



# Plymouth & Dartmoor

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Gidleigh Park (p123)
- ➔ River Cottage Canteen & Deli (p106)
- ➔ Browns (p116)
- ➔ Royal William Bakery (p105)
- ➔ White Horse (p121)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Agaric @ Tudor House (p120)
- ➔ Horn of Plenty (p114)
- ➔ Tor Royal Farm (p118)
- ➔ St Elizabeth's House (p105)
- ➔ 22 Mill Street (p121)

## Why Go?

There may only be 10 miles between them, but Plymouth and Dartmoor feel like different worlds. In the vibrant, waterfront city of Plymouth, must-see attractions meet tempting boat trips. Add ranks of restaurants (two headed by celebrity chefs), the region's top theatre and a lively night-life and you have a compelling city break.

Then, within a 20-minute drive, there is Dartmoor National Park – a wilderness escape, where gorges cut between hills and ponies roam beside the road. Eat at one of the country's best restaurants or an ancient inn warmed by a fire. Hike, cycle or ride a horse, then doze off in a country house pile – or go wild camping beneath a sky full of stars.

Plymouth and Dartmoor couldn't be more different. We've combined them because geography makes each a springboard for the other; their contrasting natures only add to their appeal.

## When to Go

- ➔ **Easter–May** Attractions open across Dartmoor and Plymouth, the city's best boat trips re-start.
- ➔ **Jun** Butterflies surround Dartmoor's tors (exposed rocky peaks).
- ➔ **Jul–Aug** Lidos (outdoor swimming pools) in Plymouth and across Dartmoor warm up. Colour explodes in Plymouth's skies as firework firms battle to be named Britain's best. Foodies flock to the city for Flavour Fest.
- ➔ **Sep** Tradition-packed Widcombe Fair profiles Dartmoor life. The tors turn purple and yellow as heather and gorse bloom. Plymouth's Marine City Festival celebrates seafood, swimming and cinema.
- ➔ **Feb–Mar** Dartmoor's white-water rivers offer rafting and kayaking thrills.
- ➔ **5th Nov** Plymouth's entire population (it seems) heads to the Hoe for fireworks and an immense Bonfire Night pyre.

# PLYMOUTH

POP 258,700

For decades, some have dismissed Plymouth as sprawling and ugly, pointing to architectural eyesores and sometimes palpable

poverty. But the arrival of two celebrity chefs (Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Gary Rhodes) and on-going waterfront regeneration begs a rethink. Yes, the city (an important Royal Naval port) suffered WWII



## Plymouth & Dartmoor Highlights

- 1** Wandering the rooms and imagining you live at exquisite, jazz-age **Castle Drogo** (p121)
- 2** Strolling past stills and tasting a tippie at the **Plymouth Gin Distillery** (p101)
- 3** Swooping over a 165m-wide viaduct as you cycle the **Granite Way** (p124)
- 4** Savouring the scents and the blooms at the beguiling **Garden House** (p114)
- 5** Rummaging for shabby-chic antiques in the Victorian **Pannier Market** (p116) in Tavistock
- 6** Plunging into a 1930s lido for a retro dip in **Tinside Pool** (p104) in Plymouth
- 7** Feeling chilled by crimes at **Dartmoor Prison Heritage Centre** (p117) in Princetown
- 8** Scrambling over rocks to a 30m-high waterfall at exhilarating **Lydford Gorge** (p123)
- 9** Playing history detective amid the **Merrivale Stone Rows** (p117)
- 10** Catching a **Plymouth Boat Trip** (p104) and heading out for a hike around the shores of Plymouth Sound