

Fletchers Combe - Information

25 ideas for activities while staying at Fletchers

What follows is an eclectic selection of activities chosen from personal preference and experience. Website addresses are given for most and please be sure to check out details before making any commitment. Where there is no website the activity is of my own concoction. Feel free to contact me for further information

5 activities to do for FREE

- 1. Take a walk** from Fletchers using one of the routes in the walks guide in the property
- 2. Ride** one of the bikes provided from Fletchers using one of the routes in the biking guide in the property.
- 3. Go crabbing** at Dittisham ferryboat quay. An idyllic spot on the River Dart's west bank about 15 mins drive from Fletchers with a pub by the water and pontoons where you can fish for crabs and watch the boats and the wildlife go by.
- 4. Beachcombing.** Just about anywhere on a South Devon beach but especially good after a storm. Make your own driftwood furniture.
- 5. Dartmoor letterboxing.** The idea of letterboxing began on Dartmoor in Victorian times and has now grown (out of hand) so that practically every tor has a hidden box. However, there are two proper original sites - Cranmere Pool in the North of the moor and Ducks Pool in the South. Both are in true Dartmoor, difficult to find and a challenge to even the experienced hiker.

5 special places to visit

- 1. Eden Project.** Visit the biggest greenhouse in the world and millions of plants at the biggest attraction in the South West. Eden is much more than a fantastic garden though, with education, arts, concerts and a huge environmental message at its core. Buy tickets online in advance to avoid the queues. About 90 mins from Fletchers. (www.edenproject.com)
- 2. Plymouth Gin Distillery.** Take a tour of the Plymouth distillery still in production since 1793 in the same premises and enjoy an educational tasting session with a free drink in the bar and a meal in the Barbican Kitchen (01752 604448) run by the Turner brothers. Southside Street Plymouth. Worth booking your tour place by phone (01752 665522) (Over 18s only allowed to take part in the tasting) (www.plymouthgin.com)
- 3. Paignton Zoo.** World renowned for its conservation work Paignton Zoo is as good as zoos get. (www.paigntonzoo.org.uk)
- 4. Greenway.** New in 2009 is the opening of the Greenway National Trust house, once home to Agatha Christie. House and gardens open to the public. 30 mins by road via Totnes/Galmpton or by road to Dittisham and then foot ferry across the River Dart. (www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

5. Tuckers Maltings Newton Abbot. Ever wondered what goes into making a good quality real ale? Drive 25 mins from Fletchers to take a tour of the UK's only maltings works open to the public. Check times online. Extensive beer shop. (www.tuckersmaltings.co.uk)

5 ideas partly for children

1. House of Marbles, Bovey Tracey. 35 mins from Fletchers. A large traditional games shop really but with the world's longest marble run, toy museum, Britain's biggest marble and glass blowing demonstration. (www.houseofmarbles.com)

2. Penny Farm Adventures. Award winning activity farm park 15 mins drive from Fletchers with hands on animals, displays, demonstrations and activities. (www.pennywellfarm.co.uk)

3. Haldon Forest Park. 40 mins from Fletchers off the A38 eastbound. Walks, mountain bike trails, go ape high wire adventure, play areas, den building and lots of fresh air. (www.forestry.gov.uk/haldonforestpark)

4. The Round Robin. From Totnes, take a boat on the River Dart to Dartmouth, ferry across the river to Kingswear, board the Steam Train to Paignton, take an open top bus from Paignton back to Totnes. Break the journey and any point and do it in reverse according to tides or your preference. All included on one ticket. Book online. (www.pdsr.co.uk)

5. Morwellham. This is a world heritage site on the River Tamar covering a large area of Victorian industrial workings which are now a living museum and activity centre. 45 mins drive from Fletchers. (www.morwellham-quay.co.uk)

5 good weather activity ideas

1. River Dart Adventures. 15 mins drive from Fletchers. Outdoor adventure park on the Dart near Ashburton. Also available are one day abseiling, canoeing, rock climbing or caving activities. (www.riverdart.co.uk)

2. The beach. Beaches all round the South Hams from isolated coves which you climb down to after a fair walk from the car park to ones which are a stone's throw from the parking. Favourites are Blackpool Sands near Stoke Fleming; South Sands near Thurlestone; Bigbury and Burgh Island; Lannacombe Beach near Prawle.

3. The Moors. Dartmoor's 365 square miles of moorland are mostly open access and a spot by a stream or river and a good picnic can be hard to beat.

4. The water. Try your hand at sailing on the River Dart at Dittisham. Boats to hire and tuition given (www.marshallsailing.com)

5. Kite buggies on the beach at Beesands. 30 mins drive from Fletchers. (www.seabreezbreaks.com)

5 something different ideas

- 1. Canoe adventures.** 12 seater open canoes based at the Malsters Arms Tuckenhay - 10 mins drive from Fletchers - offer a variety of trips to suit your party. (www.canoeadventures.co.uk)
- 2. The Picnic Boat.** 12 seater boat operating on the Dart between Totnes and Dartmouth and offering a range of menus to suit your budget. (www.thepicnicboat.co.uk)
- 3. Puffing Billy mountain bike ride.** Ride on a disused tramway route up into the heart of Southern Dartmoor. Easy riding with spectacular views and a feel good rating off the scale. Route guide and details in the property Bike's Guide.
- 4. The Church House Inn Pub Crawl.** Church House Inns are unique to South Devon and were originally built to house workers constructing local churches in the 17thC. Hence they are next to churches and easy to find but as there are seven in total a tour takes you from the sea to the moors via inland villages and the fringes of Torbay. The inns are at Stokenham, Churchstow, Rattery, Holne, Torbryan, Marldon and Harberton.
- 5. Buckfast Abbey.** Not your average tourist attraction as Buckfast is a thousand year old establishment rebuilt in the 20thC in a beautiful setting with a great feeling of peace and serenity. (www.buckfast.org.uk)

As well as checking out details online before you arrive there is printed information on many of the listed items at Fletchers. There is WIFI Broadband at Fletchers to enable you to check websites and make bookings. Feel free to call me for further details and first hand knowledge of all the ideas listed.

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