



Welcome to Okehampton

Okehampton Station sits just a five minute stroll away from Dartmoor National Park. The town has a wealth of independent shops and great places to eat - explore pretty Red Lion Yard, and the intriguing Victorian Arcade with its beautiful glassed roof and range of outlets.

Visit the Museum of Dartmoor Life, situated in a courtyard off West Street and picturesque Okehampton Castle, which sits in an elevated position above Okehampton's Old Town Park Nature Reserve - offering some wonderful woodland walks.

Simmons Park is beautiful, and of course you can learn the history of Okehampton by taking the Town History Walk featured on this leaflet too!



Museum of Dartmoor Life

The museum is situated in a cobbled courtyard just off West Street, housed in a three storey former mill with a historic waterwheel. At the entrance of the Museum, you will find the reception area, a gift shop, and to the left of the entrance is a Tourist Information Office.

Inside you'll discover displays and artefacts from the Bronze Age and learn about the historical industries of Dartmoor. Over three floors the fascinating history of life on the moor unfolds in front of you, including displays on Farming, Mining, and the Military.



Simmons Park

Okehampton has a jewel in its crown, the beautiful Simmons Park, which was gifted to the town by Sydney Simmons in 1906 and opened to the public in July of 1907.

The park has a play area with adventure equipment, sports pitches, a bowling green and a bandstand, and Parkland Leisure Centre has a wide range of activities plus a swimming pool.

Everyone can enjoy the peace of the park, with level gravel paths and plenty of benches to just sit and enjoy the river, ponds, waterfalls and fountains

You'll find trails meandering through the woodland on the hill, and ever-changing seasonal displays of flowers, as the team of gardeners ensure that the park is always at its beautiful best for the enjoyment of visitors.



The Gateway to the moor
Okehampton

FREE POCKET MAP GUIDE

Okehampton Station



The station is worth a visit in its own right. The main station building will contain a buffet, Dartmoor Information Centre and Dartmoor

Railway Association Shop. In addition, there will be three features harking back to the days of steam - a heritage Southern Railway style waiting room plus the original ticket office and entrance hall restored to 1950s/1960s style. All opening during 2022.

On the other, non-operational side of the station, there is the Arthur Westlake Museum, containing artefacts and photos relating to the area's railways and created and run by the Dartmoor Railway Association. It is open most Wednesdays and weekends.

Getting to Okehampton

Okehampton is just forty minutes from Exeter on the Dartmoor Line, which was reopened on 20 November 2021. Trains run hourly through much of the day, seven days a week. Trains call only at Crediton.

For times, fares and to buy tickets, please visit GWR.com. Information about the reopening of the line can be found at dartmoorline.com.

The 118 bus connects at Okehampton station with many trains, Mon - Sat (with some Sunday buses too). It serves the town centre, Lydford and Lydford Gorge, Brentor and Tavistock.



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Front cover photo by Tia Bryant, Visit South Devon. Map illustration courtesy of ©ORIG.

Okehampton Castle

Okehampton Castle started life as a Motte and Bailey castle soon after the Norman Conquest and was converted into living accommodation in the 14th century by the Earl of Devon

You can take a free audio tour, which narrates how the castle was developed. In 1068 the land was owned by the Sheriff of Devon, Baldwin de Brionne who was a cousin of William the Conqueror by marriage.

Walking around the motte you will see remains of the 11th century ditch which was originally four metres deep but filled in during the 13th century.



When you have finished your exploration of the castle, next door you will find Okehampton Old Town Park Nature Reserve, where you can enjoy beautiful woodland walks next the East Okement River, and a large picnic area.

Walk or Cycle the Granite Way

Distance: 11 miles

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

End points: Okehampton Station (Grid Ref SX 592 944) Lydford (Grid Ref SX 516 852).

This is a truly spectacular and mostly traffic free route through rural Devon.

Leaving Okehampton, you can look down on Okehampton Castle and enjoy wonderful views over the local countryside.

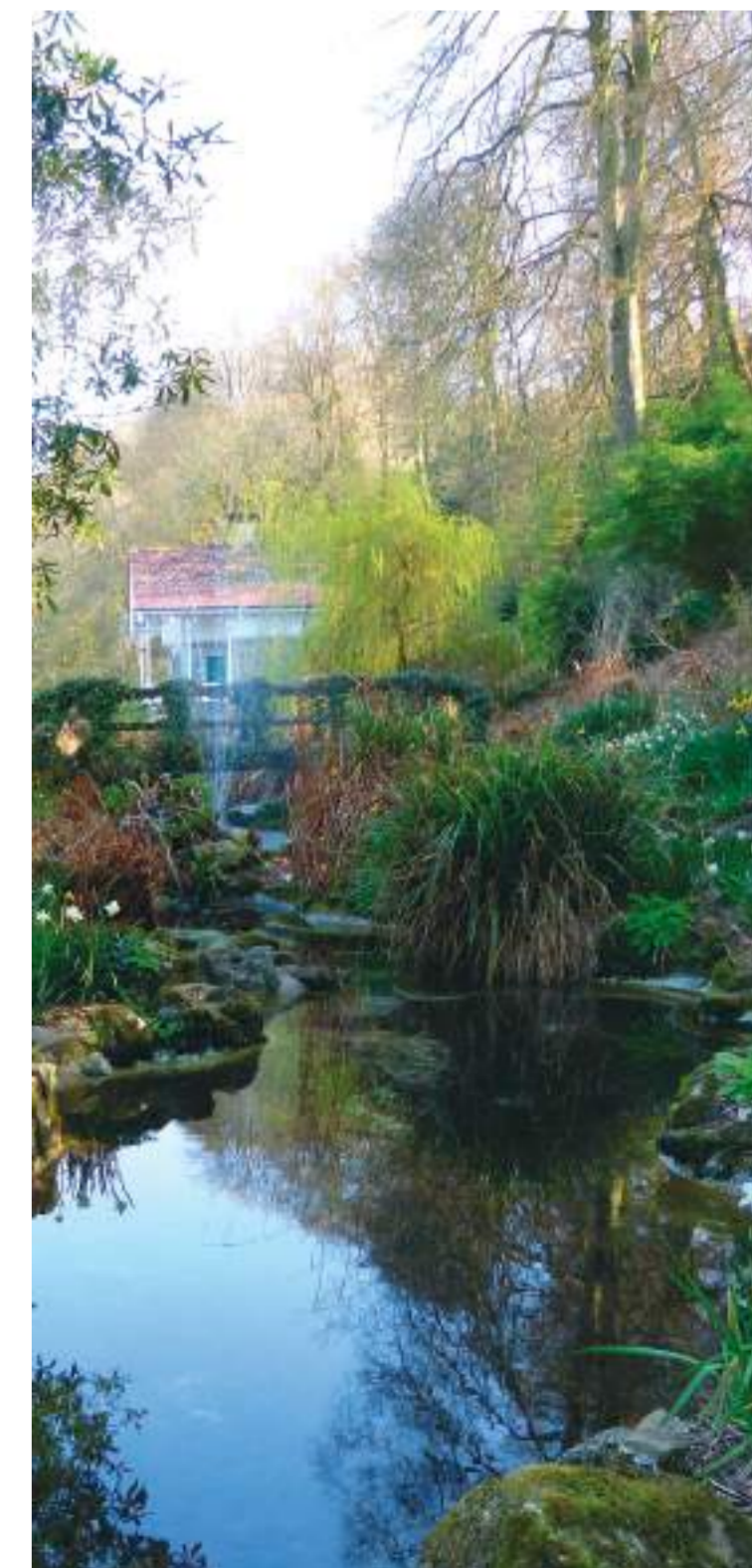


From Meldon Viaduct, look down at Meldon Reservoir and Dam where you'll see the remains of man-made quarry workings that show how in places Dartmoor has been shaped by man's activities over the centuries.

Heading towards Lydford you will cross the imposing viaduct of Lake with spectacular views of Dartmoor.

At Lydford, the Castle is well worth a visit, it has an imposing keep which was a formal gaol and the scene of many hangings!

You then come to the finish point at the impressive Lydford Gorge with its dramatic scenery which includes waterfalls and a series of whirlpools known as the 'Devil's Cauldron'.



Town history walk

Get to know Okehampton by following our historic walk around the town adapted from the Town Trail by local guide Paul Rendell

A Start at the Town Hall in Fore Street.

The Town Hall was originally built as a house in 1685 by John Northmore. It became the Town Hall in the mid 1820's when the previous Guild Hall was demolished.



B Almost opposite is the Victorian arcade built in 1894 by Henry Geen. Walk through the arcade and at the end bear right, where you will find **C** Fairplace garden which has recently been redesigned as a sensory garden.



D Follow the signs for the Castle and continue past the allotments and Brocks Alms-houses. The two cottages were built in 1588 by Richard Brook whose widow Grace left them and an acre of land to the town. In 1847 John Crotch the then Mayor of Okehampton instigated the rebuilding of the cottages by the charity that oversaw the alms houses.

E A bit further along the road splits, take the left-hand fork past the site of the old work house. This later became the Castle hospital before having another reinvention in to residential homes. Follow the heritage trail past Castle Hams Lodge. Keep right beside the river along a public footpath, through a gate and across the boardwalk. Turn right and cross the West Ockment River by the bridge at Old Town Park.



Part of the old work house

F Follow the path to the left where you will see the Castle which is well worth a visit.



Okehampton Castle

G When you leave the Castle follow the road back towards the town and on your left is signposted a public footpath to New Road. **H** At the top of this footpath is an ancient horse drinking trough, with its history beside it.

When you emerge on New Road turn right and follow it past the **I** carpet shop which in the 1920's was a showroom owned by T. Day and Sons Ltd selling motor cars. On the verge opposite is the site of the former prison **J** dating from 1623. Metal railings in the bridge wall mark the spot. On the bridge beside the verge are 4 metal flags detailing the history of the river banks.



K Turn left by the London Inn into Westbridge Close, at the end of the carpark is a gate into Clapps Woods previously the gardens to Clapps Mill which stood on the site of the current Co-op and closed in the 1900's. When you have walked through the woods you will emerge just up from Oaklands Lodge, the gate house to Oaklands House which cannot be seen from here.

L Continue along the drive as far as Rivers Edge Court, and cross over the bridge **M** in to an area with seating behind Lid's. This is the confluence of the West and East Ockment Rivers, an unusual occurrence in a town.



N Follow the building around into the carpark and cross the bridge leading to North Street. **O** Turn right beside the Ockment Centre, a building that used to be a school but is now a community centre.

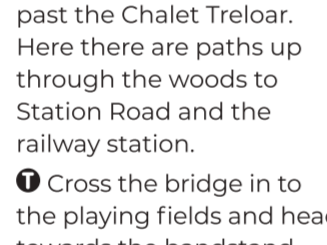
Continue towards the town passing the Library on your left which used to be a Sunday School. At the junction with Fore Street go right to the pelican crossing opposite St James' Chapel and cross.



P Between St James' Chapel and Bridge House are three metal pigs, which can be used as bike racks. In medieval times pigs would roam the streets clearing up anything left behind. Follow St James' Street past the Kings Arms and turn into Park Row. **Q** The Statue of Jim the Walker looks down from the end building. Walk along here until you are opposite the Park gates. **R** Simmons Park was donated to the town by Sydney Simmons a local benefactor in 1907. **S** Follow the paths through the formal gardens



past the Chalet Treloar. Here there are paths up through the woods to Station Road and the railway station.



T Cross the bridge in to the playing fields and head towards the bandstand built a hundred years after the first as a replacement. Follow the path towards the carpark and cross the river over the bridge by the phone box. **U** Turn right and follow the main path to the park gates where you will be facing back towards Fairplace Gardens.



V Head towards Fairplace Garden past the Post Office and **W** Peel House (the old police station), which was used until 1995, when the police station moved to the old school in Exeter Road. Follow the road past the front of The White Hart Hotel which is now a Wetherspoons. Just past is the gateway to the Museum of Dartmoor Life **X** housed in an old mill building dating back to 1811.



It takes roughly 15 minutes to walk from the station down to the town centre, but leave 20 minutes to walk back up! Or you can save your legs by taking the 118 bus in West Street.

Map Key

- Car Parking
- Supermarkets
- Cinema
- Toilets
- Tourist Information
- Church
- Museum
- Library
- 118 bus to and from station
- Town History Trail
- Fatherford Viaduct/Tramlines
- The Granite Way
- 1** St James' Chapel
- 2** Victorian Arcade
- 3** Simmons Park
- 4** Sports Pavilion
- 5** Children's Play Area
- 6** Station
- 7** Red Lion Retail Village
- 8** Library
- 9** Castle
- 10** Museum
- 11** Post Office

For more information about Okehampton go to www.visitokehampton.co.uk



For more information about Dartmoor go to www.visitdartmoor.co.uk



everything OKEHAMPTON

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