

Some Special Things About Dartmoor

Rivers
Several rivers begin high up on Dartmoor. They begin as small streams and grow wider as they flow down towards the lower land and out to sea. Dartmoor's rivers are home to otters, salmon and many other species.

Tors and Granite
The granite affects everything on Dartmoor. It forms the natural features, such as the tors and boulders. Granite also affects the appearance of features built by people such as the farms, the walls, and the churches. Granite gives Dartmoor its special character!

Woodlands and Forests
Dartmoor has many wooded areas. Some are ancient woodlands which are home to old oak trees that have been there for hundreds of years. Other areas have been planted more recently with conifer trees to supply us with wood.

Ancient Sites
Dartmoor contains a very large number of ancient heritage sites. The oldest archaeological ruins date back to the Stone Age, but Dartmoor is most famous for its Bronze Age remains. There are also many remarkable medieval and old industrial sites to explore.



Dartmoor Prison
Dartmoor Prison, the largest building on the moor, was built in Princetown. It was originally built for prisoners of war, but is now used for people convicted of crimes.

Settlements
Most of Dartmoor's larger settlements are around the edge of the moor. There are many farms and villages on the east and western sides of Dartmoor. Princetown and Widecombe-in-the-Moor are the most visited settlements.

Farming
Most of Dartmoor is used for farming. Many farmers let their cows, sheep and ponies graze the moor. Dartmoor is a hard place for a farmer to make a living because of the extreme weather and poor soils.

Ponies
Ponies live out on the moor all year round and are a very important part of moorland life. Many years ago the ponies were used as pack ponies to transport goods around the moor and to work down coal mines.

