

DITTISCOMBE HOLIDAY COTTAGES

A GUIDE FOR GUESTS

Arrivals & Departures

Your cottage will be ready for you from 4pm on the day of your arrival. A few days before your holiday please ring or e-mail Jon and Ruth to confirm your eta so that we can personally welcome you to Dittiscombe. If you are delayed, or think you will be arriving later than 8pm, then please telephone us at the Farmhouse on 01548 521272 with your new eta - we can leave the cottage unlocked for you.

On arrival please park your car in the communal car park and come through the small gate to the Farmhouse.

On the day of departure please vacate your cottage by 10am. We like to say farewell if you pop round to the Farmhouse, but if you prefer to get on the road early then please leave the cottage unlocked with the key inside.

Bedding, Towels & Cottage Supplies

Beds are made up for your arrival. Towels are only provided free of charge in The Owlery and Honeysuckle cottages. Towels may be hired in the other cottages at £4 per set. In all cottages we provide a tea towel and hand towel, washing up liquid, kitchen paper towel, one toilet roll per bathroom, and biodegradable cleaning liquids etc (bleach products should not be used with our septic tank). We provide an emergency torch in each cottage but recommend you bring your own for night walking, taking the dogs out etc.

We have a supply of perfectly drinkable tap water from all taps in the cottages. There are BBQs which can be borrowed from us, and there is extra freezer space in the Farmhouse too.

Logs

In cottages with woodburners ([The Owlery](#), [Honeysuckle](#), [Buddleia](#) and [Dovecote](#)) we provide one complimentary basket of logs, kindling and firelighters. If you intend to use the woodburner a lot then we suggest you pick up supplies of logs and kindling from the garages at Halwell or Harbertonford on the A381. If you run out we can supply further logs, if available, at £3 per basket.

Laundry

There is a communal laundry room where you will find a washing machine and tumble dryer. As we have a biodegradable sanitary waste system we use non-phosphate liquid detergent. This is supplied, or bring Ecover liquid or similar with you (no powders please).

There is a communal whirlygig between Willows and Honeysuckle cottages and there is a clothes airer in your cottage.



Local shopping

Slapton Community Shop (2 miles)
Torcross Village Shop & Post Office (3.5 miles)
Stokeley Farm Shop, Stokenham (4 miles)
Morrisons, Kingsbridge and Totnes (7 miles)
Sainsburys, Dartmouth (7 miles)
Marks & Spencer, Dartmouth (8 miles)

Food Deliveries

Pretty Local (online shopping from farms and suppliers in the South Hams, delivery Fridays), Tescos, Sainsburys and Waitrose all make deliveries to Dittiscombe so you can book a food delivery for your day of arrival. Please let us know what delivery slot you arrange in case you are delayed, and give your name and cottage name for the delivery. There are small grocery shops in Slapton, Torcross and Stokeley and nearest supermarkets are Morrisons and Tesco in Kingsbridge, and Sainsburys just outside Dartmouth.

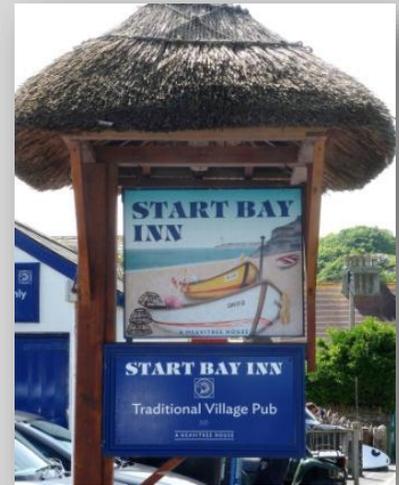
Eating Out

There is more information about pubs and cafes on our Food & Drink page, but here are some local suggestions if you don't want to travel too far:

- The Tower Inn in Slapton (children & dogs welcome) 01548 580216
- The Queens Arms, Slapton (take-away menu, beer garden, children & dogs welcome), 01548 580800
- The Start Bay Inn, Torcross (fresh fish and chips in the area family room available - arrive early as it gets very busy) 01548 580553
- The Cricket Inn, Beesands (dogs, children, fresh fish, beside the beach) 01548 580215
- Stokeley Farm Shop, Stokenham, deli, pizza oven, butchers, cafe & breakfasts 01548 581010

Our Lane

Our lane is a wildlife highway as well as a lane for cars. It is used by hedgehogs, deer, badgers, horses, dogs and walkers. Please would drivers keep to a maximum speed of 20mph, especially at night, and take extra care around the last blind bend just before the welcome sign.



Children

We can provide cots and highchairs, waterproof mattress protectors and bath safety mats on request, but please bring your own cot bedding, harnesses and any safety equipment such as stair gates or bed safety rails.

We have a toy box in the laundry room containing bats and balls, crabbing lines, buckets and spades and bodyboards. When you've finished using them please put them back for someone else to use.

Safe beaches with toilets and cafés are at Blackpool Sands, Mill Bay (East Portlemouth), North or South Sands (Salcombe), Bantham and Bigbury.

Crabbing off the harbour walls at Kingsbridge and Dartmouth.

Rockpooling is good at both Hope Cove and Thurlestone.

There are gentle walks at Beesands with a good family friendly pub The Cricket Inn; Start Point Lighthouse (good path down to the Lighthouse - tours available); and Slapton Ley Nature Reserve with group Safari trips around the Ley during the summer months.

There is an indoor swimming pool at Quayside Leisure Centre in Kingsbridge (learner pool also available) 01548 857100.

Dittiscombe Wildlife Detectives

There is a map of the valley in your cottage so that you can find your way round the nature trail, and a Dittiscombe Wildlife Detectives pack to help you identify the local wildlife.

Your pack contains identification books, colouring-in sheets, and suggestions for a few fun hours searching for the secret wildlife of Dittiscombe. If you need help Ruth can walk round and help you spot wildlife - call at the Farmhouse to ask. You'll find more information and further reading in the laundry room.

Here are some free Nature Apps which you could download to help you identify trees and bees:

[The Woodland Trust](#)

[The Great British Bee Count](#)

Doctor/dentist and Emergencies

In an emergency please come to the farmhouse to call the emergency services, 999, or the Out of Hours Devon Doctors 0845 671 0270. Please give our address, postcode and telephone number and the name of your cottage in case the doctor needs to visit or contact you: Dittiscombe Holiday Cottages (next to the Dittiscombe Equestrian Centre), Slapton, TQ7 2QF, tel 01548 521272.

Doctors' surgery

Chillington Health Centre, Orchard Way, Chillington, TQ7 2LB, 01548 580214.



Dogs & Puppies

Dogs must not be left unattended at any time in cottages or gardens, and they are not allowed in bedrooms at any time. If you wish, you can leave your dog for the day at a luxury licensed kennels, The Dog Lodge, approximately 1 mile away, www.dog-lodge.co.uk or 01548 581159 and details of vaccination requirements can be found on their web site.

We ask all dog owners to keep dogs under control in the gardens and grounds, and clear up immediately after their dog. Please bring your dog's bedding, some towels and throws and a crate for puppies. We can provide extra towels and covers on request.

There is a dog-friendly beach guide in the cottage file, but you can check out our list of recommended beaches [here](#).

Please place lots of dog covers on the floors, and do not allow your dog onto the furniture or into the bedrooms. We can provide further covers, towels, dog bowls, dog shampoo, dog leads, and emergency dog food if required. There is a bucket and cleaning solution under the sink, and floor mops can be borrowed from us at the Farmhouse. There is an outdoor hose outside Dovecote, there is a vacuum cleaner in your cottage, and the washing machine can take dog blankets and towels but please wipe it clean after use.

Dog-friendly South Devon

There are plenty of beaches and eating out places to visit with your dog. Go to the [dog-friendly](#) page on our website for more information. You'll also find a copy of *Toby's Dog Walks in South Devon* in your cottage. However, please don't hesitate to come and see us if you have any specific questions about where to go with your dog.

Vets

South Moor Vets www.southmoorvets.co.uk, Derby Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1JL. 01548 856688

Selworthy Vet Group, Warren Road, Kingsbridge 01548 853322

Local pet food shop

Pet & Garden Supplies, 5 Mill Street, Kingsbridge. 01548 857174.



Phone signals & Wifi

Your cottage Network name is Dittiscombe and the password is 0154801548. Please note that when we are busy the Broadband speed may be slow.

Mobile phone signals are available but are weak in the valley so it is unlikely there will be a signal in the cottages. You may like to give our telephone number 01548 521272 to anyone who may need to contact you in an emergency. Have you thought about using Skype, Facetime or What's App to connect to family and friends while you are away - these apps use the WiFi rather than the phone signal.

Security Deposit

As stated in our terms and conditions a security deposit of £100 is payable at the same time as your balance. The payment is held until the cottage is cleaned and inspected and any breakages, losses or extra cleaning will be deducted, and the balance returned within 10 days of departure by credit card or by direct bank transfer if requested. If you supplied a cheque for us to hold this will be securely destroyed. Overseas visitors can pay the security deposit in Pounds Sterling cash on arrival, and this will be returned at the end of your stay following a check of the cottage.

Cleaning

Your cottage is prepared very carefully before your visit. Please try and keep your cottage clean and in good order. It would help Julie and Michelle enormously if, at the end of your stay, you would place furniture and equipment back in its original place, strip bedding and empty bins. If you have a dog then please ensure you remove as much pet hair as possible using the vacuum cleaner provided in the cottage.

Golf, Spa & Swimming

With our Privilege Plus membership we able to offer a 25% discount on golf and leisure activities at the Dartmouth Golf & Country Club (please see your 'guest membership' pack in the cottage file for further details). Tel 01803 712686.

Area Information

You will find local brochures and directories in your cottage, and maps and eating out guides in the laundry room. For more information prior to your arrival visit the following Tourist Information websites: www.kingsbridgeinfo.co.uk; www.discoverdartmouth.co.uk or our website www.dittiscombe.co.uk.

No Smoking

In accordance with the Law we have a strict no-smoking policy inside all cottages.



Car Free Days Out

Enjoy a leisurely stroll around the Dittiscombe nature trail and discover the woods, stream-fed ponds and open or shady places with benches, picnic tables and bird-viewing areas along the way. There is a Nature Map in your cottage file, and a Dittiscombe Wildlife Detectives pack for children. Walk along the paths and identify some of the wildlife you see along the way. If you would like any more information about our local wildlife call at the Farmhouse and talk to Ruth and Jon.

Take the one hour walk from your cottage door through leafy lanes and farmyard trails to the historic village of Slapton with a church, medieval tower and two excellent dog-friendly pubs. From there you can go on to the Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve for a spot of bird watching and further on to the beach at Slapton Sands.

A map and directions for this walk is provided in your cottage file. Find our more about our local village on our [Slapton](#) page.

Recycling & Waste Disposal

To reduce the amount of landfill in Devon we are asking our guests to help with recycling waste products such as bottles, newspapers and magazines, cans, plastic bottles, tetrapaks, and kitchen waste. We provide a separate sheet for recycling information which you will find in the cottage, biodegradable kitchen waste bags and dog bags, and either recycled or biodegradable bin liners.

Dead batteries and strip lights can be handed into us at the Farmhouse as these will be taken to the recycling centre by hand.

Nature Conservation

This is a very important aspect of Dittiscombe as we, and our guests, can privately enjoy over 20 acres of conservation valley. Our land was farmed up until 1982, but with just a small amount of management, and in a short space of time, nature has taken over. The woods, ponds and meadows now provide a diverse range of habitats for plants and animals to thrive in.

Energy & Water

We are open all year so our cottages must be kept warm and snug during the winter months. We use a variety of heating such as night-storage, log-burners, timed convectors and both oil-fired and LPG gas central heating. We use rechargeable batteries, led light bulbs, TRVs on the radiators, dimmer switches where possible, dusk-to-dawn and solar lighting outside.

We try to save water by using water butts for watering, planting dry-loving plants, shrubs and hanging baskets, installing dual flush toilets, tap aerators, water-pressure reducers and eco shower heads.

