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CELEBRATING OUR 40TH SEASON!

Est. 1988

Adventureline
WALKING HOLIDAYS

Dartmoor

A WEEK OF EXPLORING, ON FOOT

In the very finest parts of Dartmoor
Sunday 4th July to Sunday 11th July 2027



Bespoke walking tours with Martin and Pete, melding *Nature, History* and *Story Telling* into an art

Please go to the *'Holiday Availability'* page on our website to see the latest availability

"I have never before, in my long, eclectic career, been gifted with such an abundance of natural beauty as I experienced filming War Horse. With two and a half weeks of extensive coverage of landscapes and skies, I hardly scratched the surface of the visual opportunities that were offered to me."

Director Steven Spielberg

A week of exploring Dartmoor on foot

Dartmoor is the last great wilderness remaining in southern Britain. It is situated in the beautiful and green county of Devon – north of Plymouth and west of Exeter - just east of Cornwall. If you look at a topographical map, you will see an 'up-land' area in the mid central southern part of Devon that's coloured differently... that's because Dartmoor is largely un-cultivated, semi wilderness moorland.

There are about 360 square miles of high open granite moorland, rising to just over 2,000 feet above sea level – and about another 120 square miles of somewhat lower countryside (between 500 – 1000 ft a.s.l.), where many enchanting rivers and streams rush through shady oak, birch and beech woodlands, on their twisted journeys down to the sea, some 25 miles or so distant.

Parts of Dartmoor are cultivated, however they are only small pockets on and around the edges of the moors – and sometimes right in the middle of the moors, where conditions permit cultivation.

Most of the central parts of the high moors are rough heather-clad and grass covered heaths, with high hills or tors (as they are known locally) punctuating the terrain – and where they still possess rocky cores, these tors present dramatic rocky monoliths which have sometimes been weathered into amazing shapes and huge piles.

The granite itself is about 296 million years old and was intruded into an uplifting range of mountains, due to the African tectonic plate colliding with the Eurasian plate. This was long before any creatures ever roamed the surface of the land. Dartmoor is the Jewel in the heart of the West Country and its High Moor is one of the last true wildernesses to be found in Southern England today. A National Park since 1951, the area encompasses a large swathe of Devon's most beautiful moorland, countryside and villages.

Nowhere else will you find such a unique blend of features that show man's occupation spanning a period between 6,000 BC and today - coupled with such mystical and myriad enchantment and breath-taking natural beauty. Surprisingly, it is not difficult to spend most of the day walking considerable distances and hardly meet anyone else - if anyone at all!

In many ways, Dartmoor is a totally unique landscape, as although it's designated a National Park, it is also home to many working farms and quite a few small towns, villages and even smaller settlements. Many of these settlements range in ages between 5,000 BC and the present day and there are few places in The British Isles that possess such a 'long continuum' of human settlement. Exploring the moors on foot brings one closer to one's distant ancestors and evokes peaceful feelings of living in a kind of eternity, as that is what immersing oneself in wild nature does to the soul. With the moors' dense assembly of prehistoric settlements, standing stones and circles, etc - one can easily imagine life here thousands of years ago, when Dartmoor was an upland forest, punctuated by high granite tors (immense piles of weirdly eroded granite rocks) inhabited by Bronze and Iron ages tribal peoples.



Teign-e-ver Clapper Bridge





Typical 'pancake' rock formations of the granite tors

Your guide

Pete Isaac

Over 39 years ago, Martin spearheaded his unique discovery walking holidays in Cornwall and founded what became the very first walking tour operator in Cornwall – Adventureline. Often mimicked, but never equalled. Martin began his Dartmoor tours some 28 years ago, having grown up here.

And now Martin's son Pete leads our hikes across the moors. Like Martin, Pete also grew up on Dartmoor and just loves walking and sharing the bounties of Dartmoor's nature and history too. Pete will often lead any of the slightly more challenging hikes, while Martin imparts knowledge and accompanies the easier ones. Having Pete along will allow an expansion of possibilities; eg linear hikes across the moors, which would not be be possible if one had to make a circuit.

Keeping their groups small (average 7 or 8), Martin and Pete maintain an intimacy and cohesion (with humour!), which is warmly appreciated by all. Martin and Pete are always interested in others, so you will be appreciated and enjoyed too, for whoever you are and wherever you come from. Their groups often turn out to be an International mix too.

Martin and Pete are quite passionate about enabling their guests to have fun learning about Dartmoor, by stopping for an informal lecture, taking a closer look at the frequent natural phenomena, enjoying an exploratory scramble on the granite tors - and even taking a swim in one of the several enchanting rivers that run off the moors, through beautiful deep wooded valleys.



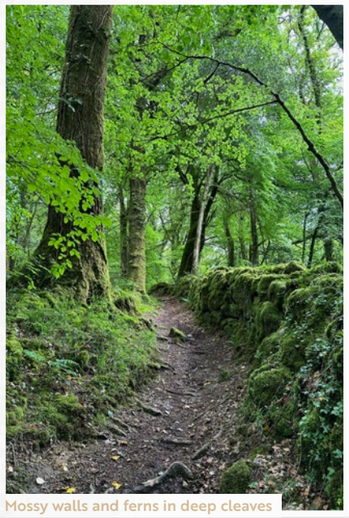
Burrator Reservoir

About the walks

You will be amazed at the diversity of Dartmoor. We will walk amongst mystical stone circles and ancient Bronze and Iron Age settlements, pretty market towns and imposing castles.

At a gentle pace we will marvel at the high granite Tors, walk wild and remote moorland, maybe cooling our feet in the clear flowing rivers tumbling off the high moors, that give way to lush valleys and gorges where we might find an otter or two playing in the sunshine.

Dartmoor is home to a unique and hardy wild small pony. Beautiful buzzards hover overhead, kingfishers dart amongst the bonsai oak forests in the river valleys and we will discover the atmospheric lost villages where our ancient ancestors lived in long ago prehistoric times.



Mossy walls and ferns in deep cleaves

Our personally guided walking holiday will share with you some of the very finest parts of Dartmoor National Park and its environs.

Our fully inclusive walking holidays are ideal for singles, couples and families. Our group size is usually about 8, so it's easy to get to know everyone. During our 38 years of operation, visitors from around the world have made many new friends. Whatever the mix of the group, English is the primary language spoken.

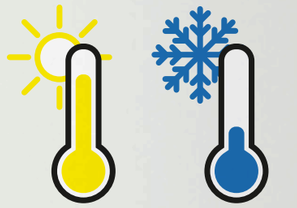
Typically, we will walk between 5-9 miles (8-14km's) per day. However, because of the *ups and downs* of Dartmoor's sometimes rugged landscapes, it might feel as though you have actually walked a little more on some days, although the walks are not too challenging. Lunch is not provided on this tour, however we can easily pick up a snack at the nearby local shops. After a Two Bridges Hotel breakfast, you won't need much! A semi free day may see us exploring Tavistock or similar, when lunch will also be at your own expense.

We will reveal the hidden wildlife and explain the basics of many concepts for you in an interesting and light-hearted way, so that the history, countryside and landforms – and its wildlife really come alive for you.

As we know, walking, talking, laughing and making new friends is good for our mind, body and spirit. These are some of the most enjoyable activities to participate in; ones that can reduce stress, ease muscle tension – and calm our minds.

We are sure you will find your fellow walkers share a love of nature and connect with the great outdoors too, just like you.

Average Temperature on Dartmoor in July



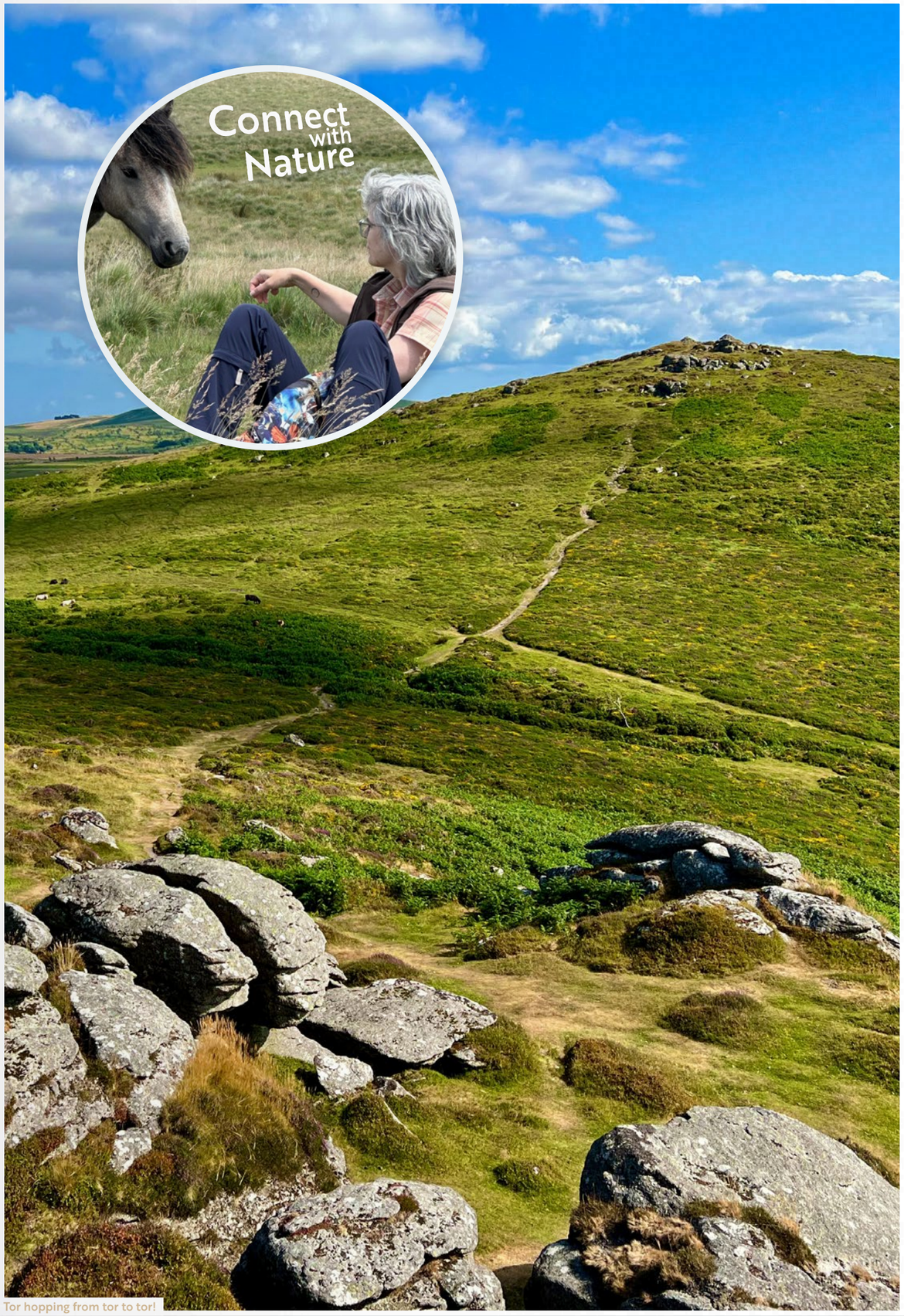
High
72°F / 22°C

Low
55°F / 15°C

Rain Fall 6 inches / 156mm

On Dartmoor the weather can be sunny, wet, foggy, windy and cool - however the weather can be clear and beautiful too – in any case, we'll have a plan to suit whatever is thrown at us.

However, during our 2 Dartmoor tours in 2026, we had much warmer than average temps!



Tor hopping from tor to tor!



Cotehele house and gardens

Cotehele

On one of the tour days, we might drive a short distance over the county border into Cornwall, to visit a superb Tudor house called Cothele with many stories and legends.

This wonderful example of an English country house is festooned with tapestries and textiles, arms and armour, pewter, brass and old oak furniture – we will stroll through a magical valley garden, which includes a medieval stew pond and dovecote, on to the tranquil upper garden and orchards planted with apples and cherries – and down through enchanting woodlands to the tidal Tamar River.



The standing stone at Scorhill Down



Historic treasures

Dartmoor is strewn with ancient buildings and all manner of things made from granite...

They include such things as granite gateposts, stone rows, circles and standing stones, burial chambers (kists), medieval crosses and memorial stones, or structures such as churches, cottages and farms, castles, holy wells, ash houses and bee boles (hives).

There is an outstanding and rare example of a Dartmoor Grade I listed unconverted medieval longhouse. Owned by the park authority, this amazing building has many interesting historic features, a cobbled floor, beams, roof timbers - all adding to the ambiance of the property. Dartmoor has over 100 longhouses; buildings that remain in use to this day, some now used as farm buildings, but most still as dwelling houses. The earliest examples of such longhouses are probably some 650 years old, the tradition of building longhouses on Dartmoor continued – unusually – through to the 18th century. The general rarity of this resource means that the 'Dartmoor Longhouse' is regarded as having international importance.

Such historic features are found all over Dartmoor and they are an important part of the cultural heritage, contributing greatly to its local distinctiveness and character.

Some wonderful granite buildings are a little more recent in construction, such as Buckland Abbey https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buckland_Abbey, once the home of Sir Richard Grenville and later, Sir Francis Drake, back in the 1500's. Depending on the group's wishes, we might visit some of these historic treasures.

Another great treasure is Grimspound https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grimspound a huge henge and settlement where Bronze Age people made their home about 3,300 years ago.



A beautiful Devon thatched 'Longhouse' in Manaton on the south east side of the moor



The famous Dartmoor ponies found wandering all over the moor



Lunch breaks in beautiful out-of-the-way valleys



Clapper Bridge on the moor above the Avon Dam



The central moor around Bellever

Dartmoor on film!

The 2012 film *War Horse* was filmed in various locations including Ringmoor Down on Dartmoor, not far from where our hotel is located. The movie is an adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's 1982 children's novel of the same name, set before and during WWI.

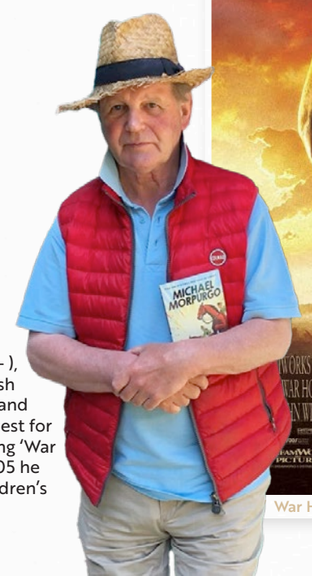
The director, **Steven Spielberg**, was very impressed by Dartmoor, in particular saying: *"I have before, in my long, eclectic career, been gifted with such an abundance of natural beauty such as I experienced whilst filming War Horse. With two and a half weeks of extensive coverage of landscapes and skies, I hardly scratched the surface of the visual opportunities that were offered to me."*

Spielberg said the sunsets in the film, including the final shot of the horse against the sky were not digitally manipulated: *"I only got five shots because the sun goes down awfully fast in Devon." He added that the production "stretched the budget to go to Devon and it was worth every penny".*

Now a huge box office success, 'War Horse' was nominated for six **Academy Awards** including Best Picture, two **Golden Globe Awards** and five **BAFTA** awards.



War Horse' movie poster



Michael Morpurgo (1943 -), OBE, FKC, AKC, an English author, poet, playwright and librettist who is known best for children's novels including 'War Horse'. From 2003 to 2005 he was the third British Children's Laureate.


'Werwulf' Film set, a hamlet by Sharp Tor, completely built from scratch!

More recently, the film *Werwulf* was filmed on Dartmoor, with a film set constructed on Sharp Tor above the Dart Gorge. A spectacular location with wild views across the moor, suitable for misty moon-drenched night shots where a werwulf may prowl!

Director **Robert Eggers** is a visonary film maker with titles including **Nosferatu, The Northman, The Lighthouse and The VVitch**. His films, set prior to the 20th century, blend elements of horror, folklore, and mythology and are noted for their historical authenticity and brooding, often dark atmosphere.

Dartmoor has its long-standing history of werewolf's, so an up to date Eggers take on the myth will be a thrilling, and no doubt incredibly scary addition to the genre.

The film will be released 1st Jan 2027.



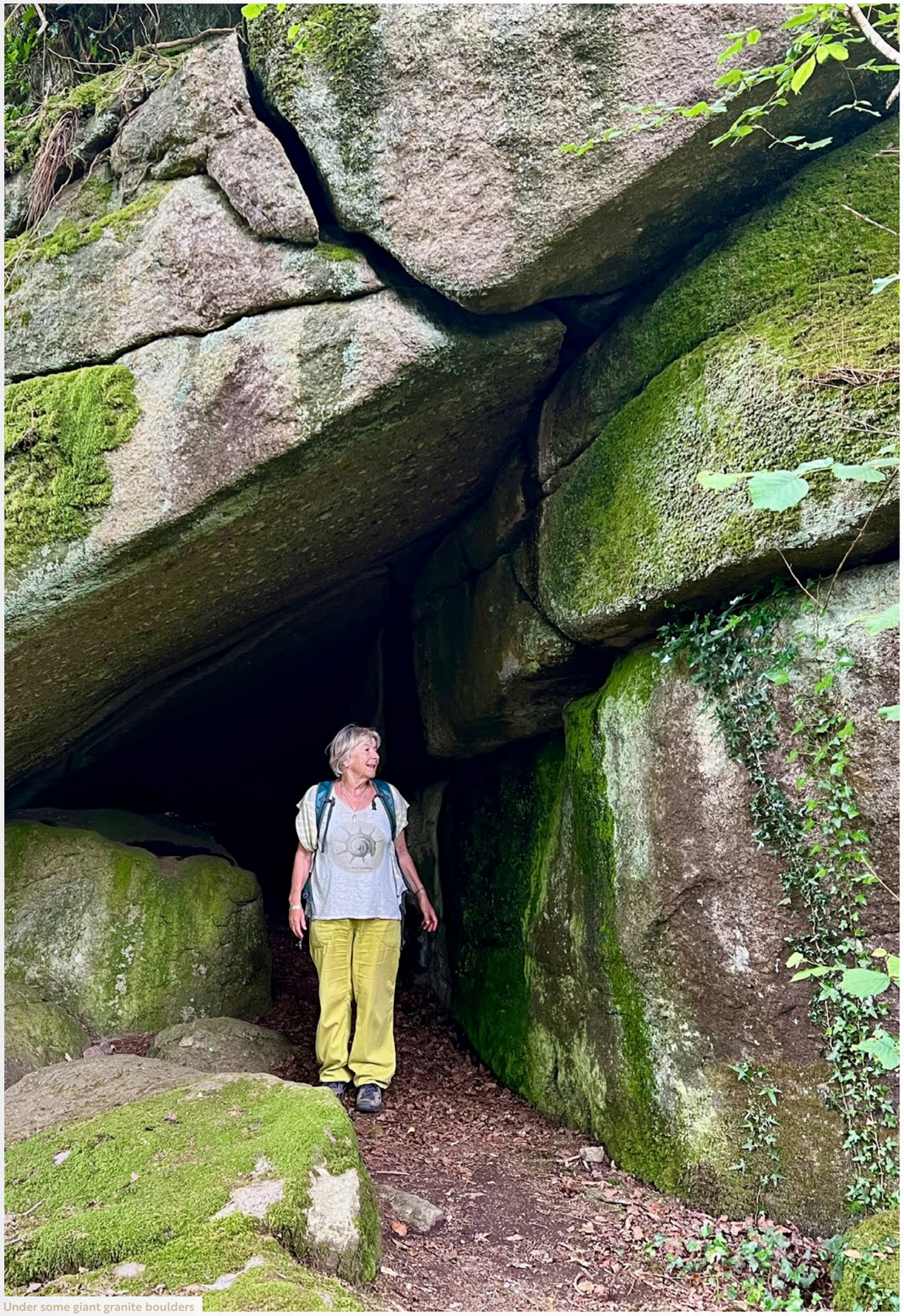
'Werwulf' movie poster



The Church House in Widecombe-in-the-Moor, built early in the 16th century, with its full-length colonnade



Outside The Rugglestone in Widecombe-in-the-Moor, one of our lovely dinner spots!



Under some giant granite boulders



Wistman's Wood, one of Britain's last remaining ancient temperate rainforests



High above the Dart Gorge



A classic tor!

Our Philosophy...

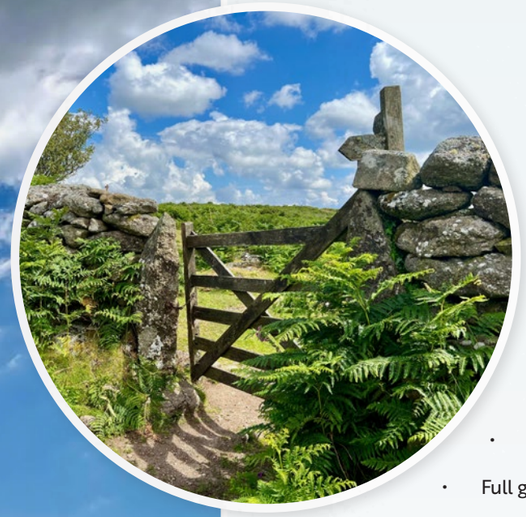
...is to enrich our guests lives and enjoy our work on a daily basis, providing impeccable customer service and promoting long-term sustainability of ecology, economy and community.

See what our many satisfied clients say about us - you'll be surprised!
https://adventureline.co.uk/testimonials/

Read more reviews: Trip Advisor | Google Reviews

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AdventurelineUK

The patchwork landscape that surrounds the edges of the moor



Booking

Tour cost
£2,225 pp / £385 single room supplement

Our great package includes:

- 7 nights accommodation, with full English cooked breakfasts and 7 delicious evening meals at the hotel and at ancient local pubs too.
- All transport during the tour.
- Full guidance by Pete and Martin.
- Two admissions to National Trust properties and the Dartmoor National Park Visitor Centre.

**Please bring along your National Trust membership card, if you have one.*

Adventureline's unique formula for a relaxing yet stimulating holiday (in good company) is well rounded and is good value for money too. Early booking is recommended as we have limited capacity per week.

Your holiday and accomodation:

Transport between walks; five fascinating days of guided walking (plus a free day) and exploring with Pete and Martin as your guidese. We recommend early booking as we have limited capacity, so please let us know if you are interested in this holiday as soon as you are able to do so.

For the duration of this tour, we shall stay at the historic Two Bridges Hotel in the heart of Dartmoor. This hotel is perfect for our needs and is well appointed with charming rooms.

Note: Possibility on arrival of a room up-grade at cost, as they might have luxury four poster bedrooms available!

Booking info:

1. The cost of this is based on a shared twin or double room basis, with a single room supplement (using a double room) of £385.

2. All bookings must be confirmed by email or letter.

3. We will hold your reservation provided that a £250 per person deposit is received within 3 weeks of the date of your email stating your intention to book this holiday with Adventureline.

4. We require payment in English pounds sterling (GBP) by BACS payment, by UK cheque or by transfer. We do not accept credit cards.

Please feel free to contact us by phone or email for further information, or details of any of our other holidays around the world, our terms and conditions, or to make a reservation. Phone: **Phone: +44 (0)1209 820847** | **adventureline@btinternet.com**

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to have the pleasure of your company on Dartmoor in 2027.

Martin Hunt

Martin Hunt

See you soon!



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