

Slapton, Kingsbridge, TQ7 2QF
Ruth & Jon Saunders
01548 521272 or 07821 260787
hello@dittiscombe.co.uk
www.dittiscombe.co.uk

A Guide for Guests

This Guide for Guests will help answer questions you may have before your holiday and during your stay, but if there is anything else you'd like to know then please feel free to get in touch with us.

Arrival & Check-in

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 approximate time of arrival.

We love to personally welcome our guests if we're around, but if you would prefer to self check-in, or if you are planning to arrive late or likely to be significantly delayed en-route, Ruth will send you a location map and check in details. Please contact her on 07821 260787 to arrange this.

Departure & Check-out

Please would you vacate the cottage by 10am. We'd like to say farewell so please WhatsApp or text Ruth on 07821 260787. However, if you need to get going then please let Ruth know you've left, and leave the cottage key in door on the outside.

We and our cleaning team would be most grateful if you could strip the duvet covers and pillows only (not the protectors) from your beds, place your recycling in the recycling area in the old barn and empty all indoor bins. Thank you.

Parking at Dittiscombe

We ask that all vehicles are parked in the main communal car park area, except for The Owlery which has its own car space outside the cottage. You are welcome to take your car to your cottage door to load and unload. If you are likely to bring more than one car please would you let Ruth know on 07821 260787 so that we can manage spaces.

EV Charger

An EV charging point is now available for our guests' use. Untethered, 7w type 2 charger, reasonable tariff on the Voltshare app-less system using a QR code.

Doctors' surgery & making an appointment

Chillington Health Centre, Orchard Way, Chillington, TQ7 2LB, 01548 580214. Say you are a guest at Dittiscombe Holiday Cottages, Slapton TQ7 2QF.

To contact a doctor when our Doctors' surgery is closed, call the NHS 111 helpline. You will need to give your name, home address and telephone number. If the doctor needs to visit you here please give them the following information – Dittiscombe Holiday Cottages (next to the Dittiscombe Equestrian Centre), Slapton TQ7 2QF, telephone 01548 521272.

If you have possible Covid symptoms and are worried about yourself or anyone in your party then ask for an urgent GP appointment or get help from NHS 111.

Medical Emergencies

In an emergency and if you are unable to get a signal on your mobile phone, please come to the farmhouse to call the emergency services on our landline 999. Kingsbridge Hospital has a small injuries unit, otherwise it's Torbay or Derriford Hospitals.

Bedding, Towels & Cottage Supplies

Beds are made up for your arrival. Towels are automatically supplied in **Honeysuckle** and **The Owlery**.

Please let us know if you'd like towels supplied in Dovecote and Rafters.

We provide a tea towel and hand towel, washing up liquid, kitchen paper towel, one toilet roll per bathroom, antibacterial spray and other 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. We have a supply of perfectly drinkable tap water from all taps in the cottages.

The fridges have small freezer compartments.

BBQs

We have varying sizes of BBQs for you to borrow with equipment. Please let us know if you would like one during your stay.

Things to remember to bring

Towels
Torch
Supplies for dogs including towels, throws, poo bags, and cleaning solutions
Children's toys, books and games and any safety equipment

Communal Laundry Room

The laundry room with tumble dryer and washing machine is available to use between Monday and Saturday 9am – 6pm.

Local shopping

Slapton Community Shop, Sands Road in Slapton TQ7 2QN. Parking in the Village Hall car park – opening hours 8am – 1pm Monday to Saturday, 9am – 12noon Sundays. M: 07938 743543.

Stokeley Farm Shop & Cafe, Stokenham (4 miles) – plenty of parking – opening hours 9am -5pm Monday to Sunday. Please check their Facebook page for the latest information.

Morrisons, Kingsbridge and Totnes (7 miles)
Tescos, Kingsbridge (7 miles)
Sainsburys, Dartmouth (7 miles)
Marks & Spencer, Dartmouth (8 miles)

Food Deliveries

We try to support local shopping and have some great farm shops supplying locally sourced products for most of your holiday food supplies:

Stokeley Farm Shop, approx. 3 miles

Aune Valley Farm Shop, approx. 7 miles
Springfield Farm Shop, approx. 5 miles
Daynes Farm Shop, approx. 7 miles

However, if you need a food delivery for your arrival then Tescos, Waitrose and Sainsburys all make deliveries to this area. Please book a time that you will be at your cottage but after 8am to avoid disturbing other guests. Please let us know what arrangements you make so we can direct the driver to you. Give your cottage name and the full address of Dittiscombe Farmhouse with postcode TQ7 2QF.

Local Eating Out

We recommend that you check all pubs and cafes on their Facebook pages for latest information and opening hours:

Slapton (can walk but allow 50 minutes there and 1 hour back up the hill!). Taxis can be booked – see Taxi list below and in Guest Laundry Room).
The Queens Arms, Slapton, dog friendly 01548 580800 they do not take bookings but turnover tables quickly.
Tower Inn, Slapton, dog friendly 01548 580216, check their opening hours, you can book a table.

Torcross
The Start Bay Inn (takeaway fish and chips)
Torcross Boathouse (dog friendly).
The Billy Can café (dog friendly)

Beesands
The Cricket Inn – dog friendly 01548 580215.
Britannia at the Beach takeaways and outdoor dining 01548 581168.

Stokenham
Stokeley Farm Shop and Café, breakfast, lunch and pizza oven 01548 58160 (dog friendly outside) Church House Inn 01548 580253 (dog and family friendly).
Tradesmans Arms, lunch and dinner, (dog & family friendly) 01548 580996.
Church House Inn, lunch and dinner (dog & family friendly) 01548 01548 721994.

Chillington
Bear & Blacksmith Pub, lunch and dinner, (dog and family friendly) 01548 721696
info@thebearandblacksmith.co.uk

Feast Kitchen Deli
Freshly prepared healthy food available for takeaway and delivery from Janey at Feast Kitchen www.feastkitchendeli.co.uk collect or delivery for orders above £20. M: 07584 093178.

For more eating out suggestions visit our Food & Drink page.

General Waste

There is a dedicated bin for your general waste in your cottage outdoor space. Please place all general waste, including dog bags in there, and ensure the lid is secure.

Recycling

We have a recycling service for all food waste, paper, cardboard, some plastics, glass and cans.
Please read the information in the recycling basket which is located in your cottage kitchen area.
The waste collections teams would be very grateful if you could follow these instructions to separate your waste correctly. If you have any other items of waste like batteries, please hand these to us in the Farmhouse for separate recycling.

Nature Watching in our Valley & Information Noticeboard

You'll find more local information in our **guest laundry room** which is at the rear of the Farmhouse through the oak door. There are walking bookings, nature guides, sweep nets and bug pots for you to borrow, and local events posted on the noticeboard. If you'd like to try the bat detector please contact Ruth in the Farmhouse on 07821 260787.

We suggest you download the Merlin Bird Song App and the I Naturalist App so that you can identify some of the animals and plants which you'll discover sitting in your garden, on a walk around the valley, or on any of the lovely coastal and rural walks in the area.

For more information about identifying nature and citizen science projects read our blog I-Spy Nature at Dittiscombe.

Our Lane

Our lane is a wildlife highway as well as a lane for cars. It is used by toads, hedgehogs, deer, badgers, horses, dogs and walkers. Please would drivers keep to a **maximum speed of 15mph**, especially at night, and take extra care around the last blind bend just before the welcome sign.

Children

We have 20 acres of space in which to run and play around the estate, and a whole 10-acre woodland to have adventures in, a flat area for ball games and a small person's playhouse with toys. **Please supervise children at all times.**

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

Safe family beaches with toilets and cafés are at Blackpool Sands, Mill Bay (East Portlemouth), North or South Sands (Salcombe), Bantham and Bigbury. Rockpooling is good at both Hope Cove and Thurlestone.

Have a look at our Beaches page for more information.

There are gentle walks at Beesands with a good family friendly pub The Cricket Inn; Start Point Lighthouse (metalled path down to the Lighthouse); and Slapton Ley Nature Reserve with a selfguided nature trail. Our Great Outdoors and Family Friendly page has lots more information and a list of accessible walks too.

Dogs & Puppies

Dogs are welcome at Dittiscombe, but there are a few 'dog house rules' for you and your pet to follow.

Dogs must not be left unattended in cottages unless otherwise arranged. They are not permitted in the bedrooms at any time.

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. Please place lots of dog covers on the floors, and do not allow your dog onto the furniture or into the bedrooms. There is a bucket and cleaning solution under the sink and a vacuum cleaner in your cottage.

Dog poo bags can be placed in your cottage outdoor bin.

There is a guide to all the best beaches in the area on our website, including those which are dogfriendly Best Beaches. Also have a look for more information at our dog-friendly page We Love Dogs!

If you'd like to have a day without your dog you can book them into The Dog Lodge, a luxury licensed kennel just a mile from Dittiscombe. Kathy Bowles and her team are very welcoming and there are enclosed paddocks for your dog to run around in during their stay. Dogs must be fully vaccinated, including a kennel cough certificate which must be at least 10 days old.

Vets

South Moor Vets www.southmoorvets.co.uk Derby Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1JL.
01548 852766
Selworthy Vet Group, Stumpy Post Surgery, Kingsbridge TQ7 4BL. 01548 853322

Pet food Shops & Dog Grooming

Pet & Garden Supplies, 5 Mill Street, Kingsbridge. 01548 857174
Doggy Deli, 109 Fore Street, Kingsbridge 07930 329400
Dog & Soap, Unit 3, Business Park, Station Yard Industrial Estate, Kingsbridge 01548 288276

Outdoor Activities & Wellness at Dittiscombe and surrounding area

Yoga Classes

- Studio, Beach and SUP Yoga with Donna McCheyne. Contact Donna for bespoke sessions, therapies and retreats on 07941 508004 or at **Simply Soulful Yoga**.
- Natalie Cordrey runs the **Start Bay Studio** in Torcross. Classes for a variety of levels, small café and sauna. Also a range of therapies.
- Laura Mitchell offers various classes in a variety of locations through **Tiger Mama Yoga**.

Forest Bathing

Donna McCheyne is our Forest Bathing guide, and bespoke sessions can be booked with her and held here in our woodland at Dittiscombe. Contact her on 07941 508004 or at **Simply Soulful Yoga.**

Paddleboarding:

Crispin owns **Waterborn** ideal for new or experienced paddleboarders. For lessons, groups and SUP hire from the Quay Car Park, Kingsbridge Estuary use the website to book or call him 07908 193632.

Marcus of **Salcombe Paddleboarding** offers lessons and board hire from a beautiful spot on the estuary at East Portlemouth. Call him on 07790 940059 or message him through Facebook.

Canoeing

Dave Halsall of **Singing Paddles** guides small groups in 2-man canoes to peaceful creeks and inlets around the Kingsbridge/Salcombe estuary. BBQs or Cream Teas on quiet beaches. Dogs are welcome. Use the website to book or call Dave direct on 07754 426633.

Wild Swimming

If you'd like to know some good spots get in touch with Ruth at the Farmhouse. You can borrow our book Wild Swimming spots in the South Hams.

Nature Walks at Dittiscombe

During the summer holidays we offer guided nature walks with local ecologist Ken Neal around the estate here at Dittiscombe. This is free to our guests and ideal for families with children. They start in the car park at 10am every Sunday, for around 2 hours. Dogs are welcome on leads. Booking essential so please enquire about available dates and book with Ruth on hello@dittiscombe.co.uk or 07821 260787.

Rewilding Walks

We also offer bespoke rewilding guided tours with Ruth. Please text her if you wish to book a tour with her during your stay on hello@dittiscombe.co.uk or 07821 260787.

Logburners in Honeysuckle, The Owlery & Dovecote

Each of these cottages will have a starter basket of logs, kindling and firelighters. We can supply more logs from Dittiscombe woods at £3 per basket and the money collected will go to our Tree Planting fund to plant further native trees and hedges to replace those lost through Ash dieback. If you plan to use the logburner a lot we would recommend you pick up a supply from the local garages at Totnes, Halwell and East Charlton.

Wifi

Your cottage Network name is **Dittiscombe** and the password is **0154801548**.

Phone and TV Signals

Mobile phone signals are weak in the valley so it is unlikely there will be a signal in your cottage. You may wish to give our landline number 01548 521272 to anyone who may need to contact you in an emergency. Have you thought about using Skype, Facetime or WhatsApp to connect to family and friends while you are away – these apps use WiFi rather than a phone signal.

We are some distance from the nearest TV mast and so during high pressure we sometimes lose TV signal. You can of course use the Iplayer through the wifi to watch television.

Car parking out and about

Most car parks within the South Hams area have a pay and display system. It's advisable to use your mobile phone to pay for parking where possible, by calling or using the Pay by Phone app which you can download before your holiday.

Taxi Service

Totally Taxis (will take dogs in the car) 07542 626545
Rob'sTaxi 07970 758999
Merlins –in Slapton. Call Susi on 07455 951185
24/7 Taxis – call Natasha on 07949 544104 or 01548 800800
Badger Cabs (will take dogs in the car) 01803 840400

A more extensive list of taxis can be found in the laundry room at Dittiscombe.

Car Emergency Breakdown

Kingsbridge Auto Repair & Rescue, Hallwell Business Park, Totnes TQ9 7LQ 01803 712300
AA breakdown service 0800 887766 and RAC breakdown service 0800 828282

No Smoking

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

Fire Hazards

On arrival please read the emergency plan in your cottage and make yourself aware of the exits, and location of the fire-fighting equipment. The muster point is the main car park. There are heat alarms in all cottages, and carbon monoxide alarms in cottages with gas central heating and logburners. We have a full Fire Risk Assessment document to view here.

Chemists

Boots, Prince of Wales Road, Kingsbridge 01548 852354
Co-op Pharmacy, Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge 01548 857158

Further Information

You'll find more specific information inside your cottage file, such as how the heating works, the map and walk to Slapton village and emergency fire exit procedures. However, if there is anything else you'd like to know please get in touch with Ruth and Jon at the farmhouse, or contact us on hello@dittiscombe.co.uk, or WhatsApp Ruth on 07821 260787.

We have an excellent Tourist Information Centre in Kingsbridge, The Quay TQ7 1HS. Visit them to pick up the local leaflets and find out about ferry times and book local events. 01548 853195.

Layout of Dittiscombe Cottages and Farmhouse



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