



Plymouth & Dartmoor

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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 nightlife 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 most prestigious restaurants or at an ancient inn warmed by a fire. You can hike, cycle and ride a horse, then doze off in a country house pile – or go wild camping beneath a sky full of stars.

When to Go

➔ **Easter** Plymouth's seasonal ferries resume their runs, bringing more beaches into easy reach.

➔ **Jun** The open-air Tinside Lido opens for unheated saltwater dips.

➔ **Jul** Open-air public pools warm up; wild swimmers head for moorland rivers.

➔ **Aug** Thousands pack Plymouth's shoreline to see the spectacular British Fireworks Championships. Summer days bring plentiful hikers, and warmer nights mean more people camp wild.

➔ **Sep** Tradition-packed Widcombe Fair kicks off, tors turn purple with heather blossom.

➔ **Oct-Mar** The worst of the weather, but the best white-water kayaking season too.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Gidleigh Park (p117)
- ➔ Rock Salt (p107)
- ➔ Old Library (p116)
- ➔ River Cottage Canteen (p107)
- ➔ Horse (p117)
- ➔ Jacka Bakery (p106)

Best Views

- ➔ Plymouth Hoe (p104)
- ➔ The Barbican (p104)
- ➔ Teign Gorge (p121)
- ➔ Meldon Viaduct (p120)
- ➔ Lydford Gorge (p118)



Plymouth & Dartmoor Highlights

1 Plymouth (p104)

Delighting in a gin distillery, SUP lessons, boat trips and a 1930s lido in a vibrant waterfront city.

2 Castle Drogo (p117)

Wandering the rooms at this exquisite, jazz-age pile.

3 Granite Way (p100)

Swooping over a 165m-wide viaduct on an 11-mile cycle trail.

4 Garden House (p112)

Savouring the scents amid beguiling floral displays.

5 Wistman's Wood (p116)

Getting more than a little bit spooked in this myth-rich, moss-smothered ancient oak forest.

6 Merrivale Stone Rows (p118)

Playing history

detective amid Bronze Age remains.

7 Lydford Gorge (p118)

Scrambling over rocks to a 30m-high waterfall

8 Warren House Inn (p116)

Sinking a pint at pub beside a fire that's been lit since 1845.