

EXMOOR COASTER

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



WATCHET
MINEHEAD
PORLOCK
COUNTISBURY
LYNMOUTH
AUTUMN/WINTER 2021

to Lynmouth

until 31 October 2021

	Price	Price	Price	Price	Price	Price
Doniford opp Haven Holiday Camp	0940	1110			1410	
Watchet West Somerset Railway	0952	1122			1422	
Warren Bay Holiday Village	0958	1128			1428	
Beeches Holiday Park	1000	1130			1430	
Blue Anchor Hoburne Holiday Park	1004	1134			1434	
Carhampton post office	1009	1139			1439	
Dunster Steep	1012	1142			1442	
Minehead Premier Inn	1015	1145			1445	
Minehead Butlins main gate arr	1020	1150			1450	
Minehead Butlins main gate dep	0930	1030	1150	1200	1450	1600
Minehead West Somerset Railway	0935	1035	1155	1205	1455	1605
Minehead The Avenue	0937	1037	1157	1207	1457	1607
Selworthy turn opp	0947	1047	1217	1347	1517	1617
Allerford bus shelter	0949	1049	1219	1349	1519	1619
Porlock Doverhay car park	0955	1055	1225	1355	1525	1625
Whitstone Post opp viewpoint	1004	1104	1234	1404	1534	1634
Exmoor County Gate car park	1014	1114	1244	1414	1544	1644
Countisbury Blue Ball Inn	1021	1121	1251	1421	1551	1651
Lynmouth Lyndale coach park	1030	1130	1300	1430	1600	1700

daily

from 1 November 2021

Price	Price	Price	Price
1000	1300		1600
1005	1305		1605
1007	1307		1607
1017	1317		1617
1019	1319		1619
1025	1325	1625	1625
1034	1334	1634	1634
1044	1344	1644	1644
1051	1351	1651	1651
1100	1400	1700	1700

school days only

weekends and school holidays only

from Lynmouth

until 31 October 2021

	Price	Price	Price	Price	Price	Price
Lynmouth Lyndale coach park	1040	1140	1340	1440	1610	1710
Countisbury opp Blue Ball Inn	1049	1149	1349	1449	1619	1719
Exmoor opp County Gate car park	1058	1158	1358	1458	1628	1728
Whitstone Post opp viewpoint	1105	1205	1405	1505	1635	1735
Porlock opp Doverhay car park	1115	1215	1415	1515	1645	1745
Allerford bus shelter	1121	1221	1421	1521	1651	1751
Selworthy turn	1124	1224	1424	1524	1654	1754
Minehead Parade	1010	1135	1235	1310	1435	1535
Minehead West Somerset Railway	1012	1137	1237	1312	1437	1537
Minehead Butlins main gate arr	1015	1140	1240	1315	1440	1540
Minehead Butlins main gate dep	1015		1315		1715	
Minehead Premier Inn	1017		1317		1717	
Dunster Steep	1020		1320		1720	
Carhampton post office	1023		1323		1723	
Blue Anchor Hoburne Holiday Park	1028		1328		1728	
Beeches Holiday Park	1032		1332		1732	
Warren Bay Holiday Village	1033		1333		1733	
Watchet West Somerset Railway	1040		1340		1740	
Doniford Haven Holiday Camp	1050		1350		1750	

daily

from 1 November 2021

Price	Price	Price
1110	1410	1710
1119	1419	1719
1128	1428	1728
1135	1435	1735
1145	1445	1745
1151	1451	1751
1154	1454	1754
1205	1505	1805
1207	1507	1807
1210	1510	1810

- onward connections guaranteed
- these journeys are scheduled to be run with an open-top bus, but a closed-top bus may be substituted if the weather is poor



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.



Lynmouth's Lifeboat Heroes

On the night of 12 January 1899, the *Forrest Halls* was sailing from Bristol to Liverpool with 13 crew and 5 apprentices. The stormy weather threatened to run the ship ashore at Porlock. It had been under tow, but the cable had snapped and the rudder washed away in the strong winds. Lynmouth Lifeboat Station received the SOS telegram at 7.52pm

The ferocity of the storm meant the lifeboat could not put out to sea. Coxswain Jack Crocombe proposed the lifeboat be carried overland and launched from the more sheltered Porlock Weir. This was a 13-mile journey which included a quarter gradient climb of 1,400 feet over Countisbury Hill and a trek across Exmoor.

Around 100 local people gathered to haul the *Louisa*, 10m long and weighing 10 tons, aided by 18 horses. Six men were sent ahead with shovels to widen parts of the road.

The men finally reached the sea at 6.30am after a nearly 11-hour journey. Tired and hungry, they immediately launched the boat, reaching the *Forrest Hall* an hour later.

This courageous endeavour eventually enabled all the seamen to be rescued. This still stands as one of the most challenging feats undertaken in RNLI history.

The overland journey was re-enacted in daylight on 12 January 1999 to commemorate its centenary. Although the roads had improved, the weather was almost as poor as it was in 1899!

have an adventure by bus on one of these other spectacular rides

OPEN TOP **Atlantic Coaster**
Bluff headlands and blissful beaches all the way down the Atlantic Coast between Padstow, Newquay and St Ives.

Dartmoor Explorer
A scenic ride over the wild moorland landscapes of Dartmoor from Plymouth or Exeter.

OPEN TOP **Discover Exeter**
See the sights of this cathedral city from an open-top bus.

OPEN TOP **Falmouth Coaster**
The best way to see Falmouth and Pendennis Castle from a whole new perspective.

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

OPEN TOP **the Lizard**
Explore the beautiful scenery, wonderful beaches and rugged coves of the Lizard peninsula.

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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!

first adventurer £12

extra adventurers with you £6 each

ticket lasts all day

buy on our app
or pay the driver
on the day

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.

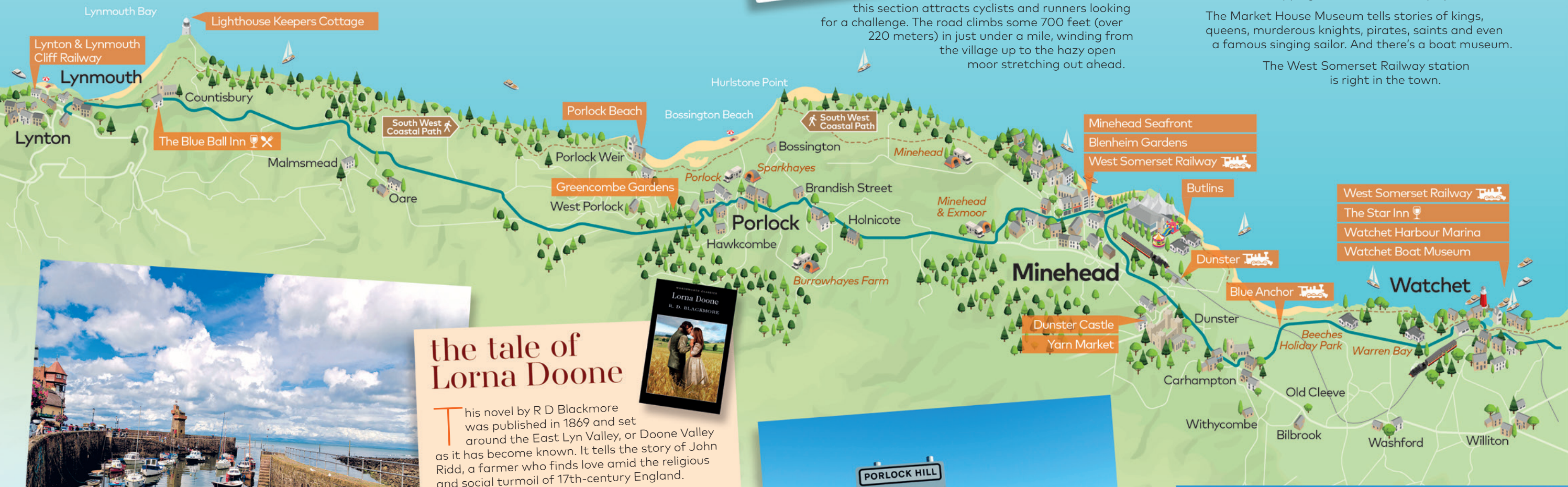
WATCHET

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.

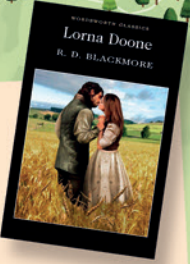


the tale of Lorna Doone

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.



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.

