



NTAB Trip to Devon - Somerset 2023

Association of National Trust Members & Supporters in Belgium

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Direct flights Brussels – London Heathrow, British Airlines (*incl. 20 kg checked-in luggage*)

DATE	FROM	TO	FLIGHT	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
Monday September 4 - 2023	Brussels Zaventem	London Heathrow	British Airlines BA393	11:45	12:00
Saturday September 9 - 2023	London Heathrow	Brussels Zaventem	British Airlines BA404	20:15	22:25

Accommodation: Holiday Inn Express City Centre, Exeter 3-star Half Board (B&B + dinner)

Day excursions: A comfortable local coach will drive us around the region

Price: € 1.380 p. pers., two persons sharing a room - Single room supplement € 390

The tour price is based on a minimum of 25 participants. We have reserved 30 seats on the flights and 11 double and 8 single hotel rooms. These numbers can be adjusted until a given date, see "Cancellation - Refund Conditions".

Included:

Direct flights Brussels-London, 3-star hotel in Exeter with B&B and dinner, daily group excursions in comfortable coach, farewell lunch on the day of departure.

Not included:

Lunch on five days, drinks with meals, personal expenses and individual excursions outside the programme, entries to NT properties (participants are expected to be NT members), insurance, driver's tip.

Registration and Payment:

You can sign up until latest March 31 – confirm by paying **€ 400 deposit** p. pers. upon booking.

Your reservation is final as soon as we have received your deposit.

Payable to NTAB - IBAN: BE17 0016 2443 2021

The balance is due latest July 15.

We have reserved a maximum of 30 seats on British Airlines return flights from Brussels.

If you do not require the group flights but intend to arrange your own transport to London Heathrow, a **discount of €285** p.pers. applies. Please state this clearly on the booking form. Once canceled it can be difficult to rebook seats.

Devon and Somerset:

Devon is a predominately rural county with a relatively low population density. It's a popular holiday destination because of the sunny climate, golden beaches, rocky coastlines, interesting wooded river estuaries, quaint fishing ports, high moors and tors. It has the largest open space in southern England, Dartmoor National Park. The county is bordered by Somerset to the north-east, Dorset to the east and Cornwall to the west.

Somerset also is a rural county of rolling hills and large flat expanses of land including the Somerset Levels.

The City of Exeter, the county town of Devon, is the second most populous settlement, after Plymouth. The city was heavily bombed by the German Luftwaffe during the Second World War. Many historic buildings were destroyed, and others, including the cathedral, were damaged. The city centre was rebuilt in the 1950s, with the street plan altered to improve traffic circulation.

You'll find Exeter Cathedral a short stroll from the hotel. The beautiful cathedral is steeped in history, dating back 900 years. Its distinctive Gothic architecture, intricate stained glass windows and stone is worth a visit!

What to expect

We plan visits to several mansions and fine gardens including Montacute House, Tintinhull, Cotehele and Knightshayes, as well as more modern properties such as Lutyan's Castle Drogo, the last castle built in England, and Coletton Fishacre.

Castle Drogo has a Belgian connection as the wooden cross that marked Adrian Drew's grave in Vlamertinge Military Cemetery, near Ieper (Ypres), is housed in the chapel. He was killed in action in 1917.

Greenway, Agatha Christie's home, is a small property hidden on the east bank of the River Dart, accessible only by ferry or minivans. We intend to arrange a visit anyhow, with the support of the local NT staff.

We are still working out the exact itineraries. Minor changes are possible, subject to availability and NT properties' timed access schedules to accommodate groups.

Of course, we will sample some of the region's best produce including local fish and dairy products, not forgetting the Devonshire quintessential cream teas.

Another 'must' on our trips are the 'behind-the-scenes moments' and several of these exceptional events are currently being planned.

We'll break up the long journeys between Heathrow and Exeter with stops in between at the famous Stourhead landscape park on the first day and in the city of Salisbury on the day of departure.

Programme overview *(Minor changes are possible, subject to availabilities and NT properties' timed access schedules for groups.)*

Sept	Theme	Morning	lunch	Afternoon	Dinner	evening
Mon 4	A journey west. Stourhead landscape garden	flight Brussels>London	Snack on the bus and at Stourhead	Coach ride Heathrow to Exeter, stop at Stourhead NT	Hotel 7:45pm	free
Tue 5	The Dartmoor Loop	Castle Drogo NT	Cotehele	Cotehele NT	Hotel 7:30pm	free
Wed 6	South Devon	Greenway NT – Dart river banks	Coletton	Coletton Fishacre NT	Hotel 7:30pm	free
Thu 7	North Devon	Knightshayes garden NT	Dunster	Dunster Castle NT –	Hotel 7:30pm	free
Fri 8	Somerset	Montacute House NT	Montacute	Tintinhull garden NT – Lytes Cary Manor NT	Hotel 7:30pm	free
Sat 9	Two cathedrals	Exeter cathedral - Coach ride to Salisbury	Salisbury	Salisbury cathedral - Coach ride to Heathrow		Flight dept 8:15pm

Lunches during the daily excursions

Most lunches are at National Trust properties, and you can choose how much time and money you want to spend on them, as long as you are back on the coach at the departure time!

Dinners and free evenings

The hotel price is half board, which includes a standard daily dinner menu which we will take at 7:30 pm, according to the day's programme. We can choose to go out for group dinner one evening, then that dinner is included in the price.

Those who prefer to spend the entire evening in the city at their own pace, can skip dinner at the hotel provided the tour leader is informed no later than the morning before departure from the hotel. There is no discount for skipped HB dinners.

If you are planning to eat out privately, we recommend that you make a reservation at a restaurant in advance.

After each day's trip, the coach will drop us off at the hotel.

Entrance to National Trust properties

NT members have free access. Therefore, entrance fees to NT properties are not included in the tour price, as participants are expected to be NT members. Don't forget to bring your **NT membership card**.

If you are not an NT member, it may be worth **registering as a member** at the first property (Stourhead). Individual entrances are not cheap and the total cost for a couple can add up quickly. We estimate the total amount for NT entrances on this journey at about £125 per person.

A 7-days Touring Pass is available to non-UK residents, from the NT online shop, see:

<https://shop.nationaltrust.org.uk/gifts/national-trust-gifts/touring-pass.html>

Price: £41 for one, £71 for two persons.

Passes must be ordered & paid in advance and picked up at a major NT property (such as Stourhead House).

Cancellation – refund conditions

A strict cancellation period applies to both flights and hotel accommodation.

Cancellation of flight seats:

Until June 30th: free, to a maximum of 10.

Deadline for names of passengers: July 1. A fee will be due for changes or corrections after that date.

After 1 July: cancellation fee is 20 % of the fare rate

From 01 Aug the cancellation fee is 100%

Hotel accommodation:

Cancellation free up to June 30th

From July 1: costs will be charged in function of time before arrival.

Insurance

We trust all participants to take out their own cancellation and travel insurance. There is NO insurance contract linked to this trip.

You should have your insurance in order at least a month before departure, but preferably as soon as possible after booking.

You can cancel the trip via your insurance if you become ill yourself (and can present a doctor's certificate).

Furthermore, be aware that government decisions are excluded in all policies, e.g., when the government decides to close the borders, the insurer will invoke force majeure and there is no cover.

Travel formalities:

A valid passport is needed, an ID card is not sufficient (remember Brexit)

We expect all participants to be able to present proof that they have been fully vaccinated.