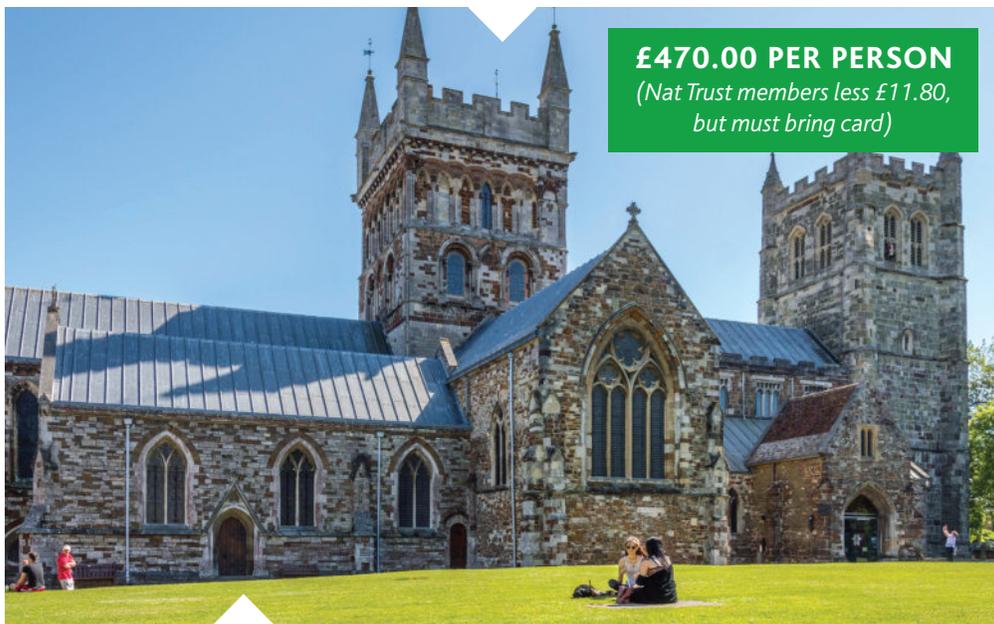


# Sidmouth in the Springtime

25th to 29th March

*Join us on the first of three visits this year to Sidmouth, nestled between the majestic red cliffs of Peak and Salcombe Hills, and the green hills of the Sid Valley. You'll be captivated by the charm and timelessness of this picturesque coastal town, carefully nurtured and preserved to remain a constant pleasure.*



**£470.00 PER PERSON**

*(Nat Trust members less £11.80, but must bring card)*

## 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 Shaftesbury, Sidmouth & Wimborne Minster
- ✓ Guided tour of Dartmoor with cream tea
- ✓ Entry to Coleton Fishacre

## ★★★ 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.

### Monday 25 March

Departing Oxted 9.00am, we travel to Sidmouth, with a lunchtime stop in Shaftesbury. The only hilltop town in Dorset, Shaftesbury sits high above Blackmore Vale



and is perhaps best known as being the home of Gold Hill, which found fame as the location of the "Boy on a Bike" 1970s Hovis TV advertisement. We shall reach our Hotel in time for afternoon tea.

### **Tuesday 26 March**

Today we have a full day guided tour of the Dartmoor National Park which, with an area of 368 square miles, is the largest, and wildest, area of open country in southern England. 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. Of course, there is no more iconic sight on Dartmoor than a herd of ponies grazing together. 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. Stops will be made along the way and we shall have a cream tea at a restaurant beside the river Dart before returning to our hotel.

### **Wednesday 27 March**

This morning we head west to Coleton Fishacre at Kingswear. This most evocative of country homes was built in the Arts & Crafts style for the D'Oyly Carte

family, and is imbued with Art Deco elegance. A light, joyful atmosphere fills the rooms, and music plays, echoing the family's Gilbert and Sullivan connections. You can get an insight into 1920s life 'upstairs and downstairs' from the glamorous Saloon and the airy servants' rooms. In the RHS accredited garden viewpoints give enticing glimpses out to sea, paths weave through glades past tranquil ponds, and tender plants from the Mediterranean, South Africa and New Zealand thrive in the moist and sheltered valley. Following our visit we return to our hotel.

### **Thursday 28 March**

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. Famous for its wealth of fine architecture, the picturesque town centre offers an excellent range of individual shops and is a delight to browse.

### **Friday 29 March**

This morning we bid farewell to Sidmouth and head for home. Travelling east along the coast, we make our way to the enchanting market town of Wimborne Minster, where we shall have time to find lunch and explore the market. Early afternoon we continue our homeward journey, arriving back in Oxted late afternoon.