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Cottage Information

Welcome to Hansel Cottage. We hope you have a wonderful holiday. We hope that you find this information helpful.

UTILITIES

Water

The water supply is from a spring higher up the hill. There is a UV filter under the kitchen sink. The light on the filter indicates it is working and is checked every week. If anyone in the group has a weak immune system or other vulnerabilities you may want to check it daily or use bottled /boiled water.

Only water from the kitchen tap is safe to drink.

Occasionally (if large baths and long showers are taken close together) the spring can not replenish the header tank quickly enough and there is no cold water in the bathrooms. When this happens the pump keeps running on. If this happens stop using the water for 30 minutes, then turn all the cold taps $\frac{3}{4}$ on. After a few minutes they will start spluttering as the replenished header tank forces air out of the system. When they are all running freely turn them off and continue to use the water as usual. Please do not leave the cottage with the taps in the open position.

The stop-cock to turn off the water in an emergency is located at the back of the cupboard under the hob in the kitchen.

Heating / hot water

The heating and hot water are pre-programmed. If you need to boost either this can be done via the controls in the dining hall. Turn the dial and click in the centre of the dial to select the required service (hot water or heating). Then turn the dial again to the desired heat level or length of time you want the hot water on. Click the centre to select. Please keep warm and use as much hot water as you need but also please be mindful of not wasting energy while you are out or if you have windows open.

The hot water is kept at 60 degrees celsius to reduce the risk of legionnaires disease. This is very hot. **Please take care when using the hot taps.**

Drains

The cottage is on a septic tank. **Only natural waste and loo paper can be flushed.** No sanitary products, wipes (including those described as flushable) or nappies should be flushed. We will have to charge you for any drain unblocking costs.



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Electricity

The fuse board is in the kitchen above the back door.

GENERAL

Neighbours

The neighbours at Hansel Cottage include people, farm animals and wildlife. Please be considerate of all of them. **In particular please keep the noise levels down after 10pm in the evening and before 8am in the morning.** The letting off of fireworks is expressly forbidden.

Smoking

The cottage has a strict no smoking policy which includes vaping.

Problems

We sincerely hope that your holiday is problem free but if any do arise please let us know as soon as possible and we will do our utmost to resolve. We can send out tradespeople and get replacement household items delivered in many cases within 24 hours so please let us know. If you have a problem in the first instance please contact:-

Tel. or WhatsApp 07886 337240

Rubbish

All Rubbish should be placed in black sacks and placed in the grey wheelie bin. There is no need to sort it as our private rubbish collection service does that and recycles everything. However everything must be in black sacks as they will not take loose rubbish. Rubbish is collected on Fridays.

Baking Equipment

This is kept in the utility room cupboards.

Emergency change of sheets

These are provided because we know children can have accidents or be unexpectedly ill. These are kept in the utility room. Please note that you must wash and dry these and return them to the same cupboard.

Baby and children equipment

The high chair and fire guards are kept in the utility room. The travel cot is in the cupboard in the large bedroom. Children's plates, bowls, cups and cutlery can be found in the pantry.



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Emergency Torches

There are six emergency torches plugged in around the house. These act as night lights and come on in the event of a power failure. Please do not remove them or allow children to play with them. They should only be removed in the event of the power cut or emergency. They do however have several different modes so if the light from them is annoying please adjust to a different mode with the side switch.

Charging electric cars

The Cottage is equipped with a dedicated 7kw EV charger located on the driveway.

It is strictly forbidden to charge your vehicle from any other electrical outlets at the property as this invalidates our insurance policy and could overload the electric system.

To use the dedicated charger, please follow these steps:

1. Plug in both ends of the charging lead. You will need to use your own Type 2 charging lead.
2. Scan the QR code below, or follow the link, to enter payment details.

As soon as payment details are accepted, your charging session will begin. Please follow these same instructions for each charging session.



<https://app.fuuse.io/pay/CS0018>

If you have any issues with getting the charging session to work, please contact Fuuse:

Telephone: 0333 050 4950



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Games and toys

A selection of board games and toys are kept in the chest of drawers in the Dining Hall and the cupboard above the coat cupboard outside the ground floor bathroom.

Locked Cupboards

There are three locked cupboards in the cottage which contain the owners' and housekeepers' belongings and supplies. There is nothing particularly exciting in any of them!

Food Shopping

The nearest shop is Slapton Community Shop based in the village hall car park. This closes at 1pm most days.

Other local shops include Stokeley Farm Shop at Stokenham and the petrol station at East Charleton.

The nearest supermarkets are Sainsburys and Lidl in Dartmouth, Tesco & Morrisons in Kingsbridge and another Morrisons in Totnes. There is also a M&S Food in Dartmouth.

Barbecue

The barbecue is located in the old hog pen adjoining the garden terrace. You will need to buy charcoal. Please leave it clean by brushing it down with the wire brush when it is still hot for the next guests to enjoy. Please note the housekeeper does not clean the barbecue. There is a set of barbecue implements in the utility room.

Outdoor furniture

The cushions are in the pigsty games room. Please do not leave these out if rain is expected as they are not waterproof.

Wifi

The wifi code is 12345678

Telephone

The landline number is 01803 906644. Please feel free to make local and national calls under one hour in length as these are free with the calling plan. Any other calls must be paid for.

Mobile Phones

There is no mobile signal at the cottage but if you walk a few yards up the road you can get one. Mobile phones can be switched to wifi calling so you can receive calls in the cottage – you will need to go into your settings to do this.

Guests are requested not to leave their phones charging overnight as it is a fire hazard.



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Hairdryers

These are provided in every bedroom.

Towels

A bath and hand towel is provided for each person. Please use your own beach towels.

Gardeners

During the growing season the gardeners may be working in the garden during your stay. They will knock on the door before starting work and will try to avoid times when you might want to enjoy the garden in peace and quiet.

Fire Action Plan in the event of a Fire

If you discover a fire please evacuate the cottage immediately and call the fire brigade on 999. You may need to walk up the lane a few metres to get mobile signal or ask one of the neighbours to call.

Please do not try to fight the fire unless someone is trapped by it.

There are three exits – the front door, the door to the parking area and the kitchen door. The closest exit to the first floor bedrooms is the front door (this is not the door you may have originally come in by from the parking area but the door in the dining hall leading to the front walled garden and white picket gate). The closest exit to the ground floor bedroom is the door leading to the parking area.

Guests with limited mobility should use the ground floor bedroom as it has the shortest emergency exit route.

Please ensure everyone in your group is familiar with the nearest fire exit before you go to sleep on your first night.

If a fire traps you upstairs retreat to the furthest bedroom and close the door to await rescue.

All the external doors have thumb turn locks and mortice (key) locks. The mortice locks should not be used at night so you can get out quickly in the event of a fire.

The fire assembly point is at the top of the drive.

Fire Safety and Prevention

The Cottage is equipped with a Fire Blanket in the kitchen and Fire Extinguishers at the top and bottom of both staircases.

The Electric Meter is located above the external Kitchen Door.

Please adhere to the Non-Smoking policy of the Cottage.

The use of Candles or any other sort of naked flame is prohibited within the Cottage.

Please follow the instructions provided in the later section for using the wood burning stoves.



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Maps & Books

There are maps and local interest books on the Dining Hall bookshelves, reference books, biographies and some novels in the Snug and more novels in other rooms. Children's books are in the small bedroom. Please return the books and maps to the shelves before you leave so others may enjoy them.

Pool table and Table Tennis table

Pool shots must be taken with care as not to scrape and rip the cloth. Please supervise small children to ensure this does not happen. Please do not move the pool or table tennis tables.

Damage

Please report any damaged or worn items so we can arrange replacements. You will not be charged for wear and tear or minor china/glass breakages.

Gardens

The walled garden (accessed through the Dining Hall Stable Door) is very sunny in the morning. It is fully enclosed.

The hillside garden accessed from the kitchen or parking area has wonderful valley views, wooded areas perfect for den building and is fully fenced for dogs. Some parts of the hillside garden are very steep. The mown paths show the easiest routes but some of these are uneven in places.

The terrace is very sunny from late morning until the sun sets. The terrace surface is uneven in places so please take care.

Please stay away from the trees in windy weather. Because of the rocky terrain, the tree roots tend to be very shallow and are prone to blowing over.

Heated Towel Rail – Downstairs Bathroom and Ensuite Shower-room

During the winter months, these towel rails are connected to the central heating system and therefore the option to heat them electrically should not be required.

To turn on the electric towel rails, there is a main fuse switch panel and a control panel outside each room. Ensure that the switch on the fuse switch panel is in the on position and press the power button until it lights up red. This activates the control panel. There is a power button on the control panel which should also be switched on and then adjust the temperature with the + and – symbols. Note that the towel rails automatically switch off at night to conserve energy.

Please switch off the electric towel-rail when not in use.



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Heated Towel Rail – Upstairs Shower-room

This towel rail is not connected to the central heating. To switch on / off please use the switch located outside of the room which is labelled. Ensure that the switch on the panel is switched to the on position and press the power button until it lights up red. Note that the towel rails automatically switch off at night to conserve energy.

Please switch off the electric towel-rail when not in use.

Check Out and Rubbish

Check out is 10am on your departure day. We would be very grateful if you could adhere to this as our housekeeper needs all day to prepare the cottage for the next guests.

Please empty the fridge and bread bin.

Please ensure all crockery, glasses and cookware are washed up or are left in the running dishwasher.

Remember to check all around the house for your belongings including hooks on the backs of doors, the downstairs coat cupboard and the utility room.

Please return books and maps to the book shelves.

If you have logged into your own Netflix, Amazon Prime or other streaming accounts, remember to log out.

All rubbish must be placed in black sacks and placed in the grey wheelie bin. There is no need to sort it as our private rubbish collection service does that and recycles everything. However everything must be in black sacks as they will not take loose rubbish.

Please check the garden and remove any dog stools (these must be placed inside a large black bin bag).

Please close all windows and lock all doors.

The keys should be left in the key safe.



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DOGS

We hope the four legged members of your family have as much fun on holiday as the two legged ones.

Please do not leave dogs unattended in the cottage.

Dog bowls and towels are in the utility room. Please wash any dog towels you use.

We would prefer dogs to be kept out of the bedrooms and off the furniture. If your dog is used to snuggling on the sofa or your bed with you, please use your own clean throws to protect the furniture and bedding. Please remove all dog stools from the garden before leaving.

There are wonderful walks all around the South Hams but there is a mainly off road route direct from the bottom garden gate. Turn left out of the gate and follow the lane straight down to the river at the bottom. Cross the bridge and follow the track up the other side of the valley. When you hit the tarmac lane turn right and follow the lane and then track along the valley and back down to the river at a second bridge. Cross the bridge and follow the track back up the hill. When you reach the junction with the lane turn left to get back to the garden gate again. The loop takes about 30-40 minutes and is very steep in places.

There is a hose on the drive that can be used to wash muddy dogs. Please only use the provided doggy towel to dry them.

Please ensure the garden gates are closed before you let your dog run around the garden. There may be sheep and other farm animals nearby.

Year round dog friendly beaches include:-

Slapton Sands and Torcross

Strete Gate – this is our favourite as it is very close, huge, usually very quiet and safely away from any roads.

Beesands

Mill Bay, East Portlemouth

Sugary Cove, Dartmouth

North Sands, Salcombe (low tide only)

South Milton Sands, Thurlestone

Bantham (low tide only)

Bigbury

We do not know of any local pubs that are not dog friendly.



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APPLIANCES

Appliance manuals

There are appliance manuals in the top drawer of the chest of drawers in the Dining Hall.

Oven

This has a grill and two ovens. On the main lower oven you need to press the clock button for the heat to start working. The main lower oven is a fan oven.

The instruction manual is in the drawer in the Dining Hall

Induction Hob

Some of the pans will not work on the induction hob. In summer when the rayburn is turned off these are put away in the utility room but can occasionally make their way back into the kitchen. If the hob control buttons flash it means the pan on that ring is not suitable for the induction hob. If you get a flashing E message it usually means the hob is too wet to use. Dry it off and try again.

The instruction manual is in the drawer in the Dining Hall

Dishwasher

The instruction manual is in the drawer in the Dining Hall

Microwave

The instruction manual is in the drawer in the Dining Hall

Coffee Machine

The instruction manual is in the drawer in the Dining Hall.

Please ensure that you only use Espresso coffee – for example Lavazza Quality Rossa. Using any other type of coffee could break the machine.

To make an espresso / Americano first ensure there is sufficient water in the vessel at the back of the machine. Top it up with tap water using a pint glass or jug. Insert the metal coffee receptacle into the espresso Arm and push it down until it clicks into place. Add espresso coffee to the desired strength and tamp it down using the plastic tamper to press the coffee down into the receptacle. The Espresso Arm can be connected to the machine by lining up the arm with the "Insert" tag and then twisting it to the right so that it aligns to the "Close" position. Turn on the machine using the power button on the right hand side and wait for it to heat up (the lights will stop flashing when it's ready). Press the single cup for a single Espresso shot, or the double cup for two Espresso shots.



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Rayburn

The electrically heated Rayburn is only switched on for winter bookings. It is left on at an ambient temperature (setting 4) on a timer throughout the day and switches off automatically overnight. At ambient temperature, the top oven is about 140 degrees celsius which is perfect for slow cooking. To turn the temperature of the oven up, open the top left hand side door and adjust the oven dial to the desired temperature. Please remember to return the setting to 4 after you have finished cooking. To use the hob, adjust the hob dial to the desired temperature. The hob lids can be left down whilst the hobs are heating up before using. Please remember to turn the hob off after use and please do not leave the hob switched on or the oven above setting 4 for any extended period of time. Please take care and use oven gloves to open and close the oven doors and hob lids whilst the Rayburn is hot.

Washing machine and Tumble dryer

These are located in the utility room. The tumble dryer is a condensing model so the water tank needs emptying between loads. The fluff from the filter also needs removing after each load. The instruction book for the washing machine is in the drawer in the dining hall.

Wood burning stove guide

To light either stove place a flatish log in the bottom (two in the dining room stove). Build a 'jenga' style tower on top of this log – see photo. Add a couple of fire lighters and light them.



In the Dining Hall - make sure the air control sliders (above and below the stove doors) are fully open and leave the door ajar for a couple of minutes. After two minutes close the door but leave the air sliders open. After the first couple of logs have burnt and the fire is going well the sliders can be closed. This makes the fire burner slower and hotter. If you need to leave the fire (perhaps going out or going to bed) open the sliders so the fire burns out quickly. Also if the fire gets too smoky open the sliders so more air can get in. **Do not touch the pole lever at the back of the stove as this will shut off the chimney flue and cause smoke to backfill into the room.**

In the Snug – The stove has two independent air controls, The Primary Air Control Lever is on the right and the Secondary Air Control Lever is on the left. Pull both fully out and leave the door



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ajar for a couple of minutes. After two minutes close the door but leave air levers out. When the first log is well alit and the fire is going well the primary air control on the right should be left at 50% out and the secondary lever on the left can be pushed in. This makes the fire burner slower and hotter. Adjustments to the speed of the burning should be made with the secondary lever on the left. If you need to leave the fire (perhaps going out or going to bed) pull the left lever fully out again so the fire burns out quickly. Also if the fire gets too smoky pull the left lever out so more air can get in. The right lever should not be left in the fully out position as it can cause the stove to overheat.

Only logs in the courtyard log store are suitable for burning. The logs stored in the garden are not seasoned and may produce toxic gases.

Please do not leave the log basket near the stoves when lit.

Electric ‘wood burning’ stove guide

The upstairs sitting room has an electric ‘wood burning’ stove. The switch on the wall to the left of the fireplace switches it on and there is another switch on the right hand side on the stove. It can be switched on with just the woodburning effect to provide atmosphere and a focal point or the electric fan heater can be also switched on to provide heat. Please do not leave the fan heater on when the room is unoccupied.

TV / DVD instructions

Normal TV: The upstairs sitting room TV can be switched on by using the LG remote. Press the top power button on this control to switch the TV on and press the GUIDE button to get the programme listings and select the channel from here.

DVD Player: To play a DVD you should simply be able to press the Eject button (on the Sony remote or on the player itself) and then insert the DVD and close the DVD tray by pressing the Eject button again. If the DVD does not automatically work, try changing the source on the LG remote by pressing the button on the right hand-side of the controller opposite the home button.

Smart Apps: Please note that you will need to login to your own Netflix or Prime Video accounts to use Smart features. Please remember to logout at the end of your stay. To use the smart tv apps you can press the home button on the LG remote and navigate to the relevant App.

Bluetooth Speakers

There are Bluetooth speakers in the main Dining Hall (above the cocktail cabinet), the Snug and in the Upstairs Sitting Room. To connect your phone or device, press the power button and wait for the tone. Then press and hold the Bluetooth button to put the speaker into pairing mode. Then go to Bluetooth settings on your Phone / device and select the speaker (which should appear as “SoundCore 2” on your device. Please do not move the speakers from their positions.



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EMERGENCY AND ILLNESS

Fire, Ambulance or Police - 999

Non emergency medical help – 111

Non emergency police – 101

Accident & Emergency – 01803 614567, Torbay Hospital, Lowes Bridge, Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Access Dental - 03330 063 300 – urgent NHS dental care (you must be in acute pain, bleeding or at risk from acute infection).

Minor Injuries – South Hams Hospital, Plymouth Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1AT 01548 852349 (not 24 hours)

Vet –South Moor Vets, Derby Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1JL Tel. 01548 852766

Vet – Selworthy Vets, Stumpy Post Surgery, Kingsbridge TQ7 4BL Tel. 01548 853322



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The Local Area

Food and Drink

There are many acclaimed pubs, cafes and restaurants in South Devon, these are a few highly recommended ones to suit different budgets.

The Tower Inn, Slapton www.thetowerinn.com

The Kings Arms, Strete kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk

The Cricket Inn, Beesands www.thecricketinn.com

Start Bay Inn, Torcross www.startbayinn.co.uk

Church House Inn, Stokenham churchhouseinnstokenham.co.uk

Blackpool Sands Cafe www.blackpoolsands.co.uk

Britannia at the Beach, Beesands britanniaatthebeach.co.uk

Trattoria Spaggia, Stoke Fleming

The Seahorse, Dartmouth seahorserestaurant.co.uk

Taylor's Restaurant, Dartmouth taylorsrestaurant.co.uk

Rockfish, Dartmouth therockfish.co.uk

Twenty Seven by Jamie Rogers, Kingsbridge 27devon.co.uk

Winking Prawn, Salcombe winkingprawnngroup.co.uk

Beachhouse, South Milton Sands beachhousedevon.com

Hope & Anchor, Hope Cove hopeandanchor.co.uk

The Cove, Hope Cove thecovedevon.co.uk

The Sloop Inn, Bantham thesloop.co.uk

Sporting Activities

There are numerous outdoor sporting activities available in South Devon but here a few suggestions:-

Wild swimming - at any beach with a life guard or known for safe swimming

Crabbing - Dartmouth, Kingsbridge & Salcombe, lines and bait can be bought from many shops in the towns.

Rock pooling – Blackpool Sands, Sugary Cove, Mattiscombe Sands, Mill Bay

Surfing - Bantham Surfing Academy banthamsurfingacademy.co.uk



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Fishing - sea and river Dartmouth www.theafricanqueen.co.uk and www.tavistocktroutfishery.co.uk (further afield but great tuition for beginners from Abigail)

Sailing - dinghy lessons available in Dartmouth and Salcombe Salcombedinghysailing.co.uk

Canoeing - family sized canoes Canoe Adventures canoeadventures.co.uk and Singing Paddles singingpaddles.co.uk

Golf -The Dartmouth Hotel thedartmouthhotel.co.uk or Thurlestone Golf Club thurlestonegolfclub.co.uk

Kayaking and paddle boarding - available to hire at Blackpool Sands (call 01803 770934 or 770209 to check availability) and South Milton Sands <http://www.surpinsam.co.uk/>

Indoor swimming - Dartmouth Leisure Centre fusion-lifestyle.com

Horse riding – Dittiscombe Equestrian Centre www.dittiscombequestrian.co.uk

Climbing and Coasteering - Adventure South www.adventuresouth.co.uk

Shopping

Slapton Village Community Shop - the nearest shop - slaptonshop.co.uk

Stokeley Farm Shop - the second nearest shop stocking a wide range of fresh produce. stokeleyfarmshop.co.uk

Kingsbridge – two supermarkets (Tesco & Morrison) and wide range of independent retailers

Totnes - renowned for independent, Fairtrade retailers with strong ethical values, Morrison supermarket

Dartmouth – several supermarkets (Sainsbury, Lidl, M&S Food & Co-op), interesting shops, boutiques and art galleries

Salcombe - boutique shops, high street brands and independent producers

Ashburton - antique shopping

Beaches

Blackpool Sands – blue flag, shingle beach, great café, paddle boards and kayaks to rent. No dogs allowed in summer.

Slapton Sands and Torcross, very scenic shingle beach (some sandy patches) with life guards in summer

Mill Bay, East Portlemouth – a family favourite, white sand, turquoise waters, a stream to dam, free parking to National Trust members, foot ferry to Salcombe nearby. Arrive by 10am on bank holidays or busy summer days to get a parking space.

Sugary Cove – at the mouth of the river Dart, a remote shingle and rock beach

Bantham – huge sandy surfing beach, plenty of parking, gourmet food vans in summer



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South Milton Sands – sandy beach with kayak and Paddleboard hire, free parking for National Trust members, popular beach café

Bigbury – stunning sandy beach, walk to Burgh island at low tide

Mattiscombe Sands – secluded sandy beach, 2km steep walk from Start Point Car Park, accessed across rocks so not suitable for very small children or those with restricted mobility.

Lannacombe Beach – arrive early to park, very remote and scenic

North & South Sands, Salcombe – great beach café at North Sands ('The Winking Prawn')

Hope Cove – scenic former fishing village with two sandy beaches

Houses and Gardens to Visit

There are several interesting houses and gardens within an easy drive

Coleton Fishacre - one for the gardeners www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Greenway - Agatha Christie's riverside house and gardens, can be reached via Steam train from Kingswear or boat from Dartmouth. Parking at the house is limited and needs to be booked in advance. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Overbeck's - stunning views of the Salcombe Estuary www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Blackpool Gardens - the secret garden next to Blackpool Sands, www.blackpoolsands.co.uk/gardens

Buckfast Abbey – Abbey (home to a community of monks) and gardens on the edge of Dartmoor. www.buckfast.org.uk

Cotehele – just over the border in Cornwall but worth the drive to see this Tudor house with medieval roots with a working mill, historic quay and beautiful garden on the estate. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Family and Other Attractions

Slapton Ley Nature Reserve– largest natural freshwater lake in the south west, the Nature Reserve is 1.5 miles long and covers over 490 acres of natural woodland, marshes and reedbed habitat, making it a wildlife haven for all types of birds and vegetation. www.sltnr.org.uk

South Devon railway – can be combined with Totnes Castle or a wander around Totnes' acclaimed independent shops. Southdevonrailway.co.uk

Dartmouth Steam railway – fantastic estuary, countryside and sea views, can be combined with boat trips and a visit to Greenway. www.dartmouthriversrail.co.uk

Pennywell Farm – family activity farm, booking in advance recommended www.pennywellfarm.co.uk

Paignton Zoo – paigntonzoo.org.uk



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Woodlands Family Theme Park – very nearby and great for mixed aged families from toddlers through to teenagers. Top tip - take dry clothes unless it's very warm!

www.woodlandspark.com

Babbacombe Model Village - dogs are welcome - www.model-village.co.uk

Kents Cavern Prehistoric Caves www.kents-cavern.co.uk

The National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth - www.national-aquarium.co.uk

Cinema – Kingsbridge, Dartmouth and Paignton- kingsbridge.merlincinemas.co.uk, theflavel.org.uk/, myvue.com

Escape room – two options in Paignton www.escape-paignton.co.uk and www.escaperoomspaignton.com

Dartmouth Castle- can be reached by ferry from the town quay or park at the Castle and visit the town by ferry. www.english-heritage.org.uk

Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth – you will need to book in advance and take photo ID www.britanniaassociation.org.uk/tours

River and Harbour Cruises from both Dartmouth and Salcombe www.visitdartmouth.uk/river-cruises/ dartmouthrailriver.co.uk and salcombeestuarycruises.co.uk

River Dart Country Park – www.riverdart.co.uk

Health Club & Spa at The Dartmouth Hotel, The-dartmouth-hotel.co.uk/Dartmouth-spa/

Totnes Castle www.english-heritage.org.uk

Splashdown Waterpark, Paignton www.splashdownwaterparks.co.uk/quaywest/

Letterboxing on Dartmoor visitdartmoor.co.uk/get-active/letterboxing dartmoorletterboxing.org

Sea N Shore rib rides, Salcombe - sea-n-shore.com

Dartmouth Outdoor swimming pool www.dartmouthoutdoorpool.com

Waves Leisure Pool, Torquay – indoor leisure pool suitable for younger children www.englishriviera.co.uk/attractions/waves-leisure-pool/

Shoalstone Seawater Pool, Brixham - shoalstonepool.com

Tinside Pool, Plymouth- further afield but considered one of Europe's finest lidos. plymouthactive.co.uk/centres/tinside-lido/

Boat hire – Dartmouth and Salcombe dartmouth-boat-hire.co.uk and whitestrandoathire.co.uk

Walking

There are many stunningly beautiful walks in south Devon. Here are a few suggestions

Short Gara Valley loop direct from cottage - Turn left out of the gate and follow the lane straight down to the river at the bottom. Cross the bridge and follow the track up the other side of the



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valley. When you hit the tarmac lane turn right and follow the lane and then track along the valley and back down to the river at a second bridge. Cross the bridge and follow the track back up the hill. When you reach the junction with the lane turn left to get back to the garden gate again. The loop takes about 30-40 minutes and is very steep in places.

Slapton Ley - walks through the nature reserve and around the Ley including board walk routes

Dartmouth Castle - loop around the headland partially on South West coast path

Gara Rock/Mill Bay - a loop around another headland close to the entrance to the Salcombe Estuary

Start Bay Lighthouse - yet another headland walk incorporating a lighthouse and sandy beach

Hope Cove/Bolberry/Soar Mill Cove - a long stretch of National Trust land offering cliff top walks, stunning views and sandy beaches

Noss Mayo - further afield but worth the drive, a headland walk that includes wild swimming opportunities with a stretch of the 19th century clifftop Revelstoke Carriage Drive

Dartmoor - hundreds of miles of off road tracks, paths and open moors to explore. Make sure you take a map, compass and wet weather gear.

Dart estuary - woodland riverside walks, see the maps in the cottage

There are numerous other suggested local routes in the guidebooks in the cottage.

Interesting Villages and Towns

Dartmouth – boats, castle, museums, shopping, pubs and restaurants

Kingsbridge – at the head of the Salcombe estuary, estuary quay, independent shops, market, pubs

Totnes – located upstream of Dartmouth on the Dart, known for its fair trade independent shops and rich history

Salcombe – known for its outstanding estuary and coastal views and as a water sports haven.

Brixham – a scenic busy working fishing port

Hallsands – a walk along the coast path takes you to remains of the original village which was destroyed by a storm in 1917.

Beesands – an unspoilt fishing village with two great food options.

Hope Cove – Inner Hope is a particularly scenic part of this old fishing village.

Slapton – regarded as one of the most beautiful villages in the South Hams. There are a couple of places you can park on the road between the village and the sea.

Burgh Island – a drive here can be made more interesting by taking the tidal road (at low tide) from Aveton Gifford to Bigbury. The Island itself can be reached by foot at low tide or tractor trailer at high tide.

Ashburton – the ‘gateway to Dartmoor’, historical town with many galleries, bookshops and antique shops.



www.hanselcottage.com

Widcombe-on-the-Moor - a pretty village on central Dartmoor, most famous for its annual Widcombe Fair.

Our Family Favourites

(but please leave your own recommendations in the Guest Book)

Cream Tea – Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove – delicious cream tea with stunning sea views
hopecove.com

Beach for Toddlers and Small Children – Mill Bay, East Portlemouth – white sandy beach with a shallow stream to dam and rock pools to explore.

Beach for Teenagers – a tie between Blackpool Sands and Bantham. Blackpool Sands offers swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding and a popular beach café. Bantham offers swimming, surfing and the 'Swosh' – swimming in a natural 'not so lazy' river that propels you at three times your normal swimming speed towards the sea, at about 2 hours before low tide head towards the dog beach to find it, wet suits recommended!

Beach for Dogs – Strete Gate beach has a relatively easy to walk gravel (rather than sinking shingle or sand) path along the back of the beach under the cliff (possibly the route of the old road to the lost 18th century village of Strete Undercliffe). Enjoy the stunning views across Start Bay and across to Start Point as well as looking out for signs of the lost village – there is supposedly the remains of a ruined cottage on the cliffside (but don't climb up to find it!). NB This is officially a naturist beach but the vast majority of people are clothed!

Family Day Out – Woodland Family Theme Park, fun for all ages from toddlers to teenagers and only 15 minutes away. Woodlandspark.com

Family Day out on the water – Canoe Adventures – the family can crew a BIG canoe (under the supervision of a skipper) and explore the Dart estuary. Pubs, shipwrecks, campfires and wildlife and ice cream stops galore! canoeadventures.co.uk

Pub for Special Occasions – Cricket Inn at Beesands, superb food.
<https://www.thecricketinn.com/>

Seafood by the Sea – Britannia at the Beach, Beesands – you can eat in the rustic café/restaurant or get takeaway to eat at the beachside picnic tables. britanniaatthebeach.co.uk

Pub with character -Tower Inn, Slapton – tucked away in a hidden courtyard, wonderful for sitting outside on warm summer evenings or in front of a roaring log fire on a winter night.
www.thetowerinn.com

Pub with a view – Kings Arms, Strete – this can be reached by 45 minute walk through quiet lanes and across fields for good food and drink. Look out for the amazing art for sale by local artists on the walls. Some of the Hansel Cottage artwork was bought from a local artist who exhibits here. kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk. The Ferry Inn at Salcombe is also a great place for a drink with a stunning view. theferryinnsalcombe.com



www.hanselcottage.com

Walk by the Sea – Bolberry Down (near Hope Cove) to Soar Mill Cove.

Local jogging route (and flat walking route) – park at Slapton Ley near the junction with the Line (the road that runs between the sea and the Ley). Head towards Torcross and after the bus stop the path drops down along the Ley. Follow this to the Torcross car park. At Torcross cross the road and follow the path back at the top of the sea barrier alongside the road. In places you may need or prefer to run in the road but you have excellent visibility and can move back onto the path when a car approaches. The loop is about 4k.

Secret Beach – Landcombe Cove. This sand and shingle beach is situated between Strete and Blackpool Sands off the coast path. Access is via very steep paths. Park at Strete and follow the coast path north.

Country House – Greenway, Agatha Christie's county home overlooking the Dart Estuary. An interesting house in a stunning position overlooking the estuary. Nationaltrust.org.uk

Garden to visit - Coleton Fishacre, this National Trust house has a stunning RHS accredited garden which offers enticing glimpses out to sea, paths that weave through glades past tranquil ponds and exotic plants that thrive in the sheltered coastal valley. Nationaltrust.org.uk

Steam Trip – Kingswear to Paignton. Estuary and sea views dartmouthriversrail.co.uk

Rainy Day Activity – Swimming at Dartmouth Leisure Centre followed by cinema or escape room in Paignton. Or alternatively the aquarium at Plymouth or ten pin bowling at Torquay.

Ice Cream Parlour – Salcombe Dairy Ice Cream Parlour, 8 The Quay, Boat Float, Dartmouth – Fantastic Ice Cream Parlour, in Dartmouth - <https://salcombedairy.co.uk>

Notorious car parks

If you are planning a trip to either Hope Cove or Bigbury-on-Sea please be aware that the car parks at both these places are notorious for fining people for mistyping their registration number, overstaying by a minute or entering the car park briefly and not buying a ticket. Don't let this put you off visiting either of these wonderful places but take care over parking!



www.hanselcottage.com

Hansel Cottage on Facebook

The Hansel Cottage Facebook Page can be found at:-

facebook.com/hanselcottagedevon

Do check-in or follow the page and share your photos and videos with us. We particularly love to see dogs playing in the garden or any exciting wildlife spots.

We use the page to share posts about local events or places that might be of interest during your holiday on an almost daily basis so do keep an eye on it throughout your stay.



www.hanselcottage.com

The History of Hansel Cottage

Hansel Cottage was built in the late 16th or early 17th century as a farm cottage for Hansel which is the farmhouse across the lane. There is believed to have been a farm at Hansel dating back to the Domesday Book of 1086 although it is not recorded by name. The oldest surviving building in the hamlet, Hansel, is believed to date back to the 13th Century.

Originally built as a three room cottage which included the adjoining Dormouse Cottage which most probably housed animals, the cottage was extended in the 18th century with the kitchen wing and the raising of the roof to allow for the upstairs bedrooms. The wing containing the ground floor bedroom, bathroom and upstairs sitting room was a late 20th century further addition.

For many centuries the cottage parking area would have been a busy and probably rather muddy farmyard with chickens, pigs, cattle and horses aplenty. The neighbouring Hansel Barn was originally a milking barn and the building which houses Hansel Cottage's utility room and games room was the pigsty.

For many centuries life in Hansel probably remained very unchanged – it was a rural farming community removed from the developments of the Industrial Revolution and even the early twentieth century by its sheer remoteness. That all changed with the advent of the second world war and in particular an announcement made on 12th November 1943 made by the Lord Lieutenant of Devon at East Allington Church. It was announced that there was to be a total evacuation of parts of six parishes in the South Hams, centred on Slapton Sands, involving 3,000 people, their possessions, farm animals and farming equipment to allow for practice assault landings. It was not able to be announced at the time but the area was chosen because of its close resemblance to the Normandy beaches where the D Day landings were to take place. The evacuation was to be complete by 20th December 1943 and was expected to last about six months.

NOTICE

The public are reminded that requisition took effect from 16th November, from which date compensation is calculated. They will not, except for special reason, be disturbed in their possession until December 21st, but from that date the Admiralty may at any time, and without prior notice, enforce their right to immediate possession. It is therefore essential that EVERY PERSON SHOULD LEAVE THE AREA BY DECEMBER 20TH.

On December 21st the supply of electricity in the area will cease. The present measures for supplying food will not be continued, but will be replaced by arrangements of a purely emergency character. The police stations will be closing during the present week.

THE INFORMATION CENTRES will remain OPEN on SUNDAY DECEMBER 19th. They will be CLOSED from DECEMBER 21st, but officers will be present at BLACKAWTON to deal with urgent matters.

The telephone numbers of the information Centres are:

BLACKAWTON Blackawton 47 and 48

STOKENHAM Kingsbridge 2386 and 2387

As from December 21st all compensation matters will be dealt with by the Admiralty at DITTISHAM COURT HOTEL. (Tel: Dittisham 31)



www.hanselcottage.com

Transport must now be taken on the date allotted except in the case of serious illness. All cases of illness which might affect removal must be immediately reported to the Information Centre.

K.G. HARPER

Ministry of Home Security

Many of the local people had never left their homes and villages before and yet in six weeks all 3,000 plus livestock, pets, belongings and equipment were moved out of the area. Many stayed with friends or relatives outside the area while farmers and their livestock doubled up on other farms.

In moved 15,000 US troops who over the next few months engaged in battle preparation often using live ammunition in their exercises.

On 28th April 1944, there was an attack on the practising forces by German 'E' boats in Start Bay. Many Americans were wounded and approximately 700 killed. There is a poignant memorial to those who lost their lives at Slapton Sands and at Torcross you can see a tank that was raised from the seabed in 1984.

The D Day landings took place in June 1944 and were a military success, which paved the way for the rehabilitation of the land and then eventual return of the residents.

It is not known exactly what happened at Hansel Cottage during this time but there was definitively military activity – the previous owner of the cottage found an American officer's revolver in the roots of a fallen tree.

Children might enjoy reading the Michael Morpurgo novel 'The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips' which is set in a farm near Slapton (possibly this very one!) during this period. There is a copy in the cottage.

Since the war the cottage has had several owners, the previous ones owning the cottage for more than forty years and making many improvements including the newer wing containing the ground floor bedroom, bathroom and upstairs sitting room.

The current owners bought the cottage in 2021 and have made further updates including installing central heating and the second upstairs shower room. Future plans include new planting schemes in the walled garden and upper part of the hillside garden and the gradual recreation of the ancient orchard that was once on the lower part of the hillside garden.