

Local Information



SWANDOWN at Cricket St Thomas

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Local Information

Information on the Area

We have put together some helpful information in the pages that follow but there is also an interactive map of things to do in the area on our website www.swandown.net/location

On the board in Reception is a summary of some leaflets of local attractions and their distance from Swandown, as well as takeaways in Chard.

Tourist Information Office - Chard

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset, TA20 1PP

Phone: 01460 260051

Web: www.visitsomerset.co.uk/explore-somerset/information-centres

Towns and Cities by Distance (approximate)

Chard – 4 miles

Yeovil – 14 miles

Weymouth – 34 miles

Crewkerne – 4 miles

Bridport – 16 miles

Exeter – 35 miles

Ilminster – 5 miles

Honiton – 18 miles

Bath – 48 miles

Axminster – 10 miles

Sherborne – 19 miles

Bournemouth – 54 miles

Beaminster – 12 miles

Taunton – 19 miles

Salisbury – 60 miles

Lyme Regis – 14 miles

Dorchester – 25 miles

Bristol – 60 miles

Taxis

Woods Taxis (24 Hr)

Phone: 07729 563033

BW Taxis

Phone: 01460 53400

Crewkerne Taxis

Phone: 01460 210007

Buses

Stagecoach 99A

Chard to Yeovil (via Crewkerne). Bus stops at Cricket St Thomas Entrance and the Windwhistle Inn.

Web: www.stagecoachbus.com

Train Stations

Crewkerne Station

TA18 8AL (5 miles)

Axminster Station

EX13 5PF (10 miles)

Taunton Station

TA1 1QP (19 miles)

Airports

Exeter

EX5 2BD (31 miles)

Bristol

BS48 3DY (50 miles)

Southampton

SO18 2NL (79 miles)

Local Information

Local Shopping

Winsham Village Shop

Pop in to the bakery for a fresh loaf or for an ice cream with the children and walk to the park to enjoy them. Lovely local village shop with fresh fruit and veg, bakery, dairy products, cards and presents.

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Winsham TA20 4JA

Phone: 01460 30225

Supermarkets

Tesco

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 2LW

Phone: 0345 677 9141

Distance: 5 miles

Postcode: Ilminster TA19 0BQ

Phone: 0345 675 7060

Waitrose

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Crewkerne TA18 8DA

Phone: 01460 72470

Sainsbury's

Distance: 4.5 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 2DN

Phone: 01460 704100

Co-op

Crewkerne: 4 Miles

Lidl

Chard and Crewkerne: 4 Miles

Bakeries

The Village Bakery

An artisan baker, baking bread for over 150 years to traditional recipes. One of the oldest continuous bakeries in the country and proud of its tradition and heritage. There are 3 main shops in Evershot, Chard and Beaminster. The Chard shop has a full tea shop to compliment their baked goods on sale with sandwiches, barista style coffee, fine teas, soft drinks and other snacks.

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 2AH

Phone: 01460 63305

Web: www.evershotbakery.com/chard-shop

Mortimers

Drop in to pick up some more-ish breads, savouries, cakes, treats and much more.

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1PH

Phone: 01460 261159

Web: www.mortimersbakery.com

Local Information

Butchers

Complete Meats

High quality meat sourced from local farms with a focus on animal welfare and low food miles. Online ordering and delivery available.

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1PH

Phone: 01460 65828

Web: www.completemeats.co.uk

Barleymow's Farm Shop, Restaurant and Florist

With such a large range of quality local food on offer there is something to tempt all palates and purses including the mighty Somerset faggot! For the children there is ice cream, a big outdoor playing area, a smaller play area in the restaurant and activities throughout the year. The restaurant serves delicious home cooked food, made from local ingredients, including hot meals, cakes and snacks.

Distance: 5 miles

Postcode: TA20 3PS

Phone: 01460 62130

Web: www.barleymowsfarmshop.co.uk

Florists

Floweringi

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 2AX

Phone: 01460 66200

Web: www.floweringi.co.uk

Rodfords (Interflora)

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Crewkerne TA18 7LG

Phone: 01460 72584

Web: www.rodfordstheflorist.co.uk

Cottage Flowers

Distance: 7 miles

Postcode: Ilminster TA19 9PY

Phone: 01460 53020

Web: www.cottageflowersandmore.co.uk

Chard Leisure Centre

Swimming pool, children's softplay and café.

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1GR

Phone: 01460 315007

Web: www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/centres/chard-leisure-centre/

Local Information

Outlet Shopping

Clarks Village Outlet Shopping

Clarks Village is located within the green heart of Somerset, offering over 90 coveted brands with up to 60% off RRP, as well as landscaped gardens, an outdoor adventure play park, delicious diversions with restaurants, cafés and grab and go kiosks; and an unbeatable atmosphere.

Distance: 25 miles

Postcode: Street BA16 0BB

Web: www.clarksvillage.co.uk

Restaurants, Pubs & Waffle House

Windwhistle Inn – Temporarily Closed from 30/09/2022

This Pub is just a short walk from Swandown where you can enjoy a cosy home cooked meal served in the traditional Horse Shoe bar, in front of a roaring fire, or if the weather suits, sit in the mature gardens with a real ale and Stilton Ploughman's looking at the fantastic view over the Somerset Levels.

Distance: ¼ mile

Postcode: Cricket St Thomas TA20 4DQ

Phone: 01460 30229

Web: www.windwhistleinn.co.uk

Cricket St Thomas Golf Club Restaurant

A great bar menu featuring home cooked pies, curries & breakfasts to fresh cut sandwiches & toasties, there really is an option for all. With fantastic views over the golf course it really is a relaxing place to sit and unwind whether it be for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Distance: less than 1 mile

Postcode: Cricket St Thomas TA20 4DG

Phone: 01460 30231

Web: www.cricketstthomasgolfclub.co.uk/food

Lord Poulett Arms

You can dine in the board and flagstone bar complete with hanging hops, antique oak tables and ladder back chairs, or venture out to the wisteria covered, ancient walled herb garden. You can even eat under the apple tree in the neighbouring meadow. As well as a homely lunch there is a daily gourmet baguette. In the evening expect local regional dishes of West Bay mackerel and poached rhubarb tart, pigeon breast, parsnip puree and game chips or locally sourced chargrilled steaks and catch of the day.

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Hinton St George TA17 8SE

Phone: 01460 73149

Web: www.lordpoulettarms.com

Local Information

Dinnington Docks

Formerly known as the Rose & Crown, this traditional village pub on the old Fosse Way has been licensed for over 250 years. It is an old-fashioned country local, good cheery atmosphere, unspoilt and unfussy, with good choice of inexpensive genuine home cooking and local beers and farm ciders. A perfect stop off after walking the local footpaths, with a log fire, friendly attentive staff and memorabilia to bolster the myth that there was once a railway line and dock here.

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Dinnington TA17 8SX

Phone: 01460 52397

The Bath House Hotel and Restaurant

Natural colours and chic furnishings make the elegant restaurant the perfect place for lunch or dinner. The chef sources top quality, local ingredients to create tempting and innovative dishes. They offer the comforting familiarity of Great British classics together with meals which have an Asian or European focus. All the food is freshly cooked to order on the premises.

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 2AH

Phone: 01460 67575

Web: www.bathhouse-hotel.uk

The Cotley Inn

Nestled on the Cotley estate, on the side of a hill at the foot of the Blackdown hills, you'll find the Cotley Inn buried among some of the best views around. This relaxed pub is the perfect place for long lunches, sumptuous suppers and proper beers. Find a sunny corner on our south west facing terrace and relax with a G&T, or put your feet up next to the fire after a long walk in the woods. Whatever the season, their award-winning food will ensure no one goes hungry. Treat yourself to a lavish three course meal or enjoy some proper pub favourites. The Blackdown Hills' best kept secret. Allow dogs.

Distance: 6 miles

Postcode: Wambrook TA20 3EN

Phone: 01460 62348

Web: www.cotleyinnwambrook.co.uk

The Tytherleigh Arms

This 16th-century coaching inn on the borders of Devon, Dorset and Somerset still retains plenty of original features, including beamed ceilings and huge fires, which makes a lovely setting if you are popping in for a pint of Branoc ale, or making a beeline for the daily-changing menu. Local produce drives the menu, whether it's potted Lyme Bay crab, home-made West Country burger or Tytherleigh fish pie topped with Somerset cheddar mash.

Distance: 6 miles

Postcode: Tytherleigh EX13 7BE

Phone: 01460 220214

Web: www.tytherleigharms.com

Local Information

The Five Dials Inn

'The Dials' is a popular village pub, busy restaurant and comfortable 'home from home'. Nestling on the leeward edge of the Blackdown Hills in South Somerset, The Five Dials Inn is very close to East Devon and West Dorset. On the menu board you will find traditional pub food given a contemporary twist by the talented chef who likes to concentrate on simple and unpretentious flavours. Every day the specials board has something new for you to savour and for those of you who love fish and chips nothing compares with their 'Otter' beer battered haddock with utterly delicious triple cooked chips.

Distance: 9 miles

Postcode: Horton TA19 9QQ

Phone: 01460 55359

Web: www.thefivedials.co.uk

Winyard's Gap Inn

This Inn is a traditional family owned English pub set in the picturesque Dorset countryside. It boasts a spacious beer garden with the most beautiful views of the surrounding unspoilt rural area. It has a stylish restaurant that can easily seat 60 people and in the comfortable bar you can enjoy real ales, ciders, fine wines and a large range of spirits.

Distance: 9 miles

Postcode: Chedington DT8 3HY

Phone: 01935 891244

Web: www.winyardsgap.com

Axminster Community Waffle House

Open Tuesday to Saturday, eat in or take away, no need to book. A great place to visit for the whole family, sweet or savoury waffles, coffee, milkshakes, juices. Using a secret family recipe they make their own Belgian waffles from scratch, on site every day.

Distance: 10 miles

Postcode: Axminster EX13 5AP

Phone: 01297 34694

Web: www.waffle.org.uk

River Cottage Kitchen & Shop

Celebrity Chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage Kitchen is a dog friendly venue and a casual space to drop by for breakfast, lunch, drinks and cakes. Incredible views, seven days a week, as well as a small store area where you can buy River Cottage products and books.

Distance: 13 miles

Postcode: Trinity Hill, Axminster EX13 8TB

Web: www.rivercottage.net

Local Information

Brassica Restaurant

The menu is produce-led using seasonal food grown, raised, caught or collected in Dorset and the South West. The modern European dishes change daily and the menu has been designed to encourage an informal way of eating: people can share main courses, order a selection of starters or just pop in for a glass of wine and a plate of charcuterie.

Distance: 12 miles

Postcode: Beaminster DT8 3AX

Phone: 01308 538100

Web: www.brassicarestaurant.co.uk

Hix Oyster and Fish House

World renowned local chef Mark Hix's restaurant boasts stunning views of Lyme Harbour and the Jurassic Coast from the light and airy dining room. His focus is on sourcing and serving the best British seafood, doing as little to it as possible so you can enjoy the real flavour of great British ingredients. A daily changing menu features delights such as whole cooked Dorset crab, grilled lemon sole and monkfish cheek curry. Booking recommended.

Distance: 14 miles

Postcode: Lyme Regis DT7 3JP

Phone: 01297 446910

Web: www.hixoysterandfishhouse.co.uk

Popular Restaurants and Pubs Further Away

Summer Lodge

Distance: 14 miles

Postcode: Evershot DT2 0JR

Web: www.summerlodgehotel.co.uk

The Anchor Inn

Distance: 17 miles

Postcode: Seatown DT6 6JU

Web: www.theanchorinnseatown.co.uk

Riverside

Distance: 18 miles

Postcode: West Bay DT6 4EZ

Web: www.thefishrestaurant-westbay.co.uk

The Willow Tree

Distance: 18 miles

Postcode: Taunton TA1 4AR

Web: www.thewillowtreerestaurant.com

The PIG at Combe

Distance: 23 miles

Postcode: Honiton EX14 3AD

Web: www.thepighotel.com/at-combe

Lloyds Kitchen

Distance: 35 miles

Postcode: Exeter EX1 1EU

Web: www.lloydskitchen.co.uk

Sienna

Distance: 43 miles

Postcode: Dorchester DT1 1UP

Web: www.siennadorchester.co.uk

Local Information

Takeaway Food (see menus in the brochure pack or reception)

Domino's Pizza (delivers)

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1EP

Phone: 01460 66171

Web: www.dominos.co.uk/chard

Spice Villa (delivers)

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1QF

Phone: 01460 66018

Danny's Garden – Fish, Chips and Chinese takeaway

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1HG

Phone: 01460 63693

Liza Tandoori Indian Restaurant and Takeaway

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1PT

Phone: 01460 66506

May Flower Chinese Takeaway

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1QF

Phone: 01460 68008

Chillies Indian Restaurant and Takeaway

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1QF

Phone: 01460 68828

Pejay's Fish and Chicken Bar

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Crewkerne TA18 8AZ

Phone: 01460 77886

Kebab and Pizza House

Distance: 5 miles

Postcode: Ilminster TA19 9AA

Phone: 01460 259103

Local Information

Must Sees (check with venues for opening times)

Cricket St Thomas Lakes and Gardens

Take a stroll in one of Somerset's most beautiful valleys with 46 acres of Grade II* Listed parkland, picturesque gardens, seven cascading lakes, woodland trails and spot the playful bronze sculptures dotted around. Designs for the lakes and gardens have been inspired by recently discovered documents from 1895 and 1919, so when you step in gardens, you'll be experiencing this fabulous estate as it was in times gone by. The Gardens perfectly complement the stately grandeur of the old house (as featured in the famous BBC comedy sitcom - To The Manor Born). The water Garden and Grotto with its sculptural rocks and water features was designed by Chelsea Flower Show award winner Kate Gould.

Distance: 1 mile

Postcode: TA20 4BZ

Phone: 0146030111

Perry's Cider Mills and Museum

Only 3 miles away, experience traditional Somerset cider making (and sample the produce). Explore the 16th Century thatched barn where visitors are welcome to amble leisurely around a large collection of cider-making and farming equipment of yesteryear. The barn also houses a twin cider press where cider continues to be made every autumn. The farm shop sells gifts, local food, drink and naturally cider.

Distance: 3 miles

Postcode: TA19 0NY

Phone: 01460 55195

Web: www.perryscider.co.uk

Forde Abbey

Forde Abbey is a beautiful 900 year old monastery set in one of the greatest gardens in the West Country where you can stand beside England's tallest powered fountain. There is a plant centre, gift shop and delicious lunches and teas served in the Undercroft Tearoom. Take a tour of the Abbey and imagine how it looked from its mediaeval beginnings to the present day, it is one of the most fascinating buildings and gardens in the country.

Distance: 3 miles

Postcode: TA20 4LU

Phone: 01460 221290

Web: www.fordeabbey.co.uk

Barrington Court (National Trust)

A true gem – an empty Tudor manor house with beautiful gardens and lots of hidden quirks, including an arboretum and a restaurant serving fruit and vegetables which are grown on site, as well as home brewed cider! Entry fees apply for non-National Trust members.

Distance: 7 miles

Postcode: TA19 0NQ

Phone: 01460 241938

Web: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/barrington-court

Local Information

Ham Hill

Ham Hill is a 390 acre country park centred on an Iron Age hill fort with fantastic views of the Somerset countryside. It is a site of Special Scientific Interest and a fascinating place to explore full of history, geology, flora and fauna, fantastic for letting the children run around and walking the dog. Besides nature's treats set amongst the ramparts and quarry pits, visitors can discover a stone circle, War Memorial and the Prince of Wales pub, so there is something for all.

Distance: 11 miles

Postcode: (Pub) TA14 6RW

Phone: (Pub) 01935 822848

Web: www.southsomersetcountryside.com/ham-hill-country-park

Web: (Pub) www.princeofwaleshamhill.co.uk

Montacute House (National Trust)

Montacute House is a stunning Elizabethan property, built in the late 16th century with beautiful formal gardens and parkland. The Long Gallery, the longest of its kind in England, displays more than 60 of the finest Tudor and Elizabethan portraits from the National Portrait Gallery collection. The state rooms display a fine range of period furniture and textiles. Montacute's formal gardens are perfect for a stroll and include a collection of roses, mixed borders and famous wobbly hedges. Waymarked walks lead around the wider estate, which encompasses St Michael's Hill.

Distance: 12 miles

Postcode: TA15 6XP

Phone: 01935 823289

Web: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/montacute-house

Lyme Regis

The Pearl of the Jurassic Coast, Lyme Regis has it all - breath-taking scenery, moody blue cliffs where you can search for fossils, sandy beaches, swimming, fishing, water sports and much more. Take a walk along the Cobb – the magnificent curving harbour wall where Meryl Streep stood in The French Lieutenant's Woman and visit the Marine Aquarium where you can discover the local fish and marine life of the Jurassic coast and learn about Lyme's maritime history. You may just like to amble through the pretty town, where Jane Austen used to stay.

Distance: 14 miles

Postcode: TA15 6XP

Web: www.lymeregis.org

West Bay

Forming part of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, West Bay's imposing sandstone cliffs and nearby Golden Cap provide opportunities for wonderful coastal and countryside walks. Also on offer are fishing, scuba diving, paragliding, golf and river boating, and all within one and half miles of the historic market town of Bridport. The cliffs of West Bay will be recognisable from the BAFTA award winning television series Broadchurch. The Watch Hose Café is a great spot at West Bay to stop for breakfast, lunch or tea. You can watch your pizza being cooked in the wood fired pizza oven or just pop in to pick up an ice cream to enjoy on the beach.

Distance: 17 miles

Postcode: DT6 4EN

Phone: 01308 459330

Web: www.watchhousecafe.co.uk

Local Information

Days Out (check with venues for opening times)

Ferne Animal Sanctuary

Ferne Animal Sanctuary care for over 300 animals at their beautiful 52 acre site including pigs, chickens, chinchillas, birds, goats, rabbits, ferrets, tortoises and horses. They have a beautiful nature trail with several pretty ponds and fun children's play areas.

Distance: 8.5 miles

Postcode: TA20 3DH

Phone: 01460 65214

Web: www.ferneanimalsanctuary.org

Axe Valley Wildlife Park

Over 50 species of animals! The Axe Valley Wildlife Park is a great family day out, where you can see a variety of birds and mammals; from tiny chipmunks to the zebras. Go and meet Wren and Rascal, the famous hand-reared meerkats or see the tree porcupines climbing high in their own tree!

Distance: 11 miles

Postcode: EX13 7RA

Phone: 01297 34472

Web: www.axevalleypark.co.uk

Fleet Air Arm Museum

Step aboard the carrier exhibition and explore the role of the Royal Navy's flying arm at one of the South West's premier attractions. Interactive displays, an extensive collection of Royal Navy boat models, Concorde and a viewing area to watch military aircraft from. A great day out whatever the weather. For kids and big kids alike.

Distance: 17 miles

Postcode: BA22 8HT

Phone: 01935 840565

Web: www.fleetairarm.com

Clay Pigeon Raceway

One of the best Kart circuits around – it can be awesomely fast and is set in one of the most beautiful parts of the country. Definitely worth a visit but do book ahead! (Minimum age 14). If you did not get enough kicks in the karts try the clay pigeon shooting ground right next door. (see below)

Distance: 17 miles

Postcode: DT2 9PW

Phone: 01935 83713

Web: www.claypigeonraceway.com

Local Information

Haynes Motor Museum

The prestigious Haynes International Motor Museum at Sparkford offers an excellent day out for everyone. With more than 400 cars and bikes on display, dating from 1886 to the present day, it is the largest international motor museum in Britain. Enjoy a delicious freshly made snack or meal in the Café 750 or treat yourself to a traditional West Country high tea or cream tea. There is an outdoor play area and a purpose built children's activity area which features two zones for juniors and toddlers. A great attraction suitable for all ages whatever the weather.

Distance: 19 miles

Postcode: BA22 7LH

Phone: 01963 440 804

Web: www.haynesmotormuseum.com

Pecorama

Gardens, Games and Trains - A family day out that everyone enjoys. Climb on board the enchanting little train that takes you on a mile long ride through flower filled gardens with stunning views, steep-sided cuttings and a long dark tunnel! Relax in the themed garden "rooms", seek out the Secret Garden and enjoy the glorious views across Lyme Bay to Portland Bill. Children's activity areas feature play equipment ranging from toddler's swings to the Pirate Ship, cable slide and challenging climbing frame, while adults can try their skill and stamina on the Crazy Golf and Fitness Trail. The Top Spot Garden Theatre hosts a variety of summer entertainment. Jesters, clowns and magicians perform, whatever the weather, under cover of a big top. Pecorama really is the family friendly place to visit!

Distance: 19 miles

Postcode: Beer, EX12 3NA

Phone: 01297 21542

Web: www.pecorama.info

The Donkey Sanctuary

The Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth, Devon is open 365 days a year, and is set along the beautiful and historic Jurassic Coast. Meet some of the 500 Donkeys at Sidmouth, discover their unique characters and stories. Cuddle their main yard donkeys, find the gentle giant Poitou donkeys or spot a miniature in one of the fields. On site they have a gift shop, restaurant/refreshments, picnic areas, a nature centre, a wild sanctuary, a maze, walking trails, treasure hunts and guided tours.

Distance: 22 miles

Postcode: EX10 0NU

Phone: 01395 578222

Web: www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/visit-us/sidmouth

Escot

Explore the woodlands, playgrounds and Beech Hedge maze. Test your nerve on the Forest Dropslide and meet the otters, wild boar and red squirrels. Children will love the indoor play barn and everyone will enjoy excellent home-cooked lunches and snacks in the Coach House Restaurant.

Distance: 24 miles

Postcode: EX11 1LU

Phone: 01404 822188

Web: www.escot-devon.co.uk

Local Information

Abbotsbury Swannery, Subtropical Gardens and Children's Farm

Set on the lagoon behind the famous Chesil Beach, protecting it from Lyme Bay's harsh conditions, the Swannery is the only place in the world where you can walk amongst a nesting colony of mute swans. Dating back to at least 1393, there can be over 600 swans here at any time. Be sure not to miss out on cygnets hatching in the spring. The Garden is a mixture of formal and informal flowers, world famous for its Camellia groves and magnolias. On the Children's Farm There are lots of animals for the children to meet, greet and feed. Children can cuddle the guinea pigs, ride the ponies, race the tractors, play in the large undercover play area, jump around on the bouncy castle and bottle feed the lambs. The family cafe offers local Dorset produce cooked on site and the gift shop has a charming range of quality gifts.

Distance: 27 miles

Postcode: DT3 4JG

Phone: 01305 871858

Web: www.abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk

Weymouth Sea Life Adventure Park

You'll have an amazing day out at both above and below the ocean, at the indoor and outdoor Park! Over 1,000 incredible creatures from sharks and sea turtles to seals, penguins and rays! Jump aboard 5 rides, explore the sensory garden or get wet in the splash zone and pool! 53m panoramic Jurassic Skyline giving you unrivalled views of the coastline. There are feeding times and events for even more fun throughout the year.

Distance: 33 miles

Postcode: DT4 7SX

Phone: 0871 423 2110

Web: www.sealifeweymouth.com

Crealy Adventure Park

Explore your way around the park, encountering animals of all shapes and sizes. Plenty of outdoor and indoor entertainment including super slides, aerial walkways, mazes, log flumes, roller coasters and much more fun for all the family. Check opening times before setting off.

Distance: 35 miles

Postcode: EX5 1DR

Phone: 01395 233 200

Web: www.crealy.co.uk

Monkey World

Open throughout the year, Monkey World is a sanctuary for primates under threat from smuggling and abuse. The centre houses orang-utans, chimpanzees, lemurs and many more species, as well as offering plenty of activities to keep the whole family entertained.

Distance: 36 miles

Postcode: BH20 6HH

Phone: 01929 462537

Web: www.monkeyworld.org

Local Information

Clip 'n Climb Exeter

The vertical playground for anyone aged 4years or over. With the range of challenges within our climbing arena its guaranteed healthy & challenging fun for everyone. Test your resolve and determination on the Inflated, reach dizzying heights on Cloud 9, balance your way up the stairway to heaven or reach for the stars on Astroball – these are just a few of the challenges. With 26 walls to try there is a challenge for all abilities, and for the truly brave – dare you take the leap of faith?

Distance: 37 miles

Postcode: EX2 8AX

Phone: 01392 422 559

Web: www.clipnclimbexeter.co.uk

The Tank Museum

The world's best collection of tanks. Exhibitions tell the story of armoured warfare from World War One to the present day. As you explore the Museum's six large halls you will come face to face with vehicles that have seen action in all the major wars of the 20th Century and hear first-hand accounts from those who fought in them. This unique collection of over 300 vehicles including the world's first ever tank - Little Willie, the feared German Tiger tank and the modern Challenger 2.

Distance: 39 miles

Postcode: BH20 6JG

Phone: 01929 462359

Web: www.tankmuseum.org/home

Wookey Hole Caves

Britain's most spectacular showcaves and home to the infamous Witch of Wookey. Visitors can enjoy numerous attractions at this site. A tour through the caves, the Dinosaur Valley, the last working handmade papermill in Britian, the Victorian penny Pier Arcade, the Magical Mirrors, Pirate Zap Zone and Soft Play areas and more.

Distance: 40 miles

Postcode: BA5 1BA

Phone: 01749 672243

Web: www.wookey.co.uk

Longleat

Longleat Safari & Adventure Park has been one of the UK's best-loved attractions for over 50 years. It features an extensive Safari Park which has over 15 fabulous attractions including Longleat House, one of the most stunning stately homes in Britain. The UK's no. 1 Safari Park first opened its gates to the public in April 1966; the first of its kind outside Africa. Over the years Longleat has grown to incorporate a whole range of fun-packed family attractions, including Jungle Kingdom; a newly opened multi-million pound attraction where visitors can get right up close to the animals. Other highlights include the Adventure Castle – an amazing kid's adventure playground and castle, the Longleat Hedge Maze – one of the world's longest labyrinths.

Distance: 45 miles

Postcode: BA12 7NW

Phone: 01985 844400

Web: www.longleat.co.uk

Local Information

Cinemas

Cineworld

Distance: 14 miles

Postcode: Yeovil BA20 1NP

Phone: 0871 200 2000

Web: www.cineworld.co.uk

Odeon

Distance: 19 miles

Postcode: Taunton TA1 2LP

Phone: 0871 22 44 007

Web: www.odeon.co.uk

Ten-pin Bowling

Hollywood Bowl

Distance: 13 miles

Postcode: Yeovil BA20 1NP

Phone: 0844 248 2193

Web: www.mfabowl.com/yeovil

Hollywood Bowl

Distance: 19 miles

Postcode: Taunton TA1 2LP

Phone: 0844 826 1471

Web: www.hollywoodbowl.co.uk

Local Information

Hidden Gems

Wayford Woods

A magical woodland and meadow walk, home to fairies. Down a bumpy one way track that looks like it is leading to nowhere with no sign posts, a real hidden gem. In the right season (usually end of April and beginning of May) the woods are bursting with colour with bluebells on the ground and the rhododendrons bushes in bloom. A quiet and beautiful place to walk or picnic.

Distance: 3.5 miles

Postcode: TA18 8QH

Lewesdon Hill and Pilsdon Pen

Two Iron Age hill forts on Dorset's highest peaks offering fantastic views of the Marshwood Vale, all the way to the sea.

Surrounded by woodland, Lewesdon Hill at 915 feet (279 metres) is the highest point in Dorset. It is owned by the National Trust and is the site of an Iron Age hill fort. Parts of the original ramparts are still visible and provide an excellent platform to take in the magnificent views of the Marshwood Vale and English Channel – so good in fact that it was the site for one of the Armada Beacons in 1588 to warn of the impending Spanish attack.

At 909 feet (277 meters), Pilsdon is Dorset's second highest hill. A Drurotrigian hill fort (once populated with 14 roundhouses) sits on the top of the hill offering long reaching views of the Marshwood Vale and down to the coast.

Distance: 8 miles

Postcode: South of Broadwindsor off B3162 (Lewesdon) or B3164 (Pilsdon)

Church of St Candida and Holy Cross

Hidden away in Whitchurch Canonicorum is the church of St Candida and Holy Cross, dating from 890AD and the only church in England (apart from Westminster) still to house the relics of its Patron Saint, St Wite within the church. St Wite was a martyr who died at the time of the Viking invasions and was renowned for her healing powers. The flag of St. Wite makes up part of the Dorset flag.

Distance: 12 miles

Postcode: DT6 6RQ

River Cottage HQ

Television chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage HQ offers events and courses throughout the year, with the focus on local and ethical produce. Check the website for courses, availability and booking.

Distance: 13 miles

Postcode: EX13 8TB

Phone: 01297 630302

Web: www.rivercottage.net

Local Information

Bridport's vintage and antique quarter

Explore Bridport's hidden gem – the vintage and antique quarter in the Old Rope Yards of St. Michaels Trading Estate. There's something for everyone here, including furniture, clothing and vintage vinyl, and from March to October on the last Sunday of the month, the open air antique market springs up – full of bargains and colourful characters.

Distance: 16 miles

Postcode: DT6 3RR

Seaton

Hidden at the mouth of the unspoilt Exe Valley, Seaton's mile long beach is excellent for water sports, from sailing and swimming to diving and windsurfing. Seaton's unique tramway runs inland to the medieval market town of Colyton and is perfect for birdwatchers, transport enthusiasts or those who simply want to watch the beautiful riverside scenery glide by. Next to the tramway is the new Seaton Marshes Nature Reserve with viewing hides and wheelchair-friendly paths.

Distance: 16 miles

Postcode: EX12 2TB

A Typical Day Out (suggestions)

Day 1

A morning walking or cycling around the Cricket St Thomas Estate.

Lunch at the Windwhistle Inn

In the afternoon the adults can unwind whilst the children play on the Adventure Trail and have a splash in the Swandown Indoor Pool

An evening meal at the Lord Poulett Arms

Day 2

A morning at the Axe Valley Wildlife Park

Lunch at the River Cottage Kitchen in Axminster

The afternoon at Lyme Regis to walk along the Cobb and along the beach to the Ammonite Graveyard

An evening at The Cotley Inn

Local Information

Day 3

A morning at Montacute House and Gardens

Lunch in the Prince of Wales at Ham Hill Country Park

The afternoon at the Fleet Air Arm Museum

Day 4

A morning at Perry's Cider Museum

Lunch at one of the many cafes in Ilminster

The afternoon at Barrington Court or Haynes Motor Museum

The evening at Taunton Hollywood Bowl or Odeon Cinema

Day 5

A morning visiting Forde Abbey Historic House and Gardens

Lunch at The Tytherleigh Arms

The afternoon at Pecorama

Day 6

A morning walk to the top of Lewesdon Hill or Pilsdon Pen

Lunch at the Brassica Restaurant in Beaminster

The afternoon at West Bay or Abbotsbury to explore the Jurassic Coast

Local Information

Hospitals, Doctors, Dentist and Police

Hopefully you will be able to avoid having to use this information but just in case.

Chard Community Hospital

The Minor Injuries Unit operates a Nurse Led Treatment Centre seven days a week 9.00 - 21.00 hrs. This hospital has 20 beds where patients can be admitted under the care of local GPs. There is a team of nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists.

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1NF

Phone: 01460 238220

Yeovil District Hospital

Accident and Emergency open 24/7. Yeovil District Hospital in Yeovil town centre has good road and rail links and is close to facilities. All services are provided on one easily accessible site. The Trust provides a full range of services.

Distance: 14 miles

Postcode: Yeovil BA21 4AT

Phone A&E: 01935 384355

Phone Switchboard: 01935 475122

Musgrove Park Hospital Taunton

Accident and Emergency open 24/7. Musgrove Park Hospital Taunton is the largest acute hospital in Somerset with a number of on-site services including shops, cafes and restaurants.

Distance: 19 miles

Postcode: Taunton TA1 5DA

Switchboard: 01823 333444

Doctors

Essex House Medical Centre

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1QA

Phone: 01460 65046

Springmead Surgery

Distance: 4.5 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 2EW

Phone: 01460 63380

Dentist

Chard House Dental Practice

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 1FA

Phone: 01460 67022

Police

Chard Police Station

Distance: 4 miles

Postcode: Chard TA20 2DA

Phone: 101