

# Accessibility Guide

FREE



**Visit** *South Somerset*

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**South Somerset is a wonderful place to visit for everyone of all ages and abilities.**

To help you plan your accessible break in South Somerset, we've put together this information that we hope will help make things as easy as possible for you.

# 1. Supporting Additional Needs

Many of our brochures, guides and leaflets contain the practical information on accessibility, travel, parking and visitor facilities to help make your visit as easy as possible. You will find a selection of these and some useful trails to download on our website.

A much wider selection is also available in print from our South Somerset Visitor Information Centre at Cartgate Picnic Site on the A303 at Stoke sub Hamdon.

If you have specific enquiries relating to your stay, our information centre will be very happy to help.



01935 829333



[www.visitsouthsomerset.com](http://www.visitsouthsomerset.com)



[visit@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:visit@southsomerset.gov.uk)

## Accessible & Additional Needs Accommodation

We list a wide variety of accommodation on our website. To find suitable accommodation for your needs, please check the key facilities and features and call the accommodation directly for detailed information.



[www.visitsouthsomerset.com](http://www.visitsouthsomerset.com)

Particularly useful websites for specialist and accessible accommodation are listed below.



[www.disabledholidays.com](http://www.disabledholidays.com)



[www.tourismforall.org.uk](http://www.tourismforall.org.uk)

## 1. Supporting Additional Needs

### Mobility in South Somerset

You may need extra help to get around on your break and here in South Somerset we have the following mobility hire companies that can help you. It's also worth noting that some of the attractions do hire out wheelchairs and more robust trampers are available at Ham Hill Country Park and some of the gardens (bookable in advance). Please check directly with the individual sites for up-to-date detailed information. Shopmobility Yeovil is a scheme providing manual and powered scooters to enable people with limited mobility to shop and use other leisure facilities in Yeovil. Transportable equipment is also available for hire.



[www.yeovilshopmobility.co.uk](http://www.yeovilshopmobility.co.uk)

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Wheelchairs are available to borrow and hire from the British Red Cross.



[www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/borrow-a-wheelchair](http://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/borrow-a-wheelchair)

### Disabled Toilets

There are a number of accessible WC facilities in the South Somerset area and you can find them on the website below:



[www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/income-generation/public-conveniences](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/income-generation/public-conveniences)

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The South Somerset Visitor Information Centre at Cartgate Picnic Site sells RADAR keys for access to disabled toilets nationwide.

In addition, Changing Places are toilet and changing facilities for the disabled with restricted mobility. Further information on these facilities in South Somerset can be found on the website below:



[www.changing-places.org](http://www.changing-places.org)

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## 2. Transport



Details and help planning transport routes in South Somerset can be found at Traveline South West.



0871 200 2233



[www.travelinesw.com](http://www.travelinesw.com)

## Bus Services

The main bus companies in South Somerset are First Bus and South West Coaches. Timetables are available to download.



[www.firstgroup.com](http://www.firstgroup.com)



[www.southwestcoaches.com](http://www.southwestcoaches.com)

## Slinky Bus

Operates a demand-responsive bus service in the Chard and Ilminster and Martock and South Petherton area. Full details can be found online.



[www.travelsomerset.co.uk/slinky-services-demand-responsive-transport](http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/slinky-services-demand-responsive-transport)

## 2. Transport

### Berrys Coaches

Operates a twice-daily London Superfast Service from Taunton to London Hammersmith with local stops at Ilminster, South Petherton, Yeovil, Ilchester and Wincanton. Wheelchair accessible coaches are available but booking online in advance is essential.

Berrys also offer a day excursions and a short breaks programme.

We can also help you with bookings at our South Somerset Visitor Information Centre.

 [www.berryscoaches.co.uk](http://www.berryscoaches.co.uk)

### National Express

Operates local and national coach services. Discount Disabled Coachcards are available. For details regarding accessibility visit the website below.

 [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)

 [www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/accessibility](http://www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/accessibility)

## Rail

South Somerset has excellent rail links across the country. For timetables visit the National Rail website. Discounted Disabled Railcards are available.

 08457 484950

 [www.nationalrail.uk](http://www.nationalrail.uk)

 [www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk](http://www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk)

## Taxis

The following taxi companies have vehicles suitable for accessibility and additional needs:

### In and near Castle Cary & Wincanton:

#### Destination Travel

Earl Cottages, Lawrence Hill, Wincanton, BA9 8AB

 01963 34266

 [www.destination-travelwincanton.co.uk](http://www.destination-travelwincanton.co.uk)

### In and near Crewkerne:

#### Freeway Taxis

32 Lampreys Lane, South Petherton, TA13 5DU

 01460 242877

## 2. Transport

### In and near Langport, Martock & Ilminster:

#### BW Private Hire

18 Bowden Business Centre, Hambridge, Langport, TA10 0BP

 01458 250511

 [www.bwprivatehire.co.uk](http://www.bwprivatehire.co.uk)

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### In and near Yeovil:

#### Abba Cabs

30a Middle Street, Yeovil, BA20 1LY

 01935 431711

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#### Radio Cabs

30a Middle Street, Yeovil, BA20 1LY

 01935 426666

 [www.yeovilradiocabs.co.uk](http://www.yeovilradiocabs.co.uk)

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#### JNC Travel

24 Hawthorn Road, Yeovil, BA21 5PQ

 01935 706706

 [www.yeoviltaxi.co.uk](http://www.yeoviltaxi.co.uk)

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#### Colemans/South West Car Hire (Chauffered) Ltd

193 Ilchester Road, Yeovil, BA21 3BQ

 01935 706706

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## Parking for Blue Badge Holders

For all the information about parking with your blue badge, please refer to your booklet that would have been issued with the badge. We encourage you to check the on street signs for any restrictions that may be in place when visiting our area.

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For a full list of car parks in the area, visit the website below.

 [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/parking/our-carparks](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/parking/our-carparks)

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A useful town guide of Yeovil is also available to download for free. See website below.

 [www.yeovil.gov.uk](http://www.yeovil.gov.uk)

### 3. Accessible Places To Visit





### 3. Accessible Places to Visit

**South Somerset offers many things to see and do with varying levels of accessibility. Some of the attractions have specially adapted mobility transport to help you explore their gardens and landscapes; all the information you need to plan your visit can be found on their website, on their accessibility statement or by calling them in advance.**

**We have listed just a few suggestions that our visitors with restricted mobility and additional needs have particularly enjoyed...**

#### Attractions, Gardens & Experiences



##### **Barrington Court (National Trust)**

Barrington, Nr Ilminster, TA19 0NQ

An atmospheric fragment of old Somerset: an empty Tudor manor house, beautifully restored in the 1920s, with farm buildings, abundant flowers and orchards. Gift shop and café.

 01460 241938

 [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/barrington-court](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/barrington-court)

##### **Dawe's Twineworks**

94 High Street, West Coker, BA22 9AU

Explore the only surviving Victorian Twineworks with original working machinery. 10am to 4pm, fourth Saturday of each month, or by appointment. Groups welcome.

 01935 862938

 [www.westcoker.net/home-page/ropewalk](http://www.westcoker.net/home-page/ropewalk)

##### **East Lambrook Manor Gardens**

South Petherton, TA13 5HH

Gardening legend Margery Fish's quintessential English cottage garden. A beautiful plantsman's paradise and specialist nursery. Gift shop and café. Partial disabled access.

 01460 24032

 [www.eastlambrook.com](http://www.eastlambrook.com)

### 3. Accessible Places to Visit

#### Ferne Animal Sanctuary

Chard, TA20 3DH

Set in 72 acres of stunning countryside the Sanctuary is a great place to come and explore! Ferne was set up through the foresight of a local lady – the late Nina, Duchess of Hamilton & Brandon – who realised that men and women going off to war had no-one to take care of their animals so would require a temporary refuge for them. The Duchess put a call out on the BBC and legend has it that when she returned to her London home there were a number of cats and dogs on her doorstep and also a parrot! The need for caring and rehoming animals continues at Ferne. There are over 300 resident animals to see. Visitor Centre and café.



01460 65214



[www.ferneanimalsanctuary.org/visit-the-sanctuary](http://www.ferneanimalsanctuary.org/visit-the-sanctuary)



#### Fleet Air Arm Museum

RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, BA22 8HW

A major attraction in South Somerset and a great place for a day out. You'll fly by helicopter to the replica of the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal. You'll experience the thrills and sounds of a working flight deck and even see a nuclear bomb! You can go on-board the first British built Concorde and see the largest collection of Naval aircraft anywhere in Europe. Restaurant, shop, adventure playground. Excellent disabled facilities. Ample free parking.



01935 840565



[www.fleetairarm.com](http://www.fleetairarm.com)

#### Forde Abbey & Gardens

Chard, TA20 4LU

Thirty acres of glorious gardens surrounding a magnificent 12th century monastery. Seasonal interest all year round. Gift shop, plant nursery and café.



01460 221290



[www.fordeabbey.co.uk](http://www.fordeabbey.co.uk)



#### Gartell Light Railway

Common Lane, Yenston, Templecombe, BA8 0NB

Two foot narrow gauge railway along the old Somerset and Dorset railway line. Train rides, restaurant, picnic area and caravan site. Please check the website for latest information and timetable.



01963 370752



[www.newglr.weebly.com](http://www.newglr.weebly.com)

#### Greylake Nature Reserve (RSPB)

A361, Bridgwater, TA7 9BP

Spring stronghold and winter haven of waders. View raptors gliding above, while wandering the reed bed loop. Trails and hides.



01458 252805



[www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/greylake](http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/greylake)

### 3. Accessible Places to Visit



#### Hauser & Wirth Somerset

Durslade Farm, Dropping Lane, Bruton, BA10 0NL

A pioneering world-class gallery and multi-purpose arts centre which acts as a destination for experiencing art, architecture and the remarkable Somerset landscape through new and innovative exhibitions of contemporary art. An impressive landscaped garden, designed by internationally renowned landscape architect Piet Oudolf, sits behind the gallery buildings. Roth Bar & Grill restaurant.

 01749 814060

 [www.hauserwirth.com](http://www.hauserwirth.com)

#### Haynes International Motor Museum

Sparkford, BA22 7LH

Explore the UK's largest collection of cars and motorbikes from around the world. Packed with over 400 beautiful and historic supercars. Gift Shop and café.

Advance discount tickets available from South Somerset Visitor Information Centre. Tickets valid for 12 months.

 01963 440804

 [www.himm.co.uk](http://www.himm.co.uk)

#### Hestercombe Gardens

Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, TA2 8LG

Explore 50 acres of beautiful gardens, steeped in history and brimming with wildlife. Woodland walks and a restored watermill. Gift shop, café and restaurant.

 01823 413923

 [www.hestercombe.com](http://www.hestercombe.com)



Photo credit: Brian Mounsher

#### Montacute House (National Trust)

Montacute, Nr Yeovil, TA15 6XP

Once seen, never forgotten; the first glimpse of this golden Elizabethan masterpiece, glittering with windows and bristling with chimneys, is breathtaking. Gift shop and café.

 01935 823289

 [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/montacute-house](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/montacute-house)

#### Perry's Cider Mills

Ilminster, TA9 0NY

Our countywide tradition of cider making is evident in many beautiful orchards that pepper the landscape. Visit the small museum housed in the original 16th century thatched cider barn, taste and treat yourself to the award winning ciders and relax in the tea room and eatery.

 01460 55195

 [www.perrycider.co.uk](http://www.perrycider.co.uk)

### 3. Accessible Places to Visit

## Sherborne Castle & Gardens

New Road, Sherborne, DT9 5NR

A fascinating castle covering 400 years of history set in beautiful landscaped gardens. Discover walks around the lake to garden features such as Raleigh's Seat and the Cascade and Fossil House. Other walks take you to the courtyard garden, the Ginkgo Lawn and Orangery, the boathouse and pier where there are wonderful views of the old castle ruins. Gift shop and café.

 01935 813182

 [www.sherbornecastle.com](http://www.sherbornecastle.com)



Photo credit: John Crispin

## Swell Wood Nature Reserve (RSPB)

A378, Taunton, TA3 6PX

An ancient oak woodland extending to 10 miles (15km) along a ridge. Nature trails and bird hide. Fantastic views over the Somerset Levels. Spot roe deer, woodland birds and butterflies. Hear a cacophony of nesting herons. Heronry hide.

 01458 252805

 [www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/swell-wood](http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/swell-wood)

## The Bishop's Palace & Gardens

Wells, BA5 2PD

Explore 14 acres of beautiful gardens located in the heart of the historic city of Wells. Formal Dutch gardens and fine specimen trees with diverse and luxuriant borders, complete with restored 19th century picturesque style planting surrounding the Palace and the ruins of the Great Hall. Café.

 01749 988111

 [www.bishopspalace.org.uk](http://www.bishopspalace.org.uk)

## The Newt in Somerset

Bruton, BA7 7NG

*Ab ovo usque ad malus* is Latin for 'From the egg to the apple' or 'From start to finish' as in hors d'oeuvre to desert. This phrase was the inspiration to create an historical timeline for the estate, with individual gardens and landscapes shaped by ideas, skills and traditions from past to present. Only plants and trees authentic to the period are grown in each garden – though sometimes with a modern twist. Roam the estate and you'll travel through two thousand years of history. Farm shop with estate produce and the finest traditionally made foods. Garden Museum. Treetop walkway and deer park. Restaurant and cyder bar/café. Gift shop.

 01963 577777

 [www.thenewtinsomerset.com](http://www.thenewtinsomerset.com)

### 3. Accessible Places to Visit

## The Walled Gardens of Cannington

Church Street, Cannington, Nr Bridgwater, TA5 2HA

Fascinating gardens with a Grade 1 listed medieval priory backdrop. A mix of classic and modern features, including a 'hot' herbaceous border, sub-tropical walk and a national collection of deschampsia and santolina. Home to Somerset's only botanical glasshouse featuring species from around the world. Specialist plant nursery. Gift shop. Tearoom.



01278 655042



[www.canningtonwalledgardens.co.uk](http://www.canningtonwalledgardens.co.uk)



## World Horse Welfare Glenda Spooner Farm

Kingsdon, Somerton, TA11 7YA

Home to around 65 horses at any one time. Meet the horses and ponies. Learn about the work of World Horse Welfare and the rehabilitation programme. The farm sits in 220 acres of unspoilt countryside and there are many opportunities to spot wildlife around the lake. Admire the amazing views. Walk the paddock trail and meet the ponies. Café. Free entry. Donations to the charity most welcome.



01935 841442



[www.worldhorsewelfare.org](http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org)

## Yeovil Railway Centre

Yeovil Junction Station, Yeovil, BA22 9UU

The Centre was formed in 1994 to preserve the original Southern Railway turntable installed in the late 1940s and to provide facilities for main line steam. Since then the turntable has been overhauled and visitors can watch, from a special viewing platform, the spectacle of large steam engines being turned and serviced when they call at Yeovil Junction. An Andrew Barclay steam engine 'Lord Fisher' is currently operational and provides the power for public rides on the demonstration line of approximately a third of a mile. Visitors ride either in a historic brake van or in a coach. There are several industrial diesels on site. Special Events (including Model Railway, Tractors and Halloween and Santa Specials) operate on a regular basis. Visitor Centre and café. See the website for more details.



01935 410420



[www.yeovilrailway.freesevers.com](http://www.yeovilrailway.freesevers.com)




### 3. Accessible Places to Visit

## Entertainment & Leisure

### Cineworld

Yeo Leisure Park, Old Station Way, Yeovil, BA20 1NP

Multiplex cinema.

 0330 333 4444

 [www.cineworld.co.uk](http://www.cineworld.co.uk)

### Ilminster Arts Centre at The Meeting House

35 East Street, Ilminster, TA19 0AN

Arts Centre with a vibrant programme of art exhibitions, workshops and music performances.

 01460 54972

 [www.themeetinghouse.org.uk](http://www.themeetinghouse.org.uk)

### The David Hall

Roundwell Street, South Petherton, TA13 5AA

The small hall with the big reputation! Concerts, theatre and film.

 01460 240340

 [www.thedavidhall.org.uk](http://www.thedavidhall.org.uk)



### The Octagon Theatre

Hendford, Yeovil, BA20 1UX

Modern theatre and visual arts gallery hosting drama, dance, music and an annual pantomime.

 01935 422884

 [www.octagon-theatre.co.uk](http://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk)

### The Swan Theatre

138 Park Street, Yeovil, BA20 1QT

An outstanding example of non-professional theatre produced professionally. Partial access.

 07500 376031

 [www.swan-theatre.co.uk](http://www.swan-theatre.co.uk)

### Westlands Entertainment Centre

Westbourne Close, Yeovil, BA20 2DD

Hosting activities such as exercise and dance classes, food and drink fairs, film and music.

 01935 422884

 [www.westlandsyevovil.co.uk](http://www.westlandsyevovil.co.uk)

## 4. The Great Outdoors



## 4. The Great Outdoors

**Our green flag award winning sites have excellent easy access walking trails. Leaflets are available from each site, our South Somerset Visitor Information Centre at Cartgate Picnic Site and to download from our website.**



[www.visitsouthsomerset.com](http://www.visitsouthsomerset.com)



### Ham Hill Country Park

**Ham Hill Road, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6RW**

Offering incredible views of the South Somerset Moors, Exmoor and the Mendip Hills, Ham Hill is a 390 acre country park centred on a huge Iron Age hill fort. Green Flag award winner. A popular spot for scenic dog walks. Pub.

For people wanting to explore the countryside but with limited mobility, Ham Hill Country Park has an off-road scooter available for hire called a 'tramper'. The Tramper is designed to travel over rugged terrain, and over long distances. Anyone over the age of 16 can hire the Tramper for free - all that is required is debit/credit card details for security. If you would like to hire the Tramper, please phone the Ham Hill Office.

Before using the Tramper, one of the rangers will explain and show customers how to operate the vehicle, and there is a short familiarisation session to ensure operators are confident and competent.

Please be aware that the Tramper needs to be booked at least 48 hours in advance and is only available during the rangers' key time of work, which is from Monday to Friday, 8.00am - 4.00pm.



01935 823617



[www.visitsouthsomerset.com](http://www.visitsouthsomerset.com)



### Yeovil Country Park

**Brunswick Street, Yeovil, BA20 1QZ**

Woodlands and grasslands, river and lakes including Ninesprings and Valley Gardens.

Footpaths, cycleway, picnic area, children's play areas. Ninesprings Café. Dogs welcome. Green Flag award winner.



01935 462462



[www.visitsouthsomerset.com](http://www.visitsouthsomerset.com)

## 4. The Great Outdoors



### Chard Reservoir Nature Reserve

Car park situated at the end of Oaklands Avenue, Chard, TA20 1HR

Peaceful countryside site of 88 acres - orchid meadows, native woodlands and excellent bird watching on open water from hide. Good surfaced pathways. Green Flag award winner.

 01935 462462

 [www.visitsouthsomerset.com](http://www.visitsouthsomerset.com)

## Additional Accessible Walking Routes & Trails

We have a number of walks and routes that will enable you to explore our pretty market towns and villages including South Petherton, Ilminster, Bruton and Yeovil. These are available in print from our South Somerset Visitor Information Centre at Cartgate Picnic Site and to download from our website.

 [www.visitsouthsomerset.com](http://www.visitsouthsomerset.com)

There are also wheelchair friendly walks in South Somerset and Somerset.

 [www.walkswithwheelchairs.com](http://www.walkswithwheelchairs.com)

For even more ideas and inspiration, there's a wide range of accessible trails, routes and walks on the website below:

 [www.accessiblecountryside.org.uk](http://www.accessiblecountryside.org.uk)

## Waterways

A wonderful way to see a different view of Somerset is on our inland waterways and just a very short distance from our South Somerset area in North Newton is the Somerset Boat Centre. They have a specially adapted wheelchair accessible boat for hire that comes with a skipper. For more information about trips, hire and prices go to their website:

 [www.somersetboatcentre.co.uk](http://www.somersetboatcentre.co.uk)



## 5. Additional Information



### Tourist Information Centres

With so much choice of where to stay, what to do and where to visit, our friendly and knowledgeable staff are on hand to help you plan a perfect day or relaxing holiday.

Our award winning South Somerset Visitor Information Centre & Gift Shop at Cartgate Picnic Site offers a fantastic range of Somerset brochures and leaflets as well as UK wide destination guides, books and OS maps. We proudly support more than 20 local Somerset and South West makers, businesses and producers, so you might just find a special keepsake to make your holiday last that little longer.

We are able to copy leaflets in larger print, an induction hearing loop is available and there is level access.



## 5. Additional Information

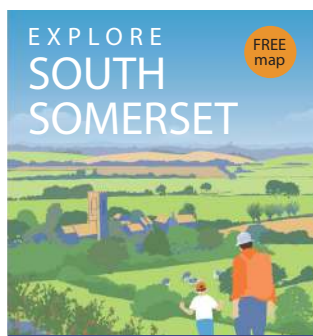
### Tourism for all UK

Tourism for All UK is the UK Voice for Accessible Tourism - a national charity dedicated to making tourism welcoming to all. If you would like more information on accessible tourism, please go to their website. You'll also find more helpful accessibility advice on the Visit England website.

 [www.tourismforall.org.uk](http://www.tourismforall.org.uk)

 [www.visitengland.com/plan-your-visit/access-all/accessible-england](http://www.visitengland.com/plan-your-visit/access-all/accessible-england)

### South Somerset Map



Download a copy of the South Somerset map from our website or pick one up from our Tourist Information Centres.

 [www.visitsouthsomerset.com](http://www.visitsouthsomerset.com)

### South Somerset Visitor Information Centre & Gift Shop



#### South Somerset Visitor Information Centre & Gift Shop

Cartgate Picnic Site, A303/A3088, Stoke sub Hamdon,  
TA14 6RA

For more information about this guide or visiting South Somerset, please contact us at:

 01935 829333

 [visit@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:visit@southsomerset.gov.uk)

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