

THE  
DARTMOOR  
DERBY

CREATED BY LIBERTY TRAILS



# Highlights of The Dartmoor Derby

- ▶ A 50-mile, internationally acclaimed adventure ride involving two-and-a-half days in the saddle, covering large swathes of the moors, with lunch served daily en route.
- ▶ An annual event of up to 30 guests from around the world, riding in teams of no more than eight (with two mounted guides accompanying each one).
- ▶ Enjoy evenings in the purpose-built Dartmoor Derby camp, complete with firepit, dining tent (with field kitchen) and visiting after dinner speakers.
- ▶ Gourmet cooking from top chefs using many locally sourced ingredients.
- ▶ Sleep each night in charming, quintessential Dartmoor lodges.
- ▶ Meet some of the farmers and hunt followers whose families have lived and worked on Dartmoor for generations.
- ▶ Option to bring your own horse! We've always loved welcoming riders who bring their own horses, but recommend you bring your own usual hard feeds and supplements with you. We can supply advice from a local vet on how to get your horse nicely fit for this sort of adventure, plus a suggested packing list which is very useful we find. We will guide you to your yard if you bring your own horse once you approach Dartmoor.
- ▶ Trip extensions (additional nights, warm up rides, autumn hunting, mounted falconry etc) easily arranged.

This now world-renowned event is the jewel in Liberty Trails' crown, attracting participants from all around the world. Subtly modified over the years to reach the ideal formula it follows now, it has at its heart a purpose-built Dartmoor Derby camp deep within the moors, where guests gather for meals, talks, fireside drinks and much laughter after the day's ride.



# Itinerary

*PLEASE NOTE: some details of the trip outlined below may vary; we amend our routes to make the most of weather conditions etc.*

## Day one:

Arrive in Camp, dressed to ride, by 11am. Meet your teammates, mounted guides and ground support crew. Settle your horse into our nearby horse station (if you are bringing your own) and then enjoy a light lunch in camp. Afterwards, mount up and set off with your team and guides on your first half day of riding on the moors, around 3 hours in duration.

On return, your ground crew will deliver you to your guest lodge to have tea and cake and freshen up before taking you back to Camp for pre-dinner drinks by the fire and supper in the dining yurt. Later they will drive you back to your guest lodge.

## Day two:

After a first rate breakfast prepared by your Lodge Host, your ground crew arrive to drive you into Camp. You will then mount up for a fabulous 6-hour ride covering some 18 to 20 miles typically, with a good dismounted stop for lunch.

The Derby being our biggest ride, we make the most of getting deep into the moors and showing you some splendidly varied, remote and stunning country. Climb to the top of tors giving you stupendous views, enjoy long, contour-hugging canter, cross rivers and wind through disused tin mines.



There are plenty of long, fast canters but the Derby is not a race, and there is plenty of time for photographs and to learn from your guide about the National Park's wildlife, legends, ponies and more. Your ground support crew can carry (and relieve you of) spare clothes, besides providing regular refreshments and taking great photos of you on the hoof.

Finishing back in camp, tea and cake (and, usually, port too) is served in the horse barn, before your ground crew drive you back to your guest lodge to freshen up before dinner which is once again served in Camp, with a guest speaker visiting after supper.

Relax with a glass of wine or coffee by the Camp fire or the wood-burning stove in the dining yurt before heading back to your nearby lodge for bed.

Depending on which team you are in, you may transfer this evening to a new guest lodge as you progress across the moors. Your ground crew will transport your luggage ahead of you.

### Day three:

As for day three, a fun, fast day in the saddle covering another 18+ miles on horseback, after a super breakfast prepared by your Lodge Host.

Once again, your ride will take in tors, standing stones, native pony herds, skylarks and buzzards. Toast the ride's end with tea and cake and some bubbly as you dismount. You will have earned it!

Then it's back to your guest lodge for the night for a bath etc before returning to Camp for a final night's celebrations and another excellent three-course meal (and visiting speaker) in the dining yurt.



## Day four:

After a relaxing final breakfast in your lodge, guests depart. Many guests opt to extend their stay further, with a rest day then some falconry or a morning's autumn hunting with a local pack, and staying in a top local hotel. Please enquire if you'd like to do this.



## Accommodation and meals

Accommodation meanwhile is in cosy, weatherproof and hugely characterful private guest lodges, with two nights spent in one and one night in another, your luggage taken ahead for you as you ride across the moors.

Each lodge is staffed by a Liberty Trails Lodge Host who cooks your breakfast, arranges your luggage transfers and takes care of your every need.

Catering for this event is delivered by a team of leading chefs who use local ingredients wherever possible, from Brixham scallops to Dartmoor-reared lamb, creating simply outstanding meals from our specially built field kitchen.

## Single/Shared occupancy:

Since guest lodges tend to be small on Dartmoor, we ask guests to share a twin room with another guest of the same sex.



# What previous Dartmoor Derby guests have said:

*'The Dartmoor Derby is truly an amazing experience. The horses are the best, the guides are enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable, and the food and scenery is spectacular. This was an adventure I will never forget.'*

*'I've ridden in Africa, France, Ireland, Italy and through many places in the US but this without question is the best organised... If I could have only one lifetime riding experience in beautiful country, with exceptional food and accommodations, I would choose this.'*

*'Beautiful and challenging, wonderful people and incredible food. The Derby pulls you into Dartmoor and holds a bit of it in your soul when you leave.'*

*'One of the best weekends of my life. I couldn't recommend it more.'*

*'Just brilliant. A riding safari experience for the UK.'*



## The package includes:

- ▶ Horse hire **OR** livery for three nights for one guest horse with hay and bedding included.
- ▶ Mounted Dartmoor guides.
- ▶ Ground support crew.
- ▶ Lunches.
- ▶ All accommodation.
- ▶ Transfers to/from your horse each day.
- ▶ All breakfasts and dinners, including pre-dinner drinks.
- ▶ Photos taken by our ground crew will be shared with anyone who would like them.
- ▶ Transfers needed to/from Exeter St David's train station or Exeter airport.

## Next Steps:

Please email us at [enquiries@libertytrails.com](mailto:enquiries@libertytrails.com) stating your preference for single occupancy or shared occupancy room, with hired horse or livery for your own horse.

We will confirm pricing and availability and send you a Rider Information Form. To reserve your place, we ask each rider to complete and return the Rider Information Form along with a 30% deposit.

If your trip has to be re-arranged due to changes in Covid regulations it will be transferred to an identical or similar experience (in consultation with you) on another agreed date,

with no rearrangement fees. We are proud to have achieved 100% customer satisfaction with how we've handled this so far and intend to keep it that way.

## Have a question?

Contact us **HERE** or send a WhatsApp message to 07967 823674 requesting call back to discuss The Dartmoor Derby.

## Booking Conditions

<https://liberty-trails.com/booking-conditions/>

