

# HF Book Club: Literary Exmoor

**Trip style:**

**Destination:** 📍 Exmoor

**Trip code:** SEL04-ABC05

**Carbon Footprint:** 🌳 78kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Whether you're continually diving into a page-turner or simply want to rediscover your passion for reading, our book club breaks are a great way to meet like-minded people. Staying at our characterful country house in Selworthy, you'll be invited to explore texts, discuss story ideas, and discover Exmoor's literary connections. You may even find inspiration to pen your own novel. To complement the texts, you'll enjoy guided sightseeing visits to places relevant to that genre. These holidays are perfect for solo travellers looking for friendship-forming experiences as well as book clubs seeking an enriching group getaway.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Meeting like-minded book lovers
- Discussing a range of literary works
- Enjoying guided sightseeing visits
- Exploring the surrounding landscape on foot
- Guidance from our expert leaders

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Free-flowing literary discussions throughout your holiday
- Transport to and from venues on your excursion day
- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information available in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

## ITINERARY

### **Day 1:** Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

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### **Day 2:** Excursion Day

Spend the day exploring the historic landscapes surrounding the country house. There'll be time to stop for lunch and to visit locations with connections to the books in our reading list.

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### **Day 3-4:** HF Book Club: Literary Exmoor

This weekend break will focus on delving into works that explore Exmoor's literary roots and connections. Your group leader will facilitate discussions about the themes and topics featured in their chosen titles and there'll be an open forum to discuss opinions. The reading list for this holiday is shown below: Lorna Doone by R.D. Blackmore A timeless tale with its roots deep in Exmoor's wild landscape, R.D. Blackmore's novel charts the life of farmer John Ridd, and his romance with the eponymous Lorna Doone. Throughout the book, his prose paints a vivid picture of rural life in 17th-century Exmoor, exploring themes of love, family, and revenge in the process. To Serve Them All My Days by R.F. Delderfield To Serve Them All My Days follows soldier-turned-teacher David Powlett-Jones as he navigates the personal and political challenges of post-war life at the fictional Bamfylde School. Delderfield's narrative skilfully explores themes of duty, redemption, family, and loss, offering a poignant portrayal of the journey towards healing and fulfilment. A House Unlocked by Penelope Lively (paired with Going Back) In this autobiographical memoir, Penelope Lively traces her own story alongside those of the 20th century. Revealed in snippets linked to objects found at Golsoncott, her grandparents' home, the book explores wartime politics, family life, and pacifism. Going Back, a short story also written by Lively, is seen as a fictional parallel to A House Unlocked.

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### **Day 5:** Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## Holnicote House

There's plenty to look forward to at this beacon of Somerset hospitality near the impossibly pretty village of Selworthy. The location couldn't be more perfect; within rolling-out-of-bed distance from Exmoor National Park and an easy drive from Dunster Castle, Coleridge Cottage, the twin villages of Lynton and Lynmouth, and the sandy delights at Porlock and Minehead. The walking opportunities here are standout, too, not least for the trails around the Quantock Hills, Dunkery Beacon, Bossington, and a section of the England Coast Path that takes you on a glorious journey along the county's coastline.

### **A warm welcome**

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

### **Evening entertainment**

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

### **Walks talks**

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

### **The walking day**

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.