

SIDMOUTH

~ Festive Break ~
8th to 12th November



A festive break in the ever popular South Devon coastal resort of Sidmouth where we shall stay at the family run Royal York & Faulkner Hotel. For hundreds of years Sidmouth was a tiny fishing village then, in the 19th century, it was transformed into the smart seaside resort we see today, complete with its charming Regency villas and Victorian cottages.

Monday 8th November Departing from Oxted at 9.00am we make our way to the small market town of Devizes where we shall have time to find lunch. Here we shall also make a brief stop to admire the Kennet and Avon Canal's Caen Hill flight of 29 locks, which rise 237 feet in 2 ½ miles. Continuing on we arrive late afternoon at the Royal York & Faulkner Hotel, Sidmouth which will be adorned in its Christmas splendour. On arrival we shall be greeted with afternoon tea. This evening, following dinner, we shall be entertained by a local choir.

Tuesday 9th November The day is yours to sightsee and explore this charming and unspoilt seaside resort which nestles beneath the majestic red cliffs of Peak and Salcombe Hill and the green hills of the glorious Sid Valley. Renowned for its gardens and famous for its wealth of fine architecture, the picturesque town centre offers an excellent range of individual shops and is a delight to browse. This evening we shall be served a traditional Christmas Dinner, followed by entertainment in the Lounge Bar.

Wednesday 10th November After breakfast we shall drive to Plymouth with its historic Sound, one of the finest natural harbours in the world, which has witnessed scores of historic comings and goings including the Pilgrim fathers and the Spanish Armada. Here we shall be a leisure to explore and maybe see Smeatons Tower, one of the world's most famous lighthouses, rebuilt on the Hoe in 1882. Visit the Independent Quarter at the western end of the city centre, home to over 200 unique shops in and around the indoor City Market, and Drake Circus, Plymouth's covered shopping centre, with a wide range of well-known high street and independent stores and restaurants.

Thursday 11th November Today we drive to Okehampton, on the northern edge of Dartmoor where we visit the Museum of Dartmoor Life. Set over 3 large galleries, the museum is housed in a Victorian granary set in a large medieval cobbled courtyard and looks at the social history of Dartmoor – how people have lived, worked and played through the centuries. On arrival we shall



Caen Hill Locks, Devizes

enjoy morning coffee, and following our visit a soup and sandwich lunch in the adjoining tearooms. We then take a scenic drive through the Dartmoor National Park, enjoying the rugged splendour and far reaching views of this unique area, which covers an area of over 200 square miles. The central granite plateau is wild and remote, with small depressions filled with treacherous bogs and morasses. The tors dominate the skyline and are sometimes surrounded by great clusters of granite slabs and boulders of extraordinary shapes. The mist can descend at unexpected times, and then it is easy to recall the hound of the Baskervilles, who haunted these lonely slopes in Conan-Doyle's famous story. The foothills are softer, characterised by deep ravines and gentle, sparsely wooded green valleys with charming villages. This evening there will be a candlelit dinner and dance.

Friday 12th November Leaving the hotel after breakfast we make our way homewards, stopping for lunch and a browse at the Courtyard Craft Centre nr. Poole where, besides the restaurant, you will find a selection of craft shops including an art gallery, shops selling jewellery, candles & cards, a sweet shop, a ladies fashion boutique and a haberdashers. Mid afternoon we continue our homeward journey, arriving in Oxted early evening.

What's included:

Royal York & Faulkner Hotel,
Sidmouth

4 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

All bedrooms have private facilities,
TV, telephone & hospitality tray.

This magnificent Regency building, dating from 1810 enjoys an unrivalled position at the centre of Sidmouth's elegant Esplanade, adjacent to the picturesque town Centre. Owned and personally run by the Hook family, resident proprietors for three generations, the hotel has earned a long standing reputation for hospitality and service.

Time to explore Devizes

Time to explore Sidmouth

Time to explore Plymouth

**Entry to Museum of Dartmoor
Life incl. morning coffee & cake
& soup & sandwich lunch**

Scenic drive across Dartmoor

**Lunch & time to browse at the
Courtyard Craft Centre**

COST: £365.00 per person



Sir Francis Drake, Plymouth Hoe