

The Delights of Somerset

'WHAT WE WILL SEE'

Brunel's SS Great Britain
Sheppy's House of Cider
West Somerset Railway
Fleet Air Arm Museum
Shepton Mallet Prison
Dunster Castle (NT)
Exmoor National Park
Visitor Centre
Scenic drive through
Exmoor National Park
Coldharbour Mill
Horse Drawn Canal Barge
trip at Tiverton
Forte Abbe
Hawk Conservancy Trust



SS Great Britain



Shepton Mallet Prison



West Somerset Railway



Coldharbour Mill

7 days from £1,379 Departing 30th April 2026

Day 1

We board our private executive coach at our designated pick up points. En route to our hotel we visit Brunel's SS Great Britain at Bristol, the world's first great ocean liner and explore the beautifully recreated First Class Dining Saloon, steerage quarters and new Engine Room. During our visit we have time to visit Being Brunel, a newly opened attraction that contemplates the life and legacy of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. We continue to the 4* Mercure Hotel in Bridgewater for a six night stay on a half board basis.

Day 2

Our Blue Badge guide meets us at our hotel this morning and accompanies us throughout the day. This morning we enjoy a guided tour and tasting at Sheppy's House of Cider. Through more than 200 years of making real premium craft cider, six generations of the Sheppy family have weathered the ups and downs of combining farming with cider-making by embracing change and opportunity. We continue to Bishops Lydeard Station where we enjoy an included nostalgic one way steam train excursion to Minehead on the scenic West Somerset Railway. Travelling 20 miles, we admire the stunning Somerset countryside and coast. During our journey, we enjoy an included Fish and Chips lunch.

Day 3

We visit the Fleet Air Arm Museum this morning, representing the flying arm of the Royal Navy. The museum is home to Europe's largest naval aviation collection of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. This afternoon we enjoy a guided tour at Shepton Mallet Prison, the world's oldest prison. During our 90 minute guided tour we discover what life was like for prisoners, officers and visitors. This unique experience covers every corner of the prison, including the 2 Victorian Prison Wings, the Hard Labour Yard, the old Gate Lodge and the execution room.

Day 4

With our Blue Badge guide this morning we visit the National Trust's Dunster Castle. Dramatically sited on top of a wooded hill, a castle has existed here since at least Norman times. Its impressive medieval gatehouse and ruined tower are a reminder of its turbulent history. The castle that you see today, owned by the Luttrell family for over 600 years, became an elegant country home during the 19th century. This afternoon we visit the Exmoor National Park Visitor Centre at Dulverton. We then enjoy a scenic drive through Exmoor National Park, featuring open moorland, spectacular coastal views and ancient woodlands. Exmoor is also known for its wild red deer, Exmoor ponies, and being Europe's first International Dark Sky Reserve.

Day 5

This morning, a visit to Coldharbour Mill brings the industrial revolution to life. Largely untouched since Victorian times Coldharbour today remains in production using heritage looms, wool spinning machines, power sources and machinery to produce beautiful yarns and textiles. Recognised by Historic England as one of the best preserved and important textile mill complexes in the country, visitors can explore how introducing steam and water power proved to be the turning point in history, revolutionising not only production, but every part of daily life. During our visit we enjoy an included light lunch consisting of a toasted panini, and tea or coffee. With our Blue Badge guide this afternoon we enjoy an included 1½ hour boat trip along the scenic Tiverton canal. Being one of the last remaining horse drawn barges in the UK, a trip on the 'Tivertonian' offers a truly unique and memorable experience of yesteryear.

Day 6

Today we enjoy a guided tour at Forte Abbey. Set on the banks of the River Axe, more than 900 years of history are encapsulated in this elegant former Cistercian monastery. The Abbey is home to the Mortlake Tapestries, woven from cartoons painted for the Sistine Chapel by Raphael. After our guided tour of the Abbey, time is at leisure to explore the 30 acres of award winning gardens, described by Alan Titchmarsh as 'one of the greatest gardens of the West Country'.

Day 7

After checking out of our hotel and before returning home we visit the Hawk Conservancy Trust in Hampshire, set in 22 acres of woodland and wildflower meadows, and home to over 150 birds of prey. During our visit we see hawks flying in one of the most dramatic flying displays in the UK. Taking carefully selected comfort stops en route, we return back to our original pick up points.

NB:- Given the historic nature of the places visited, a certain degree of walking will be involved, and this holiday may not be suitable for those with mobility problems.