

A

ASHTON MILL, NEAR WEDMORE BS26 2PP

SECRET 33: SEEK OUT THE SAILS OF A STONE WINDMILL ABOVE THE ISLE OF WEDMORE

Visit Ashton Mill, a pretty 18th century mill on the Isle of Wedmore, above the Somerset Levels. You can enjoy great views of the Levels, Cheddar Gorge, and the Mendips. The mill even has all its original machinery in working order.



C

WELLS CATHEDRAL BA5 2UE

SECRET 37: SET YOUR WATCH BY THE WORLD'S SECOND OLDEST CLOCK MECHANISM

The famous Wells clock is considered to be the second oldest clock mechanism in Britain, and probably in the world, to survive in original condition and still in use. The original works were made about 1390 and the clock face is the oldest surviving original of its kind anywhere. When the clock strikes every quarter, jousting knights rush round above the clock and the Quarter Jack bangs the quarter hours with his heels.

B

SAINT LEONARD'S CHURCH, RODNEY STOKE, BS27 3UN

SECRET 27: MARVEL AT STUNNING CARVED PEWS, STAINED GLASS AND HUNKY PUNKS!

There are so many wonderful small (and tall) churches in Somerset with fantastic stained glass windows, many built with wealth from the wool trade. Saint Leonard's Church in Rodney Stoke has some fabulous carved pews and elaborate effigies. For another day perhaps, Selworthy Church offers magnificent views and Culbone Church on Exmoor is said to be the smallest in England. The church of All Saints Langport has a tower covered in 'Hunky Punks', the Somerset dialect for the grotesque gargoyle stone carvings on the towers which are plentiful in the County.



D

GLASTONBURY LAKE VILLAGE AT THE TRIBUNAL MUSEUM, BA6 9DP

SECRET 29: DISCOVER THE LOST AND ABANDONED VILLAGES OF SOMERSET

Explore the secrets of Somerset's lost and abandoned villages that can still be spotted around the area. The fascinating story of the Glastonbury Lake Village can be viewed in the Tribunal Museum, the 15th century merchant's house in Glastonbury High Street, which also houses the Tourist Information Centre. Seek out other lost villages in Somerset such as the abandoned village of Clicket near Timberscombe and Stoke Bottom.

HERITAGE ITINERARY

DAY 1

If you fancy a day packed full of history and heritage in beautiful Somerset, this itinerary should help you fit as much as possible into your time exploring the best kept hidden secrets of Somerset and Exmoor! If you want to explore at a more leisurely pace, just pick a few of the secrets to visit and take your time soaking up the grandeur and adventure of times gone by. For more information on each secret, including access, please take a look at the website www.secretsomerset.uk and use the checklist map.





E

AVALON MARSHES, SHAPWICK HEATH BA6 9TT

SECRET 26: WALK ALONG THE OLDEST ENGINEERED ROAD IN THE WORLD

Around 6,000 years ago, Neolithic people lived on the higher, dry ground around what is now Shapwick Heath, and built wooden track ways to cross what was reed swamp. The most important of these, the Neolithic Sweet Track still exists on the Reserve, preserved beneath the wet peat. You can walk along the line of the Sweet Track and see a replica section heading off into the reeds as it did all that time ago. Make a visit to the Tribunal Museum to find out more about this ancient track. While at Shapwick look and listen out for the wildlife.



SECRET SOMERSET & EXMOOR

#SECRETSOMERSET

G

WESTONZOYLAND, TA7 0EP

SECRET 28: IMAGINE THE LAST MOMENTS OF THE LAST BATTLE ON ENGLISH SOIL

The Battle of Sedgemoor was fought on 6 July 1685 and took place at Westonzoyland near Bridgwater. It was the final battle of the Monmouth Rebellion and followed a series of skirmishes around south west England between the forces of James Scott, 1st Duke of Monmouth and troops loyal to James II. At Westonzoyland you can do a Family Activity Trail that takes you out to the Battlefield. A model of the battle is housed in the Blake Museum, Bridgwater and there is a chilling recreation of the Bloody Assizes that followed the battle in the superb Museum of Somerset, Taunton.

F

BRIDGWATER, TA6 3DD

SECRET 34: STROLL DOWN ONE OF THE FINEST GEORGIAN CRESCENTS IN THE WEST COUNTRY

Acknowledged as the finest Georgian street outside Bath, Castle Street was built by the colourful First Duke of Chandos on the site of the derelict castle. Chandos, one of England's richest men at the time, was a patron of Handel and so it is fitting that the first Arts Centre in the UK to be funded by the predecessor of the Arts Council is housed in Castle Street. Chandos was also responsible for the Glass Cone as he tried to establish glass making in the town. Nearby is Castle House, an old building with a moulded concrete façade, way ahead of its time when it was added in 1851. While in Bridgwater, you can take the heritage trail or visit Blake Museum.

H

ATHELNEY MONUMENT, TA7 0SD

SECRET 38: LEARN WHY THE SOMERSET LEVELS WERE CRUCIAL FOR KING ALFRED THE GREAT

Legend has it that when King Alfred was on the run from the Vikings, he took refuge on the Somerset Levels in a peasant woman's house and was asked to watch her cakes whilst they cooked. Distracted by his own problems, he let the cakes burn and was roundly scolded by the woman. Visit Athelney monument to see the site where King Alfred built a great monastery to give thanks for winning the Battle of Edington in 878, later pulled down in the dissolution of the Monasteries. Discover more about the history of King Alfred in the Museum of Somerset and in Somerton, the ancient royal capital of Wessex.

HERITAGE ITINERARY

DAY 2

If you fancy a day packed full of history and heritage in beautiful Somerset, this itinerary should help you fit as much as possible into your time exploring the best kept hidden secrets of Somerset and Exmoor! If you want to explore at a more leisurely pace, just pick a few of the secrets to visit and take your time soaking up the grandeur and adventure of times gone by. For more information on each secret, including access, please take a look at the website www.secretsomerset.uk and use the checklist map.



WWW.SECRETSOMERSET.UK