

devon and cornwall map

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A detailed understanding of the Devon and Cornwall map is essential for anyone exploring this captivating region of South West England. These neighboring counties are renowned for their stunning coastlines, historic sites, vibrant towns, and unique cultural heritage. A comprehensive map not only guides tourists and locals alike but also provides insights into the geographical features, transportation networks, and points of interest that define this picturesque area. Whether you're planning a road trip along the rugged coasts, exploring historic landmarks, or enjoying outdoor activities, having a detailed map of Devon and Cornwall enhances the experience by offering clarity and context.

Overview of Devon and Cornwall Geography

Understanding the geographical layout of Devon and Cornwall is fundamental to appreciating their distinctiveness and how they connect through their maps.

Location and Borders

- Devon is situated to the east of Cornwall, sharing a border along the River Tamar.
- Cornwall lies to the southwest, extending into the Atlantic Ocean with a rugged coastline and peninsulas.

Major Landmarks and Features

- The Cornish Coastline is famous for its cliffs, beaches, and seaside resorts.
- The Devon Coast features the Jurassic Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Both counties host rolling countryside, moorlands, and river valleys.

Key Cities and Towns

- Devon: Exeter, Plymouth, Torquay, Barnstaple
- Cornwall: Truro, Falmouth, St Ives, Newquay

Components of a Devon and Cornwall Map

A comprehensive map of Devon and Cornwall typically includes various features that aid navigation and understanding.

Physical Features

- Coastlines and beaches
- Mountainous areas like Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor
- River systems such as the River Tamar, Tamar Valley, and Camel River
- Geological formations, including cliffs and caves

Transport Networks

- Major roads: A30, A38, A39, M5
- Rail lines connecting key towns and cities
- Ferry routes across the Fal River and other water bodies
- Airports such as Exeter International Airport and Newquay Airport

Points of Interest

- National parks and protected areas
- Historic sites like castles, abbeys, and ancient ruins
- Popular beaches and surfing spots
- Cultural landmarks such as art galleries and museums

Types of Maps of Devon and Cornwall

Different maps serve various purposes, each emphasizing specific aspects of the region.

Tourist and Travel Maps

- Highlight attractions, scenic routes, and accommodations
- Include walking trails and cycling routes
- Emphasize beaches, national parks, and cultural sites

Ordnance Survey Maps

- Detailed topographical maps used for outdoor activities
- Show elevation contours, footpaths, and terrain features
- Suitable for hikers and outdoor adventurers

Road Maps

- Focus on major and minor roads
- Useful for driving directions and planning routes
- Include rest stops, petrol stations, and service areas

Historical Maps

- Depict historical boundaries and old landmarks
- Offer insights into the region's past geography

Using the Devon and Cornwall Map for Planning

A detailed map is invaluable for effective trip planning and navigation.

Planning Coastal Tours

- Identify scenic drives along the Atlantic coastline
- Locate beaches, coves, and surfing spots
- Plan stops at seaside towns like St Ives, Falmouth, and Padstow

Exploring National Parks and Moorlands

- Find routes through Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor
- Discover hidden valleys, walking trails, and viewpoints
- Use topographical features to plan outdoor activities

Visiting Cultural and Historic Sites

- Map out castles, monasteries, and heritage centers
- Determine proximity and accessibility between sites
- Combine cultural visits with scenic drives

Popular Routes and Destinations on the Devon and Cornwall

Map

Understanding the main routes and destinations helps maximize travel experiences.

Main Coastal Routes

- A30: Main route through Cornwall, connecting London to the West Country
- A39: Known as the Atlantic Highway, runs along the north coast
- A38: Connects Exeter to Plymouth

Key Destinations

- St Ives: Artistic hub with beaches and galleries
- Falmouth: Port town with maritime heritage
- Torquay: Part of the English Riviera, famous for its beaches
- Newquay: Surfing capital of Cornwall
- Exeter: Historic city with cathedral and Roman walls
- Plymouth: Naval port with maritime history
- Bodmin Moor: Rugged landscape ideal for walking and exploration

Digital and Physical Resources for Devon and Cornwall Maps

Various resources are available for accessing detailed maps of Devon and Cornwall.

Digital Resources

- Google Maps and Google Earth for interactive navigation
- Regional tourism websites offering downloadable maps
- GPS and mapping apps tailored for outdoor activities
- Official Ordnance Survey online platform

Physical Maps and Atlases

- Ordnance Survey Explorer Series maps
- Tourist maps available in visitor centers
- Road atlases covering South West England
- Specialty hiking and cycling maps

Conclusion: Navigating Devon and Cornwall with a Map

A well-detailed Devon and Cornwall map is more than just a navigation tool; it is an essential guide to discovering the region's natural beauty, cultural richness, and historic landmarks. Whether planning a leisurely coastal drive, an outdoor adventure, or a cultural exploration, understanding the region's geography through an accurate map enhances the experience exponentially. Modern digital maps offer convenience and real-time updates, while traditional physical maps provide detailed topographical information suitable for outdoor pursuits. Whichever type of map you choose, familiarizing yourself with the layout of Devon and Cornwall will ensure your journey is safe, enjoyable, and full of memorable discoveries.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find an up-to-date Devon and Cornwall map online?

You can find the latest Devon and Cornwall maps on official tourism websites, Ordnance Survey maps, or popular mapping services like Google Maps and Bing Maps for detailed and current information.

What are the best features to look for on a Devon and Cornwall map?

Look for detailed topographical features, transportation routes, points of interest such as beaches and landmarks, walking trails, and local villages to make the most of your visit or study.

Are there printable maps of Devon and Cornwall suitable for hiking?

Yes, many outdoor retailers and the Ordnance Survey provide printable PDF maps specifically designed for hikers exploring Devon and Cornwall's trails and countryside.

How can I use a Devon and Cornwall map to plan a coastal road trip?

Utilize the map to identify key scenic routes like the A39 Atlantic Highway, highlight attractions along the coast, and plan stopovers at beaches, villages, and landmarks for an enjoyable road trip.

Is there a digital interactive map for exploring Devon and Cornwall's tourist spots?

Yes, several apps and websites offer interactive maps with filters for attractions, accommodations, and activities, helping visitors plan their trip efficiently across Devon and Cornwall.

Additional Resources

Devon and Cornwall Map: An Essential Guide to Exploring Southwest England

The Devon and Cornwall map is an indispensable resource for travelers, residents, and outdoor enthusiasts eager to explore the diverse landscapes, historic sites, and charming towns of this captivating region in Southwest England. From rugged coastlines to rolling countryside, the map provides a comprehensive overview that helps users plan journeys, discover hidden gems, and appreciate the unique character of Devon and Cornwall.

Introduction to Devon and Cornwall: A Region of Contrasts and Charm

Devon and Cornwall are two of England's most picturesque counties, renowned for their stunning coastline, vibrant cultural heritage, and varied landscapes. While they share similarities—such as an affinity for seaside activities and a rich maritime history—each boasts distinct features that make the Devon and Cornwall map essential for understanding the region's geography.

- Devon is characterized by its lush green countryside, moorlands, and historic towns like Exeter, Plymouth, and Barnstaple.
- Cornwall is famous for its dramatic cliffs, sandy beaches, and artistic communities, with notable spots like St Ives, Newquay, and Truro.

This diverse environment makes the map a vital tool for navigation, exploration, and discovering the region's many attractions.

Key Features of the Devon and Cornwall Map

The Devon and Cornwall map offers detailed information across multiple layers, including roads, public transport routes, tourist attractions, natural parks, and accommodation options. Its features can be broken down as follows:

1. Geographic Coverage

- Covers the entire counties of Devon and Cornwall, including inland regions and coastal areas.
- Highlights key towns, villages, and rural communities.

- Shows natural features such as national parks, rivers, lakes, and coastlines.

2. Road and Transport Networks

- Major highways like the M5, A30, A38, and A39 are prominently displayed.
- Secondary roads, country lanes, and scenic routes are marked for leisurely drives.
- Public transport routes, including train lines and bus services, facilitate planning for those relying on public transit.
- Coastal ferry routes, where applicable, are also indicated.

3. Tourist Attractions and Landmarks

- National parks such as Dartmoor, Exmoor, and Bodmin Moor are marked with walking and hiking trails.
- Heritage sites including castles, historic houses, and museums.
- Coastal landmarks like Land's End, St Michael's Mount, and the Jurassic Coast.
- Popular beaches, surfing spots, and seaside resorts.

4. Natural and Conservation Areas

- Areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) are clearly outlined.
- Nature reserves and protected habitats are highlighted to encourage eco-friendly exploration.

5. Accommodation and Amenities

- Campsites, holiday parks, and bed-and-breakfast locations.
- Food and refreshment spots, including local pubs and restaurants.

6. Topographical Details

- Elevation contours and terrain types help in planning outdoor activities.
- Coastal cliffs, high moorlands, and low-lying river valleys are distinguished.

Using the Devon and Cornwall Map for Planning Your Trip

The map is a versatile tool for various types of travel planning, whether for a leisurely holiday, outdoor adventure, or cultural exploration.

1. Navigating Coastal Routes

- The Southwest coast is dotted with scenic drives that follow the rugged shoreline.
- Key coastal towns like St Ives, Falmouth, and Bude are easily accessible via the map's detailed road network.
- The map helps identify viewpoints, beaches, and walking trails along the coast.

2. Exploring Natural Parks and Outdoor Activities

- Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks are central features, with marked trails for hiking, cycling, and horse riding.
- The map indicates trailheads, picnic spots, and camping areas.
- For water-based activities, the map highlights kayak launches, sailing spots, and diving locations.

3. Discovering Historic and Cultural Sites

- The region is rich in history, from ancient stone circles to medieval castles.

- The map pinpoints historic towns like Totnes, Tavistock, and Tintagel.
- Museums, galleries, and heritage centers are marked, facilitating cultural itineraries.

4. Planning Coastal and Inland Journeys

- For a comprehensive experience, travelers can plot routes that combine coastal exploration with inland adventures.
- The map's detailed scale allows for precise planning of day trips or multi-day journeys.

Special Features of the Devon and Cornwall Map

Beyond basic navigation, the map includes several specialized features that enhance the exploration experience:

1. Walking and Cycling Routes

- Clearly marked trails for walkers and cyclists, including long-distance routes like the South West Coast Path.
- Signposted routes through national parks and scenic countryside.

2. Ferry and Boat Routes

- Crossings between Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
- Ferries to offshore islands such as the Isles of Scilly, Lundy Island, and other maritime destinations.

3. Event and Festival Locations

- Major events like the Royal Cornwall Show or the Exeter Festival are pinpointed.
- Seasonal markets, music festivals, and cultural events are also marked.

4. Emergency and Support Services

- Locations of hospitals, police stations, and emergency services are included for safety planning.

Benefits of Using a Detailed Devon and Cornwall Map

Investing in a high-quality, detailed map offers numerous advantages:

- Enhanced Navigation: Avoid getting lost in unfamiliar terrain, especially in rural or less-marked areas.
- Efficient Planning: Visualize routes, plan stops, and estimate travel times with ease.
- Discover Hidden Gems: Spot lesser-known attractions or scenic viewpoints that may be missed with digital-only resources.
- Outdoor Safety: Understand terrain and elevation changes to prepare appropriately for hikes or outdoor activities.
- Cultural Appreciation: Gain contextual knowledge of historical sites and natural landmarks.

Digital vs. Paper Maps: Which Is Better?

In the digital age, both formats have their merits:

- Digital Maps:
 - Offer real-time updates and live traffic information.
 - Accessible via smartphones and GPS devices.
 - Can integrate user reviews and multimedia content.
- Paper Maps:
 - Provide a broad overview without reliance on batteries or signal.
 - Useful in remote areas with limited connectivity.
 - Encourage a more immersive planning experience.

For serious travelers and outdoor adventurers, a combination of both is recommended. Carrying a detailed physical map alongside a digital version ensures preparedness and flexibility.

Where to Obtain a Devon and Cornwall Map

Reliable sources for acquiring high-quality maps include:

- Local tourist information centers in Devon and Cornwall.
- Online map retailers and publishers such as Ordnance Survey.
- Specialty outdoor stores and bookstores.
- Digital map apps that offer downloadable detailed maps.

Investing in a durable, waterproof copy is advisable for outdoor use.

Conclusion: Unlocking the Secrets of Southwest England with the Devon and Cornwall Map

The Devon and Cornwall map is more than just a navigational tool—it is a gateway to experiencing the rich tapestry of landscapes, histories, and cultures that define this remarkable region. Whether you're planning a coastal road trip along the Jurassic Coast, hiking across Dartmoor, exploring historic castles, or simply seeking scenic spots to relax and unwind, a detailed map guides your journey and enhances your understanding of this diverse corner of England.

By leveraging the map's comprehensive features, travelers can unlock new adventures, discover hidden treasures, and make the most of their time in Devon and Cornwall. Embrace the region's contrasts—from dramatic cliffs and sandy beaches to rolling moorlands and historic towns—and let the map lead you to unforgettable experiences in Southwest England.

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locations of places of interest and tourist attractions are highlighted on the road mapping.-There are 24 town plans each with their own descriptive text, tourist information and listing of leisure attractions. The locations of places of interest and tourist attractions are highlighted on the town plans.-There is a section of descriptive text about Bodmin Moor, Dartmoor and Exmoor.-The index section includes a list of cities, towns, villages, hamlets and locations with a separate listing of selected places of interest and other features.

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Gascoyne's Map of Cornwall, published in 1699, set new standards in county map making. He used a larger scale (nearly one inch to the mile), included hamlets and farms as well as towns, villages and roads, and for the first time showed the parish boundaries. This edition, by Professor W L D Ravenhill, is the first facsimile of this rare map (extant in only three copies), and is presented (like the original) in 13 separate sheets: one of the whole county and 12 of its parts. These are supplied in a hard case, together with a detailed introduction, and a study of the place-names by Dr O J Padel.

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