

Sidmouth Festive Break

8th to 12th December

For a festive pre-Christmas break why not shake off those winter blues and join us for a Turkey and Tinsel break in Sidmouth, a town that captivated the Poet Laureate, John Betjeman. One of the most beautiful and unspoilt resorts in the country, set in lush pastures and craggy cliffs, ideal for an unhurried lifestyle, with shops that have retained the personal and friendly service of a country town.



£443 PER PERSON

What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast with Afternoon Tea on arrival
- ✓ All bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone & hospitality tray.
- ✓ Time to explore Winchester, Sidmouth, Torquay & Exeter
- ✓ Entry to Kents Cavern (optional) £8.00
- ✓ Entry to Bygones Museum (optional) £6.00
- ✓ Visit to the Donkey Sanctuary
- ✓ Visit to Wilton Shopping Village

★★★★ ROYAL YORK & FAULKNER HOTEL

Sidmouth

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.



Sunday 8 December

Departing Oxted 9.00am, we make our way to Winchester, where the Cathedral Christmas Market, recognised as one of the best in Europe and loved for its unique location nestled between the iconic cathedral and the ice rink, should be in full swing. The market includes over 100 chalet-stalls. Early afternoon, we continue on to Sidmouth.

Monday 9 December

A day at leisure to explore the charming, Regency resort of Sidmouth, described by Sir John Betjeman as 'a town caught still in a timeless charm'.

Tuesday 10 December

After breakfast we head to Torquay, where you may spend the day at leisure in the town or join us in visiting Kents Cavern and/or Bygones Museum. For those who join us, we have a guided tour of Kents

Cavern, a spectacular natural cave with an incredible history that began 400 million years ago. Used by Britain's first humans including Neanderthals, remains of mammoth, woolly rhino and cave bears have been found here. Following our visit we make the short journey back into Torquay, where there will be time to explore the town and, for those that wish, to step back in time at Bygones Museum, which has shops and period rooms set out with sounds and smells from a bygone age – with lots of opportunities for "Do you remember that?" moments!

Wednesday 11 December

We start the day with a visit to the donkey Sanctuary, where we shall have time to find morning coffee and meet some of the 500 donkeys there. We then make our way to Exeter where we shall be free to explore and enjoy the Christmas Market (market not confirmed at time of going to print, details from 2018 market). The Cathedral Green, at the heart of the city centre, will be brought to life by the Christmas Market, with stalls offering unique, handmade and unusual gifts, decorations and food items – everything needed for a perfect Christmas celebration and to create a real Christmas buzz at the heart of the city. With more than 50 traders, both local and international, selling Belgian chocolates, Baklava, crepes, speciality cheeses and meats, plus traditional Christmas crafts and local foods. Visitors can also enjoy a hot Gluwhein in a specially designed Exeter Christmas Market mug.

Thursday 12 December

Leaving the hotel after breakfast, we travel to the Wilton Shopping Village. Here we shall have time to find lunch and explore the historic courtyard, shops, restaurants and an antique centre. After shopping relax and, weather permitting, enjoy the rural conservation area which is surrounded by shallow chalk-bedded rivers. These provide a home to wildlife such as ducks, salmon, trout, water voles and a variety of insect life. Early afternoon we continue our homeward journey, arriving back in Oxted late afternoon.