are digital story trails that encourage you to interact with the natural surroundings. Turn on your GPS settings and head here <http://exmoor.storywalks.info/The-Last-Queen-at-Pool-Bridge> on your mobile phone or iPad to start the trail. This story starts at the grassy sward next to the bridge near Pool Bridge Campsite entrance. Read out loud to family and friends as the story unfolds. Each new location will be revealed on the website after every chapter, leading you to a secret hidden journal to sign. The trail is about 40 minutes long, is suitable for all ages and finishes at 'Pazey Pool' so you can do a spot of wild swimming!

# NATURE ITINERARY

DAY 1

From heather-clad moorlands to a spectacular coastline of cliffs and bays, the beauty of Somerset and Exmoor often surprises first time visitors. Use this two day itinerary to navigate through some of our best kept secrets. For more information on each secret, including access, please take a look at the website [www.secretsomerset.uk](http://www.secretsomerset.uk) and use the checklist map.



WWW.SECRETSOMERSET.UK



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## STEART, NEAR CANNINGTON TA5 2PU

SECRET 47: A WILD, WETLAND LANDSCAPE HELPING PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the Environment Agency have created Steart Marshes – one of the UK's largest new wetland reserves. Hundreds of hectares of saltmarsh and freshwater wetlands buffer homes and businesses from rising sea levels, and provide habitat for a rich mix of wetland wildlife including otters, egrets, owls, waders and wildfowl.



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## WIMBLEBALL LAKE, NEAR DULVERTON TA22 9NU

SECRET 41: STAR GAZE IN EXMOOR, EUROPE'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY RESERVE

Why not dine under the stars this summer? Take a picnic to an intimate spot on Exmoor National Park, Europe's first International Dark Sky Reserve. The low light pollution makes it the perfect spot for a great view of the stars. On a clear night the sky is stunning when many astronomical sights can be seen by the naked eye, or you can hire a telescope from the Exmoor National Park centres to see even more! One great location is Wimbleball Lake, as not only are the stars good, but there are water sport activities and a campsite. Every summer Exmoor National Park Authority organises a Big Adventure Camp Out from here.



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## FYNE COURT TA5 2EQ

SECRET 40: BREATHE LIFE INTO THE ORIGINS OF THE FRANKENSTEIN STORY

Fyne court was the home of the Crosse family who lived here until the house was destroyed by fire in 1894. Andrew Crosse was an amateur scientist whose experiments at Fyne Court are suggested to embody Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. Discover how the fire started and find out where the house used to stand. You can also explore the wild garden, looking out for the boathouse and folly.

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