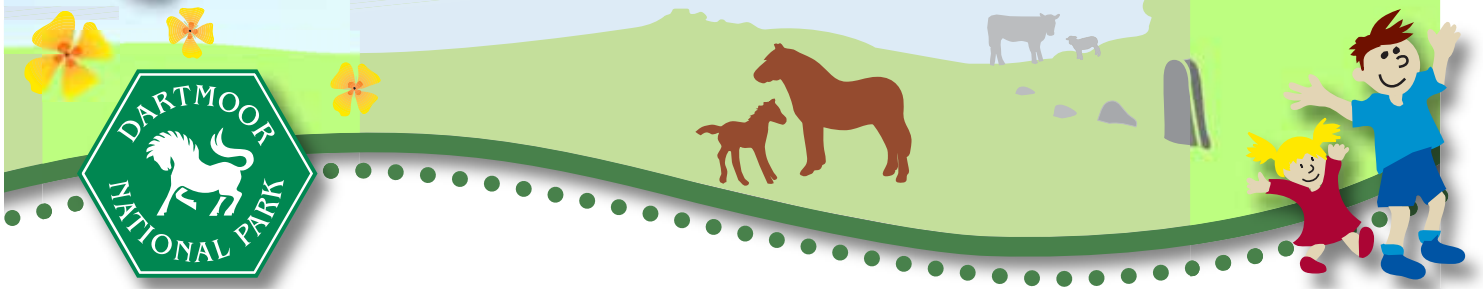




Introducing Dartmoor National Park



Dartmoor covers an area of 954 square kilometres (368 square miles) and contains the largest area of open countryside in the South of England.

Due to Dartmoor's outstanding natural beauty, it is one of the National Parks of England, Wales and Scotland.

Between 1951 and 1999, 14 areas across the UK joined the National Park family.

Dartmoor is a place where people live, work and spend their free time and holidays. It is also a place where a number of special plants and animals live. It is the job of the Dartmoor National Park Authority to help look after and protect the natural beauty, wildlife and history of the area.

The National Parks of England, Wales and Scotland



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That's a Fact!

Dartmoor's highest point is 621 metres above sea level at High Willhays.

Dartmoor's lowest point is only 30 metres above sea level at Doghole Bridge.

65% of Dartmoor is made up of the rock granite, which formed 295 million years ago!

There are over 160 tors on Dartmoor.

34,500 people live within the National Park.

More than a hundred people work for Dartmoor National Park Authority. They all work together to keep Dartmoor the special place that it is.

We have rangers who work as the eyes and ears of the National Park Authority out on the moor everyday. We also have a team of people helping to protect the wildlife, precious buildings and landscape. It's very important that we work closely with the farmers, the residents and the thousands of people that visit Dartmoor.

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 Prinetown. 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. Prinetown 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.

Lots of Amazing Dartmoor Facts

Answer the questions, then spell out the mystery word using the first letter from each answer. Mystery word ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

1. Where is Dartmoor's lowest location at only 30m above sea level?
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
2. The Dartmoor National Park ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ works to look after and to protect the National Park for future generations.
3. What begins high up on Dartmoor and flows down towards the sea?
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
4. There are 160 of these scattered across Dartmoor, what are they?
○ ○ ○ ○ ○
5. Dartmoor's heritage sites date from the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ times.
6. What species of mammal can be found in Dartmoor's rivers?
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
7. Dartmoor contains the largest area of ○ ○ ○ ○ countryside in South West England.
8. Who are the eyes and ears of the National Park Authority out on the moor? ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Dartmoor is about the same size as London: it is about 20 miles (32 kilometres) from top to bottom (or north to south) and 20 miles (32 kilometres) across (west to east).

How many football pitches do you think would fit into an area the size of Dartmoor?

- a. 200 ○
- b. 2,000 ○
- c. 20,000 ○

Many local farmers have rights to let their animals graze (feed off the grasses and plants) on Dartmoor's open moorland (common land).

How many sheep, cows and ponies are there grazing on the common land of Dartmoor?

- a. 50,000 ○
- b. 500 ○
- c. 5,000 ○

Further information available from our web site

www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

- Fun Zone
- Factsheets
- Publications

For further information, and a list of other Fact Sheets available, contact the:

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