

Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience



**Day Walks
&
Weekend Holidays**

2009

1 Introduction

This brochure is intended to provide more information about Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience, their packaged walking weekend holidays in the West Country, and their North Dartmoor guided walks.

Its aim is to:

- provide the additional information to help interested parties satisfy their concerns and agree to sharing their precious free time with Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience
- support and build upon the information supplied on the Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience Web Site.

2 Contents

1	Introduction.....	2
2	Contents.....	2
3	Who are Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience?.....	3
4	Day Visitors.....	4
5	Weekend Holidays.....	4
6	Walks.....	6
7	Clothing.....	9
8	Footwear.....	9
9	Insurance.....	9
10	Contact Details.....	9
11	Holiday Administration.....	10
12	Terms and Conditions.....	12

3 Who are Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience?

Ian and Gary are two brothers with common love of Dartmoor. As children and young adults they regularly spent weekends out on the moor, covering the ground and experiencing the challenges Dartmoor brings.

Ian spent many happy weekends walking and playing on the moor as a Scout, only to find himself back there during his Army career. Navigation exercises, hardship test and general adventurous training were seen as new to young soldiers, however for Ian it was like returning to his childhood.

Gary likewise spends many hours on and around the moor. Currently a Scout Leader for the local group, Gary previously led walking tours from the prestigious Okehampton Manor Hotel.



‘Every opportunity we get to walk on and around the moor is taken with enthusiasm, from family walks around Ball Hill to New Years Day climbs up Belstone Tor. We see Dartmoor as a place to relax and unwind, and hope our visitors will find Dartmoor just as inviting.’

2006 was the inaugural year for Ian and Gary running all inclusive walking holidays. After finding little in the way of package walking holidays around North Dartmoor, Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience hopes to open up this area of the West Country, and provided its patrons with the full Devonian experience.

4 Day Visitors

Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience welcome day visitors to join us for our scheduled walks over the weekend.

In advance we publish our walking agenda where possible with the Dartmoor Tourist Association. This enables day visitors who wish to explore Dartmoor in a more organised and secure fashion to join our experienced walking guides.

Typically our scheduled walks are taken from our standard portfolio, lasting up to 4 hrs per walk. Our walk selection (see paragraph 6) is tailored to suit group size, capability, attire and weather conditions. Please contact us in advance to confirm availability, scheduled route, start time and place.

Contact details can be found in paragraph 11. A small charge is made for our guided walk service dependant on group size see our separate price guide or contact us for further details.

5 Weekend Holidays

5.1 Package concept

North Dartmoor is often overlooked by tourists as they pass by on the A30, heading for Cornwall and the coastline. Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience believe that North Dartmoor deserves more than just a passing glance.

Over a weekend stay, we offer opportunity for groups of 8-10 people to carry out numerous differing walks on and around North Dartmoor. After these challenging outings, we want you to relax and enjoy the local hospitality. On your arrival we direct, or transport, you to your accommodation, and then onward for your first evening meal. Here we discuss your personal expectations and preferences and hopefully agree a walking and evening itinerary which will enable you to gain the maximum from your time with us.

Each subsequent day will see you breakfasting at your accommodation and then travelling to your morning start point. Lunch is taken on the walk, provided by us, after which your afternoon exercise begins. You return to your accommodation to freshen up and prepare for another evening out.

5.2 Groups

To maintain the personal touch of our holiday we keep our group sizes down to typically 8 people. These groups are made up of smaller parties wishing to enjoy the walking offered by Dartmoor. We can cater for larger groups but prefer the smaller size so that individuals get opportunity to express themselves and not feel daunted by larger numbers.

Clearly each person has differing capabilities and preferences. We appreciate these limitations and will attempt to meet the needs of everybody. In extreme cases we can offer advice for dividing the groups to ensure the maximum enjoyment for all.

5.3 Accommodation

We aim to provide traditional farm, Devonian long house or thatched hotel accommodation when ever possible. We feel this increases the experience of living in Devon and casts our visitors back centuries to when transportation was ‘Shanks’s’ or the back of a hay cart. We also believe that Bed and Breakfast accommodation provides a more personal and homely feel, and so endeavour to ensure our visitors only stay in accommodation recommended by word of mouth.

On receipt of your booking, we will find the best accommodation available at that time to satisfy our desire that you stay in the most traditional surroundings as possible. We don’t have accommodation of our own (yet), but feel we are more suited to sourcing your requirements by having the local access, and knowledge of the quality recommendations.

5.4 Food

Clearly we offer an active weekend, which will drive a large appetite. This culminates in a degree of social activity dictated by your personal preferences. Some like to sample the local hostelrys, of which Okehampton and Mid Devon boast many good ones, others prefer to unwind in a more relaxed restaurant environment, whichever your choice we will attempt to organise and satisfy your requests. We can not at present include your evening meal within our package, but we will ensure you have access to all the local facilities possible.

- **Breakfast:**
Provided by your accommodation.
- **Lunch:**
Provided by us. Generally we will provide packed lunches and drinks. Depending on our daily activities, you either carry your lunch or we drop it off when you arrive at you lunch stop. Lunch normally consists of sandwiches, crisps, chocolate biscuits and fresh fruit. We will also surprise you with traditional faire, such as pasties and pies, and weather dependant a riverside ‘sausage sizzle’.
- **Dinner:**
Your choice. As part of your booking, we will ask for your preference of food style. The Devonian approach is to dine where you drink, but we will attempt to meet all of your requests. The cost of your evening meal is borne by you. We will recommend a number of ‘off the beaten track’ public houses and hotels, personally sampled and recommended.

Whilst with us, we expect you to sample some of the traditional West Country faire; Clotted Cream liberally spread atop a Scone with Jam is a must, local Pasties washed down with a pint of ‘Scrumpy’ shouldn’t go a miss, and don’t forget (if you can find one) a Devonshire Apple Cake or some delicious Upcott Pork (yum).

5.5 Transportation

If relaxing after a good walk by sitting outside watching the sun set whilst sampling a local brew gets your vote, then cheer because we can also cover all of your transport requirements.

If required your package holiday can include all your transportation needs. We collect you from a prearranged location, typically Exeter Train or Coach Station but further a field can be arranged, and move you between your accommodation and your start and finish points. We also transport you to and from your evening's entertainment, be that the traditional village pub, or the more up market restaurant. We make use of a minibus for our transportation, and ensure that you spend as little time as possible sat inside it. Bumpy roads, sharp bends and high hedges are not conducive to those with a weak constitution!

Obviously some guests prefer their own transportation. No problem. We provide detailed maps and directions so that you know where to be and how to get there, and importantly when to be there.

6 Walks

Access to the North Dartmoor environment can mean freedom, adventure, beauty and solitude. With this access come responsibility for conservation and care for nature.

The micro-climate of North Dartmoor is very unpredictable; a beautiful sunny day in the valleys does not generally reflect the conditions on the moors. When walking on the moor the weather must be constantly monitored, if caught in quickly dropping thick mist an inexperienced walker can quickly lose bearings.

It is for this reason that Moorgate Trek offers a number of both High and Low Moor walks, and in extreme inclement weather we can offer attractions in and around Okehampton and mid Devon.

Our walks are selected to provide a wide range of opportunities for all our visitors. We currently have over 30 walks developed, with a further 20 in the planning stages. Each walk will be discussed with our visitor to agree the most suitable walks for their age, experience and of course the weather.

For each walk we will provide you with route map, and a briefing about the walk ahead. During your walk we will escort the party and offer historical, geological and mythological interest. Passing on stories, with factual and fictional information and in many cases just plain wives tales to help you fully enjoy your time with us. Most importantly we offer the security of our experience and training to maintain the safety and integrity of the group within our charge.



Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience

6.1 High Moor

Our weekend retreat! The reason we set up in business. We will endeavour to ensure that these walks feature high on the agenda for our visitors. The views over North Devon are breathtaking when you are standing on Yes Tor, and just a few hundred meters away you will find yourself standing on the highest point on Dartmoor, High Will Hayes (High Willy). From here you can look west towards the coast and follow the main route down towards Cornwall. Be prepared to earn the views, but trust us they are well worth it!

On a grim day Dartmoor can be a very harsh and unwelcoming landscape. Being the highest point in the south west rain can feature very highly on the meteorological chart for Dartmoor. Correct clothing and good awareness of the impacts of the cold and wet are very important. We ask that all our visitor respect our knowledge and experience of Dartmoor's changeable climate, and accept our decisions to advise against high moor walks when necessary. We will offer advice with respect to the suitability of the weather conditions and group capabilities, and recommend the most suitable walks for that day. In all cases we will take your opinions into consideration, but our overriding factor is the safety of all concerned.

6.2 Low Moor

The hidden treats. Woodland and topography provide valuable protection from the weather conditions, this enables us to show our visitor the depth of terrain and history North Dartmoor has to offer. We offer woodland walks, climbing through the Okement valleys, to reservoir visits, all of which touch the moor fringes so that you don't miss out on the heather, moss and ferns which give Dartmoor its distinctive colouring. Our Low Moor walks typically cover hilly farmland terrain, we will be walking at about the same height as sea level some 2 million year ago when Dartmoor was an island during the early Pleistocene era.



Examples of our Low Moor walks take in woodland treks, reservoir visits and investigation of the mining and industrial history of the Dartmoor fringes. Granite formations are a rich source of iron, silver, copper, arsenic and rare mineral deposits.

6.3 Okehampton and the surrounding area.

Okehampton offers a significant number of interests for the visitor many of which are largely ignored by tourists. Okehampton church sits quietly overlooking the town. The site of Gary's wedding, the church nestles on the edge of the town, surrounded by the familiar moss covered dry stone walks, and shaded by large Oak trees. Within the town centre lays St James Church, its tower and clock having served Okehampton for generations, pictures of Okehampton show this church as early as circa 1800. The town centre is also the location for the museum of Dartmoor Life.

Walks originating from Okehampton include Ball Hill, following the route of the school cross-country course. We challenge any school to find a harder and more diverse 'Jog' for its students. This route takes us South East out of Okehampton, following a wooded path along the line of the East Okement. Climbing up briefly onto the Moor fringes we take in the impressive views over North Devon, before descending back into Okehampton past the Railway station and finishing in the beautiful Symonds Park.



Okehampton also boasts a Norman castle, this commands the Western approaches to the town, sitting within this valley of the Old Park and Golf course. Our walk takes us from the train station, down through the old park, passing the castle and climbing through the golf course to Meldon Quarry. Passing under the Victorian Viaduct and finishing our walk at the top of the Meldon Dam. Betty Cottes hotel seems a reasonable place to stop off and warm though, before journeying onwards.

Further a field lays the village of Sticklepath and the National Trust owned Finches Foundry. This is an example of a 19th century blacksmith's foundry powered by a diverted stream. The museum displays mining equipment and processes of the time. A simple visit wouldn't satisfy our lust for walking, so a slow decent down from Belstone through Skaigh Warren under the protection of Belstone Cleave, will ensure we get our exercise and fresh air.

The National Trust also manages Lydford Gorge, a deep cut ravine around which the Trust have cut a pleasant trail. Through the bottom of the ravine runs the river Lyd, the driving source for the 90 ft Whitelady waterfall and Devil's Cauldron. Lydford offers a unique history of its own, being the site of a number of medieval royal mints.

Much further a field but coming with a high recommend from us, is Morwellham Quay - Nr Tavistock. This is an award-winning visitor centre made from the historic port. There are tramway rides to old mine workings and costumes to try. The museum displays the period when copper, and subsequently arsenic, were extracted and dispatched via the river. In addition to conventional exhibits and information about the working conditions there is a short underground section reproducing these conditions. There is also the old docking area at the riverside.

7 Clothing

A good waterproof hiking jacket and over trousers are highly recommended. Dartmoor is green and lush for a reason! The high moor can get very windy so we also recommend headgear, gloves and a good fleece jacket.

During the summer months the sun can be just as dangerous as the wind and rain. Skin creams and caps are a must. A small day sack, to carry water and 'nutty' is also important. Should you have any questions with regard to the suitability of your clothing do not hesitate to contact us, and we can advise.

Nutty: Ian's definition. A collection of chocolate pieces, mixed with dried fruit, and nuts. Ideal for keeping up your energy. Just keep a bag of Nutty in your pocket to dip into as you walk. Yum!

8 Footwear

We highly recommend a good pair of strong waterproof boots, preferably a boot which provides ankle support. The terrain in and around Dartmoor can change dramatically, from stony roads to sheep tracks, tarmac paths to slippery Granite and Heather. Mix this terrain with a good dousing of rain and your boots become very important.

Please note: If your footwear is not of a good standard we will not recommend the more adventurous walks for your own safety!

9 Insurance

It is advised you take out holiday insurance against accidents, injury and cancellation. We specifically decline any responsibility for any loss or hardship because of holiday cancellation or to injury or illness, or loss of or damage to property while you are on our holiday. We have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the services described in this document have been properly arranged and the accommodation is in line with expectations.

10 Contact Details

Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience can be contacted via telephone, e-mail, or letter using the following:

Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience
33 Exeter Road
Okehampton
Devon
EX20 1NN

Tel: **07740 514421** or **01837 54497**
E-mail: Ian&Gary@moorgatedartmoor.co.uk

11 Holiday Administration

11.1 Booking

To secure provisional dates, provisional bookings can be made via our Contacts and Feedback web page. This provisional request will be held for you for 7 days. Should a full booking form and payment not be received within this time period, your provisional booking will be considered void and released for other guests.

After making a provisional booking to fully book your Dartmoor Experience with us, please fill in the booking form attached to this brochure and send it along with a 10% deposit to the postal address given in paragraph 10 above.

11.2 Availability

The weekend holiday availability is published in a separate document available on the Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience web page (www.moorgatedartmoor.co.uk). This document is maintained to be as current as possible, but is subject to change. For up-to-the-minute availability e-mail us with your request and we will respond by return, or alternatively telephone us for a rapid answer.

Early booking is advised as experience has shown us that our groups fill up quickly!

11.3 Prices

Our prices, published in our separate price guide document, are per person based on two people sharing accommodation. For further price details contact us for bespoke costing.

11.4 Payment

To ensure we keep our costs as low as possible, the only payment method we can currently accept is cheques. Cheques should be made payable to: **I. M. Jones**.

11.4.1 Deposit

A deposit of 10% of the full holiday price is required at time of booking. Confirmation of your booking and deposit receipt will be sent by return post. Your deposit is not refundable, but does form part of your overall payment.

11.4.2 Full Payment.

Full Payment is required 42 days before the start of your holiday. Confirmation of your full payment will be sent by us by return post. See our terms and conditions with respect to refunds in the event of cancellation.

11.5 Travel

Travel to and from the holiday is your responsibility unless otherwise agreed. Details on pick-up points and accommodation will be forwarded to you when final payment is received.

11.6 *Extras*

The cost of any extras over and above those included within the holiday quote, such as drinks, newspapers and telephone charges, should be paid to the accommodation provider before leaving.

11.7 *Complaints*

Should you have cause for complaint about any of the services offered by us or our accommodation providers, please put it in writing to our address in paragraph 11 above with 48 hours of completing your holiday.

12 Terms and Conditions

References to "we" or "us" in the context of this documentation shall mean 'Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience' (the trading name of I. & G. Jones).

We accept bookings subject to the following conditions:-

1. A contract will exist between the client and 'Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience' when a completed booking form and a deposit has been received and our confirmation has been sent. The deposit shall be deemed to be part payment of the total cost and the balance shall become payable 6 weeks prior to the date for which the booking is made.
2. Cancellation by You.
 - Effective from date we receive it in writing.
 - Deposits non -refundable
 - Refunds on balance 42 days or less before start of holiday
 - 42 - 30 days before 75%;
 - 29 - 14 days before 50%;
 - 13 - 1 days before 25%;
 - Failure to turn up on first day of holiday - no refund.
3. In the unlikely event of us cancelling your holiday, or if an alternative offered to you is not acceptable, we will return all Moneys paid in full or, if part of your holiday is cancelled, we will refund the corresponding portion of Moneys paid. Upon tendering the same all our liability to the client shall cease.
4. To cover themselves and their personal property including luggage, Clients are advised to take out their own private insurance. We accept no liability for any accidents or losses however caused unless due to our proven negligence.
5. Clients are advised that they must ensure that they are fit for the holiday and if in any doubt whatsoever, to consult their medical practitioner.
6. Bookings can only be accepted from persons under sixteen years of age when accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for them.
7. The entire contract between our client and us is contained in these conditions and the booking form. No agent, servant or representative of 'Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience' has any right to alter or vary or waive any of these conditions.
8. The contract between 'Moorgate the Dartmoor Experience' and the client as contained in these conditions and the booking form shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and for all purposes be deemed to be an English contract. If the client has cause for complaint, the matter should be brought to the attention of us at the time. Any legal action taken against us must be in the English courts.
9. We comply with the E.E.C. Directive 1992 package travel regulations.

These terms and conditions do not affect your statutory rights.

Booking Form



Lead Name:

Requested Holiday Weekend: /2009

Address:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Post Code

Telephone Number (optional)

No. in Party

Party Details

Surname	First Name	Age
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Enclosed 10% deposit of £.....

Special Requests:

.....

Return your booking form to:

I. & G. Jones
33 Exeter Road
Okehampton
Devon
EX20 1NN