

kate & tom's

Extraordinary holidays, celebrations & adventures



Enjoying your stay at Croydon Hall

Everything you need to get the most out of your stay

Contents

Arrival3
<i>Where We Are</i>	3
<i>Check in and check out</i>	3
Getting to us4
<i>Directions to Oak Hall</i>	4
Cooking & dining - chef services.5
Cooking & dining - great places to eat & drink6
Cooking & dining - shopping for food8
Things to do - activities and pampering9
Top things to do with children.	11
Top places to visit & shop nearby	12
Useful information	13
Guest reviews	16

Arrival

Where We Are

Property Name: Croydon Hall
Address: Felons Oak, Minehead
County: Somerset
Postcode: TA24 6QT
Phone number at the house: 01984 640682 for the caretaker or housekeeper

Check in and check out

Check in time: 2pm
Contact name for check in: Mike or Carmen
Contact number for check in: 01984 640682
Contact number for house administration: 01984 642200
Email for house administration: info@croydonhall.co.uk

Check out time for 2 night weekend booking: 2pm
Check out time for 3 night weekend booking: 2pm
Check out time for 7 night week bookings: 2pm

Getting to us

The best postcode to use with Satnav is: TA 24 6QT
Nearest Train station and distance: Taunton, 20 miles away

Taxi's are available: Euro Cars (Williton): 01984 633555
MR Cabs (Williton): 01984 633333
Data Cabs (Williton): 01984 639141

The nearest airport is: Exeter International Airport

Directions to Croydon Hall

Arriving by Car

From the North

Croydon Hall is best reached via the M5. Junction 23 (from the north) is 24 miles away and Junction 25 (from the south) is 20 miles.

From the north, come off the M5 at Junction 23 (Bridgwater), travelling south on the A38. At Bridgwater, follow signs to Minehead and the A39. At Williton, take the A39 towards Minehead (turning right at the mini-roundabout at the Spar convenience store).

From the south, turn off the M5 at Taunton (Junction 25) and follow the signs to Minehead (A358). At Williton, turn left at the mini-roundabout on to the A39 at the Spar convenience store. Pass through the village of Washford, and after about one third of a mile take the left turn at the first crossroads, sign-posted "Croydon Hall", just before the Dragon House Hotel. Follow this lane for a mile and take the first turning right, following the sign to "Croydon Hall".

Drive up this road ignoring any turnings off until you come to two big stone pillars, with a post box in the wall next to the left-hand one and a sign saying "Private Road" on the other. There is another sign here saying "Croydon Hall". Go through these pillars. We are a few houses down on the left. Outside there is a sign saying "Croydon Hall". You have arrived.

We do not recommend arriving at Croydon Hall by private hire coach unless it is a very small one. The local roads are narrow with overhanging branches.

Cooking & dining - chef services

You'll find our top recommendations below. If you do discover any other gems please do let us know and we will share them with other guests visiting the property.

Catering and Drop-off meal service

Full catering services

Angelic Feast
www.angelicfeast.com
07808293118

Full catering services & hog roasts

Peter Mundy Catering
01398 331822
07815 951592
www.petermundycatering.co.uk

Full catering services

Jump Events
Alison Jump 01 672 810305
alison@jumpevents.co.uk
www.jumpevents.co.uk

Our recommended caterers are familiar with Oak Hall's kitchen and equipment. They will provide excellent service and a wide variety of menus and special diets and use local produce.

Local produce the area is renowned for

Apples, Cider and Cheddar Cheese are what Somerset is most famous for, but with so much local produce available it is hard to know what's best. Now also the county of 'Butcombe Beer', the fastest selling bottled beer in the UK, Thatchers produced in Sandford for over a hundred years, '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. Why not enjoy a delicious Somerset cream tea with homemade scones, farmhouse clotted cream and Whortleberry jam, which is unique to the Exmoor area. With a food heritage that includes Yeo Valley yogurts, Thatchers Cider and Miles Tea & Coffee, as well as Exmoor Lamb, smoked eels and Cheddar Strawberries, you surely can't go wrong with local produce.

Cooking & dining - great places to eat & drink

There are many excellent dining places nearby and we have listed a small sample below. The best food locally is found in the excellent dining pubs but if you want to travel a little further there are some award-winning restaurants to choose from.

Nearest pub

The Valiant Soldier Inn, Roadwater, Watchet, Somerset, TA23 0QZ, Tel: 01984 640223

A friendly, atmospheric olde world inn situated in the beautiful Exmoor countryside. Being close to the coast makes it an ideal stop for walkers. Locally sourced produce is available on the menu which changes seasonally.

Pubs

The Notley Arms at Monksilver 10 minutes drive tel 01984 656095

The White Horse Inn, Abbey Road, Washford, TA23 0JZ, Tel: 01984 640415

The White Horse Inn has an idyllic riverside location, a perfect place to enjoy an extensive menu of top quality pub food featuring signature dishes such as Steak and Stout pie. When dining in a party of four or more, drivers are provided with free and unlimited soft drinks.

www.exmoorpubs.co.uk

The Star Inn, Mill Lane, Watchet, Somerset, TA23 0BZ, Tel: 01984 631367

A dog friendly pub with a welcoming atmosphere, log fire and good food to accompany a selection of cask ales. The staff being eager to help are willing to allow tasters before you make your selection.

www.thestarinnwatchet.co.uk

Mason Arms Hotel and Restaurant, 2 North Road, Williton, TA4 4SN, Tel: 01984 639200

A charming pub with a good selection of food on the menu catering for most tastes and a diverse array of ales and fine wines available. There is a children's menu available at the Mason Arms.

Restaurants

Always advisable to book in advance!

Apple on the Avenue, 29 The Avenue, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5AY, Tel: 01643 706090

Don't miss these beautiful tea rooms that provide a relaxing atmosphere in which to enjoy their array of delicious home baked cakes and mouthwatering cream teas.

www.appleontheavenue.co.uk

Reeves Restaurant, 20-22 High Street, Dunster, TA24 6SG, Tel: 01643 821414

A splendid restaurant with emphasis on service and attention to detail. The menu is sea-food based with an innovative twist.

www.reevesrestaurantdunster.co.uk

Cooking & dining - best places to eat & drink

Alcombe Tandoori, 67 Alcombe Road, Alcombe, Minehead, TA24 6BD, Tel: 01643 706591

A popular dining experience for visitors to Minehead due to the chef's innovative style and the service provided. Booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

<http://www.alcombetandoori.co/>

Best Bistros

Bistro 16, 16 Park Street, Minehead, TA24 5NQ, Tel: 01643 705222

Café by day, bistro by night, this restaurant is highly acclaimed for its tapas and outstanding service.

<http://www.spanishfoodworld.co.uk/bistro-16/>

Cream, 20A The Avenue, Minehead, TA24 5AZ, Tel: 01643 708022

Local independent café priding itself on sourcing local products to create the home cooked menu, children will love the children's cocktails.

<http://cafecream.co.uk>

Best place to eat with children

The Hairy Dog, 32 The Avenue, Minehead, TA24 5AZ, Tel: 01643 706317

Multiple winner of pub of the year, this family-orientated restaurant provides a fantastic play area for the children and a relaxing atmosphere for the parents. There is a special menu available for children. An extensive menu is available, from light snacks to more filling meals.

Best takeaways

Indian: **The Bengal Spice**, 7 Fore Street, Williton, Somerset, TA4 4PX, Tel: 01984 632169
<http://bengalspicewilliton.com/>

Pizza: **Dominos**, 68 Station Rd, Taunton, Somerset TA1 1NX, Tel: 01823 259999 (collection only)
www.dominos.co.uk

Chinese: **The Golden Bowl**, 58 Liddymore Road, Watchet, TA23 0DR, Tel: 01984 634174

Cooking & dining - shopping for food

Best local supermarket

Waitrose, 34-46 High Street, Wellington, TA21 8RG Tel: 01823 663577

Tesco, Seaward Way, Minehead, TA24 5BY. Tel: 08456 779476

Morrisons, Wulcan Road, Minehead, TA24 6DG Tel: 01935 816486

Local Produce

There are plenty of farmer's markets in the area selling excellent local produce.

Toucan Wholefoods, 3 The Parade, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5NL, Tel: 01643 706101

Stocks organic fruit, vegetables, dairy, fish and meats as well as wholefoods and foods for special diets.
<http://www.toucanwholefoods.co.uk/>

Dunster Deli, 11 High Street, Dunster, Minehead, TA24 6SF, Tel: 01643 804193

Sample a vast range of beverages and handmade foods include a great selection of local and West country cheeses. Locally made ready meals are also available to buy.
<http://www.dunsterdeli.co.uk/>

Major supermarket online orders

Waitrose - www.waitrose.com

Sainsbury's - www.sainsburys.co.uk

Tesco - www.tesco.com

Things to do - activities and pampering

Enjoy the pleasure of some extra luxuries to make your kate & toms's house hire even more enjoyable and relaxing.

We've top class chefs available to create and serve a special three course dinner on the big day, drop off ready meals when you arrive, or serve a classic brunch on Sunday morning.

If you would like to indulge in some beauty and health pampering, our expert beauty therapists offer a full range of treatments. Get all the luxury of a visit to a five star spa in the comfort of your own country hideaway.

Or head into the great outdoors and opt for a country pursuit, from an afternoon clay pigeon shooting to learning the art of archery, getting out and exploring the local countryside couldn't be more enjoyable.

Our top recommendations for activities and pampering are below.

Multi-activity centres

Active Adventure South West, 23 Holm View, Watchet, Somerset, TA23 0AF, Tel: 01984 634240
Activities available include paddle boarding, coasteering, kayaking, climbing and mountain boarding.
<http://www.activeadventuresw.co.uk/>

Exmoor Adventures, Flat 2, Dolobran, Sparkhayes Lane, Porlock, Somerset, TA24 8NE, Tel: 01643 863536
Mountain biking, coasteering, kayaking, canoeing, rock climbing, raft building and archery.
www.exmooradventures.co.uk

Watersports

Wimbleball Lake, near Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9NU Tel: 01398 371460
Outdoor + Active Centre is open for tuition in various watersports activities including sailing, windsurfing, canoeing and rowing. Fishing is also available.
<http://www.swlakestrust.org.uk/lakes-and-facilities/the-lakes/wimbleball-lake>

Golf

Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club, The Warren, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5SJ, Tel: 01643 702057
<http://www.mineheadgolf.co.uk/>

Oake Manor, Oake, Taunton, TA4 1BA, Tel: 01823 461993
<http://www.oakemanor.com/>

Clay pigeon shooting

Shalden Shooting School, North Combe Farm, Shillingford, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9BX, Tel: 01398 328035
www.shootingschooldevon.co.uk

Much Care Riding, Frenches Farm, Aisholt, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 1AR Tel: 01278 671331
www.muchcareriding.co.uk

Horse riding

Pine Lodge Exmoor, Higher Chilcott Farm, Dulverton, TA22 9QQ, Tel: 01398 323559
www.pinelodgeexmoor.co.uk

Exmoor Riding, West Lynch Farm, Allerford, Minehead, TA24 8HJ, Tel: 01643 862816
Riders need to be able to walk, trot and canter.
<http://www.exmoor-riding.co.uk/>

Pampering

There is a spa available at Oak Hall, this can be pre-booked at a small additional cost. The spa is equipped with a steam room, infrared sauna, traditional sauna, Jacuzzi hot tub and showers.

Cedar Falls Health Farm & Spa, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 3HR Tel: 01823 433233
www.cedarfalls.co.uk

My Personal Sanctuary, Tel: 01625 540 557 or email: enquiries@mypersonalsanctuary.co.uk.
www.mypersonalsanctuary.co.uk

Walking

This is a superb area for walking from short, moderate or all day marches in a wide variety of beautiful scenery. Don't miss the South West Coastal Path.

Please see the links below for suggested itineraries:

<http://www.visitsomerset.co.uk/things-to-do/activities/walking>

<http://www.southwestcoastpath.com/>

Wine Tasting

Thirty Fifty Wine Tasting Events, Tel: 020 8288 0314.
www.thirtyfifty.co.uk

Safari trips

Barle Valley Safaris, Tel: 07977571494
Experience the real Exmoor by Land Rover, evening tours also available in the summer.
<http://www.exmoorwildlifesafaris.co.uk/>

Top things to do with children

South West Somerset and the surrounding area is outstandingly attractive and filled with an enormous variety of things to do and things to keep the family occupied. There is a loose leaf folder at the house packed full of ideas for days out, our personal favorites are:

Tropiquaria Zoo, Washford Cross, Washford, TA23 0QB, Tel: 01984 640688

Tropiquaria is not just a small zoo, but a lot more! It is based on a 1930s art-deco BBC transmitter hall, which in part is still functioning. As well as animals in the main hall, there are many more animals outside, several play areas, both inside and outside, a radio museum and the Shadowstring puppet theatre.

<http://www.tropiquaria.co.uk/>

Dunster Forest and Estate, Dunster Marsh, Dunster, TA24 6PL Tel: 01643 821309

Go down to the woods today and explore the beautiful forest, see wildlife, try the adventure play area, walk or cycle waymarked trails or learn about our tall trees: including the tallest tree in England!

<http://www.dunsterestate.co.uk/>

Top places to visit & shop nearby

Exmoor

Exmoor National Park has an amazing variety of landscapes within its 267 square miles. With plenty of activities to choose from, Exmoor has something for everyone. Exmoor is known as a place of tranquillity, but if it's action you want then there is plenty to choose from.

Tarr Steps

The Tarr Steps are a medieval clapper bridge across the River Barle in Exmoor National Park about 4 miles north west of Dulverton. The bridge dates back to approximately 1000BC. It has been designated by English Heritage as a grade I listed building.

Dunster

Situated in the sweeping hills of Exmoor – a shoppers paradise for special gifts, local arts and crafts and quality leather goods. Dunster has a wealth of historic buildings to visit including the 11th century Dunster Castle. Sit with a pint and watch the world go by in the Luttrell Arms.

Watchet

A charming little coastal town with an active Marina, an Old Port, quaint houses and shops Watchet is a perfect little village to spend an afternoon exploring.

Taunton

The retail capital of Somerset – Taunton has a great mix of specialist and independent retailers and a great selection for evening entertainment.

West Somerset Railway

A true country branch line of the old Great Western railway, this is a fascinating day out for all as the ride takes you through the varied and beautiful countryside. The buildings of ten unique stations are linked by a twenty mile scenic journey.

<http://westsomersetrailway.vticket.co.uk/>

Blue Anchor Bay

Blue Anchor Bay is a long sandy beach sprinkled with alabaster rocks, which are great for finding fossils. The kids will love spending the day building sandcastles and hunting for dinosaurs.

Useful information

THE OAK HALL AT A GLANCE

Bedrooms and bathrooms

- Sleeps up to 70 guests
- 28 bedrooms in total
- Extra bedroom available on request
- 10 twin bedrooms
- Eight double bedrooms
- Two single bedrooms
- Three triple bedrooms
- Three quad bedrooms
- Two group bedrooms sleeping five and nine
- There are five shared bathrooms
- There are 18 en suite bathrooms
- Male and female downstairs WCs

Cooking and Dining

- Main dining room seats 70
- Additional function room available for up to 120 guests
- Large Commercial Kitchen
- Combi Steam Oven
- Gas Oven with six burner hob
- Commercial Dishwasher
- Tables and chairs on terrace
- Walk to a good pub, one mile away
- Good dining nearby
- Online deliveries

Where We Are

- The postcode is TA24 6QT
- The nearest town is Dunster, 3 miles away
- The nearest Station is Taunton, a thirty minute drive away
- The nearest airport is Bristol an hours drive away
- Taxis available
- Parking for up to 50 cars

Things to Do Inside

- 50 inch and 28 inch TV
- Wifi
- iPad and iPhone connection to built in music system
- Library
- DVD player
- Selection of DVD's
- Onsite spa including a sauna and Jacuzzi (please note, there is an extra charge for the spa)

Useful information

- Games Room
- Table Tennis and Darts

Things to Do Outside

- Swimming Pool
- Croquet and Cricket Set
- Swings
- Fire Pit
- Six acres of gardens and grounds
- Terrace Garden with furniture

Local Activities

- Canoeing
- Paddleboarding
- Clay Pigeon Shooting
- Horse Riding

Top Things to do for Children

- Tropiquaria
- Dunster Castle
- West Somerset Railway

ABOUT YOUR BOOKING

Cautionary deposit

- £1500 refundable deposit

House restrictions

- Noise policy in place
- No fireworks or Chinese lanterns please
- Not suitable for stag parties

Arrival and Departure

- Check in from 2pm
- Check out before 2pm

What's included

- Linen
- Towels
- Essentials
- Utilities
- Please bring your own swimming towels
- Extra housekeeping available on request
- Handwash and shower gel/shampoo

Hot Tub Usage

We hope you'll enjoy using the hot tub. We want to make sure it is as safe as possible for everyone, so we ask all guests to ensure that the following guidelines are respected. These guidelines are designed to meet basic health and safety regulations, so ensure that all members of your party have read the rules regarding the use of the hot tub.

1. Swimming costumes are obligatory and you may need to bring your own towels
2. You must shower before entering the hot tub to remove any skin oils, make-up, hair products etc. This is vital to ensure a clean and healthy hot tub. If this rule is abused the hot tub may need to be closed for several days so that the water can be thoroughly refreshed. In the event of closure, no refund will be made and cleaning costs will be charged to your party.
3. Outdoor shoes and coats must be taken off around the hot tub area.
4. No alcohol or smoking is allowed in the hot tub.
5. Do not bring any form of glass into the hot tub area.
6. Do not bring in any electrical equipment into the hot tub area where you could be in contact with water.
7. Before using the hot tub, please take out the chlorine dispenser. Put it back in when everyone has left the hot tub.
8. Do not over-occupy the hot tub as this will lead to water spillage and will cause the hot tub to stop working. This is because the filter needs to be covered with water to work.
9. Children must be supervised in and around the hot tub and must not use it without an adult present. Some children can overheat; please seek medical advice if this occurs.
10. Please keep noise levels to an acceptable level. The hot tub is a place of peace and relaxation – be mindful that there are neighbouring properties.
11. It is safer and more enjoyable to use the hot tub with another person. We advise against using the hot tub alone without a member of your group knowing of your whereabouts.
12. On leaving the hot tub, please switch off all jets and lights and make sure that the hot tub is sealed with the cover provided.
13. Please note that you must not use the hot tub if you are suffering from an infectious disease or you have an open wound or sore that cannot be covered by a waterproof plaster.
14. You must not use the hot tub within 48 hours of suffering any stomach illness.
15. Certain medical conditions can be affected by the hot tub, particularly those involving extremes of temperature. You are advised to consult your doctor if you are pregnant or suffer from any of the following: heart disease; circulatory problems; high or low blood pressure; diabetes; or any other condition that affects your body's ability to react to heat.
16. Prevent taking any medication which may affect your circulation or your ability to react to heat.

Guest reviews

"Everything was more than perfect and I know that the whole family have taken away with them some very special memories. It truly is a heavenly place to be and even the weather was very much on our side." - **Louis**

'Everything was just perfect, and Croydon [Oak] Hall was the most perfect choice of venue for my husband's 50th. Everyone loved the house and commented on its homely feel. The housekeeper & caretaker were so helpful and made us very welcome. Once again a huge thank you for everything, and for helping to give us a truly memorable weekend which we will remember for many years to come.' - **GG & family stayed at Croydon [Oak] Hall April 2015**