

North Devon Delights

21st to 25th August

Wherever you are in Devon, you're never far from dramatic coastlines and magnificent scenery, with spectacular stretches of ocean coast, where moors and country meet the sea. Historic Barnstaple provides the base for our North Devon short break. We have visits to the delightful RHS Rosemoor Gardens and Arlington Court, we see Dartington Crystal being made, take a trip on the West Somerset Railway and still have time to explore the historic pannier market in Barnstaple.



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£590.00 PER PERSON

Single room supplement £0.00

Double for sole occupancy: £80.00

Nat Trust Members less £8.50,

but must bring card

RHS Members less £8.00,

but must bring card

What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
- ✓ All rooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, hairdryer, hospitality tray & free Wi-Fi.
- ✓ Time to explore Lacock village, Lynmouth & Barnstaple
- ✓ Ride on West Somerset Railway
- ✓ Entry to Arlington Court
- ✓ Entry to Dartington Crystal Factory Experience & Visitor Centre
- ✓ Entry to RHS Rosemoor Gardens
- ✓ Visit to Willows & Wetlands Visitor Centre
- ✓ 2 Course pub lunch

IMPERIAL HOTEL

Barnstaple

The Imperial Hotel is right in the heart of the town yet has the peaceful atmosphere of an elegant country house. Here you will sense the long tradition of warm hospitality that has been enjoyed at this hotel for well over a century. Located beside the River Taw the hotel has a Lounge, Sun Lounge and Colours Bar. Some twin rooms may be in the Rivercourt Building annexe.

Monday 21 August Departing Oxted we make our way to the National Trust village of Lacock, famous for its picturesque streets, historic buildings and, more



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recently, as a TV and film location. You may wish to visit the Abbey, where you can experience the medieval rooms and cloister, and the Fox Talbot Museum, (entry not included). Following our visit we continue on to the Imperial Hotel, our home for the next 4 nights.

Tuesday 22 August This morning we drive to the picturesque resort of Lynmouth where we have time to explore the narrow streets or maybe take the cliff railway to the village of Lynton (fare not included). Leaving Lynmouth, we make our way to Minehead, giving time to find lunch before taking in the sights, sounds and even the unique smells of the golden age of rail travel as we join a steam-hauled train for a nostalgic 20-mile journey following the coastline of Bridgwater Bay and the line of the Quantock Hills to Bishops Lydeard.

Wednesday 23 August This morning we are free to explore Barnstaple, maybe visit the ancient pannier market. Early afternoon, we make the short journey to Arlington Court where we shall have time to explore the house, grounds and carriage museum. An unexpected jewel, Arlington incorporates history and nature in a remarkable setting. The home of the

Chichester family for more than 600 years, the collections displayed reflect the passions of the last heiress, Miss Rosalie Chichester along with ships and shells. The conservatory's exotic plantings tell of the Chichester family's world travels.

Thursday 24 August After a leisurely breakfast we head to Dartington Crystal. Here, from an elevated viewing platform, we shall be able to watch the award winning craftsmen work together, transforming hot molten crystal into elegant shapes, perfecting an art that's 3000 years old. In the Visitors Centre we shall discover the fascinating history of the company and the industry and have a chance to browse probably the largest Glass Shop in the UK. Following our visit we drive the short distance to RHS Rosemoor, where we shall be free to explore and find lunch. Spanning 65 acres, Rosemoor is set in the beautiful Torridge Valley. The stunning gardens include Lady Anne's original garden, the arboretum and the cottage garden plus woodland walks offer interesting glimpses of local wildlife and wild flowers.

Friday 25 August Departing after breakfast we make our way to the Willows and Wetlands Visitor Centre. Owned and run by the Coate family, who have been growing willow on the Somerset Levels since 1819, we shall have a chance to enjoy a morning coffee before learning about the history and art of willow growing and basketmaking. Following our visit, we make our way to the Royal Oak at Stoke St Gregory for a 2 course lunch before continuing our homeward journey. Arriving back in Oxted early evening.



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