



Hello!

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to you here at Pilchard Cottage, in the lovely town of Dawlish; home of the Black Swan, fabulous beaches and irresistible ice cream with clotted cream on top from Gay's Creamery.

We are both born and bred Devonians with an extensive knowledge of the local area and are currently in the process of building a comprehensive tourist guide for our new website ([www.pilchardcottagedawlish.co.uk](http://www.pilchardcottagedawlish.co.uk)).

In the meantime, we have put together some information about the local area to help you make the most of your time here in South Devon.

We hope you have a truly wonderful holiday in Dawlish, if there is anything we can do to improve your comfort and enjoyment, please feel free to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Letti & Dan

07787902108

[holiday@pilchardcottagedawlish.co.uk](mailto:holiday@pilchardcottagedawlish.co.uk)



Just a friendly reminder that here in Devon it is illegal to put the jam on first!

The chips here in Dawlish are excellent, so say the seagulls. They're also rather partial to sandwiches, cakes, ice cream and anything encased in pastry!



## A short history...

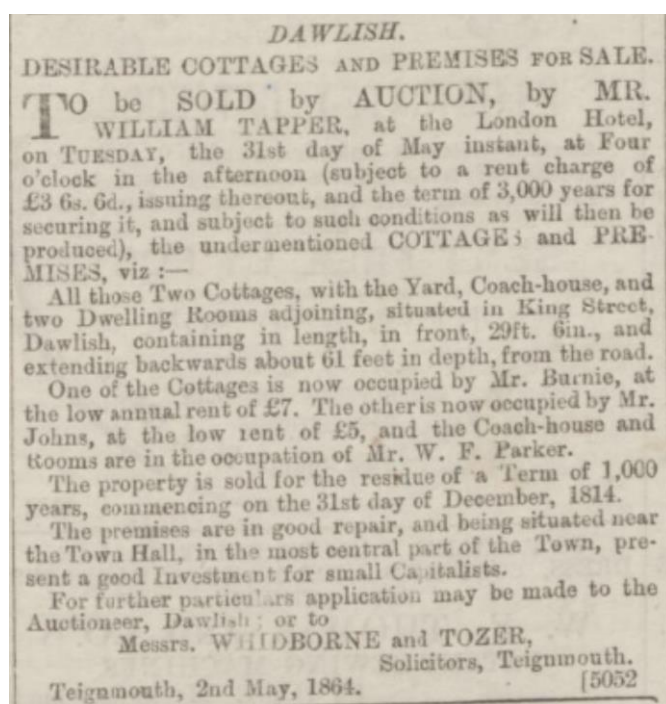
Pilchard Cottage was built as a fisherman's cottage at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the main catch during this period were pilchards, which were landed in vast numbers directly onto the beach.

Originally the fishermen and their families would have lived closer to the coastline, however during the gentrification of Dawlish during the Georgian period, the Lord of the Manor decided to relocate the riff raff away from the delicate gaze of the well-heeled visitors, who would arrive in great numbers during the summer to take in the sea air.

Pilchard Cottage is located in one of the oldest parts of Dawlish, it is made of cob; a traditional west-country building material consisting of mud and straw!

The cottage has been a home to many families over the last two hundred years, it has also been a shop and a workshop for; a Plumber, Cobbler, Butcher, and a Wheelwright to name but a few. It is also thought that the dining room used to be a wash house where the women would boil laundry in a wash copper (the old chimney breast is still visible in the dining room and the back bedroom).

In the 1860s a Plumber & Gas Fitter named Edward Johns lived in this cottage with his large family, they paid £5 each year to live here. We think that Edward built the ornate metal railings on Jubilee Bridge in the heart of the town centre in 1870. Keep an eye out for his embossed initials on the railings when you pop down to the Brook to see the Black Swans!





## Dawlish Highlights

### Sunrise –

The best place to watch the sunrise is from the bridge over the railway line between Marine Parade and Boat Cove.



### Sunset –

Standing on Jubilee Bridge in Dawlish, with your back to the sea. Alternatively, watch from the Back Beach at Teignmouth whilst eating fish and chips from Finn McCools.

### Beach –

Coryton Cove is a lovely sandy beach tucked away behind the towering red sandstone cliffs, the railway line runs through the cliffs at the back of the beach. Coryton Cove is popular for sea swimming and water sports.



The beach is served by a wonderful Italian Kiosk called The Cove Café where they serve drinks, cakes, and mouthwatering pizza. It is also possible to hire one of the colourful beach huts from Teignbridge Council. There are public toilets a couple of minutes away at Boat Cove. It is possible to access this area from the town with a scooter or wheelchair.

### Trains –

Throughout the year we often have nostalgic steam and heritage diesel trains passing through the town, drawing lots of visitors from far and wide.

Tides permitting our favourite viewing point is the breakwater at the far end of Coryton Cove, although it is fun to stand on the bridge at the end of Marine Parade as a steam train passes beneath.





### **Dawlish Ditto Trail –**

If you haven't heard of the Dittos before, then you are in for a treat! The Dittos are helpful little residents of Dawlish who live in beautifully intricate handmade wooden houses around the town. We have left a Ditto trail map next to your welcome basket, so you can see how many little houses you can spot!)

<https://dawlisdittos.com/>

The Dittos travel around on their magical flying scooters, looking after the wildlife and keeping the town clean and tidy. You can read about the Dittos in their first book 'The Captain of the Black Swan', the book is on our bookshelf ready for you to read, a Ditto colouring book is in the colouring box in the wardrobe.

### **History Trail –**

Learn about the history of Dawlish and discover some very old and quirky buildings around the town with the town's history trail. We have placed a copy of the trail next to your welcome basket. If there is a child in your party you can collect a brass rubbing sheet from any of these places in the Town Centre; Living Hub Store on the Strand, The Strand Community Centre, Railway Station, or Community Library.

### **The Black Swans & Waterfowl –**

As I'm sure you're aware, Dawlish is the home of the Black Swan, in fact we're a bit swan mad. Our current mating pair are named Bert and Kimba, so far, they have had three clutches of cygnets together. Bert can be a little antisocial during the nesting stage and extremely territorial, often seen chasing the other swans into the road or harassing the geese. Black Swans generally have their offspring during the winter.



We also have a wonderful array of waterfowl on our lovely brook including; Shelducks, Mandarin Ducks, Carolina Ducks, Chinese Geese, Red Crested Pochard and Whistling Ducks. Make sure to check the incubation window to see the newborn chicks waddling around under the heat lamps.



### **Walking and Cycling –**

The joys of living in semi-rural Dawlish are that from the front door of Pilchard Cottage you can turn right for a nice walk along the sea front (South West Coast Path), or you could turn left and explore our beautiful countryside in a matter of minutes.

There are lots of walking books on the bookshelf for your perusal.



### **Play Park –**

A new playpark was opened in Manor Gardens in 2023, it has some fantastic facilities for younger and older children. The park is only a few minutes walk from Pilchard Cottage. There is also a lovely trail leading to the park from The Lawn.



### **Golf –**

Take a trip on the wild side and have a game of mini golf in the heart of Dawlish, next to The Brook.

If you fancy a proper game of golf then Dawlish Warren Links Golf Club, Starcross Golf Course & Teignmouth Golf Course are all very close by.

### **Dawlish Museum –**

Open during the summer months, Dawlish Museum is a lovely little place full of artifacts. Great for a rainy day, admission is very cheap and the volunteers who run it are lovely. Dawlish Museum has interesting exhibits from Bill Millin's bagpipes (The D-Day Piper), the Victorian Period and the infamous Dawlish sea wall collapse in 2014. <https://www.devonmuseums.net/Dawlish-Museum/Devon-Museums/>

### **Shaftesbury Theatre –**

Constructed in 1881 and opened as a theatre in 1959, Shaftesbury Theatre is a wonderful addition to the town and puts on many productions throughout the year, which are very popular so booking early is advised.

Types of events; plays, cinema nights, pantomimes and local talks.



### **Forest Fungi & Farm Shop –**

Have you ever been to an exotic mushroom farm? Forest Fungi is a highly acclaimed mushroom grower here in Dawlish and you can book on a tour of their unique "farm", learn how the mushrooms grow and even pick your own. Featured on Celebrity Chef

James Martin's TV Show 'Islands to Highlands'.

There is also a lovely farm shop and café, which does a fantastic breakfast.

<https://forestfungi.co.uk/>



# Welcome to Dawlish Countryside Park

Port Road

Orchard Road

'Port Road' bus stops are on the main road



Male Cirl  
Bunting

*As their name suggests tiny Harvest Mice like fields of corn, we've added a few to the countryside furniture - see if you can spot them!*








No fouling      No cycling      No vehicles      No camping      No riding      **WARNING**  
 Overhead  
 power lines

You don't have to bowl to enjoy the regular summer bowling matches on The Lawn. Bowling events are usually teeming with spectators who are happy to have a chat.



## A photograph of a garden bridge with a green metal railing. In the foreground, there are large, vibrant pink hydrangea flowers. The bridge spans a small body of water, with a tree trunk visible on the left. In the background, a row of houses is visible, including a prominent white house with a blue roof and a yellow house. A blue sign with the word 'Antique' is visible on one of the buildings.

Located by the Jubilee Bridge, this is a large traditional seaside arcade, which is very popular with children and holidaymakers.



## **Swimming/ Leisure Centre –**

There are a few swimming options in Dawlish, Dawlish Warren, Cofton and Teignmouth.

- **Sea Swimming** - is a very popular pastime here and there are swimming groups you could join who usually swim from Coryton Cove and Dawlish Warren.
- **Dawlish Leisure Centre** - offer; a swimming pool, an indoor racket court, gym, and exercise classes.  
<https://www.teignbridgeleisure.co.uk/dawlish-leisure-centre>
- **Cofton Holiday Park** - offer day visitor rates for a swim in their lovely pools.  
<https://coftonholidays.co.uk/facilities/day-visitors/swim-spa/#1689603554870-42796c91-45c1>
- **Teignmouth Lido** – A heated outdoor swimming pool on Teignmouth seafront, open during the warmer months.  
<https://www.teignbridgeleisure.co.uk/swimming/teignmouth-lido-swimming-pool/>



## **Dawlish Warren Nature Reserve –**

Have a wonderful walk around Dawlish Warren, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a National Nature Reserve, and forms part of the Exe Estuary Special Protection Area. The Warren is the main roosting area for the estuary's birds and has over 600 types of British wild plant.

Dawlish Warren is important for birds all year round as a feeding, resting, and breeding area. In winter thousands of birds escape the cold of the arctic to spend the winter on the Exe. In spring and autumn, the Warren is a vital resting area for birds travelling between Africa and the Arctic Circle. Birds also use the beach for nesting in the summer.

## **Library –**

If you can't find something that takes your fancy on our bookshelves, then pop down the road to Dawlish Library. Fortunately, the library has improved significantly since 1804 when Jane Austen visited and declared it "particularly pitiful and wretched".



**The old  
& new  
library**

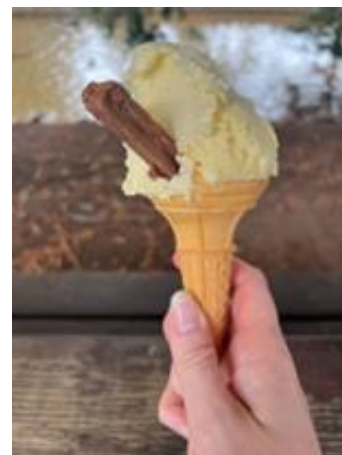
## **Food –**

As you walk down The Strand, you'll notice that there are a lot of food establishments; from pubs to cafes, ice cream parlours to bakeries and Fish & Chip takeaways. You won't go hungry in Dawlish!



We have included a list of food establishments around the town further down in this guide, but if we had to recommend one thing it would have to be the Ice Cream

'Special' from Gay's Creamery which includes a healthy dollop of Devonshire clotted cream on top and a flake, of course.



## **Special Events -**

Dawlish has a fantastic timetable of annual community events, in fact most of Devon's towns and villages put on lovely events throughout the year.

Some of the highlights of Dawlish's calendar include; Easter Egg Trail, Luscombe Castle Charity Day, Two Castles Vintage Cycle Ride, Turn the Tide Festival, Armed Forces Day and Parade, Dawlish Celebrates Classic Vehicles, Dawlish Ladies Hockey Club Family Funday on The Lawn, Dawlish Garden Society Summer Show, Brass Bands & Live Bands on The Lawn, Dawlish Carnival in August, Picnic in The Marquee, Dawlish Celebrates Seaside Fun (including Punch & Judy), Dawlish Walking Festival in September, Dawlish Triathlon, Bike & Trike Show on The Lawn, EAT Festival, Pumpkin Trail, Merchant Navy Day, Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday Parade, Yarn Bombing and theatre events throughout the year and the Christmas Lights Switch on & 2 day Christmas Market on The Strand.





### **Evenings in Dawlish –**

Dawlish is generally a quiet town, we do however have a lot of pubs who offer regular live music events, karaoke and pub quizzes. Before your stay, check to see what is on at the Shaftesbury Theatre as tickets to some events sell out fast.

On a clear night, it is lovely to head down to the sea front and have a stroll along 'The King's Walk' (sea wall) and do some stargazing out to sea.



*Over the hill and over the dale,  
And over the bourn to Dawlish--  
Where gingerbread wives have a scanty sale  
And gingerbread nuts are smallish.*

-----  
*Rantipole Betty she ran down a hill  
And kicked up her petticoats fairly;  
Says I I'll be Jack if you will be Gill--  
So she sat on the grass debonairly.*

*Here's somebody coming, here's somebody coming!  
Says I 'tis the wind at a parley;  
So without any fuss any hawing and humming  
She lay on the grass debonairly.*

*Here's somebody here and here's somebody there!  
Says I hold your tongue you young Gipsy;  
So she held her tongue and lay plump and fair  
And dead as a Venus tipsy.*

*O who wouldn't hie to Dawlish fair,  
O who wouldn't stop in a Meadow,  
O who would not rumple the daisies there  
And make the wild fern for a bed do!*

- **John Keats**

**Written the day after he visited Dawlish in March 1818**

### **Other special annual local events –**

Exeter Christmas Market, Teignmouth Airshow, Torbay Airshow, Bear Grylls Gone Wild Festival, Christmas at the Castle - Powderham Castle, Bay of Lights Torquay, Shaldon Regatta, Teignmouth Regatta, Brixham Pirate Festival, Ipple Tipple Beer Festival & Flower Show, Teignmouth Festive Walk in the Sea, Shaldon three legged Race, Ottery Tar Barrels, Sidmouth Folk Festival, Brix Fest, Firework Championships (Plymouth), Widdecombe Fair, Devon County Show, Totnes Show, Cockwood Shanty Festival, Ideford Vintage Fair, Ashcombe & District Horse & Dog Show, Abb Fest, Rails & Ales (Staverton), Totnes Christmas Market, Totnes Festival, Dartmouth Regatta and many more...

### **Boat Trips –**

#### **Dawlish Boat Trips**

<https://www.facebook.com/DawlishBoatTrips/>

Running during the summertime and only in good sea conditions.

Usually offer a half hour boat trip or a two hour trip.



#### **Starcross Ferry – <https://www.facebook.com/StarcrossExmouthFerry/>**

Regular service in the warmer months between Starcross and Exmouth

#### **Stuartline Cruises – <https://www.stuartlinecruises.co.uk/>**

Based in Exmouth, they offer lots of long and short boat trips including; bird watching, Exeter Canal, Jurassic Coast, Christmas Day Swim and many more!

#### **Teign Boat Hire – <https://teignboathire.co.uk/>**

Self Drive boats from the Back Beach at Teignmouth – April – September



#### **Devon Sea Safari – <https://devonseasafari.com/>**

High Speed Rib boat trip around the bay looking for marine and birdlife.

#### **We Ferry - <https://www.weferry.co.uk/the-brixham-round-robin-from-teignmouth-harbour>**

Teignmouth to Brixham Round Robin.

#### **Fun Fish & Trips – <https://www.funfishtrips.co.uk/>**

Mackerel Fishing Trips from Teignmouth / Torbay

#### **Kingswear Castle – <https://www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk/paddle-steamer>**

Some summers it is possible to travel up the River Dart on a paddle steamer called the Kingswear Castle. Check the website for up to date information.

Alternatively the same company run another boat called The Dart Princess, which is also a very lovely trip.



## **Vintage Steam Train / Diesel Train Rides –**

### **The Dartmouth Steam Rail & River Boat Company**

We think this is the most picturesque steam rail trip you can go on in South Devon, it is also possible to go on the train and the River Dart cruise as part of a round robin offer.

If you are here at Christmas time, then the Train of Lights is a wonderful festive experience, both on and off board.

<https://www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk/>

In 2023 Great Western Railway teamed up with the Dartmouth Steam Rail & River Boat Company to offer a special ticket from Dawlish to Kingswear. Check this website for upcoming deals for 2024 - <https://www.gwr.com/stations-and-destinations/travel-inspiration/heritage-railways/dartmouth-through-ticket>



### **South Devon Railway**

Steam & Diesel railway journey from Buckfastleigh to Totnes.

It is possible to do a dining experience, murder mystery experience, train driving experience and attend a themed event.

<https://www.southdevonrailway.co.uk/>

### **Trago Mills**

Miniature Steam and Diesel Railway – very cheap in comparison with the other train options and popular with children.

Open weekends & school holidays.

Trago also has a large indoor model railway, arcade games, animals, go karts, slides and much more.

<https://www.facebook.com/Trago.Mills.Steam.Railway/>



## **Powderham Castle –**

Powderham Castle is the nearest castle to Dawlish which is open to the public (we have a beautiful castle in Dawlish but it's a private residence).

Powderham is a wonderful castle set on a stunning estate in the village of Kenton, with far reaching views of the River Exe. It is home to the Earl of Devon and his family and over the last decade, the castle has been transformed into a great tourist attraction.

Not only can you visit the castle and its grounds, but you can also; see the animals, visit the farm shop, eat in the café, walk alpacas or goats around the grounds, groom ponies and attend some huge concerts and events. At Christmas the castle and gardens are lit up for 'Christmas at the Castle'.

<https://www.powderham.co.uk/>



## **National Trust / English Heritage (there are many more than listed below) –**

### **Greenway**

Although we are a little biased, we think that Greenway is one of the best National Trust venues in the area.

Former holiday home of internationally famous author Agatha Christie.

Set on the banks of the stunning river Dart. Greenway is utterly beautiful; you can explore the house, kitchen gardens, the front lawn, Camelia Garden, Boat House, play tennis and have a lovely cream tea sat in the courtyard.

Letti's mother grew up on the farm behind Greenway and her mother spent her childhood playing in the gardens, Letti's grandfather used to deliver milk to Agatha (or Aggie as she was known to the family) enjoying chats on the kitchen doorstep at dawn when she was in residence.

In fact, the cartwheel in the courtyard at Pilchard Cottage is from the entrance of the farm at Greenway. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/greenway>



### **Coleton Fishacre**

Another National Trust Property close to Greenway is Coleton Fishacre, a country home with stunning gardens and scenery that leads to a secluded beach.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/coleton-fishacre>

### **Dartmouth Castle**

If you decide to spend the day in gorgeous Dartmouth, then a trip to Dartmouth Castle on the River Dart is not to be missed. Managed by English Heritage you can access the castle by boat and do some wildlife spotting en route.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/dartmouth-castle/>

### **Berry Pomeroy Castle**

Tucked away in a deep wooded valley, Berry Pomeroy Castle is the perfect romantic ruin. It was originally built in the 15th-century by the Pomeroy family, then later expanded by the Seymours, who planned to set a great Elizabethan mansion within the castle's medieval walls. There are many tales of spooky happenings around the grounds. Run by English Heritage.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/berry-pomeroy-castle/>



### **Totnes Castle**

One of the best-preserved examples of a Norman Motte and Bailey Castle. Built 900 years ago during the Norman Conquest, almost certainly by one of William the Conqueror's commanders. Run by English Heritage.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/totnes-castle/>



### **Ashcombe -**

Ashcombe is a private estate very close to Dawlish and offers a range of countryside pursuits, including; an extensive clay shooting layout with a high tower, sporting and skeet ranges. One-on-one lessons are very popular. There is also a Quad Bike Safari, and Archery. <https://www.ashcombe.co.uk/adventure-centre/>

### **No Child Left Indoors Forest School (Shaldon) –**

Forest School offering a wide range of activities for children; bushcraft skills, shelter building, learning about the forest and its inhabitants, campfires etc.

Weekend and School Holiday Forest School sessions available.

<https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089352211527>

### **Haldon Forest –**

1,400 hectares of woodland just 15/20 minutes from Dawlish. Extremely popular whether you want a quiet gentle stroll or an exhilarating mountain biking experience, there's something for you at Haldon Forest Park. Haldon Forest Park is the perfect place for great value days out with kids, friends, or family. If you're looking for cheap ways to entertain the children or space to get back to nature, look no further than Haldon Forest Park. Don't forget to pick up an activity trail leaflet from the Visitors Centre!

Haldon Forest Park offers a range of walking and cycling trails to suit all abilities, as well as orienteering courses, treetop rope course, and so much more just waiting to be discovered.

### **Go Ape @ Haldon Forest –**

Go Ape Haldon Forest is as far south as we venture. Your adventure though is definitely northwards as you scale the heights of the treetops. A great location for thrill seekers and family adventurers with hilltop to hilltop zip wires and daring high level crossings. You may be deep in the forest but the 360-degree views from your treetop vantage point are spectacular. <https://goape.co.uk/locations/haldon>

### **Teignmouth –**

Teignmouth is the nearest town to Dawlish, it only take a few minutes to reach by train, bus or car. You could even walk there on the **South West Coast Path**.

Teignmouth has lots to offer including; **scuba diving @ Teign Diving Centre**, lots of **boat trips** as mentioned above, **Teignmouth Lido**, lovely **walks** around the town and promenade and don't forget to take some change for the amusement arcade on the **pier**!

'The Point' at Teignmouth is usually very good for **sea glass hunting** at low tide. We have found several large chunks of 'pirate glass' there over the years (too chunky to fit into our beachcombing jar unfortunately). It is also a great place to watch very **large ships** come into port through a very narrow channel at high tide. <http://teigndivingcentre.co.uk/>



## **Exeter –**

Exeter is the nearest city to Dawlish; it only takes 20 minutes or so to reach on the train and it is definitely worth a visit.

### **Exeter Cathedral**

Exeter Cathedral is one of Europe's great cathedrals. The building was significantly developed from the 12th to 14th centuries and remains the most complete example of a first rank church in the English Decorated architectural style.

Exeter Cathedral has the longest uninterrupted medieval vaulted ceiling in the world, at about 96 m (315 ft). It is also the location each year of a fantastic Christmas Market.



### **Exeter Red Coat Tours**

Exeter City Council run a fantastic program of free guided tours (completely free, no tip) run by volunteers. There are lots of different tours available, here is a selection of some of the tours available; Medieval Exeter, Cathedral to Quay, Georgian Exeter, Ghosts & Legends, Cathedral Close & Bishops Palace Garden, Exeter Old & New, Exeter's Historic Quayside and Forgotten Exeter (Roman Walls).

Special tours include; Writers Around Exeter, Mystery Tour, Exeter Blitz, Halloween Tour and Royalty in Exeter.

We have done the majority of these walking tours and they are absolutely brilliant.

<https://exeter.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/our-attractions/red-coat-guided-tours/our-tours/>

### **Exeter Underground Passages**

Medieval passages under the city centre, designed to bring water from natural springs outside of the old walled city. Donning a hard hat, you can take a guided tour beneath the surface and hear stories about; the plague, wars and sieges in Exeter throughout history. <https://exeter.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/our-attractions/underground-passages/visitor-information/>

### **Gandy Street**

Is a quirky cobbled street, which allegedly gave inspiration for Diagon Alley in Harry Potter (JK Rowling went to the University of Exeter).

The Street is full of interesting independent shops, restaurants, pubs and clubs.

### **RAMM Museum**

The perfect free rainy-day activity. The Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) is filled with fascinating displays and galleries showcasing Devon and Exeter's rich history and global connections. <https://rammuseum.org.uk/>





### **Exeter Quay & The Custom House**

In the summer, Exeter Quay is a great place to amble around and eat at one of the many eateries. It is also possible to do some water sports here and visit the Custom House museum for free.

<https://exeter.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/our-attractions/custom-house-visitor-centre/>

### **Exeter Climbing Centre**

Located on the Quayside, for those who are more adventurous you can do clip and climb and bouldering. [www.quayclimbingcentre.co.uk](http://www.quayclimbingcentre.co.uk)

### **The Celtic Tossers**

If you're looking for something a little bit different then how about trying some Axe Throwing or have a go in the Airsoft shooting range?

<https://theceltictossers.co.uk/our-sessions/>

### **St Nicholas' Priory**

The oldest building in Exeter (approx. 900 years old) founded by William The Conqueror in 1087. Opening a couple of days a week to visitors you can visit this living museum to see what life was like centuries ago. Also offer special events throughout the year. Well worth a visit. <https://nicholaspriory.com/>

### **The White Hart (Pub)**

There are lots of fantastic places to eat in Exeter, however if you would like to visit a very old English pub then look no further than The White Hart on South Street. Built in the 1400s as an Ale House, the building is full of quirks and charm.

It is also very close to part of the old Roman wall.



### **Shopping**

If you feel the need to splurge, Exeter is probably the best place in Devon to go shopping, with a wide range of chain and independent shops.

## **Dartmoor –**

Dartmoor is an extremely special part of Devon, it is vast, undulating and full of stunning scenery, including; granite rock tors, ancient stunted oak forests, waterfalls, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, dark skies for stargazing, remains of bronze age settlements, hiking trails, wild animals, ghosts & legends, epic driving roads, old pubs with log burners and great food, wonderful gateway towns and villages, adrenaline packed activities and much more.



On a clear day, one of the best drives is from **Ashburton** to **Tavistock**. Both lovely towns with lots to offer in their own right, you will have a great day out even if you don't want to put on a pair of walking boots! Please take 'Moor care' as **Wild ponies**, sheep and cows are frequently found wandering in the road.



Some of our favourite places on Dartmoor are; **Spitchwick, Hound Tor, Hay Tor, Lydford Gorge, Princetown Prison Museum, Museum of Dartmoor Life (Okehampton), Bellever Forest, Wistman's Woods, Dartmeet, Jay's Grave, Tottiford & Trenchford Reservoir** to name just a few!

The Lydford Gorge (National Trust) walk is the best for waterfalls and scenery, it is also possible to see a waterfall at **Canonteign Falls** and **Becky Falls**.

**Kayaking** experiences are widely available and well worth a go if you like adrenaline sports.

A great National Trust property on Dartmoor is **Castle Drogo** (incidentally it's where Dan's great grandfather used to deliver milk to from their family farm in Drewsteignton). A wonderful pub near Castle Drogo is the **Fingle Bridge Inn**, set in utterly stunning scenery, it's a great place for lunch on a nice day next to the river.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/castle-drogo>

<https://www.finglebridgeinn.co.uk/>

One of our favourite pubs on Dartmoor is 'The Old Inn' at Widecombe in the Moor.

<https://www.theoldinnwidecombe.com/>

<https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/enjoy-dartmoor/outdoor-activities/walking/walking-routes/welcome-to-dartmoor-dartmeet-walk>

<https://visitdartmoor.co.uk/attraction/bellever-forest-forestry-england>

<https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/enjoy-dartmoor/places/wistmans-wood>

<https://www.swlakestrust.org.uk/kennick-tottiford-trenchford>

<https://www.dartmoor-prison.co.uk/>



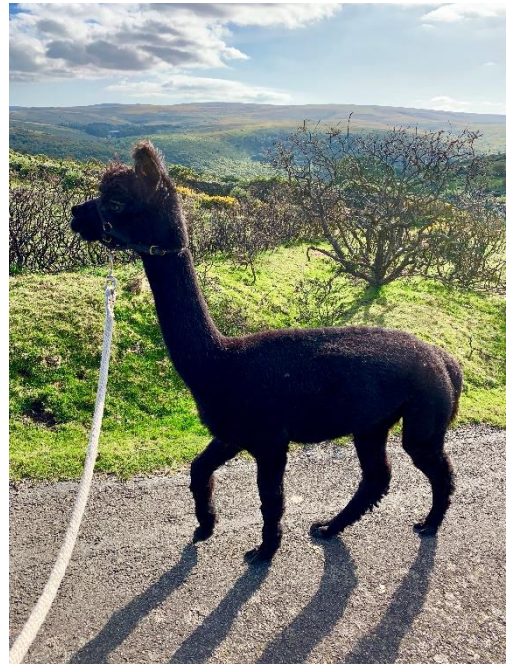


## Dartmoor Llama Walks (Dartmoor) –

We think that one of the best organised group experiences to have on Dartmoor is to walk a Llama or Alpaca on a lead through the glorious moorland landscape, whilst being given a commentary of the area by the owner, who taught us about the history, geology, geography of our surroundings and pointed out all the bronze age ruins on our route.

We went on their 'Cream Team Llama/ Alpaca walk', but they have a program of different types of experiences to suit people of all abilities. Book ahead as this is a very popular experience.

<https://www.dartmoorllamawalks.co.uk/>



## Other local towns/ villages you may wish to visit during your stay are -



**Funicular Railway.** <https://bygon.es.co.uk/>

### **Torquay**

A harbour town with a large number of pleasure boats moored up. You can visit **Torquay Museum**, go on a boat trip, learn to **sail**, walk through **Rock Walk**, visit **Torre Abbey**, attend an event at **Princess Theatre**, go on a **fishing trip**.

Whilst in Torquay also visit **Babbacombe**; **Bygones** (a Victorian museum which is great for a rainy day), Babbacombe **Model Village**, **Angels Tea Room** and the

<https://www.model-village.co.uk/>





### Cockington

Cockington is a small, picturesque village which lies between Torquay and Paignton. If you like thatched cottages like these, you won't be disappointed. Keep a look out for the newly **thatched cottages** as many will have a thatched animal on the roof ridge. This is the thatcher's signature.

Things to do in Cockington include; meeting **Patrick The Pony** at The Drum Inn Pub (if you're lucky). Patrick is the Mayor of Cockington (yes, really). Patrick likes to drink Guinness (yes, really).

Walking through the **water meadows** down to the sea front, exploring the **gardens** and **ponds**. Visiting the craftspeople behind **Cockington Court**. We like watching the **glass blowing**.

<https://www.facebook.com/celebrity.pony/>



### Paignton

Paignton is a traditional seaside town with lots of bucket and spade shops and a large **cinema**. It has two lovely mini golf courses, one on Paignton Green and the other at the end of **Paignton Pier**.

The **Harbour** is a short walk away from the town centre and is surrounded by lots of restaurants and cafes. You can go on a **fishing trip** from here.

Paignton is also the start point for the **Dartmouth Steam Train** trip to Kingswear (for Dartmouth), which is a fantastic experience.

Paignton is also home to the magnificent **Paignton Zoo**, a great place for a full day out.

**Goodrington Beach** is slightly further down the coast from Paignton. It has a great beach with rock pools and beach huts, you can also watch the steam trains from the beach several times a day during the warmer months.

Goodrington is also home to **Splashdown**, the largest **waterslide park** in the area and very popular with children, both young and old!

<https://www.splashdownwaterparks.co.uk/quaywest/>





### Brixham

Beautiful Brixham with its lovely **harbour**, active **fishing market** and **Golden Hind Replica**.

Visit **Shoalstone Sea Water Pool** for a cooling dip in the summer, perhaps even visit during one of the special **sauna** and dip sessions for a unique Swedish style treat!

The town centre is lovely and you certainly won't go hungry.

A trip to **Brixham Battery Museum**

and **Berry Head** to see the **sea birds**, **fishing boats** coming back from their fishing grounds, **light house** and the historic **Napoleonic Fort**, complete with **cannons**.

If you like fish and early starts, for a special treat you can book yourself onto the **Brixham Fish Market Tour** on special dates throughout the year. Experience the 'shout' auction, learn about the fish and the boats and then afterwards head to **Rock Fish for a special fishy breakfast**, which is included in the price of the tour.

This tour is very popular and needs to be booked in advance.

<https://brixhamfishmarket.co.uk/brixham-fish-market-tours/>

### Exmouth

Exmouth is a lovely **seaside town**, situated at the mouth of the **River Exe**. It has long **sandy beaches**, a nice town centre, **pretty harbour**, a lovely view of Dawlish Warren and the odd **seal** lounging around on pontoons and boats in the river.

Exmouth is also home to **World of Country Life**, an all-weather family day out attraction that has an eclectic mix of museums, animals, play areas and entertainment, both outdoors and undercover, making it an excellent day out for the whole family, whatever the age, whatever the weather!

**Stuart Line Boat Trips** start from Exmouth Harbour and offer a large array of destinations and trip lengths, as mentioned above.

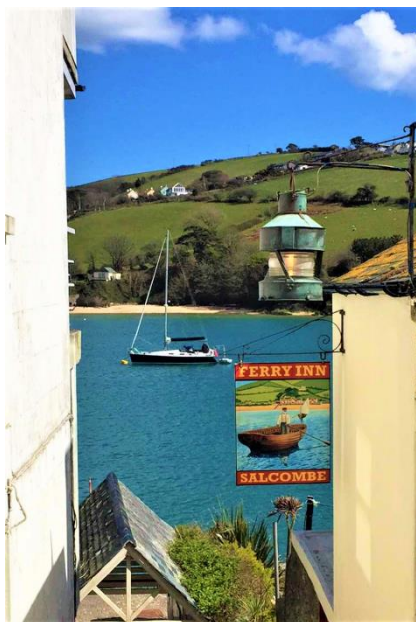


### River Exe Café

For a unique dining experience, we would highly recommend lunch at the River Exe Café. Accessible only by water taxi or your own boat. The café is a floating pontoon moored in the middle of the river and only open during the warmer months. **Perfect for a special occasion or treat.**

Booking well in advance is essential.

It is also possible to get the ferry from Starcross to Exmouth and then hop on a water taxi to the café. Please check timings. The water taxi is booked through the café as part of your booking. <https://www.riverexecafe.com>



For a unique experience you could take the sea tractor from **Bigbury Beach** to Burgh Island, explore the rugged island and marvel at the beautiful art deco **Burgh Island Hotel**.

## The South Hams

The south Hams is a large area which encompasses the following towns and villages (and more)

**Dartmouth, Kingswear, Salcombe, Dittisham, Bigbury, and Bantham.**

This is a beautiful part of the world and known for its golden sandy beaches, rugged coastline, pretty architecture and glorious rivers.

Salcombe is known locally as Chelsea on Sea, if you're feeling particularly flush you may want to spend a day at the spa at the Harbour Hotel in Salcombe, with stunning views over the estuary.



## Plymouth

The historic naval city of Plymouth is the second closest city to Dawlish and has lots to offer visitors of all ages. Easily reachable by train through the pretty English Countryside, some of our favourite Plymouth activities are; a narrated **Boat Trip** around the **Naval dockyard** where you can see warships and submarines, a guided tour of **Drakes Island**, visiting **The Box** museum which is new, free and great for all ages (perfect for a rainy day), **Plymouth Aquarium** (also perfect for a rainy day), a guided tour of the English Heritage site '**Plymouth Citadel**' prebooking required as it is an active naval base, **Plymouth Lido**; a beautiful sea pool, walk along the **Hoe** to visit **Smeaton's Tower** and have a tour of the **Plymouth Gin Distillery** and enjoy a few glasses in their lovely bar.

A huge part of Plymouth's history was the departure of **The Mayflower** in 1620 with the Founding Fathers onboard, sailing for 10 weeks to start a new life and country in what is now known as The United States of America.

You can visit the City's **Mayflower Museum** and try and find the original steps used in the sailing (which are now believed to be under the ladies' toilets in a pub on the harbourside).

<https://www.plymouthboattrips.co.uk/>

<https://plymouthdistillery.com/age-gate>

<https://www.theboxplymouth.com/>





### **Vineyards / Distilleries / Cider / Brewery Tours –**

Brewing and distilling in Devon has been a large industry for centuries, probably in part due to a high number of people employed in the Naval and Farming occupation, but also because we have plentiful access to the beautiful Dartmoor soft water, which is perfect for making spirits and beer with.

#### **Old Walls Vineyard, Bishopsteignton (Near Teignmouth)**

<https://oldwallsvineyard.co.uk/tours-and-tasting/>

#### **Pebblebed Vineyard, Clyst St George (in between Exeter & Exmouth)**

<https://www.dartsfarm.co.uk/farm-vineyards/pebblebed-vineyards>

#### **Sandridge Barton (Sharpham Wine), Stoke Gabriel (in between Paignton & Brixham)**

<https://sandridgebarton.com/>

#### **Exeter Gin School, Teignmouth**

<https://exetergin.com/pages/gin-school>

#### **Plymouth Gin Distillery, Plymouth**

<https://plymouthdistillery.com/age-gate>

#### **Dartmoor Whisky Distillery, Bovey Tracey**

<https://dartmoorwhiskydistillery.co.uk/>

#### **Salcombe Brewery, Salcombe**

<https://salcombebrewery.com/product/brewery-tours/>

### **Eden Project – (Bodelva, Cornwall)**

If you haven't been to the Eden Project before, or aren't planning a holiday in Cornwall in the near future, then you might want to take a day trip to the ultimate tourist attraction of the South West (in our opinion).



It is possible to do this as a big day trip, we have done so ourselves a few times, but beware it is approximately 1 hour 45 minute drive each way, or 2 hours on the train to St Austell with a 30 minute bus journey from the train station to Eden.

For the adrenaline junkies in your party, the **zip wire** and swing experience is pretty exhilarating (from experience!)

<https://www.edenproject.com/>



### **Animals / Family Fun Parks or Activities / Soft Play –**

You will find a large selection of tourist attraction leaflets in the cottage, here are a list of websites for the major family friendly attractions located within approximately a 1h25m drive of Dawlish.

#### **Funder Park, Dawlish Warren**

[https://www.facebook.com/FunderParkDawlishWarren/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/FunderParkDawlishWarren/?locale=en_GB)

#### **Shaldon Zoo, Shaldon**

<https://www.shaldonwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

#### **Powderham Castle, Kenton**

<https://www.powderham.co.uk/>

#### **iTown, Newton Abbot**

<https://itown-newtonabbot.co.uk/>

#### **Go Ape, Haldon**

<https://goape.co.uk/locations/haldon>

#### **Trago Mills, Liverton (Newton Abbot)**

<https://www.trago.co.uk/our-stores/newton-abbot/>

#### **Model Village, Babbacombe (Torquay)**

<https://www.model-village.co.uk/>

#### **Bygones, Babbacombe (Torquay)**

<https://bygones.co.uk/>

#### **Kents Cavern Pre-Historic Caves**

<https://www.kents-cavern.co.uk/>

#### **Paignton Zoo, Paignton**

<https://www.paigntonzoo.org.uk/>

#### **Splashdown Water Park, Goodrington (Paignton)**

<https://www.splashdownwaterparks.co.uk/quaywest/>

#### **Exeter Underground Passages**

<https://exeter.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/our-attractions/underground-passages/visitor-information/>

#### **House of Marbles, Bovey Tracey**

<https://www.houseofmarbles.com/>



**Otter Sanctuary & Butterfly Farm, Buckfastleigh**

<https://ottersandbutterflies.co.uk/>

**Pennywell Farm, Buckfastleigh**

<https://www.pennywellfarm.co.uk/>

**Bicton Botanical Gardens, Budleigh Salterton**

<https://www.bictongardens.co.uk/>

**Wildwood Devon, Ottery St Mary**

<https://devon.wildwoodtrust.org/>

**Crealy Theme Park, Clyst St Mary**

<https://www.crealy.co.uk/rides-attractions/category/rides-attractions>

**Woodlands Theme Park, Dartmouth**

<https://www.woodlandspark.com/>

**Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth**

<https://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk>

**Plymouth Aquarium, Plymouth**

<https://www.national-aquarium.co.uk/>

**Dartmoor Zoo, Sparkwell (Plymouth)**

<https://www.dartmoorzoo.org.uk/>

**Seaton Tramway, Seaton**

<https://www.tram.co.uk/>



## **Public Transport –**

### **Trains**

Dawlish Train station is easily walkable from the front door of Pilchard Cottage. The train offers the fastest way to travel around South Devon and offers some superb coast and country views.

You can take a direct train from Dawlish to the following towns –

Dawlish Warren – 4 minutes

Starcross – 8 minutes

Exeter Central / St Davids / St Thomas – 12-25 minutes

Exmouth – 1 hour (probably quicker to take the ferry from Starcross)

Teignmouth – 5 minutes

Newton Abbot – 12 minutes

Torquay – 25 minutes

Paignton – 35 minutes

Totnes – 30 minutes

Plymouth – 1 hour



### **Bus**

Busses regularly pass through Dawlish, including the Stagecoach numbers:

2 - Newton Abbot – Exeter via Dawlish

22 - Dawlish Warren – Paignton via Dawlish

222 - only operates during the summer and is an open top bus which travels between Dawlish Warren, Dawlish & Teignmouth.

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/south-west/explore-dawlish-and-teignmouth-by-open-top-bus>

Country Bus 186, which goes from the town centre to Sainsbury's in Dawlish Warren and the 187 from the town centre to Sainsbury's, Dawlish Warren, Cofton and Cockwood.

A single bus ticket costs £2 until December 2024.



## Taxi

Dawlish Cabs (+44 (0)1626 888111)

Mark Gibson (+44 (0)7891 104148)

Teign Taxis (+44 (0)1626 391000)

## Dawlish Community Transport

Dawlish Community Transport is based in the Barton Hill Car Park in Dawlish, a registered charity and offers accessible and affording transport services for people who may be unable to use public transport or need support in getting out and helping to access shops, health appointments, services and leisure activities.

Shopmobility – Electric Scooters, Wheelchairs and Walking Trolley Hire  
We have a hire service for electric scooters, wheelchairs and walking trollies; be it for local people wanting to hire for their Ring and Ride journey, whilst recovering from an illness or to get out and about around town as well as for holiday makers staying locally. All available for a small charge; being a charity we are not for profit, we keep our charges to a minimum to serve our community.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

Tel: 01626 888890

Email: [office@etcta.co.uk](mailto:office@etcta.co.uk)

Website: <https://dawlish-mobility.co.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DawlishCommunityTransport>

### DO YOU FANCY A DAY OUT?

Join Dawlish Community Transport on our [Tuesday Trips](#)

**Door to Door Transport**  
Picking you up/returning you to/from your home

**FEBRUARY 2024:**

6 <sup>th</sup>	Exeter - IKEA, Dunelm or City	£12.00
13 <sup>th</sup>	Fermoys Garden Centre	£12.00
20 <sup>th</sup>	Endsleigh Garden Centre	£18.00
27 <sup>th</sup>	Topsham/Darts Farm	£12.00

**MARCH 2024:**

5 <sup>th</sup>	Exmouth	£15.00
12 <sup>th</sup>	Trago Mills	£12.00
19 <sup>th</sup>	Otter Nurseries (Ottery St Mary branch)	£15.00
26 <sup>th</sup>	Tavistock	£20.00

**APRIL 2024:**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bernville Nurseries	£12.00
9 <sup>th</sup>	Buckfast Abbey & Butterfly Farm	£15.00
16 <sup>th</sup>	Dartmouth	£15.00
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sidmouth	£15.00
30 <sup>th</sup>	Ashburton/Dartmoor	£15.00

**'BINGO & BUS'**  
Wednesday's 7<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup> March & 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024  
Arriving for 7.30pm/eyes down from 8.00pm at Ashcombe Village Hall  
Vehicle available for Dawlish passengers who can benefit from Community Transport support (£5 each to cover costs) - book in advance/limited spaces  
Pick-up time confirmed on day of travel

For more information or to book please  
Call the office on: 01626 888890  
Barton Hill Car Park, Dawlish, Devon, EX7 9QH  
[www.dawlish-mobility.co.uk](http://www.dawlish-mobility.co.uk) Find us on [facebook](#)

## **Local Amenities –**

**Supermarkets** listed in order of distance from Pilchard Cottage:

**Sainsbury's** – Dawlish Warren

**Lidl** – Teignmouth

**Morrisons** - Teignmouth

**Tesco** – Newton Abbot

**Aldi** – Newton Abbot

**Asda** – Newton Abbot

**Waitrose** – Exeter

It is possible to get home deliveries from several supermarkets.

**Food Shops** in Dawlish Town Centre:

**Costcutter** – Queen Street

**One Stop** – The Strand

**GK Store** – Brook Street

**Le Cygnerie Delicatessen** – The Strand

**Dawlish Farm Shop** – The Strand

**Premier** – Brookdale Terrace / Brunswick Place

**Co-op** (the largest food shop in town) – The Strand

## **Takeaways**

Chinese – **Siew Mai** – King Street

Nepalese / Indian - **Gurkha Restaurant** – Park Road

Pizza / Kebab / Burger - **Pizza Palos** – Park Road

Thai - **Sticky Rice** – The Strand

Gyros / Indian / Pizza – **Smyrna** – Strand Hill

Fish & Chips -

**Chips Ahoy** – Queen Street

**Frank's Frying in Dawlish** – Piermont Place

**Sea Breeze** – Piermont Place

Beach - Day time Tea & Coffee / Pizza / Cake – **The Cove Café** – Coryton Cove



## **Pubs / Restaurants / Cafés – in Dawlish Town Centre**

Pub - **The Lansdowne** – Park Road

Nepalese / Indian - **Gurkha Restaurant** – Park Road, Dawlish

Traditional British Food – **Reflections Bistro** – The Strand, Dawlish

Coffee Shop - **Woody's** – Queen Street, Dawlish

Café – **Daisy's Tea Room** – The Strand, Dawlish

Cocktails & Tapas – **The Mix** – The Strand, Dawlish

High end Breakfast / Lunch - **Le Cygne** – The Strand, Dawlish

Breakfast / Lunch - **John's** - The Strand, Dawlish

Bakery - **Ryders Bakery** – The Strand, Dawlish

Thai - **Sticky Rice** – The Strand, Dawlish

Breakfast / Lunch – **Home Kitchen** - Piermont Place, Dawlish

Bakery & Ice Cream - **Gay's Creamery** – Brunswick Terrace, Dawlish

Pub - **The Brunswick Arms** – Brunswick Terrace, Dawlish

Bar - **Marine Tavern** – Marine Parade, Dawlish

Ice Cream Parlour – **The Local Scoop** – Piermont Place

Bar – **The Beach Bar** – Piermont Place, Dawlish

Sports Bar – **The Loung Sports Bar** – Piermont Place, Dawlish

Fish & Chips – **Sea Breeze** – Piermont Place, Dawlish

Beach - Day time Tea & Coffee / Pizza / Cake – **The Cove Café** – Coryton Cove

There are a lot of pubs in Dawlish, too many to mention!

## **Pubs / Restaurants - outside of Dawlish**

**The Smugglers** – Teignmouth Road, Dawlish

**The Boat House** – Dawlish Warren

**Mount Pleasant Inn** – Mount Pleasant Road, Dawlish

**Wetherspoons 'The Jolie Brise'** – Station Road, Teignmouth

**The Ley Arms** – Kenn

**Rodean Restaurant** – Kenton

**Tradewinds** – Station Road – Teignmouth

**The Crab Shack** – Queen Street, Teignmouth

**The Captain's Table** – The Promenade, Teignmouth

**Cockhaven Arms** – Cockhaven Road, Bishopsteignton

**The Café on the Exe** – Floating Restaurant on the River Exe



## **Bike Hire**

Dawlish Bike Shop – <https://piorabikes.co.uk/pages/contact-us>

Exe Trail Cycle Hire (Dawlish Warren) - <https://www.exetrailcyclehire.co.uk/>

Forest Cycle Hire (Haldon Forest) - <https://forestcyclehire.co.uk/>

## **Paddle Board Hire**

Dawlish Paddle Board Hire - <https://dawlishpaddleboardhire.co.uk/>

## **Mobility Scooters & Wheelchair Hire**

Helping Hands (Dawlish) – [www.helpinghands-shop.co.uk](http://www.helpinghands-shop.co.uk)

Dawlish Community Transport - <https://dawlish-mobility.co.uk/>



**HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY!**

