



**KDavisTravels**

## **Exmoor, England**

**May 2 - 9, 2018**

The trip to Porlock in Exmoor National Park begins and ends in Taunton, England. You can fly to London and then take the train to Taunton where we will meet you with a minibus to transport you to the village of Porlock. After the minimum of 10 reservations is reached, we will advise you to make your air travel reservations.

Trip Start: May 2, 2018 – Taunton train station 2:00PM  
Trip Finish: May 9, 2018 – Taunton train station 10:00AM  
Trip Length: 8 days, 7 nights  
Trip Cost: \$3,200 per person sharing a room  
\$3,650 for a single room

(Trip cost includes everything except airfare, 2 dinners, 1 lunch, beverages, and tips.)

### **Day by Day Overview**

**Wednesday, May 2** – Meet Karen at the bus pick up area of the Taunton Train Station at 2:00PM. We will have a minibus to take us to Porlock to The Oaks Hotel. Get settled and explore the lovely village of Porlock. Meet at 6:00 PM in the hotel sitting room for refreshments and preview of our week. This will be followed by dinner at our hotel at 7:00PM.

Lodging: The Oaks Hotel - <http://oakshotel.co.uk/>

**Thursday, May 3** - Selworthy Beacon. We walk out of Porlock village and across fields to the hamlet of Bossington with its stone cottages, chimney stacks and bread ovens. We follow a footpath along the edge of Allerford Plantation and a bridleway to Selworthy village. This village is the epitome of an English country village with lovely thatched cottages set around a village green and a beautiful old church. After our picnic lunch we have a steady climb up Selworthy beacon rewarded with fine views north across the Severn Estuary to Wales. Our return is a downhill walk to the coast at Hurlstone and back into Porlock. There is a chance for cream tea today. Distance today: 7.5 miles; elevation gain: 1000 feet.

➤ Dinner together at our hotel.

**Friday, May 4** - Horner Wood. We have a minibus from Porlock to Dunkery Hill. Our starting point is Easter Hill, the site of ancient cairns from prehistoric burials. Following a path along the edge of a moor to Stoke Pero church, we drop down into Dunkery and Horner Wood National Nature Reserve— an ancient woodland and one of the largest Nature Reserves in England (1604 hectares) owned and managed by the National Trust. . We follow the Lang Combe stream through oak woods to Horner. There is a welcome tea room in Horner. After

crossing a pack-horse bridge we follow the Coleridge Way footpath back into Porlock. Distance today: 8 miles; elevation gain: 200 feet.

- Dinner on your own.

**Saturday, May 5** - Free Day (kind of). This is a day to do whatever you want; however, we have planned a couple of things for our morning that we think will interest you. At 10:00 we have a guided tour of the Doverly Manor Museum, (<http://www.doverlymanormuseum.org.uk/>) a small 15th century manor house that contains artifacts, photos, and maps all relating to the Porlock area. Following the museum visit we are offered a walking tour of the very small village of Porlock. Your afternoon is free.

- Lunch on your own.
- Dinner together at our hotel.

**Sunday, May 6** - Lorna Doone Walk...tracing her story. This morning we take a minibus to the Doone Valley. Our footpath will drop steeply down to the river at Malmsmead. We will walk the Doone Valley south to Badgeworthy Water and to the site of a medieval village. We return via a moorland path to Lankombe Ford and then around Malmsmead Hill. The Lorna Doone Farm is at Malsmead. (Read **Lorna Doone** a 19th century novel by R. D. Blackmore, also on video). Return by minibus to Porlock. Distance today: 7.5 miles; elevation gain: 450 feet.

- Dinner together at our hotel.

**Monday, May 7** - Watersmeet and Valley of the Rocks. We will have a minibus today to take us west toward Lynmouth. Our goal is the Watersmeet Valley and the meeting place of the East Lyn River and Hoar Oak Water. Watersmeet (<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/watersmeet/>) is part of the North Devon coast managed by the National Trust. Watersmeet House and Tea Garden is said to be the most beautiful in Devon! We follow the path along the river into Lynton and then to a very different topography at Valley of the Rocks. A dry valley that runs parallel to the coast of North Devon, the Valley of the Rocks has formations carved by the Ice Age. The views from our path are dramatic with an open expanse to the Bristol Channel. In 1797 Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth came together to this valley and set some of their writing here. The poet Robert Southey visited and got writing inspiration here also. Minibus back to Porlock. Distance today: 7 miles; elevation gain: 650 feet.

- Dinner on your own.

**Tuesday, May 8** - Coast Path to Culbone. Cross the ancient marsh and fields of Porlock Vale to Porlock Weir with its galleries, old boats and quaint pubs (this is the tiny harbor area that serves Porlock). We climb the hill above Porlock Weir through woodland and onto the Southwest Coast Path ([www.southwestcoastpath.com](http://www.southwestcoastpath.com)) to Culbone Church. This church is said to be the smallest in England and is recorded in the Domesday Book. We return on same route to Porlock Weir with time there to look at the little museum and galleries or to have a drink in the pub. Distance today: 7 miles; elevation gain: 800 feet.

- Farewell dinner in the hotel dining room.

**Wednesday, May 9** - Breakfast and departure to Taunton train station. Arrive at Taunton train station in time for any train from 10:00 AM forward.

**Please Note: The above schedule is subject to change due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control.**

## **Flight and Airport Info**

**Getting to Taunton, England**—Fly from the U.S. to either London Gatwick or London Heathrow. From Gatwick you can take a train to Taunton. From Heathrow you take a direct bus to Reading train station then a train to Taunton. If you are spending time in London: from Heathrow take the Heathrow Express train to London-Paddington Station; from Gatwick take the Gatwick Express to London- Victoria Station. Trains to Taunton leave from Paddington Station...travel time is about 2 hrs.

## **Meals**

Packed lunches provided by our hotel on hiking days and dinners as indicated on the itinerary.

**Weather:** Mild spring weather with some rain likely.

## **Helpful Websites:**

Hotel in Porlock: [www.oakshotel.co.uk](http://www.oakshotel.co.uk)  
Train: [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)  
Porlock: [www.porlock.co.uk](http://www.porlock.co.uk)  
Exmoor: [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)  
[www.eveythingexmoor.org.uk](http://www.eveythingexmoor.org.uk)

## **Reading:**

*Lorna Doone* – R. D. Blackmore (fiction) – book or video

*Exmoor* –S.H. Burton (nonfiction) - 1984

*Living on Exmoor*—Hope Bourne (nonfiction) - 2010

*Witch of Exmoor* - Margaret Drabble (fiction) - 1998;

*House of Lanyon* (Exmoor Saga) - Valerie Anand (fiction) – 2007

*The Summer House* - Marcia Willett (fiction) - 2010