



Full
Events
Listing
Inside

Exmoor Dark Skies Festival 2025

Sponsored by  Vertu
Bridgwater

Friday 17th October
to Sunday 2nd November

Join us to celebrate and
explore the wonders
of Exmoor after dark

#ExmoorDSF



www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesfestival



Effortlessly capture the Universe from home with a smart telescope

Learn More



M42 / Orion Nebula



The Moon

M20 / Trifid Nebula



The Sun (using a solar filter)



M27 / Dumbbell Nebula



M16 / Eagle Nebula



FIRST LIGHT OPTICS

firstlightoptics.com | questions@firstlightoptics.com

WELCOME

The 2025 Exmoor Dark Skies Festival celebrates the remarkable beauty of our International Dark Sky Reserve, while also emphasising our collective responsibility to conserve it for future generations.

It is wonderful to see the growing interest in Exmoor's dark skies, with increasing numbers of people recognising not only the health and wellbeing benefits, but also the vital importance of dark skies for nature.

This year's Festival Programme is our most extensive yet, featuring over 60 events across the National Park. Whether you wish to deepen your knowledge of astronomy, inspire your children with the wonders of the night sky, discover more about our nocturnal wildlife, or unwind with a Dark Skies swim or yoga session, the festival offers something for everyone to enjoy.

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesfestival



Sarah Bryan
Chief Executive,
Exmoor National Park

Photos:

This page and front cover: Valley of Rocks by Jon Rowley

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

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FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

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You can find all the events in the Dark Skies Festival at:
www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesevents
Click through to the individual event for booking links



The festival includes events run by Exmoor National Park Authority, other organisations and businesses. Check T&Cs with each event organiser. Check Festival website for changes and cancellations. ENPA accepts no responsibility for events run by partner organisations or businesses. For help with booking an Exmoor National Park event please call the Lynton National Park Centre on 01598 752509 (open 7 days).



The price for some events includes a donation to 'CareMoor for Exmoor'. CareMoor is Exmoor National Park Authority's donation scheme. CareMoor funds are used for valuable conservation and access projects. See www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor.

If you're interested in sponsoring the Exmoor Dark Skies Festival 2026 or advertising in the programme please email: ruralenterprise@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk. Please also contact us if you are running an event that you would like to be included in the 2026 Festival.

MAP OF EXMOOR DARK SKY RESERVE



International Dark Sky Reserve & Stargazing Locations

In 2011 Exmoor National Park became the first area in Europe to be designated as a Dark Sky Reserve by Dark Sky International. The whole of Exmoor can boast incredibly dark skies and the designation specifically helps us to protect the quality of the night skies.

For most stargazing related activities you can head to any of the more rural areas of the National Park but if you would like some further pointers and recommendations of where to go including a map then you can download a free copy of 'An Astronomer's Guide to Exmoor' from our stargazing webpage: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/stargazing

Dark Sky Discovery Trail

If you're looking for somewhere to experience a short self-led walk at night with 360° views of the night sky above Exmoor then try our **Dark Sky Discovery Trail** near Exford. Whether it's clear or cloudy it will be a mini adventure suitable for all the family. Read more about it and watch a film at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/stargazing or ask at our National Park Centres where a printed guide is available to buy for just £1.



Design your own Dark Skies Protector

Exmoor National Park has some of the Darkest Skies in England and it is vitally important that we continue to protect the night. Artificial light not only has implications for our health and well-being, it also disrupts wildlife's natural patterns and limits our views of the stunning starry skies.

We are inviting children (aged 11 and under) to create their own **Dark Skies Protector** - a character that travels the skies to ensure light pollution is kept to a minimum and the stars remain bright.

The overall winner will receive a  **CELESTRON** telescope. Our judges will be looking for more than just a creative design - they'll also consider your protector's name, any special powers it possesses, where it lives, and whether there are any stories or legends surrounding it.

Closing date for competition entries is **Sunday 2nd November**.

Entry forms and full terms and conditions can be found on the festival webpage.



EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK

Celestron, the World's #1 telescope brand, are proud to introduce a new astronomy range designed in association with Royal Observatory Greenwich.

FIRSTSCOPE TELESCOPE OVER 60 YEARS OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY RRP £65.99

TRAVEL SCOPE 70 TELESCOPE RRP £99.99

7X50MM PORRO BINOCULAR RRP £49.99

Royal Observatory Greenwich is home to Greenwich Mean Time and is one of the most important scientific sites in the world.

Buy yours today from the following locations:

Exmoor National Park Centre - Lynmouth	01598 752 509
Exmoor National Park Centre - Dunster	01643 821 835
Exmoor National Park Centre - Dulverton	01398 323 641

In association with **CELESTRON** ROYAL OBSERVATORY GREENWICH

Dunster Castle School of Magic - The Spellbound Familiars Trail 5

Dunster Castle, TA24 6NY

Saturday 4 October - Sunday 2 November

Dunster Castle School of Magic is in chaos and we need your help. One of the professors' creature companions has a naughty streak and has cast a spell over all the other creatures to confuse their keepers. Without the right familiar, the professors are unable to teach. Follow the trail around the grounds, complete the activities and work out which familiar belongs to which professor - can you find the naughty one?

No need to book. Normal admission applies.

Stars and Sauna at Cloud Farm, Oare, EX35 6NU 14

Friday 17 October - Saturday 1 November 5pm - 9pm

Cloud Farm are hosting Secret Sauna as part of the Dark Skies Festival. Enjoy an evening sauna session under the stars in the beautiful surroundings of Badgworthy Water and the Doone Valley. With session running from 5pm until 9pm at the cost of £15

Tickets available via Lorna Doone Valley Website or www.secretsauna.org



Dark Skies Yoga & Supper 14**Oare House, EX35 6NX****Friday 17 October 6pm - 9pm**

A chance to connect with nature, rewild yourself and embark upon a 'Dark Skies Yoga' adventure in the heart of Exmoor. On arrival we will enjoy kombucha and a light snack before we take a short walk onto the ridge where we will gather together around a fire for some yoga under the stars. We will then return to Oare House to enjoy some heart-warming chai tea, spicy pumpkin soup and homemade sourdough. All food and drink made from ingredients locally sourced and foraged from the land around us. These evenings promise to be a truly magical experience, we can't wait to share them with you! £40pp, w3w: degree.overjoyed.technical

www.mooryoga.co.uk/retreatsworkshops**Wild Venison Butchery Workshop** 14**Oare House, EX35 6NX****Saturday 18 October 2pm - 8pm**

Join us this autumn at Root Project for a hands-on wild butchery day with Darren from Exmoor Game School. You'll break down a whole, traceable Exmoor deer - from carcass to steaks, joints, mince and burgers - learning the full process with practical guidance. As the sun sets, we'll cook and share a wild venison supper together. If the skies are clear, we'll dine outside beneath Exmoor's stars. The workshop is outdoors, in the barn - so wrap up warm. For every adult booking, a child receives a free place on one of Darren's courses, learning to skin, butcher and cook wild food from scratch. £110 per person or £180 per couple.

w3w: degree.overjoyed.technical www.rootproject.co.uk/events**Ranger Guided Walk at Bossington Hill** 2**Saturday 18 October 5.30pm - 8.30pm**

Join Exmoor National Park Ranger Charlotte and Exmoor based Astronomers for a family friendly guided walk on Bossington Hill to observe the nature and dark skies of Exmoor. The 3km gentle walk begins at dusk and takes us to the top of Hurlstone Combe allowing our eyes to adjust before circling back round to the car park at Bossington Hill where a telescope will be on hand to view the planets and stars above us. Once it goes dark, we will try to avoid using torches as it is much better to use our human night vision. However, it is recommended to bring a torch just in case. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome. Meet at Bossington Hill car park w3w dizziness.owls.sometime Drive to the very end of the road from Minehead to North Hill. Adults £5 Child £3

To book go to www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesevents**E-bike Night Rides with Exmoor Adventures** 16**Porlock Weir TA24 8PE****Saturday 18 October 6pm - 9pm**

Experience the thrill of E-Mountain Biking at night! We provide everything you need, including Specialized Tero e-bikes and powerful 1,200 lumen lights! Meeting at our base at Porlock Weir, we will set you up with your e-bike and lights and explain how to use. We will then guide you on a selection of easy going off-road trails, and quiet roads, climbing up onto the moors. We will enjoy a few stops on the way, taking in the night sky, and enjoying being out at night! This trip is suitable for confident cyclists with some off road experience. The route is likely to be approximately 20 km. Exmoor is an international Dark Sky Reserve, what better way to see the spectacular stars than by exploring Exmoor by e-bike? Once you have had a chance to appreciate the incredible night sky you will experience the thrill of descending the trails by bike lights. £49pp

exmooradventures.co.uk/

EVENTS

Numbers in red circles refer to event locations, see map on page 7.

Poltimore Inn Observatory Dark Sky Festival Event ¹³

North Molton, EX36 3HR

Saturday 18 October 6pm - 10pm

Come and learn about the Stars at the Poltimore Inn Observatory. If clear, we will take a look through the big telescope as well as use the smart telescope situated within the observatory. You will even be able to have a go with your own telescope under the guidance of the resident astronomers Jo and Pete. We will have a buffet meal alongside, plus the use of the Virtual Skies should it be cloudy. A real night to remember! £52.50pp (inc tea/coffee)

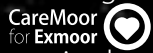
Debbie @ the Poltimore Inn 01598 740338 or book via the website

Barrow Beacons - Illuminating the ancient landscape ¹⁵

Pinkery Centre, TA24 7LL

Tuesday 21 October 5.30pm - 8:30pm

Meet at Pinkery to uncover the Bronze Age legacy of Exmoor and learn about the lives of its ancient inhabitants. As dusk settles, we will embark on a unique twilight walking experience across the sweeping moorland of Exmoor, connecting two ancient sites under the stars: Wood Barrow and The Chains Barrow. Two small groups will embark on separate paths to each barrow. Once in position, we'll light up the landscape-literally-by flashing our torches across the distances between us, forming a triangle of living light. After the walk, warm up with delicious hot chocolates back at Pinkery, surrounded by good company and shared wonder. A reasonable level of fitness required, walks will be on uneven ground and approximately 5km in distance. Please bring waterproof/sturdy footwear, appropriate clothing and torch.

Free but donations to  appreciated. Booking required.



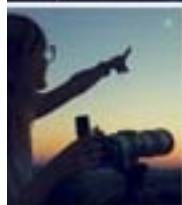
Comet Neowise Haddon Hill - James Palmer JPCreative





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Open All Day, Every Day from Midday
Food Served All Day from Midday
Function/Dining room for up to 35 people
Beer Garden with Covered Seating & Outdoor Bar
Children & Dogs Welcome
8 En-suite Bedrooms



'The Night Shift - Wildlife After Dark'
Talk & Supper with Stephen Powles

Wednesday 29th October

See page 35 for details



The Royal Oak, Withypool, Somerset TA24 7QB
Tel: 01643 831306 joinus@royaloakwithypool.co.uk
www.royaloakwithypool.co.uk



You can find online booking links for all events at:
www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesevents

EVENTS



Planetarium Sessions ¹⁹

Petroc Tiverton, EX16 6SH

Tuesday 21 October from 6pm

Book an evening session in one of the Country's largest mobile planetariums where you will be immersed under spectacular night skies with experienced science teacher and presenter Simon Ould from Space Odyssey. A memorable experience for all ages and a must for anyone who's never had a go. Sessions at 6pm & 7.30pm. Adult £7, Under 16s £5.

Night Hike at Lorna Doone Valley ¹⁴

Lorna Doone Valley, Devon EX35 6NU

Tuesday 21 October 7pm - 9pm

Take part on a guided night hike through the Doone Valley and the wider Exmoor landscape. Make the most of the Dark Sky Reserve with the National Trust guide taking the group to some of the best stargazing spots in the valley. £5 adult £3 child.

Book using the Lorna Doone Valley website

Valley of Rocks Night Walk ¹¹

Lynton Town Hall

Tuesday 21 October 7pm - 9pm

Enjoy the peace of the valley, taking in the beauty of the night sky in a stunning part of Exmoor. Your local guide Jess Twydall will meet you at Lynton Town Hall. The tour will include local history as you walk through the woods on Hollerday Hill and into Valley of Rocks. This is very much a walk for well-being, slowing down and enjoying the tranquillity of Exmoor. Adults £15, Children under 12 Free.

Book via info@mother-moon.co.uk or call 07716 223270.

EVENTS

Numbers in red circles refer to event locations, see map on page 7.

Dark Sky Discovery Trail Semi-guided walk with Astronomy support Larkbarrow, near Exford

Wednesday 22 October flexible arrival between 5.45pm and 6.30pm

Semi-guided walk with Astronomy Support. Explore and enjoy this amazing dark skies walk. National Park staff will be on hand as you negotiate the flat two mile walk with 360° views of the night sky. Whatever the weather, you'll feel the excitement of being surrounded by darkness and the sounds of nature. If skies are clear, our astronomers will help you identify planets, constellations and give an overview of our place in the universe. £5 per adult, children free. Booking essential.

Stargazing Evening at Dunster Castle and Watermill Dunster, TA24 6NY

Wednesday 22 October, 7pm - 10pm

Join us on the Keep Garden as we host Space Detectives, Astronomy and Space Experts. Enjoy an evening of stargazing activities using telescopic equipment, laser guided star mapping, constellation story telling and much more. Wet weather options will include VR headsets and a mobile planetarium. Tickets £20pp Visit Dunster Castle Website to book tickets.

E-bike Night Rides with Exmoor Adventures

Porlock Weir TA24 8PE

Thursday 23 October 6pm - 9pm

See 18 October for details.




FREE ADMISSION
TO OUR CHARITY RUN VISITOR CENTRE

Visit the Exmoor Pony Centre

- Wildlife at Night Activities - more details in our event listing
- Riding Sessions for all abilities *
- Grooming & Hands-on Experiences
- Activity Afternoons
- Wellbeing Sessions

Visit | Groom | Ride* | Adopt

All riding must be booked in advance and is subject to Terms and Conditions

2025 OPENING TIMES
2 April to 2 Nov
12 noon to 4pm
Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat & Sun
Closed Mon & Tues

Registered Charity No: 1116710 **www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk**
info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk | 01398 323093 | Exmoor Pony Centre | Dulverton | TA22 9QE



EXMOOR COTTAGE HOLIDAYS CHALLACOMBE

SELF CATERING COTTAGES

Short stay, full week or longer.
In dark skies reserve.
Log fires, parking, enclosed gardens, wildlife grounds, walks from the door, WiFi.
Local pub with excellent food.
07985 611456
www.exmoorcottageholidays.co.uk

Landacre Bridge by Jon Rowley



Spooky Season
at Dunster Castle and Watermill

The Spellbound Familiars Trail
1 October – 2 November
Dunster Castle School of Magic is in chaos and we need your help. Follow the trail around the grounds, complete the activities and work out which familiar belongs to which professor – can you find the naughty one?
£3 per person (normal admission applies)

Ghost Tours
28 and 31 October
Dare you join a chilling tour of the most haunted parts of the castle? Listen as your storyteller tells tales of ghosts and apparitions, leading the way through the castle, with a few surprises and scares along the way.
£25 per person

Stargazing Evening
22 October
Join us on the Keep Garden as we host Space Detectives, a local astronomy group. Enjoy an evening of stargazing activities with telescopic equipment, laser guided star mapping, constellation story telling and much more.
£20 per person

Visit the website for more information and to book: nationaltrust.org.uk/dunster-castle

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You can find online booking links for all events at:
www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesevents

EVENTS

Wild about Exmoor Stargazing and Supper Event ⁶

Exford Bridge Tearooms TA24 7PY

Thursday 23 October 6pm - 10pm

Our Stargazing Suppers feature homecooked fresh food, an informative talk all about dark skies and if clear, we will, after dinner take a walk into the Dark Sky Reserve to observe the stars both telescopically and using laser guidance. We are undeterred if skies are cloudy as we will stay in the comfort and warmth of the tearoom and use our virtual skies instead to tell of myths, legends and constellation stories. £55pp (Under 16 £30)
www.wildaboutexmoor.com



Valley of Rocks Night Walk ¹¹

Lynton Town Hall

Thursday 23 October 7pm - 9pm

See 21 October for details.

Protecting Exmoor's Night Sky ⁴

Exmoor House, Dulverton

Thursday 23 October 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Join Exmoor National Park's Future Landscapes Officer Julie Layzell and Ecologist Kate Lacey for a presentation on Exmoor's dark sky reserve and the importance of preserving and protecting the night sky for people, wildlife and star gazing. Informative talk followed by opportunity to ask questions to the National Park Team. Tea/Coffee on arrival. £3pp. Booking Essential.



Night Hike at Lorna Doone Valley ¹⁴

Lorna Doone Valley, Devon EX35 6NU

Thursday 23 October 7pm - 9pm

See 21 October for details.

Accessible Family Stargazing and Activities Weekend 24**Calvert Devon, Wistlandpound, EX31 4SJ****Friday 24 October - Sunday 26 October**

Join us for an unforgettable, accessible weekend of adventure and wonder as we celebrate the magic of Exmoor's pristine night skies. Whether you're a seasoned stargazer or have never really looked up at the night sky before, this weekend promises memories that will last a lifetime. £248pp (includes accommodation, food & activities).

01598 763221, calvertdevon.org.uk/**Dark Skies of Exmoor Stargazing Break - 2 nights** 5**Yarn Market Hotel, Dunster, TA24 6SF****Friday 24 October - Sunday 26 October**

A two night Stargazing break led by Terry Evans, Chairman of Crewkerne Astronomical Society. The break includes 2 nights Dinner Bed and Breakfast and lunches including Sunday lunch. Talks and an opportunity to visit a dark skies location in the evening are also included. Rate £240.00 per person, no single supplements.

www.yarnmarkethotel.co.uk 01643 821 425**Dip, Dine and Divine Vibes** 7**West Hollowcombe Farm, Hawkrigde, TA22 9QL****Friday 24 October 4.30pm - 8pm**

Join us under Exmoor's legendary starlit skies for an evening of wild magic and mild madness. Starting with a brisk dip in our beautiful private stretch of river- invigorating, life affirming and guaranteed to wake every cell in your body. After your swim, to warm you up, we will provide hearty and delicious food and drink by the fire, before settling in for our starlit finale; a celestial gong ceremony that will vibrate your soul into deep dreamy alignment- or at least give you a relaxing lie-down. Expect stars, sustenance and a sprinkle of cosmic wonder. Swimming participants must be confident swimmers. Full kit list provided when booking. £45pp or £80 per couple **www.exmoorwildswim.co.uk**, Please email **unity@exmoorwildswim.co.uk** to book.

Valley of Rocks Night Walk 11**Lynton Town Hall****Friday 24 October 7pm - 9pm**

See 21 October for details.

Dark Skies Yoga & Supper 14**Oare House, EX35 6NX****Friday 24 October 6pm - 9pm**

See 17 October for details.

Stargazing @ Tors Park 11**Countisbury Hill, Lynmouth, EX35 6BN****Friday 24 October 6pm - 10pm**

Come and see the stars at our stunning venue overlooking the sea. Enjoy either a fish and chip or Spice Mare (curry) meal plus a local Luscombe drink. Enjoy a presentation all about the stars with our astronomers from Space Detectives and look through the telescope if skies are clear. If skies are cloudy, the event will still go ahead and we will use our virtual skies to star hop and tell constellation stories instead. All whilst enjoying hot chocolate and marshmallows by the fire pit to keep the Autumnal chill at bay. £55pp **torspark.co/**

The Women Who Discovered What Stars Are Made Of 20**Torre Cider Farm, Washford, TA23 0LA****Friday 24 October 7.30pm - 8.30pm**

Join Simon from Bath Astronomers for an informative and engaging talk all about the Women who discovered what stars are made of 100 years ago this year. A 24-year-old English woman had her astrophysics PhD published based on her work at Harvard College Observatory. It bought together 50 years of effort by Harvard's women and shattered the contemporary view of astronomy. Bar will be open.

To book **torrecider.farm/events/**

EVENTS

Numbers in red circles refer to event locations, see map on page 7.

Planetarium Sessions Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe 10

Saturday 25 October Sessions all day from 9.30am

Book an immersive 45/60 minute session in the Space Odyssey Planetarium and learn about Space and the universe from Simon Ould - an experienced Science Teacher and Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. The shorter sessions are slightly more suited for families with younger children. All those attending will have access to Landmark Theatre facilities, fun childrens' activities, film afternoon (small additional charge - book via Landmark website) and the onsite cafe will be open providing refreshments so why not make a day of it. Adults £7, Under 16 £5.



Dip, Dine and Divine Vibes 7

West Hollowcombe Farm, Hawkridge, TA22 9QL

Saturday 25 October 4.30pm - 8pm

See 24 October for details.

Farm Walk and Two Course Dinner 3

Shoulsbarrow Farmhouse, Challacombe

Saturday 25 October 6.45pm - 10pm

You are invited to join us for a walk around our Rare Breeds farm to see our livestock - all by torchlight. We will see animals out in our fields and also in our barn. Afterwards there will be a two-course supper in our farmhouse of our own home grown fare. £30 per person. All dietary requirements catered for. Payment due in order to secure booking. w3w - whimpered.charge.clerk. To book please contact shoulsbry@gmail.com or 01598 428005.

Lynton Dark Skies by Jon Rowley



01643 800400

enquiry@porlockweirhotel.co.uk

The Porlock Weir Hotel
... the anchor of Exmoor



Serene Stargazing

Join us at the Porlock Weir Hotel on Wednesday 29th October 2025 for a truly enchanting evening beneath Exmoor's internationally recognised dark skies. This special event includes a one-night stay at our charming coastal hotel, a delicious two-course dinner, and an inspiring astronomy talk by renowned astrophysicist Professor Roger Davies.

In his talk, "Distant Worlds - Discovering New Earths Beyond Our Solar System," Professor Davies will take you on a journey across the cosmos, exploring the search for planets beyond our solar system and delving into the mysteries of galaxies and black holes.

Stay the night from only £200 or dinner only for £47.50 per person



The Luttrell Arms Hotel
... at the heart of Dunster



01643 821555

enquiry@luttrellarms.co.uk



LUNDY ISLAND

Enjoy a wonderful day trip

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Bookings: 01271 863636
For information and timetables visit www.lundyisland.co.uk
info@lundyisland.co.uk




E-MOUNTAIN BIKE HIRE & ACTIVITY BASE






**Kayaking - Archery - Tree & Rock Climbing
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www.exmooradventures.co.uk - 01643 805001

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Come and explore WIMBLEBALL LAKE

for a great day out!

Near Dulverton, TA22 9NU

walking • watersports • cafe
wildlife • cycling • high ropes
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#ItsYourOutdoors
01398 371460
swlakestrust.org.uk/activities

You can find online booking links for all events at:
www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesevents

EVENTS

E-bike Night Rides with Exmoor Adventures ¹⁶

Porlock Weir TA24 8PE

Saturday 25 October 6pm - 9pm

See 18 October for details.

Stargazing & Supper @ Holworthy Farm, TA22 9NY ⁸

Saturday 25 October 6pm - 10pm

An evening of stargazing with Space Detectives, good farmhouse food and wonderful company overlooking the banks of Wimbleball Lake, one of the most stunning locations across Exmoor. Cost £35 per adult and £20 per child. **01398 371244** holworthyfarm@aol.com

The History of the Fly Agaric Mushroom ¹⁴

Oare House, EX35 6NX

Saturday 25 October 7pm - 8.30pm

Step into the strange and symbolic world of the fly agaric mushroom - red-capped, white-spotted, and rich in myth. Join us at Root Project for an evening with writer, folklorist and Exeter University lecturer Dr Andy Letcher, as he traces this iconic fungus through shamanic rituals, fairy tales, folklore, and psychedelic theory. We'll gather indoors at Oare House, welcomed with drinks and seasonal nibbles before diving into stories, science, and symbolism. Whether you're a naturalist, fungi-lover or simply mushroom-curious, come along to an evening of story telling and wonder. £20pp / £15pp for Exmoor Fungus Group members.

w3w: degree.overjoyed.technical

www.rootproject.co.uk/events



Family Fun Day with Planetarium ²⁰
Torre Cider Farm, Washford, TA23 0LA
Saturday 25 October 11am - 4pm

If you have ever wondered what it's like on the International Space Station, here's your opportunity to find out: Simon from Bath Astronomers will take you on a Space Adventure in the pop-up planetarium, visiting the International Space Station and some fun astronaut challenges and activities. It's guaranteed to keep the children entertained. Bookable sessions available throughout the day £5 per child. Food and drink available to purchase.

See www.torreceder/events for more information and booking.

Exmoor Wildlife Celebration with Somerset Wildlife Trust ⁹
Horner Farm, TA24 8HY
Sunday 26 October 12 noon - 5pm

Join us in celebrating Exmoor's wildlife following the pine marten reintroduction in autumn 2025. Meet your new woodland neighbour through a fun packed nature activity day with plenty to get involved in including exploratory woodland walks and nature crafts. Be a part of the nature recovery story in Chris Salisbury's dusk & dark skies storytelling session. Free of charge.

Pathway to the Planets, Meteors and Marshmallows ²⁴
Calvert Devon, Wistlandpound
Sunday 26 October 3.30pm - 8pm



An afternoon of family fun to include a space themed trail and quiz around the lake (approx. 2 miles), fireside talk with astronomer Jo Richardson from Space Detectives and our Ranger team, stargazing overlooking the lake, childrens' activities, hot chocolate and marshmallows. 3.30pm - 8pm. Bring your own picnic. Tea/coffee/cold drinks and snacks will be for sale. Suitable for families, sensible footwear advised. £7pp (under 3 free) Option to book activities at Calvert Devon prior to the event starting. Please contact Calvert Devon on 01598 763221 for more information.

Wistlandpound by Keith Treeman



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Self Catering Holiday Cottages & Lodges Exmoor, Somerset

Woodcombe Lodges and Cottages is a family business providing top quality Self Catering Holiday Cottages & lodges in Exmoor. We are a small, site with only six Lodges and two cottages set in 3 acres of gardens.

Enjoying magnificent views over the slopes of the Exmoor National Park down a quiet country lane. Woodcombe Lodges is a short, five minute drive or 20 minute walk from the shops, pubs and restaurants of Minehead with its beach and seafront beyond.

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Saturday 18 October 2025 Exmoor Dark Sky Festival 6pm - 10pm

Friday 31 October 2025 Exmoor Dark Sky Festival 6pm - 10pm

Friday 21 November 2025 In the Night Sky 6pm - 10pm

Friday 12 December 2025 Space Rocks 6pm - 10pm

Friday 9 January 2026 Starry Skies 6pm - 10pm

Friday 6 March 2026 Our Place In Space 6pm - 10pm

Saturday 28 March 2026 In the Night Sky 6pm - 10pm

Saturday 18 April 2026 The Solar System 6pm - 10pm

Friday 1 May 2026 Exmoor Skies and Stars 6pm - 10pm

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Virtual Sky for cloudy weather!

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North Molton
EX36 3HR
Tel: 01598 740338



You can find online booking links for all events at:
www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesevents

EVENTS

Sunday Roast and Stargazing at Nettlecombe Court, The Leonard Wills ¹²

Field Centre, Nettlecombe Court, Williton, Taunton TA4 4HT

Sunday 26 October 6pm - 9pm

Enjoy our popular Sunday Roast and Stargazing, under Nettlecombes' darkest skies! Spot Saturn's Rings, Jupiter's moons and galaxies through our selection of Dobsonian telescopes. Enjoy a scrumptious 2 course meal (Sunday Roast with Yorkshire pudding, hot dessert) with long table dining under 13th Century Grade 1 architecture. Discover how to find the best spots near you with our Stargazing presentation. Bar open from 6pm. No dogs in the building. £30pp. Under 5s go free. www.moorwildexperiences.co.uk

Creative Dark Sky Art Sessions ¹¹

Lynmouth National Park Centre, The Esplanade, EX35 6EQ

Monday 27 October 10.30 am- 12 noon and 1pm - 2.30pm

Join Sophie Tyler from Exmoor National Park for a 1 ½ hour Creative Dark Sky themed Art Session. Most suited to ages 7+ (parent or guardian expected to stay) All materials provided. Two session times to choose from £5 per session. Booking Essential.



Go Batty at Exmoor National Park Centre ⁵

Dunster, TA24 6SE

Monday 27 October 10.30am -12 noon and 1.30pm - 3pm

Get ready to go batty this October half term! Join us at the Exmoor National Park Centre in Dunster for fun-filled, bat-inspired storytelling and arts & crafts sessions. Activities include: Batty mask-making, Bat-themed crafts, Fun bat quizzes, A batty story to spark imaginations! Don't miss these fang-tastic family art and craft sessions! Perfect for primary-aged children (4-11 years) £2 per child. Parents must stay with their children. Booking Essential.



Celebrating Exmoor with Wild About Exmoor 22**Triscombe Farm, Wheddon Cross, TA24 7HA****Monday 27 October 6pm - 10pm**

Join us for a "Wild about Exmoor Experience @ Triscombe Farm." An evening celebration of everything that Exmoor has to offer including food, history, landscapes, ecology and of course the dark sky stars. (if wet or cloudy using the planetarium) Resident holiday guests £15 /adult. £10 / child under 10. Not staying at Triscombe & still interested in joining us for the evening, please email to enquire about available places & booking with us. Please bring suitable outdoor clothing & footwear..Please bring a plate & bottle (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) to share. Booking Essential. triscombeholidays@gmail.com or visit www.triscombefarm.co.uk

E-bike Night Rides with Exmoor Adventures 16**Porlock Weir TA24 8PE****Monday 27 October 6pm - 9pm**

See 18 October for details.

Creative Dark Sky Art Sessions 4**Dulverton National Park Centre****Exmoor House, Dulverton TA22 9HL****Tuesday 28 October****10.30am - 12.00 noon**

Join Sophie Tyler from Exmoor National Park for a 1½ hour Creative Dark Sky themed Art Session. Most suited to ages 7+ (parent or guardian expected to stay) All materials provided. £5 per session. Booking Essential.

**Wild Twilight: A Family Event At Ashcombe Car Park** 17**Simonsbath, TA24 7SH****Tuesday 28 October 4.30pm - 8pm**

Join us as twilight falls and Ashcombe gardens come alive! We invite families to discover the secrets of nocturnal wildlife and their habitats through nature exploration, gather round craft tables to make your own wild creations, and enjoy hot chocolate and marshmallows around a campfire as night descends. Please bring your own picnic dinner. Activities are primarily intended for children aged 6 and up, but younger children are welcome if they are interested and are supported by parents. Please come prepared for wet weather with waterproof coats and shoes: there is inside space, but some activities will happen outside even if it is raining. No dogs please. Free but donation to  CareMoors for Exmoor appreciated. Booking essential.

Stargazing & Supper @ Holworthy Farm, TA22 9NY 8**Tuesday 28 October 6pm - 10pm**

See 25 October for details.

Dunster Castle Ghost Tours 2025, Dunster, TA24 6NY 5**Tuesday 28 and Friday 31 October, 6pm - 11pm**

Many of the historic houses that the National Trust look after have their fair share of dark and grisly tales. Dunster Castle is no exception with many reports of ghostly sightings and sensations. Each Ghost Tour will be led by a series of guides who will relay a wealth of haunted tales from the castle's long and fascinating history, including recent sightings of mysterious apparitions and reports of loud marching footsteps in areas of the castle known to be empty. Get ready to be scared. Who knows what you may find in the dark? Tickets £25pp. Book via Dunster Castle website.

EVENTS

Numbers in red circles refer to event locations, see map on page 7.

Valley of Rocks Night Walk 11

Lynton Town Hall

Tuesday 28 October 7pm - 9pm

See 21 October for details.

Night Hike at Lorna Doone Valley 14

Lorna Doone Valley, Devon EX35 6NU

Tuesday 28 October 7pm - 9pm

See 21 October for details.

Pathway to the Planets, Meteors and Marshmallows 23

Wimbleball Lake

Wednesday 29 October 3.30pm - 8pm

An afternoon of family fun to include a space themed trail and quiz along the lakes edge (approx. 2 miles), fireside talk with astronomer Jo Richardson from Space Detectives and our Ranger team, stargazing overlooking the lake, childrens' activities, hot chocolate and marshmallows. 3.30pm - 8pm. Bring your own picnic. Tea/coffee/cold drinks and snacks will be for sale. Suitable for families, sensible footwear advised. £7pp (under 3 free). Booking Essential.



Cliff Railway in Lights, Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway 11

Wednesday 29 October 5pm - 8pm

Take the rare opportunity to ride The Cliff Railway in the dark. A beautiful light show throughout the evening. No booking required.

Luxborough Star Trails by Harvey Grenville

CLIFF RAILWAY HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR
Friday 31st October 6pm - 9pm

CLIFF RAILWAY Festival of LIGHT
Wed 29th October
Thur 30th October
Sat 1st November 5 - 8pm

Check website for details
CLIFFRAILWAYLYNTON.CO.UK



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www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/pinkery-centre

Telescope Hire

Explore Exmoor's Dark Skies with a Skywatcher Telescope.



Hire from a National Park Centre for £25 per night (additional nights just £10 extra each) Full instructions, including video link, provided. For further details visit www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/stargazing or contact an Exmoor National Park Centre:

Dulverton 01398 323841

Dunster 01643 821835

Lynmouth 01598 752509

Yarn Market Hotel

High Street, Dunster, Exmoor, TA24 6SF,
Tel: 01643 821425

hotel@yarnmarkethotel.co.uk www.yarnmarkethotel.co.uk

Stargazing Breaks

Friday 24th to Sunday 26th October 2025

Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th January 2026

Experience the Dark Skies of Exmoor National Park

Led by Terry Evans, Chairman of
Crewkerne & District Astronomical Society

**£240.00 per person for 2 nights Dinner Bed and
Breakfast to include Sunday lunch, all talks and
Stargazing activities . No single supplements.**



You can find online booking links for all events at:
www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesevents

EVENTS

'The Night Shift' - Wildlife After Dark Talk with Wildlife Expert ²⁵

Stephen Powles, The Royal Oak, Withypool, TA24 7QP

Wednesday 29 October 5pm - 8pm

Join us at the Royal Oak Withypool for a two course dinner (served from 5pm) followed at 6pm, by an interesting and informative Wildlife After Dark talk with Stephen Powles, a former vet, wildlife photographer and engaging presenter. £25 for adults and £10 for children inc dinner. 01643 831506 or email at joinus@royaloakwithypool.co.uk

Dinner and chat with Professor Roger Davies ¹⁶

The Porlock Weir hotel, Porlock Weir, TA24 8PB

Wednesday 29 October 6.30pm - 10pm

Experience the wonders of the cosmos from one of the UK's best dark sky locations. Join us at The Porlock Weir Hotel for an unforgettable evening under the stars, featuring a captivating talk by renowned astrophysicist Professor Roger Davies of Oxford University. This package includes a one night's stay in a beautifully appointed room, a fascinating presentation by Professor Davies, exclusive access to telescopes and stargazing equipment and night vision binoculars, a delicious two-course dinner in our restaurant and full Exmoor breakfast the following morning.

www.porlockweirhotel.co.uk



Three Musketeers - Tawny Owls 3 months old by Harvey Grenville

Valley of Rocks Night Walk 11
Lynton Town Hall
Wednesday 29 October 7pm - 9pm
 See 21 October for details.

Ranger Guided Walk - Dunkery Beacon Webbers Post 21 
Thursday 30 October 3.30pm - 7pm
 Join National Park Ranger Tim Parish for a guided walk from Webbers Post up to the top of Dunkery Beacon - the highest point on Exmoor as the sun sets. There'll be amateur astronomers on hand to guide you around the constellations if skies are clear. Under clear skies the 360° views of the night sky will be awe-inspiring but even on a cloudy wet day we'll make our way up listening for the deer and sounds of Exmoor at night. Parts of the 4-mile walk (around 3 hours) will be on uneven, narrow paths in the dark, and use of headtorches is discouraged. A good level of fitness is required. Adult £5, Under 16s £3.

Conquer Conygar by Torchlight 5 
Dunster National Park Centre
Thursday 30 October 5.30pm - 7pm
 Join Exmoor National Park staff for a family torch lit circular 1.75 mile walk to Conygar Tower. On the way we will encounter mysterious old ruins and hear improbable tales of long-lost tunnels and giant statues before arriving at the tower that has stood on Conygar since the 1770's. We will then return to the National Park Centre for a warming cup of hot chocolate. Please come equipped for what could be a muddy nighttime walk, coat, good walking shoes or boots and a torch. Not suitable for pushchairs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome. £2pp booking essential.

Exmoor Ponies & Wildlife at Night 1
The Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, TA22 9QE
Thursday 30 October 5.30pm - 7pm
 A family friendly evening meeting Exmoor ponies and finding out about Exmoor's wildlife. Hot chocolate, marshmallows and biscuits included. £7 Adult £5 Child. Book by emailing info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk

E-bike Night Rides with Exmoor Adventures 16
Porlock Weir TA24 8PE
Thursday 30 October 6pm - 9pm
 See 18 October for details.

Wild about Exmoor Stargazing and Supper Event 6
Exford Bridge Tearooms TA24 7PY
Thursday 30 October 6pm - 10pm
 See 23 October for details.

Galaxies & Black Holes - Evening Talk and Supper with 18
Professor Roger Davies, Quince Honey Farm, South Molton EX36 3RD
Thursday 30 October 6pm - 8.30pm
 We are thrilled to welcome Professor Roger Davies to Quince Honey Farm. His talk will explore how the galaxies, collections of hundreds of billions of stars, were formed and what shaped them into the giant spiral galaxies and the red elliptical galaxies we see today. We'll see how the smallest ripples in the early Universe give rise to the cosmic web and how these large structures affect galaxies. In the last 30 years we have discovered 'supermassive' black holes at the centres of galaxies with masses from one million to ten billion times the mass of the Sun, a discovery that led to the award of the 2020 Nobel Prize. What is their role in shaping galaxies? Doors will open at 6pm and a warming supper will be served in our Nectary Restaurant to start the evening off, before the talk starts at approximately 7pm.
quincehoneyfarm.co.uk/workshops-and-experiences/

Night Hike at Lorna Doone Valley 14**Lorna Doone Valley, Devon EX35 6NU****Thursday 30 October 7pm - 9pm**

See 21 October for details.

Cliff Railway in Lights, Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway 11**Thursday 30 October 5pm - 8pm**

See 29 October for details.

Farm Walk, Halloween Quiz and Hotdogs 3**Shoulsbarrow Farmhouse, Challacombe****Friday 31 October 6.30pm - 10pm**

Join us for a farm walk by torchlight to see our rare breeds of livestock. We will walk some of our fields and finish the tour in our barn to see more animals. We will stay in our barn for a dark skies related quiz - with a hint of Halloween! To finish the evening hot dogs with our own sausages will be served. Hot drinks available and all dietary requirements catered for. £15pp Payment due in order to secure booking.

w3w – whimpered.charge.clerk. To book please contact shoulsbry@gmail.com or 01598 428005.

Poltimore Inn Observatory Dark Sky Festival Event 13**North Molton, EX36 3HR****Friday 31 October 6pm - 10pm**

See 18 October for details.

Cliff Railway Halloween Spooktakular 11**Lynton & Lynmouth Cliff Railway****Friday 31 October 6pm - 9pm**

Halloween Spooktakular in Lynton & Lynmouth, spooky cliff Railway rides, dark running, staff in costume, and other Halloween fun! No need to book, pay on the night.

Valley of Rocks Night Walk 11**Lynton Town Hall****Friday 31 October 7pm - 9pm**

See 21 October for details.

Exmoor Ponies & Wildlife at Night 1**The Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, TA22 9QE****Saturday 1 November 5.30pm - 7pm**

See 30 October for details.

Dunster Castle Ghost Tours 2025, Dunster, TA24 6NY 5**Friday 31 October 6pm - 11pm**

See 28 October for details.

Fireside Storytelling at Lorna Doone Valley 14**Malmsmead, EX35 6NU****Saturday 1 November 5.30pm - 6.30pm & 6.45pm - 7.45pm**

As part of the Dark Skies Festival Lorna Doone Valley will be hosting a children's fireside story telling session. Join our team and listen to enchanting stories under the stars and around the fire. The event will be taking place in our new play area and forest school.

w3w revisits.expel.dumpy £5 per child, book via the National Trust Lorna Doone website.

Cliff Railway in Lights, Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway 11**Saturday 1 November 5pm - 8pm**

See 29 October for details.

Dark Skies Yoga & Supper 14**Oare House, EX35 6NX****Sunday 2 November 6pm - 9pm**

See 17 October for details.

Proud Sponsors of Exmoor National Park's Dark Skies Festival 2025



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