

# The Ivy Barn Bed & Breakfast

## JANUARY 2018

Nicky and Rik wish you a Happy New Year We are looking forward to welcoming new guests and guests who have stayed with us before.

We have been extremely lucky in Holbeton as the weather has been fairly mild, a bit wet at times and we have currently avoided the threats of snow. Apparently Holbeton has not seen any snow for a number of years. Holbeton is pretty at any time but can you imagine it in the snow. As for The Ivy Barn we have been busy redecorating some of the rooms whilst we have been quieter. The family room has some new and improved furnishings and a larger TV for the family to watch.

On a personal note Nicky attempted Race the Light in December which was an 8.5 mile trail run across the River Erme twice and through the Flete Estate. Although starting on a nice sandy beach it soon became a rather muddy experience but an enjoyable one. There is a further trail run on Sunday 13th May called Race the Light where runners can attempt a 10k, 16 mile or a 29.5 mile run which starts in Holbeton, crosses the River Erme and goes through part of the Flete Estate. For the dedicated long distance runners doing the 29.5 miles the route takes you along the coastal path to Burgh Island and back. The scenery on all the runs are magnificent. The runs are organised via PureTrail and are well organised .<http://www.puretrail.uk/race-the-tide/> Of course at the end of the race there are two pubs in the village to enjoy a drink and good meal before retiring to The Ivy Barn.



South Hams Devon is a beautiful part of the country and in addition to the South West Coast Path there are a number of small walks which are within a short drive of The Ivy Barn which can be walked throughout the year.

### Top 5 Local Walks

1. Noss Mayo circular walk around the coast path – This is a distance of 4.5 miles and takes approximately 2 hours. It is an easy walk with some gentle gradients through open farmland, along a wooded creekside and a stretch of the coast path. There are two pubs in Noss Mayo so you can end the walk quenching your thirst.
2. Ringmore and Bigbury – This is a 5 mile walk which takes approximately 2 1/2 hours. It covers some attractive countryside and coastal walking into Bigbury. There are several moderate ascents and descents. At Bigbury you can visit Burgh Island. At low tide it is accessible on foot, otherwise there is a sea tractor to take people across. There is a cafe at the beach and The Dolphin pub on the Island.
3. Ivybridge and the River Erme walk – This is a 2-3 mile walk , walking through woodland and along the riverside. The walk takes you passed a number of Industrial remains and the magnificent railway viaduct dating from 1893. The stone piers of Brunel's earlier viaduct, which were topped by a timber construction, can be

seen beside it.

4. Aveton Gifford Tide Trail- this is a 2.5 miles walk which takes approximately 2 hours. This walk is outside Aveton Gifford on the River Avon. You must check the tide time before doing the walk as the tide road is not accessible at high tide.
5. Thurslestone and Bantham walk – A popular 4.5 mile walk which takes 2 hours. The walk takes ou along the cliff path with wonderful views of Burgh Island and the coast, then along some dune and beach.

If you want to go further afield Dartmoor has some beautiful scenery and miles of footpaths and tracks. As well as amazing scenery Dartmoor has interesting geology and fascinating archaeology, local legend and folklore and unique wildlife and flora.

### **Where to walk on Dartmoor:**

1. Haytor – Haytor is a mass of granite rock and is a popular tor which is near to the road and car park. There is a National Trust information centre and normally a small cafe van. The view from the top encompasses the coast and the moor. A short drive from Haytor is Widecombe-in-the Moor which has some lovely cafes and pubs.
2. Shipley Bridge and Rider's rings – A 3 1/4 mile walk which starts along the Avon with its rapids and waterfalls. This then climbs to Dartmoor's second largest Bronze Age settlement, returning via the old Zeal Tor Tramway. There is lots of high open moor and rough ground, how you expect Dartmoor to be.
3. Merrivale – This is a very short walk but packed with interest such as a Bronze Age village, a ceremonial site with multiple stone rows, nd a circle.
4. Great Combe and Holne Moor – A challenging walk of 3 1/4 miles which involves one steep descent and a long steady ascent. Although challenging the walk brings you to a rwo of prehistoric burial cairns. This walk will require an extra layer for warmth and a compass and map.
5. Parke form Bovey Tracey – A 3 mile walk along the River Bovey through woodland leading to views on to the hills and fields.

If you stay at The Ivy Barn we can give you more details of these walks.

Coming up in Holbeton Village 31st January 2018, 1st , 2nd and 3rd February The Holbeton Players put on some great plays and pantomines and Puss in Boots is the next production on the above dates. We have a couple of rooms left over that weekend for guests who may wish to see the production.

Next blog look out for the best places to eat and interesting place to visit.

**Mothecombe Beach**

