

# EXMOOR COASTER

a switchback ride along a spectacular coastline with views that will take your breath away



BLUE ANCHOR  
MINEHEAD  
PORLOCK  
COUNTISBURY  
LYNMOUTH  
COMBE MARTIN  
ILFRACOMBE

SUMMER 2024  
starts 31 March 2024



*ideas for great days out*

Here are suggestions for some great days out on Exmoor Coaster. We've given examples of arrival and departure times at each destination, but there may be earlier or later buses - please check times and dates online or scan the QR code in this leaflet.



## Dunster Castle & Watermill

What a lovely way to spend a leisurely afternoon, exploring Dunster Castle dramatically sited on a wooded hill. There's been a castle here since Norman times, and the medieval gatehouse and ruined tower give a reminder of its turbulent history.

The castle you see today became a lavish country home during the 19th century for the Luttrell family, who lived here for 600 years.

There are terraced Mediterranean and subtropical gardens, and a riverside wooded garden below with a natural play area. This is the route to the historic working watermill, well worth looking around.

There are places to enjoy a bite to eat and a drink and a well-stocked shop for gifts and souvenirs.

It's 15-20 minutes walk from the bus stop.

**FROM LYNMOUTH & MINEHEAD DIRECTION**

31 Mar-25 May  
first arrives 1215 last leaves 1624

2 Jun-20 Jul, 1-28 Sep  
first arrives 1115 last leaves 1544

26 May-1 Jun, 21 Jul-31 Aug  
first arrives 1115 last leaves 1614



## Minehead Seafront

Discover the seafront at Minehead and enjoy a breath of fresh sea air! Be sure to give the Minehead Maritime Mile Heritage Trail a try - this stretches the length of the seafront and takes you right down to the historic harbour.

Or, if you have the energy, climb up a bit of North Hill for great views out to sea and along the coast.

Minehead has a wide sandy beach, plenty of places for a coffee, lunch or an ice cream or two, and right by the seafront is the start of the West Somerset heritage railway.

**FROM LYNMOUTH DIRECTION**

31 Mar-25 May  
first arrives 1205 last leaves 1647

2 Jun-20 Jul, 1-28 Sep  
first arrives 1105 last leaves 1607

26 May-1 Jun, 21 Jul-31 Aug  
first arrives 1105 last leaves 1637



## Woody Bay Station

Get off at Woody Bay Station to board the Lynton & Barnstaple narrow-gauge steam train for a two-mile round trip to Killington Lane and back. You travel in Victorian carriages through rolling countryside, with views of wild moorland scenery.

Show your bus ticket and get 20% off your train travel!

**FROM MINEHEAD & LYNMOUTH DIRECTION**

26 May - 31 Aug  
first arrives 0926 last leaves 1729

money off  
20% OFF  
train travel  
on standard  
running days



## Watermouth Castle

It's not a true castle, but a country house built to resemble one. With a range of attractions to suit everyone from the young to the young-at-heart, it promises to be a great way to make memories with the family.

Thrill seekers will love the Toboggan Run and Big River Ride, while those who prefer a more relaxed afternoon can explore the grounds, including the mystical water gardens.

**FROM MINEHEAD & LYNMOUTH DIRECTION**

26 May - 31 Aug  
first arrives 0955 last leaves 1700



## Wildlife & Dinosaur Park

Children will love this family-run wildlife and dinosaur park. As well as animals like African lions, Hudson Bay wolves, sea lions, primates, penguins and many others, the park is known for impressively scary life-sized animatronic dinosaurs. Find the gigantic Dinosaur Playzone for dinomite fun, whatever the weather!

Show your bus ticket and receive 20% off your entry fee!

**FROM MINEHEAD & LYNMOUTH DIRECTION**

26 May - 31 Aug  
first arrives 0940 last leaves 1716



money off  
20% OFF  
admission

## Exmoor ponies

A common sight on Exmoor, the ponies are only wild in the sense that the herds roam freely on the moor. They all belong to someone and there are around 20 different herds. However, you must resist touching or feeding them.

In summer they have fine, glossy coats but in winter their coats are much thicker. Foals are born in the spring and early summer and spend the summer months running with their mothers and building up a store of fat to take them through the hard winter ahead.

In the autumn the herds are driven down to the farms, to be inspected and micro-chipped. Foals are weaned and either sold or returned to the moor for the winter.

Exmoor is high, broody and gloriously untamed, with ancient woodlands and hazy skylines. Legends and folklore are woven into the landscape. On a sunlit day it is soft and gentle; on a day of storms it can seem wild and forbidding.

Our switchback ride from the beaches of the Somerset coast takes us up onto Exmoor with far views over the Bristol Channel to South Wales, before descending the steep incline to the little harbour at Lynmouth.

In high summer the route continues up through more spectacular scenery to Coombe Martin, Watermouth Bay and Ilfracombe.

There is no better way to get to know this landscape than on our award-winning Exmoor Coaster open-top bus, truly one of Britain's most scenic bus rides with a thrilling ascent and descent of the famous twisty Porlock Hill.

Hope you have a head for heights!

If the weather's bad, we will run a closed top bus instead.

runs  
31 March to  
28 September

up to every hour in high season  
26 May - 1 June  
21 July - 31 August

less frequent at other times



scan for times

£2 any one-way ride  
full fares information online & on our app  
buy tickets on the app or pay the driver

adventuresbybus.co.uk

*have an adventure by vintage train as well*

The Exmoor Coaster connects with both the West Somerset Railway at Minehead and the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway near Parracombe.

west-somerset-railway.co.uk  
lyntonrail.co.uk

check out days and times of operation



*are you up for another Adventure by bus?*

We also have some great adventures by bus in Cornwall for you to enjoy.

LAND'S END COASTER

Atlantic COASTER

Pick up a leaflet or go to our website for more information.

adventuresbybus.co.uk

At some attractions you can get money off when you show your bus ticket for that day. They're shown on the other side.

money off





## VALLEY OF THE ROCKS

Take the South West Coast Path out of Lynton to reach the Valley of the Rocks - it's less than a mile and the cliff top views are simply out of this world.

Jagged rocks point skywards and feral goats roam freely, and often quite hair-raisingly, on the jagged cliff edges of this spectacular dry river valley. Here are some of England's highest sea cliffs with views that take your breath away.

There's Mother Meldrum's Café, public toilets and a picnic area at the Lynton end of the valley.

## FORELAND POINT



There's a clifftop walk from the top of Countisbury Hill up towards Foreland Point for views all around that will simply take your breath away.

## COUNTISBURY HILL

With breathtaking views ahead and out to sea, the spectacular 2½ miles long drop down to sea level at Lynmouth from the top of Countisbury Hill, 1,300ft above is a highlight of this adventure.

## PORLOCK HILL

Once a real test for early cars and their drivers' skills, our powerful open-top bus makes light(ish) work of the notorious 1 in 4 Porlock Hill with its scary hairpin bends - all adds to the thrill of this fantastic ride! It's the steepest A-road in the UK.



## ILFRACOMBE

Wander round the picturesque harbour with its pastel coloured houses, climb up Lantern Hill to see the 14th-century chapel perched on top, or discover Ilfracombe's stunning beaches and coves, including the famous Tunnels Beaches.

The town has lots of independent shops, nice cafés and eateries, and numerous art and craft galleries to entice you. Try Ilfracombe Chocolate Emporium, truly a chocolate lover's dream.

### WOODY BAY STATION LYNTON & BARNSTAPLE RAILWAY

Take a 25-minute ride to Killington Lane and back on a 2-mile round trip in restored heritage carriages behind a narrow-gauge steam locomotive - tickets are valid all day. Opened in 1898 but closed in 1935, Woody Bay is the start of rebuilding one of the world's narrow-gauge railways, the legendary Lynton & Barnstaple Railway.

lynton-rail.co.uk  
01598 763487

**money off**  
**20% OFF**  
train travel  
on standard  
running days

## COOMBE MARTIN WILDLIFE & DINOSAUR PARK

Nestling in a valley with cascading streams and waterfalls, Devon's very own prehistoric park is home to an abundance of exotic and indigenous wildlife plus the very latest in Dinosaur animatronics!

It's home to exotic animals including African lions, baboons, lemurs, sea lions, penguins, meerkats and rare Hudson Bay wolves.

There are free daily animal talks and don't forget that T-rex and his friends wake up every hour, on the hour! There's a play area for kids and a café and shop.

cmwdp.co.uk  
01271 882486

## WATERMOUTH BAY

With outstanding views from the cliffs around this sheltered harbour, here you can see porpoises, dolphins and seals when the tide is right.

Opposite the harbour is Watermouth Castle, transformed into a family theme park with a museum of musical instruments and toys and delightful gardens.



## LYNMOUTH

Rows of picturesque fishing cottages, cafés and interesting shops cluster around the pretty harbour at the mouth of the West Lyn river.

On the quay at the end of the harbour is the Rhenish Tower, built in the 1860s to store salt water for indoor baths but later fitted with a light to act as a beacon.

## LYNTON

High above Lynmouth is Lynton, and the best way to get there (and great fun, so long as you have a head for heights) is to ascend on the cliff railway.

Opened in 1890, it is thought to be the highest and the steepest totally water-powered railway in the world. The views as you glide heavenwards are amazing. Lynton is an unspoilt town with some excellent independent shops and an impressive town hall.

To learn more about the area, visit the Lyn and Exmoor Museum.

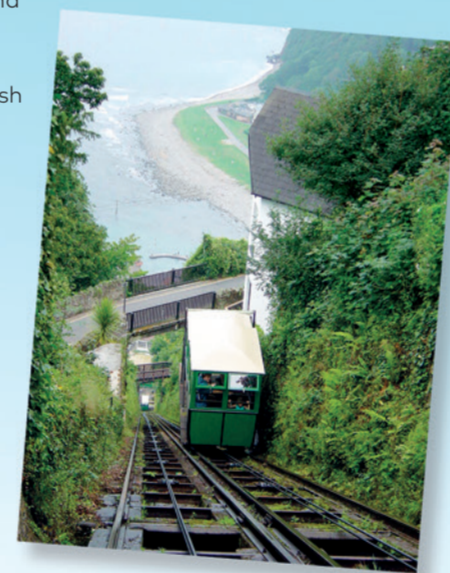


## THE RAMBLERS REST

Discover Britain's highest coastal road tea room with a seasonal menu all year round, including delicious home made cakes and scones, freshly made sandwiches and a lot more.

Naturally, it is dog friendly, too!  
07498 424608

**money off**  
**10% OFF**  
food & drink



## GREENCOMBE GARDENS

Full of beautiful and rare plants, this truly lovely garden on wooded slopes has overlooked the Bristol Channel since 1946.

It's an organic garden, using between 25 and 30 tons of home produced compost and leaf-mould each year.

Show your bus ticket to get a discounted entry price!

greencombe.org  
01643 862363

**money off**  
**20% OFF**  
admission

## PORLOCK

Lying between the high rolling hills of Exmoor and the Bristol Channel sea, Porlock's main village street twists and turns between characterful cottages, traditional locally-owned shops and galleries, pubs and irresistible tearooms.

So why not enjoy a very West Country tradition in one of them, a delicious cream tea with homemade scones served with thick clotted cream and strawberry jam (cream on first, mind!), washed down with a pot of tea - scrumptious!



## MINEHEAD

A flower-bedecked prom lines the fine beach. There's a fishing quarter and historic harbour and, on the hill rising steeply behind the town, a 14th-century church with much-photographed historic Church Steps.

The main shopping street is a tree-lined avenue. Right by the front is Minehead Station, the end of the line for the West Somerset Railway, a 26-mile branch with both vintage steam and diesel trains throughout the season.

## DUNSTER

One of England's most intact medieval villages with a rich history is a short walk from the bus stop, but well worth the detour.

The National Trust's Dunster Castle, high on the hill overlooking the village with incredible views stretching over Exmoor and the Bristol Channel, was an ancient feudal stronghold turned into an opulent country home for the Luttrell family in the 19th century. Discover magnificent stables, subtropical gardens and a working watermill.

nationaltrust.org.uk 01643 821314

Dunster also has a dovecote, tithe barn and a church with the longest rood screen in the country. You'll find plenty of tea rooms, gift shops and restaurants.

Right in the middle of the village is the impressive 17th-century Yarn Market, where village merchants once traded wool and cloth.

