



Above: Tenthon Garrison embracing Lorna Doone (photo by Lycca Moore)

LORNA DOONE

Pocket Guide

Celebrating 150 years of the classic Exmoor novel

LORNA DOONE'S EXMOOR

2019 is the 150th anniversary of the publication of Lorna Doone by renowned author R D Blackmore.

The novel, set in 17th century Exmoor, was first published in 1869 and has never since been out of print. The story follows young farmer John Ridd's search for revenge over his father's murder, and the chance meeting with beautiful Lorna Doone that changes the course of his life.

It includes wonderful descriptions of the most remote and rugged parts of Exmoor, including real life events such as The Great Frost and The Monmouth Rebellion, plus the folk traditions of the notorious Doones and the highwayman Tom Faggus - the 'Robin Hood' of Devon.

Robber's Bridge



WILD ABOUT EXMOOR

Lorna Doone Experiences

Enjoy beautiful scenery, delicious food, and a fine walk with the story of Lorna Doone woven through the route. Climb up John Ridd's waterside, and visit the outlaws fair and Oare church, scene of Lorna's tragic wedding day.

Dates available throughout the year or book a private tour.

Tel: 01643 821425
www.garmarkethotel.co.uk
email: hotel@garmarkethotel.co.uk

SIMONSBATH HOUSE

Join us to celebrate the 150th anniversary of R D Blackmore's classic Lorna Doone story.

Take part in 3 days of short walks of the Doone Valley and Blackmore's inspirational Exmoor. Learn more of the story by immersing yourself in the wonderful descriptions of the most remote and rugged parts of Exmoor. Hear tales of real events such as the Monmouth Rebellion and folk traditions of the notorious Doones and the highwayman Tom Faggus.

£315 per person including Dinner, Refreshments, packed lunch and guide (single supp £15 per night) (Additional nights available from £78 DBB pp)

enquiries@simonsbathhouse.co.uk
Tel 01643 831259
www.simonsbathhouse.co.uk

Yarn Market Hotel and Exmoor Walking Holidays

South West Coast Path Guided Walking Holidays at Easter

Join our Exmoor Walking Holidays Group, who regularly explore Doone Country, for weekend walking breaks with preferential rates

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Yarn Market Hotel and Exmoor Walking Holidays

South West Coast Path Guided Walking Holidays at Easter

01643 702789

The 150th anniversary of the publication of Lorna Doone is being celebrated with a series of events throughout the year across Exmoor including:

Dulverton Heritage Centre: April - October
Comprehensive Lorna Doone Exhibition covering all aspects of the story. 07969 243887
www.dulvertonheritagecentre.org.uk

Doverly Manor Museum, Porlock: May - September
Lorna Doone Exhibition celebrating the novel, and the re-enactments of 50 years ago.
www.doverlymanormuseum.org.uk

Lorna Doone Land Rover Safari:
Wed 10 April, Wed 8 May, Wed 10 July, Wed 14 August (other dates available for group bookings)
Enjoy the commentary bringing the book to life as you drive through beautiful Doone country. £25 per person. Book through Porlock Visitor Centre. 01643 863150. www.porlock.co.uk

Lorna Doone Walk with Wild About Exmoor:
Sat 4, Tue 28, Thu 30 May
Mon 3, Tue 18 June
Sun 14, Sat 20 July
Wed 7, Sat 10, Tue 13, Wed 21, Fri 30 Aug
Meet at Malmsmead gift shop, 10.30am. £12 per person. Children over 10 years to 15 years £8. 01643 831759
www.wildaboutexmoor.com

Painting the Landscape of Lorna Doone:
Sat 11 - Sun 12 May and Sat 6 - Sun 7 July
Winsford Community Hall, Exford. Two day course, 10 to 4pm, Course ID: C3530299 Course fee £74.
www.wea.org.uk/find-course

Lorna Doone Literature Day School:
Exford Memorial Hall, Exford: Sat 18 May, 10 - 4pm.
Heathcote Community Centre, Tiverton: Sat 22 June
Course ID: C3530298. £35.
www.wea.org.uk/find-course

An Evening with Lorna Doone:
Sat 18 May
Jonathan Edmunds talks about the enduring reputation of 'Lorna Doone' at St. Luke's Church, Simonsbath. Booking essential 01643 831451
www.simonsbathfestival.org.uk

The Lorna Doone Experience:
Thu 6 June, Fri 2 August
A full day out, including lunch, with Wild About Exmoor Meet 10am, Malmsmead Gift Shop. Booking essential: www.airbnb.co.uk/experiences/466675

The Walking Book Club reads Lorna Doone:
Sat 22 June
Departs 2pm from outside Number Seven, Dulverton. Allow two hours to walk, talk and celebrate. £12 to include a copy of the book/ £7 without. Dogs welcome. 01398 324457. www.numbersevendulverton.co.uk

Dulverton Summer Festival - Celebrating Lorna Doone:
Sat 29 - Sun 30 June
A weekend of celebrations with re-enactment of scenes from the novel by Taunton Garrison, live music, children's activities, story-telling, Sunday banquet, local producers and outdoor film screening on the lawn. More info on Facebook @dulvertonsummerfestival

Lorna Doone Ramble:
Sat 3 August 11am
A six-mile walk taking in Badgeworthy Water and Lankcombe. Free event, just turn up. Meeting at Dry Bridge SS759451.
angela.neal532@btinternet.com
at North Devon Ramblers.

Pleasure Dome Theatre Company performs Lorna Doone:
Tue 20 - Sat 31 August
R.D Blackmore's classic romance in the breath-taking Valley of Rocks
www.pleasuredometheatrecompany.com

Meet the Exmoor Ponies:
Sat 24 August
Lorna Doone Afternoon at the Exmoor Pony Project. at Holt Ball Farm, Luccombe, Minehead TZ24 8SZ. Details at www.wildponywhispering.co.uk

Lorna Doone inspired Classical Music Concert:
Sat 12 October
All Saints Church, Dulverton (part of Two Moors Festival)
www.twomoorsfestival.co.uk

This is only a selection of the events happening on Exmoor, go to www.Visit-Exmoor.co.uk or visit www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk and search "events" for more details and additional events.

Where to find out more

We have three National Park Centres, where our friendly and knowledgeable staff will help you make the most of a visit to Exmoor. Each Centre has a range of information, publications and displays.

As well as copies of the novel 'Lorna Doone' you'll find 'The Lorna Doone Trail' which can help you find some of the places from the novel.

We also have a range Lorna Doone items for sale including mugs, tote bags, key rings and pin badges.

National Park Centre, Dulverton
73 Fore Street, Dulverton, TA22 9EX
Tel 01398 323841

National Park Centre, Dunster
Dunster Sheep, Lymouth Park Centre, Lymouth
Tel 01998 821835

National Park Centre, Lymouth
73 Fore Street, Lymouth, EX35 6EQ
Tel 01598 752809

Woodcombe Lodges & Cottages

01643 702789

THE OLD RECTORY HOTEL

A quiet beautiful retreat with great food on the Exmoor Coast

An award-winning, stylish, country-house hotel set in acres of private gardens close to the stunning and unspoilt Exmoor coast - a true haven in which to unwind and escape from the stresses of everyday life. We have no crowds or traffic to disturb the peace: just birding and jaw-dropping scenery.

The Old Rectory, THE OLD RECTORY HOTEL, 01598 839839
www.theoldrectoryhotel.co.uk

RIDE BACK IN TIME

Visit this historic Victorian cliff railway to experience the UK's only fully water powered railway and the highest and steepest water powered railway in the world. A superb example of Victorian engineering.

CLIFF RAILWAY
1858
LYNTON & LYMOUTH
contact@cliff railwaylynton.co.uk
www.cliff railwaylynton.co.uk
Telephone: 01598 753486

THE TWO MOORS FESTIVAL

THE TWO MOORS FESTIVAL
Patron: HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO

LORNA DOONE

A concert of words and music

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER - 7.00pm
All Saints Church, Dulverton

Celebrating RD Blackmore's epic Exmoor novel

With text taken from the book, the narrator takes the listener on a specially commissioned musical journey, telling the Lorna Doone tale from beginning to end. Hear the description of an Exmoor harvest, the account of Carver Doone's gory death - as well as the 'happily ever after' ending.

BOOKING OPENS EARLY JULY

Performed by the award-Winning Blundell's Chamber Choir, Wells Cathedral School String Quartet, a star narrator and 4 international singers.

Chamber Music, Lieder and Recitals in and around Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks
www.twomoorsfestival.co.uk
Registered Charity (No 104723)

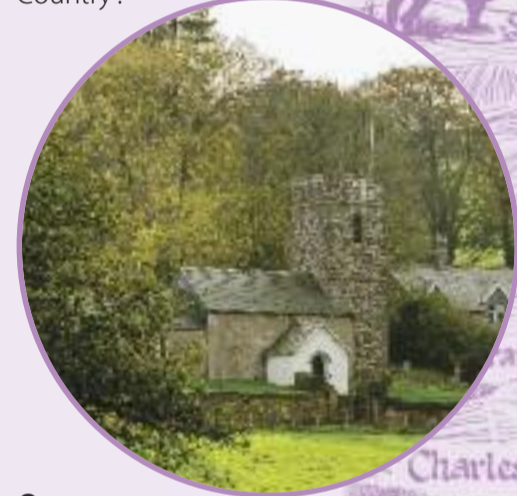
ON THE TRAIL OF LORNA DOONE TOP 10 PLACES TO VISIT...

Please remember that R D Blackmore was writing a novel, not a guide book when he penned his 'Romance of Exmoor'. Whilst Blackmore vividly described the beautiful landscape around Badgworthy Water and the area that has become known as the Doone Valley, he was somewhat liberal with names, dates and distances. What is easy to find, however, is the stunning Exmoor scenery that so inspired him; the deep wooded valleys, rivers, rocky coasts and secret woodlands have changed little over the intervening years.

This beautifully illustrated sketch map conveys the atmosphere of this ancient tale. We have picked out our highlights to visit if you are looking to discover the essence of R D Blackmore's Lorna Doone.

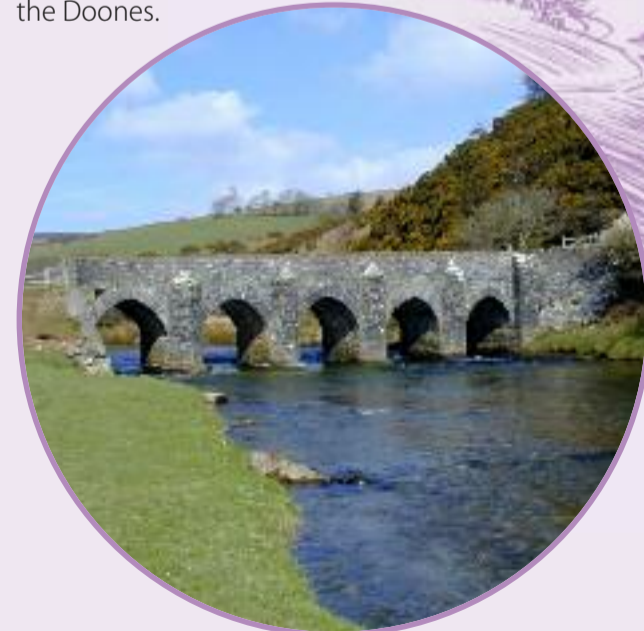
Malmsmead

Blackmore's memorial stone is set along the path from Malmsmead to the Doone Valley. The stone was placed here in 1969 by the Lorna Doone Centenary Committee. Malmsmead was once known as Moles Mead and was the gateway to 'Doone Country'.



Oare

It was on the altar steps of St Mary's Church in Oare that the heroine Lorna Doone was shot by Carver Doone during her marriage to John Ridd. Look out for **Robbers Bridge** (right) on the way from Oare to Porlock, probably the location where John Ridd's father was fatally attacked by the Doones.



Landacre Bridge

This peacefully located ancient packhorse bridge was the setting for drama and violence in the novel. It is claimed that Blackmore wrote part of Lorna Doone in the bar of the nearby Royal Oak Inn in Withypool.

The Valley of Rocks

Blackmore was well aware of the ancient myths of this dramatic place. Consulting a certain 'wise-woman' John Ridd made his way to see Mother Meldrum. Her cave is in the Valley of Rocks.



Badgworthy Water

This pretty river runs through one of Exmoor's loveliest valleys. Fishing for 'loaches' John Ridd comes across the water slide to enter the Doone Valley, possibly at Lank Combe.



Porlock Weir

An important port in the 17th century well known for both legal and illegal shipments. Porlock and Porlock Weir were visited by both John Ridd and the highwayman Tom Faggus. Stop off at the Dovere Manor Museum to see its Lorna Doone exhibition.

Dunkery Beacon

The highest point on Exmoor was the location for the warning beacons to be lit when invasion threatened. In the novel the Doones have set fire to the beacon, lighting up the surrounding hills and valleys. Climb to the top for great views.



Dunster

"Now I never saw a prettier town than Dunster," says John Ridd, having walked all the way from London. We'd have to agree. This charming medieval Exmoor village is well worth a visit.



Sketch map of the Doone Country by Geoffrey Coning, reproduced with kind permission. This map is only intended as a guide. For more detailed mapping we recommend OS Explorer map 0L9 (Exmoor), available from National Park Centres and many other outlets throughout the National Park.

Visit Exmoor

See the website for up-to-date events, activities and great places to stay, eat and explore.

#VisitMooreThanOnce
www.Visit-Exmoor.co.uk



Dulverton

Blackmore depicts Dulverton as a thriving town. There are plenty of charming small shops and restaurants to explore today. Visit the Dulverton Heritage Centre for a fascinating exhibition on all things Lorna Doone, and the statue (right) by the banks of the River Barle - an ideal picnic spot.



Linked with the exploits of Highwayman Tom Faggus, the ford which originally gave Exford its name has long been replaced by a handsome stone bridge. Situated in the heart of Exmoor, this rural village sits on the banks of the River Exe.

