

Nature Break

Itinerary

visit
exeter

Exeter is nature's gateway to Devon, where green spaces flow from the heart of the city into some of the South West's most inspiring landscapes...



Day One:



Choose a section of the 12-mile **Exeter Green Circle** through Riverside or Ludwell Valley Park, where river margins, brooks, hedgerows and wildflower-rich grassland bring countryside character deep into the city. Walk slowly, listen for birdsong and look for pollinators, egrets or cormorants as the day begins. Pick up a picnic or local provisions in Exeter, then set out for Haldon Forest Park, around the city's south-western edge.

Step beneath the canopy at **Haldon Forest Park**. Take the easy-access Discovery Trail for broad, mostly level paths and regular pauses, or follow the Raptor or Butterfly trails for steeper, more varied terrain. Slow down to notice woodland sounds, changing light and seasonal plants, with occasional wide views across the surrounding landscape.

Continue west from Exeter to **Dartmoor National Park**, where wild, open moorland and deep river valleys create a dramatic contrast with the morning's sheltered woodland. Around Haytor, choose a gentle circuit or a careful climb among the granite outcrops, scanning for moorland birds and free-grazing ponies. Return to Exeter for dinner and an overnight stay, ready to explore east towards the estuary.

Alternatively, on the edge of Dartmoor, **Canonteign Falls** offers a beautiful natural attraction surrounded by lush woodland and peaceful countryside. Enjoy stunning waterfalls, scenic walking trails, fresh air, and breathtaking views. It is a perfect place to relax, explore nature, take photographs, and enjoy a memorable day outdoors. You can even finish off with a traditional Devon cream tea.

Day Two: Choose an East Devon wildlife encounter!

Option A: The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth. Follow farm and coastal paths through the sanctuary's East Devon landscape while meeting resident donkeys. Make the walk as important as the visit itself: pause at viewpoints, notice hedgerows and listen for farmland birds. Many paths are grass, so wear footwear suited to the conditions.

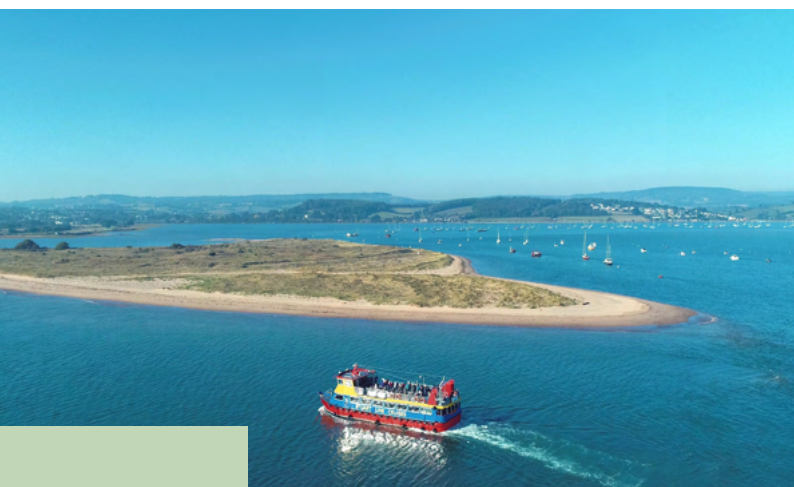
Option B: Wildwood Devon at Escot. Walk through woodland and gardens while discovering native and formerly native species, including red squirrels, wolves, bears and otters. Focus on the animals' habitats and conservation stories, leaving extra time for quiet observation among the trees.

Stop at **Greendale Farm Shop** for a lunch rooted in local produce, then take a short wander on the free Farm Trail. This gentle pause connects the day's wildlife experiences with East Devon's working countryside and seasonal food.

Option A: Stuart Line Cruises. Continue to Exmouth Marina for a Stuart Line Cruises trip on the River Exe. The estuary is internationally recognised for wildlife and changes character with the seasons, from summer greenery to large gatherings of wintering birds. Watch the mudflats, channels and shoreline from the open deck or sheltered saloon as live commentary helps identify resident and visiting species. Sailing times vary with season and tide, so book ahead.

Option B: National Trust Killerton. Turn back towards Exeter through the National Trust Killerton estate. Spend the final hours among veteran trees, orchards, woodland and wildlife-rich parkland, watching for songbirds and buzzards while grazing cattle help maintain habitat for insects and small mammals.

The short return to Exeter completes the circle: in two days, the city has opened the door to river valleys, deep forest, open moor, working countryside and a globally important estuary - a true gateway to a Devon nature break.



For further itinerary inspiration go to:
www.visitexeter.com/groups

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