

# Visit South Devon

## Group Travel Itinerary - Ashburton

Ashburton is a lively historical town nestled on the southern side of the vast Dartmoor National Park.

The highstreet is home to many galleries, book shops, a variety of eateries and lots of great antique shops making it the perfect place to while away a few hours.



### Things to see and do for groups in Ashburton

Due to its location Ashburton is an ideal base for visitors interested in walking, canoeing, pony trekking and fishing. Its wonderful position on the edge of the moors also means that no trip to Ashburton would be complete without a trip to Dartmoor National Park where you can explore the diverse landscapes in this stunning area.

#### History in Ashburton

Ashburton's unique history is believed to have begun in Saxon times. Finds unearthed in the area date back as far as 3000BC, but there is no evidence of a settlement until 500BC. Its location was most likely chosen for its presence of tin which has shaped the town's history ever since. It was an important centre for the tin trade during the middle ages and in 1305 became one of the four official stannary towns which had special powers to assay the tin produced from the Dartmoor mines. Its importance as the main stannary town peaked in 1515 when nearly 40% of Devon's tin was sold through Ashburton. When the local tin, iron and woollen trades declined in the 17th Century, Ashburton made a living from passing trade on the main road from Exeter to Plymouth and many of the buildings you see today date from this period.

An important part of Ashburton's history is the Office of Portreeve, not least because this ancient Saxon office is still kept alive today. Dating back to 820AD, the office is the only one now held by Act of Parliament. When the railway bypassed the town (in 1846), its future did not look bright, and Ashburton was largely forsaken until the 1950's when the quiet and beauty of the Dart Valley began to attract residents seeking an escape from urban life.



For more information on group travel in Newton Abbot and the rest of South Devon please visit [www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/grouptravel](http://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/grouptravel)

## Coach Parking & Visitor Information Centre

The coach drop off point is located on West Street, by the junction to Kingsbridge Lane. The main Kingsbridge Lane car park is available for drop off for smaller vehicles / minibuses. Coach parking at The Dartmoor Lodge Hotel and Buckfastleigh at Woodholme car park, Plymouth Road.

Ashburton Tourist Information Centre staff will be delighted to help you make the most of your time in our area providing helpful, friendly and professional advice.

## Ashburton Antiques Trail

Ashburton has built a reputation over many years as a top destination for antiques and no visit to the town is complete without a browse around its antique shops.

Ashburton offers more than 10 individual antique shops combining some of the South West's best dealers, making it simply unmissable for any collector or enthusiast. We offer worldwide shipping of any item and can provide discount shipping for bulk or groups

For more information and to download the map please visit [www.ashburtonantiquetrail.co.uk](http://www.ashburtonantiquetrail.co.uk)



### Things to Do for Groups

- Ashburton Antiques trail
- Ashburton Arts Centre
- Ashburton Museum & St Lawrence Chapel
- A visit to the historic Exeter Inn
- Heritage Walking Tours
- River Dart Country Park
- South Devon Railway
- Buckfast Abbey

### Accommodation for Groups

- Dartmoor Lodge Hotel [www.dartmoorlodge.co.uk](http://www.dartmoorlodge.co.uk) (22 rooms)
- Lavender House Hotel [www.lavenderhousehotel.com](http://www.lavenderhousehotel.com) (11 rooms)
- Furzeleigh Mill [www.furzeleigh.co.uk](http://www.furzeleigh.co.uk) (11 rooms)
- Gages Mill [www.gagesmill.co.uk](http://www.gagesmill.co.uk) (7 rooms)

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