**WHAT TO DO WHILST YOU ARE THERE**

Lucky you, you are going to wonderful Cornwall. We hope that you are looking forward to your holiday. There is loads to do in the area, here are a few ideas from us, others are in the wooden box in the lounge and we know you will discover your own special places too. Don’t forget to check online for opening times and booking details, as special arrangements will sometimes be in place.

* The cottage is set in an ‘Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’ the ‘Tamar Valley’ and is also part of the ‘Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape’, a World Heritage site. From the cottage you can walk to your left down the road, turn left at the playing field, cross the field, go down the steps and you are by the River Tamar. There are lots of lovely walks both on the Cornwall and Devon side of the river and ‘The Tamar Trails’ are great for walking, running & cycling. You also regularly come across evidence of historic Copper and Arsenic Mining.
* The Coast: Looe and Polperro are about 45 minutes away on the south coast and Port Isaac, Padstow, Tintagel & Bude an hour away on the north coast. These are all pretty and quaint places, but note can be packed in High Season, particularly school holidays and it will take longer to get there.
* Inland: Dartmoor is only 20 minutes or so away with lovely walks and scenery. Likewise, Bodmin Moor is in the opposite direction and can be explored.
* Shopping: Tavistock, just 5 miles away, has supermarkets (Morrison’s, Tesco’s and Lidl) on the outskirts and lots of lovely independent shops and the Pannier Market (open Tuesday- Saturday) to explore in the town centre. Callington, also 5 miles away in the opposite direction has a Tesco with fuel, but is less interesting.
* Other Places to Visit: There are lots of National Trust & English Heritage properties in the area, Lydford Gorge (NT) is stunning and great for a walk. Cotehele (also NT) is a lovely Tudor House, with gardens and a Quay & Mill. Calstock is only around 3 miles from the cottage (also a short walk from Cotehele Quay) and a pretty place to visit, have a walk round, take some photos, enjoy a drink, or in the summer an ice cream. If you fancy a trip to Plymouth, we recommend the train, free parking at Gunnislake station and around £8 each off-peak return (1/3 off if 3 or more travel together or with a rail card), plus you get a lovely scenic ride, the ticket even allows you to hop on and off at the villages along the way should you wish and time permits as the trains are not frequent! If you like to visit gardens, we thoroughly recommend ‘The Garden House’ south of Tavistock; it is beautiful and also has a good tea room! If you visit, travel to Tavistock first before using SatNav, otherwise you will be taken down some very narrow roads!!
* Gunnislake: in the village there is a post office, a shop that sells all kinds of bits and pieces, a pharmacy which is integrated into the doctor’s surgery and a convenience store plus the garage up the hill at Drakewalls has a small Asda attached. The Café in Gunnislake has reopened and I believe does ‘fast food’. There are 2 pubs in the village. We use The Rising Sun which is very friendly, serves local beer and has a beer garden with views of the valley. They serve good pub food most evenings, plus Sunday Lunches (not during peak summer months). Monday evening is Open Mic Night, which has some good local singers and music is sometimes available on Sundays 4pm-6pm and occasionally Saturday nights. There is a pub quiz on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. If you are interested, pop in for a drink early in your stay and catch up on what is happening. It is worth booking meals to avoid disappointment.
* Eating Out: If you wish to eat out, here are some suggestions (in addition to the Rising Sun) that either we or others have said are good, booking is advised of course.

The Rifle Volunteer in St Ann’s Chapel is around 2 miles away. It is possible to walk there if you are fit enough to walk up Sand Hill, but it does have a car park for those who want a less energetic excursion! They have a good variety of Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten Free dishes as well as a range of Meat/Fish meals, so cater for most tastes. In fact, we went with our friend who has an intolerance to onions, and they were very helpful as to which dishes to choose. Booking can be done on-line.

There is a fish & chip outlet next to the small Asda & petrol station in Drakewalls.

We have been told the Sunday Lunch is good at The Queen's Head in Lower Metherell, but it does get busy, so advanced booking is required.

The Ganges Restaurant in Tavistock has had the thumbs up for an Indian. They don’t have a license, so take your own alcohol if you would like a beer or glass of wine with your meal.

The Cornish Arms and Taylor’s, both in Tavistock have been recommended. They are a bit pricier, so depends on your budget. Take a look at their menus on-line to see if they suit you.

If you have been to our cottage before you may have been to The White Hart at Chilsworthy. The White Hart had been closed, but is now open again. We hope the new landlords will be successful, as this is a lovely place to enjoy a meal or pint, whilst enjoying the stunning views. We suggest if you are interested you contact them regarding what they are currently providing, as we have yet to visit.

We have recently tried two local café/restaurants for coffee/brunch/lunch, which were good. The Engine House at Compton Park near Callington and The Dartmoor Diner on the A286 south of Yelverton in Devon. So, if you are out and about during the day and don’t fancy a pub, these are good for a pitstop!

Takeaway services are available in Callington & Tavistock, but delivery services don’t usually come as far as Gunnislake.

* Tennis: The playing field has a free tennis court (2 racquets & balls are under the stairs), a children’s play park, plus plenty of room to kick a ball around. There is also a bigger play park and a leisure centre in Tavistock.
* Cycling: There are 5 local Bike Trails based on disused railway lines (minimal if any public roads) that offer flattish rides in great scenery. They mostly have cycle hire options if you don’t fancy transporting your bikes. Checkout Drakes Trail (Tavistock to Plymouth), The Granite Way (Lydford to Okehampton), The Camel Trail (Wenford Bridge to Padstow), Granite & Gears Princetown Railway route (Dartmoor) and Andy’s favourite, The Mineral Tramways (Portreath to Devoran – North to South Coast). All these are of course suitable for walking on too, especially useful when weather has been wet as footpaths can be muddy.

Any questions or problems, you have our mobile numbers.

Have a lovely time.

Andy & Debbie