

EXMOOR COASTER

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



WATCHET
MINEHEAD
PORLOCK
COUNTISBURY
LYNMOUTH

SUMMER
2022
from
10 April 2022



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adventures by bus

OPEN TOP

Atlantic Coaster

Bluff headlands and blissful beaches between Padstow and Newquay.

Dartmoor Explorer

A scenic ride over the wild moorland landscapes of Dartmoor.

OPEN TOP

Discover Exeter

See the sights of this cathedral city from an open-top bus.

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Falmouth Coaster

See Falmouth and Pendennis Castle from a whole new perspective.

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Land's End Coaster

Follow the coast all the way round Land's End on a circular ride through Penzance and St Ives.

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the Lizard

Beautiful scenery, wonderful beaches and rugged coves.

OPEN TOP

Sunseeker

An open-top ride where the Atlantic rollers sweep over soft sandy beaches.

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Jurassic Coaster

Up hill and down dale along a coast where dinosaurs once roamed.

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Portland Coaster

A spectacular climb on to Portland Bill with breathtaking views of Chesil Beach.



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to Lynmouth

daily

Watchet	West Somerset Railway	0955							1425
Warren Bay	Holiday Village	1001							1431
Beeches	Holiday Park	1003							1433
Blue Anchor	Hoburne Holiday Park	1007							1437
Carhampton	post office	1012							1442
Dunster Steep		1015							1445
Minehead	Premier Inn	1018							1448
Minehead	Butlins main gate	arr							1453
Minehead	Butlins main gate	dep	0930	1030	1100	1200	1330	1500	1530 1630
Minehead	West Somerset Railway	0935	1035	1105	1205	1335	1505	1535	1635
Minehead	Avenue	0937	1037	1107	1207	1337	1507	1537	1637
Selworthy	turn opp	0947	1047	1117	1217	1347	1517	1547	1647
Allerford	bus shelter	0949	1049	1119	1219	1349	1519	1549	1649
Porlock	Doverhay car park	0955	1055	1125	1225	1355	1525	1555	1655
Whitstone Post	opp viewpoint	1004	1104	1134	1234	1404	1534	1604	1704
Exmoor County Gate	car park	1014	1114	1144	1244	1414	1544	1614	1714
Countisbury	Blue Ball Inn	1021	1121	1151	1251	1421	1551	1621	1721
Lynmouth	Lyndale coach park	1030	1130	1200	1300	1430	1600	1630	1730

from Lynmouth

daily

Lynmouth	Lyndale coach park	1040	1140	1240	1410	1510	1610	1640	1740
Countisbury	opp Blue Ball Inn	1049	1149	1249	1419	1519	1619	1649	1749
Exmoor	opp County Gate car park	1058	1158	1258	1428	1528	1628	1658	1758
Whitstone Post	opp viewpoint	1105	1205	1305	1435	1535	1635	1705	1805
Porlock	opp Doverhay car park	1115	1215	1315	1445	1545	1645	1715	1815
Allerford	bus shelter	1121	1221	1321	1451	1551	1651	1721	1821
Selworthy	turn	1124	1224	1324	1454	1554	1654	1724	1824
Minehead	Parade	1135	1235	1335	1505	1605	1705	1735	1835
Minehead	West Somerset Railway	1137	1237	1337	1507	1607	1707	1737	1837
Minehead	Butlins main gate	arr	1140	1240	1340	1510	1610	1710	1840
Minehead	Butlins main gate	dep						1710	
Minehead	Premier Inn							1712	
Dunster	Steep							1715	
Carhampton	post office							1718	
Blue Anchor	Hoburne Holiday Park							1723	
Beeches	Holiday Park							1727	
Warren Bay	Holiday Village							1728	
Watchet	West Somerset Railway				1410			1735	

these journeys run Saturdays, Sundays
and Somerset school holidays



Exmoor is high, broody and gloriously untamed, with ancient woodlands tucked behind hazy skylines and legends and folklore 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 what can feel like the roof of the world, with tantalising glimpses over Exmoor one way and far over the Bristol Channel to South Wales the other, before descending the steep incline to the little harbour at Lynmouth.

The coastline here is nothing less than breathtaking, with tall wooded and heather-coated bluffs tumbling steeply into the sea far below.

There is no better way to get to know this landscape than on our 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!

Exmoor day pass

Unlimited travel on the Exmoor Coaster and Exmoor Sunseeker all day

	adult	under 19	family
Exmoor Day Pass	£10	£5	£20

English National
Concessionary
Travel passes
accepted



up to 2 adults
& any number
of children



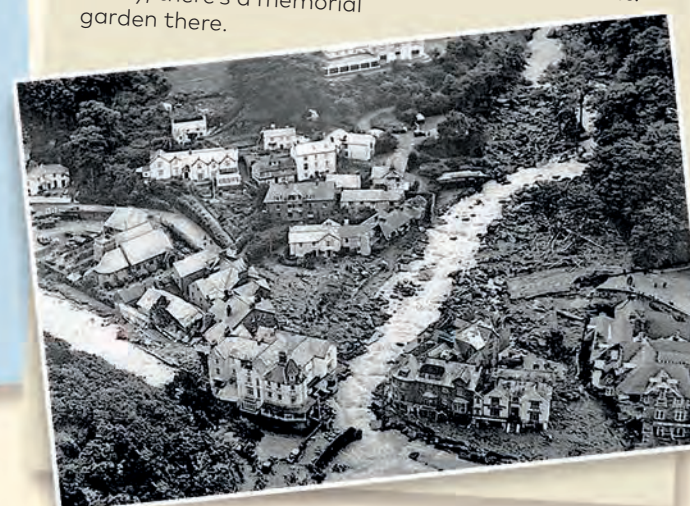
the Lynmouth flood

The date of 15 August 1952 will always be remembered in Lynmouth, with many observing that the clouds gathering over Exmoor were purple black. Within hours, one of the most violent precipitations this country has ever seen began. The bogs on top of Exmoor, already waterlogged, quickly filled to overflowing and between 7pm and midnight it just rained and rained and rained.

Lynmouth would soon be a disaster zone, for that night more than 90 million tons of water cascaded down the steep narrow valleys of the twin rivers Lyn converging on the small harbour village. It didn't stand a chance.

Overnight, more than 100 buildings were destroyed or seriously damaged, along with 28 of the 31 bridges. 38 cars were washed out to sea and 34 people died, with a further 420 made homeless.

Similar floods had been recorded at Lynmouth in 1607 and 1796. After the 1952 disaster, Lynmouth village was rebuilt, including diverting the river around the village. A group of houses on the bank of the East Lyn river was destroyed and never rebuilt. Today, there's a memorial garden there.



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.



FORELAND POINT

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



COUNTISBURY HILL

The final part of this breathtaking journey is the spectacular 2½ miles long drop down to sea level at Lynmouth from the top of Countisbury Hill, 1,300ft above. The gradient at the foot is 1 in 4, but only for a short distance.



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 incline in parts of Porlock Hill and its scary hairpin bends - all adds to the thrill of this fantastic ride!

As the steepest A-road in the UK, this section attracts cyclists and runners looking for a challenge. The road climbs some 700 feet (over 220 meters) in just under a mile, winding from the village up to the hazy open moor stretching out ahead.

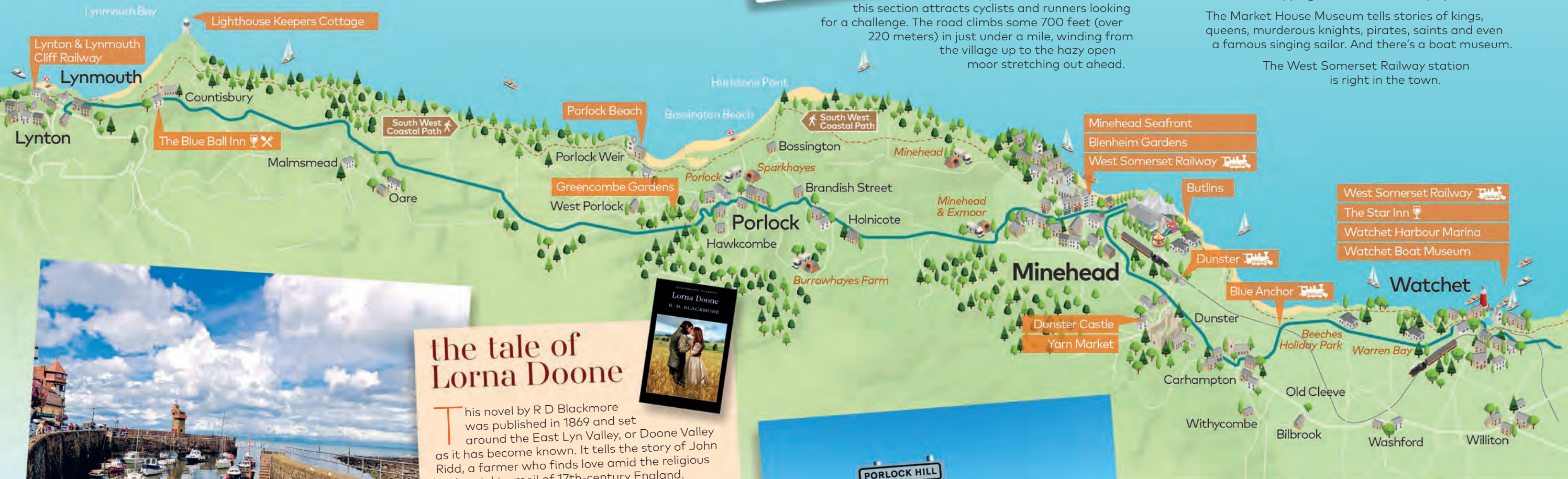
WATCHET

Overlooked by a 150 year old lighthouse, Watchet's ancient harbour is now a lovely marina, interesting to stroll round and boasting fantastic views across the Bristol channel. Several boats offer fishing trips.

Among the independent shops you'll find vintage and craft dealers, art shops and galleries; also studios in converted shipping containers on the quayside.

The Market House Museum tells stories of kings, queens, murderous knights, pirates, saints and even a famous singing sailor. And there's a boat museum.

The West Somerset Railway station is right in the town.



the tale of Lorna Doone

This novel by R D Blackmore was published in 1869 and set around the East Lyn Valley, or Doone Valley as it has become known. It tells the story of John Ridd, a farmer who finds love amid the religious and social turmoil of 17th-century England.

He makes his way to the valley of the lawless Doones, where he is discovered by the beautiful Lorna. They form a bond that inspires John to rescue his beloved from his nasty archrival, Carver Doone, only for her to be shot dead at the altar on their wedding day.

Blackmore's grandfather was Rector of Oare church, which is where the doomed marriage takes place. You can explore the Doone Valley along miles of waymarked footpaths. There's a circular walk which takes in sites linked to the novel.



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.

See the other side for some of the fascinating stories from Lynmouth's history.

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 incredible Lynton & Lynmouth Cliff Railway.

This opened in 1890 and 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.



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.

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.

