



The Chalet Somerset

Idyllic self catering accommodation

It is fantastic to have reopened and we are truly delighted to welcome you to '**The Chalet Somerset**' and thank you for choosing us for your holiday or short break.

We want to make your trip as comfortable and enjoyable as possible so please don't hesitate at all to ask if you have any queries or questions. Someone is usually always in, so please come and knock on the front door. Failing that if we are out please do call **Rachel on 07717 574168** or **Simon 07796 271967**.

Below, in this welcome letter, is some information about the property and the facilities which we would normally do face to face. At the bottom of this email is a "QR code". Open the camera on your phone and point it at the QR code and it will lead you to our website, where we have put together a guide of things to see and do in the local area whilst you are staying with us (most of the restaurants, we believe are open and those that are not may be offering take out services).

Please also note the additional cleaning protocols upon departure at the end of this welcome letter.

Firstly, apologies if the chalet is a little empty. Sadly, in the wake of COVID 19 and cleaning protocols we have made the decision to remove magazines, information leaflets as well as condiments. We have left the DVD's in the chalet and some books and rest assured these are wiped down with disinfectant between visits. The decorative sofa and bed cushions are also washed between each guest. We have tried to maintain the chalet as a 'home from home' for our guests so if there is anything you need, which is not in the chalet, please do ask.

The code for the electric gate is '4211' however it is often easier to lean over and press the black button to let yourself in. This is also the button to press how to let yourself out (it is on the left hand side as you look at the gate from the chalet – by the pink hydrangea). It will only be you using the button (and this is cleaned in between guests) as we have key fobs which we use.

We know the most important thing for some of our guests is the internet. The Wifi network is '**thechaletsomerset**' and the wifi password is '**Chalet20**'

We have chickens and would invite you to stroll down to the Orchard to collect complimentary eggs for your breakfast (if they have laid). Open the nest box on the side and help yourself, if you would like us to collect them for you – let us know and we can leave them outside your door in the morning.

There is a complimentary BBQ in the orchard for you to use – if you would like to use this please let us know and we can show you where it is. It does cook the original way – on charcoal, therefore you'll need to pick up a bag from the supermarket.

Poppy is our Golden Doodle dog. She will at times be wandering around the garden and she is very friendly however please let us know if you are not comfortable with dogs and we will try to ensure that we keep her in the house when you are in the garden or on the decking area.

Few bits of housekeeping, can we please request that you do not put anything other than toilet paper down the toilet as we are not on mains sewage and have a cess pit which can become easily blocked. Please use the plastic bags in the cabinet next to the toilet and bins provided – Thank you.

We proactively recycle and would ask, if you can, to separate your rubbish whilst you are staying here. There are black and green opened topped boxes on the drive. Please put Plastic bottles/cardboard, tins and cans into the black box and glass and paper into the other. If you'd like to compost let me know and I'll tell you where the bins are.

We are strictly a **“Non-smoking property”** so please do not smoke in the chalet or anywhere on the property.

When you go out for the day please can we request that you:

- Switch off the lights
- Make sure electrical appliances are switched off; straighteners, TV, etc.
- Lock all doors and close all windows.

Check out, on day of departure is by 11am.

In the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic, we have put in some extra protocols for guests to do before they leave, we really hope you don't mind. We would kindly request you to please strip the bed of all bed linen – including mattress and pillow protectors and put these, along with towels/tea towels into the laundry bag provided (it is in the cupboard in the bedroom). Zip up and leave in the chalet for us to collect. Please empty all bins and ensure that rubbish is put outside into the black lidded rubbish bin or recycling bin. Then simply close the door behind you and leave the key in the reverse of the door (the way you found it)

We have left our guest book in the chalet and should you wish to sign it, we would welcome happily welcome your feedback. We are also on instagram **@thechaletsomerset**, so please feel free to tag us on any photos.

Other than that, we hope you have a fantastic trip and comfortable stay here with us in **'The Chalet Somerset**. Please don't hesitate to ask if there is anything we can help you with further or if you are missing something you require.

Rachel



Open your camera and simply point it at this code and it will take you to our website where you will find the welcome guide. Alternatively, you can visit our website yourself which is www.thechaletsomerset.com



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Welcome Guide

Taunton

Welcome to the county town of Somerset. Taunton is a thriving, forward-looking town where modern life sits alongside relics of its dramatic past dating back to Saxon times.

The town is the retail capital of the county with all the top names in shopping, eating and drinking, as well as a wonderful mix of specialist and independent retailers. The town has won the Britain in Bloom award several years in a row - Vivary Park shows off this splendour.

Taunton is also home to Somerset County Cricket Club.

Taunton Farmers Market Can be found in Taunton High Street, every Thursday from 9am until 3pm, year round. At the market you can find just-picked seasonal fruit and vegetables, fresh fish, free-range and organic meat and eggs, a wide selection of regional cheeses, chutneys and preserves, hand-made bread and cakes and many more local specialities - things you can't always expect to find in supermarkets. You can also taste many of the goods on offer before you buy.

Food and Drink Apples, Cider and Cheddar Cheese are things which Somerset are most famous for.

Somerset is the county of 'Butcombe Beer', the fastest selling bottled beer in the UK. Thatcher's cider produced in Sandford for over a hundred years and Sheppy's cider produced just up the road from here. 'Capricorn Somerset Goats Cheese' from The Lubborn Creamery situated in the beautiful valley of Cricket St Thomas and Cheddar George Cheese Company, one of the only places in the country where Cheddar Cheese is still made by hand.

No need to drive twenty miles to find a decent restaurant. Here you can probably walk to one. Most country pubs specialise in good food and drink these days, often locally sourced from neighbouring farms and bakeries.

Rumwell Farm Shop - Rumwell, Near Taunton Somerset, TA4 1EJ

Telephone: 01823 461599

Rumwell Farm Shop is an independent, family-run, award-winning business owned by the Mitchell family. It is situated on the A38 between Wellington and Taunton.

The shop has a traditional butchery counter selling free range pork and Aberdeen Angus beef reared just four miles away on the family farm. There is also a delicatessen, bakery, jam kitchen and food hall.

Home grown potatoes are also still available as well as everything from fruit, vegetables and groceries to plants, flowers, gifts and cards.

The cafe, which was officially opened in May 2015, is able to seat approximately 80 people. The food prepared in the cafe kitchen is sourced from the farm shop, the family farm, which is just four miles away, and regional suppliers.

The cafe serves breakfast and lunch options, as well as afternoon teas, Sunday carvery and

can cater for a range of dietary requirements.

People are also welcome to enjoy the outside seating area, which has a lovely view over their orchard.

Booking a table in the cafe is recommended. To book call 01823 461 599 and select option four or email cafe@rumwellfarmshop.com

Opening times

Shop & Cafe

Monday to Friday: 9am - 5.30pm Saturday: 8.30am - 5pm

Sunday and Bank Holidays: 10am - 4pm

sheppy's Cider Farm and Farm Shop - Bradford on Tone, Nr Taunton, TA4 1ER,

Tel: 01823 461233

Visitors can enjoy: Farm shop selling Sheppy's cider range and apple juice (sampling available), home-bred Longhorn beef, local cheeses, cider brandies, pies, preserves, drinks and gifts. Rural life museum, including video of the cider maker's year. Cider works during apple harvest. Licensed tea rooms open all year. Children's playground. Orchard and farm walks. Ample car parking. All buildings accessible for wheelchairs.

Shop, Museum and Tea rooms

Monday to Saturday 9am – 5pm (all year)

Sunday 10am - 4.00pm

Local Supermarkets

- Tesco Local – College Way, TA1 4TY
- Tesco, Castle Street, TA1 4AB
- Sainsbury's, Billet St, TA1 3NE and Hankridge Way, Taunton, TA1 2LR
- Morrison's, Priory Bridge Rd, Taunton, South West TA1 1DX
- Lidl, Wood Street, TA1 1UN
- Aldi, Bridgwater Road - Taunton TA2 8BA

Local Doctors

- College Way surgery, Taunton, TA1 4TY – 01823 259333

Local A&E

- Musgrove Park Hospital, Parkfield Drive, Taunton, TA15DA

Local Taxi Firms

- TLC – 01823 444444
- Taunton Taxi Service – 01823 248248

Local Beauty Salon

- Buff Urban Day spa – 22-24 Station Road, Taunton, TA1 1NL – 01823 257445
 - Luxury urban day spa and hair salon offering a wide range of services, including beauty treatments and spa days.
 - www.buffdayspa.co.uk

The 'Jones Family' low down: Places to Eat

Local Pubs

The Worlds End Pub, Bradford on Tone, TA4 1ET, 01823 462928 - A Hall and Woodhouse gastro pub, good pub food, beer garden on a decking area. Booking advisable if a weekend evening

Lamb and Flag – Blagdon Hill, TA3 7SG – We have never eaten here but have had some fantastic guest reviews who said the food, drink and hospitality is excellent. A grade two listed pub situated on the side of the Blackdown Hills. Freshly cooked locally sourced food in a warm and comfortable environment.

The Winchester Arms, 8 Church Rd, Taunton TA3 7LG in Trull village – Traditional local Somerset food, very local with cosy welcoming ambience and it also has a beer garden.

Chain restaurants

Zizi's: Magdalene House Magdalene St, Taunton TA1 1SB, 01823 333110

Bare Grills, 45 Bridge Street, Taunton, TA1 1TP, 01823 253388

Bills - 3-6, Cheapside, Taunton, TA1 3LG, 01823 276663 - worth booking as can get very busy in the summer if you are eating in the evening. We love the weekend brunch served here.

Wildwood - The Market House, Fore St, Taunton TA1 1JD, 01823 217000

Higher end dining

The Bank - Lower Middle St, Taunton TA1 1SH, 01823 257788 - Set in the heart of Taunton, near to the Somerset County Cricket Ground and the shops; the New Sanctuary has a reputation for serving classically British food with an international influence. All sourced from fresh local produce. The restaurant is set over two floors. The ground floor restaurant has a cosy candlelit feel with a choice of nooks to sit in. Upstairs the restaurant has a more contemporary atmosphere with its bright decor and colourful pictures, and doors that open out onto the roof terrace for 'al fresco' drinking and dining.

The Castle Bow: Under the Archway, Taunton, TA1 1NF, Tel: 01823 328328 – There is no dress codes – just great food, served in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Start your evening in the Bow Bar where you'll find fantastic regional beers, champagne, cocktails and plenty of wines by the glass, all served in a modern, yet cosy atmosphere. Castle Bow restaurant is open for dinner Wednesday – Saturday.

Sheppy's Cider Farm - Bradford on Tone, Nr Taunton, TA4 1ER, Tel: 01823 461233 - Recently refurbished restaurant and bar, amazing locally sourced and produced food, lovely ambience would highly recommend. Booking is highly recommended due to the limited covers.

Augustus: 3, The Courtyard, St James Street, Taunton, TA1 1JR, 01823 324524. Simple little bistro set in a courtyard and run by an experienced chef. Good sized menu of hearty, unfussy dishes which mix French, British and some Asian influences, supplemented with blackboard specials.

Brazz: Castle Bow, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1NF, Tel: 01823 252000 - BRAZZ is a light hearted, town centre brasserie, bar and café rolled into one. The perfect place for a relaxing coffee, lunch with the girls or dinner with the family. Expect to find homemade regional produce including mouth-watering burgers, salads, pastas and burgers, as well as dishes from the grill.

Chinese and Indian:

Rajpoot - Corporation Street, Taunton, TA1 4AW, 01823 279300

Natraj - 148, East Street, Taunton, TA1 3HT, 01823 288876

Mei's - 43-45 East Street, Taunton, TA1 3NA, 01823 278888. Chinese buffet which is absolutely SUPERB, freshly cooked food. We would highly recommend. You can also go and get your own takeaway. Ask for a takeaway box, its £6.50 from memory and fill up from the buffet. Prawns in ginger and spring onion, chicken chow mein, sticky beef and oyster a few of our favourites! **Would strongly recommend booking in peak season at the weekends.**

Takeaways:

Mei's - 43-45 East Street, Taunton, TA1 3NA, 01823 278888 - Eat all you can chinese buffet which is absolutely SUPERB. However you can also go and get your own takeaway. Ask for a takeaway box, its £6.50 from memory and fill up from the buffet. Prawns in ginger and spring onion, chicken chow mein, sticky beef and oyster a few of our favourites!

Chinese - Jade Garden. 58a, Galmington Rd, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5NP. Tel: 01823 323032 – Very good takeaway.

Domino's Pizza - 68 Station Rd, Taunton, Somerset TA1 1NX, 01823 259999

The 'Jones family' low down: Leisure and Sport

There are so many things to see and do in the local area, so here are a few ideas but please refer to the basket in the chalet with all the local flyers for things to see in the area.

Somerset Cricket Club, St James Street, Taunton, TA1 1JT - Taunton is home to Somerset County Cricket Club, former winners of the Twenty20 Cup. The club play at the County Ground with Taunton's church tower skyline dominating the backdrop, we go several times a year as our boys are keen cricketers and well worth a visit to just absorb the atmosphere. For bookings: 0845 337 1875. **Straggler's coffee house** is located on the ground floor of the cricket pavilion at the county ground and is open to the general public serving breakfast and lunch, hot drinks and pastries.

Somerset boat centre, Maidenmead Moorings, Banklands, North Newton, Bridgwater, TA7 0DQ. Tel: 07508 959 996 or 07946 580 050 , **Email:** info@somersetboatcentre.co.uk. I would strongly recommend calling or go online to book as it can get busy. However it is a lovely small venue with only a handful of canoes, kayaks (double and single), self-drive motor boats and a chartered narrowboat.

Somerset Boat Centre is a recognised RYA training centre for water related courses, alongside this we also offer other work based training programmes. Strongly recommend taking a picnic along for afterwards and you can sit and ponder the time at the lock, it's a fantastic day out.

Taunton Racecourse - Enjoy a day at the races overlooking the Blackdown Hills. 01823 337172.

Taunton & Bridgwater canal - Wonderful walks and you can also hire bikes at Somerset Bike Hire (01823 444246) and take a bike along the tow path.

Vivary Park Delight in the Green Flag Award winning park furnished with elegant entrance gates, bandstand and ornate fountain dating back to 1907 as a memorial to Queen Victoria. The park plays host to events including the Taunton Flower Show and on summer Sundays (from June to September) weekly free local concerts at 3pm in the bandstand. Well worth a visit.

Closer to the Edge @ Vivary - Vivary is also host to the newest attraction 'Closer to the edge', an innovative outdoor off the ground 'high ropes' adventure. For booking call 01823 217117. Prices start from £5

Bickleigh Mill, Devon, EX16 8RG - About a 40 min drive from the chalet. Bickleigh Mill is an 18th century mill now converted into a gift shop and restaurant. The pretty village of Bickleigh has a bridge over the River Exe and on the rivers edge is 'The Fisherman's Cot' a pub serving good food/snacks whilst the river tumbles alongside you.

Sedgemoor Indoor Animal Market, junction 24 of the M5 – A free great place to visit for children and adults alike for a proper 'farmers experience' – animal market selling livestock and food market – held every Saturday morning – wellies are a must!! Allows you to walk in amongst the livestock, from pigs, sheep, cows and chickens to name but a few.

Hestercombe House and Gardens, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, TA2 8LG

01823 413923: Adult £13.75. Hestercombe's 50 acres of Grade I listed gardens cover over three centuries of garden history. The gardens comprise 20th century formal gardens and a Georgian pleasure ground. The formal gardens, completed in 1906, were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and planted by Gertrude Jekyll. Lutyens' orangery and circular garden, with a

round pond in the middle, are particularly stunning. His eye for detail ensures that every flight of steps and seat fits perfectly into the scheme. Among Miss Jekyll's unusual planting is a silver and grey border.

You can visit the tea rooms free of charge.

Sheppy's Cider Farm - Bradford on Tone, Nr Taunton, TA4 1ER, Tel: 01823 461233 Visitors can enjoy: Farm shop selling Sheppy's cider range and apple juice (sampling available), home-bred Longhorn beef, local cheeses, cider brandies, pies, preserves, drinks and gifts. Rural life museum, including video of the cider maker's year. Cider works during apple harvest. Licensed tea rooms open all year. Children's playground. Orchard and farm walks. Ample car parking. All buildings accessible for wheelchairs.

No entry fees apply except for museum.

SHOP AND MUSEUM - Monday to Saturday 8.30am - 6.00pm (all year) Sunday 11.00am - 4.00pm (July and August only)

TEA ROOMS - Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 4.00pm all year

Longleat (Centre Parcs), Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7NW, 01985 844400 - Longleat Safari & Adventure Park has been one of the UK's best-loved attractions for over 60 years. It features an extensive Safari Park, is home to BBC Animal Park and CBBC Roar and also has over 15 fabulous attractions, including the new multi million pound Jungle Kingdom and Longleat House, one of the most stunning stately homes in Britain.

West Somerset Railway - The West Somerset Railway is a 22.75-mile heritage railway line in Somerset, England. See below for more information. Prices are £17 for adults, £15.40 for OAPs.

The train stops at the below stations:

Bishops Lydeyard, Crowcombe Heathfield, Stogumber, Williton, Doniford Halt, Watchet, Washford, Blue Anchor, Dunster, Minehead

Hollywood Bowl, Hankridge Farm, Taunton - Welcome to the UK's no.1 ten pin bowling experience. Please contact 0844 8261471

Odeon Cinema - Located at Hankridge Farm this 8-screen cinema shows all the latest blockbusters. Please contact 0871 22 44 007

Mecca Bingo, Taunton town centre - Experience the fun and thrills of bingo in the Grade II listed Art deco interior dating from the 1930's. (01823) 272282.

National Trust Properties

Montacute House - Montacute TA15 6XP · 01935 823289

Fyne Court - 01823 451587 · Broomfield, Bridgwater, TA5 2EQ

Dunster Castle, Dunster nr Minehead, TA24 6SL

Local Golf Clubs

Oake Manor Golf Club, Oake, Taunton, TA4 1BA, Tel: 01823 461993 – PGA golf course. We are happy to assist you in booking a tee time and we are members here, very friendly. If a cavery is your thing, then they do a good Sunday carvery although booking is advisable as it can get busy.

Vivary Park Golf Course, Taunton, TA1 3JT, 01823 333875 – Municipal Golf course, pay and play.

Shopping

Clarks Village outlet centre - offers over 90 stores, restaurants and cafes, plus plenty to entertain the whole family. - Farm Road, Street BA16 0BB.

I love this place and there is always a bargain to be had with Coast, Calvin Klein, Monsoon, Osprey, Joules and Crew to name but a few....

Kilver Court Designer Village and the home of the Mulberry Outlet!!

Kilver Street, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5NF

Another great place to visit and there are some lovely gardens and tea rooms as well. My favourite outlet is the Mulberry store where they have extremely heavily discounted last season hand bags, purses, shoes and wallets.

Other great towns and cities for shopping: Taunton, Bristol, Exeter and Bath.

Rambling:

Walking locally: Blackdown Hills, Quantock's. We are so lucky to be ideally placed here at the Chalet Somerset to be between both the Quantocks and the Blackdown Hills. Breath taking scenery and views, with plenty of pubs sprinkled in between to keep you refreshed! We have plenty of maps of walks in the chalet, please do use them and take them with you on your walk, all we ask is that you return them at the end of your walk so other guests can enjoy them in the future.

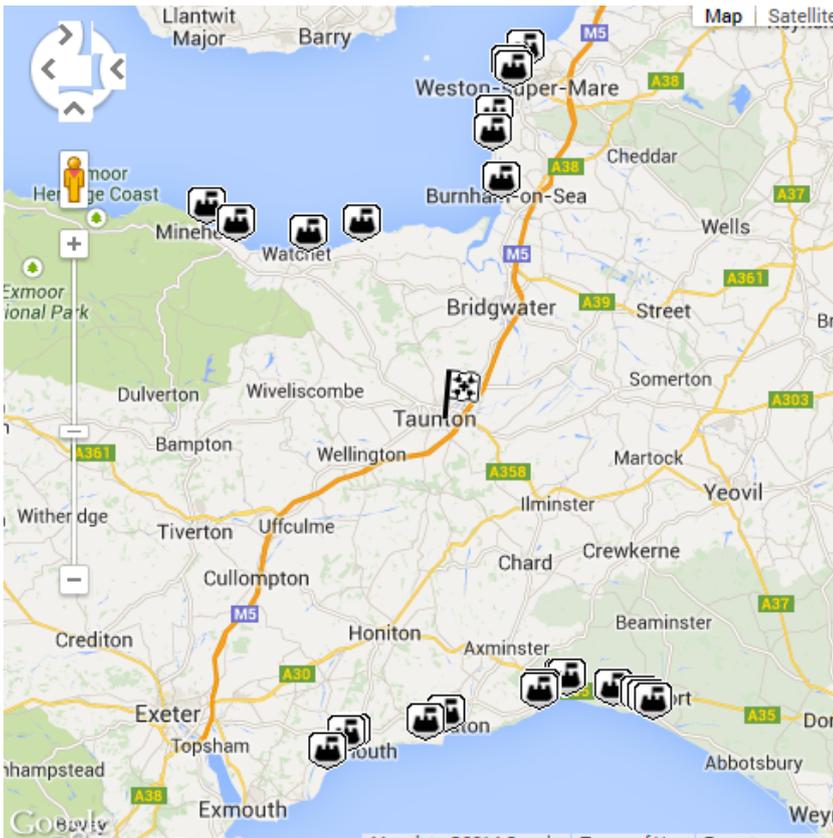
Walking further afield: Lorna Doone Valley

Start: County Gate - EX35 6NQ

Length: 5.5 miles (8.9 km)

Summary: A breath taking walk, first through inspiring scenery from high above the coast, then dropping to a romantic ramble through picturesque Lorna Doone country to the church used in the filming of her eventful wedding day.

Beaches – See narrative below the map for more detailed information



Lyme Regis Beach – In my opinion one of the most beautiful coastal towns and a must see whilst you are here. You can take a boat out and go mackerel fishing, play or relax on the beach, shop or just sit and admire the views. See below for more information

Lyme Regis is a coastal town in West Dorset, England, situated 25 miles west of Dorchester and 25 miles east of Exeter. The town lies in Lyme Bay, on the English Channel coast at the Dorset–Devon border. It is nicknamed "The Pearl of Dorset." The town is noted for the fossils found in the cliffs and beaches, which are part of the Heritage Coast—known commercially as the Jurassic Coast—a World Heritage Site.

Burnham on Sea Beach: A predominantly sandy beach at high tide with a pier and various shops and cafes close by.

Minehead Beach: Minehead is one of Somerset's busiest holiday resorts with many amenities and a wide sand and shingle beach that faces North-to-North West and looks **out** across the Bristol Channel towards Wales. Sea defences have caused a lot of the sand here to be washed

Beer Beach: Beer is a small seaside village built around a small cove. The beach is sheltered from most winds, and the nearby Jubilee gardens offer some lovely views.

Weston Super Mare Beach: Weston-Super-Mare is an established seaside resort. The Grand Pier hosts fun-packed family entertainments set on the long sandy main beach.

Sidmouth Beach: The beach is formed by a large expanse of legally protected pebbles. At its western end the beach has some lovely rock pools, and cliffs overhang the beach at the eastern end. An esplanade runs along its entire length.