

CRAFTY CAMPING PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Thank you for your booking. Below, please find all the information you need prior to setting off. The adventure starts here ...

IN ADVANCE

Please make sure that you have your directions and site map with you. These can be downloaded from the guest's information page on our website. N.B. satnav will not work accurately or the last mile, so please do not rely on it for the last leg of your journey. If you do get lost, go to Manor Farm in the middle of Holditch, drive uphill following the lane sharp left & our car park is 1st on the left.

Pack as little as possible as it is a five minute walk down from the car park into the woods and to your accommodation, but do bring a pint of milk for your complimentary Dorset Cereals and Clipper Teas. We have an alcohol license and sell cider in the woods. There is a cold box in each tent for storing milk/food etc.

If you want to try one of the popular local restaurants or a River Cottage HQ event (see below) it is advisable to book well in advance.

If you're coming by train to Axminster there are rarely taxis waiting so it is essential to pre-book one. We recommend Payne's Premier Travel who have hybrid cars available for your transfer: 01297 35895 or bluebird cars 07591 584790, Mat on 07736 642738 or Axminster Taxis on 01297 34000.

If you fancy trying your hand on one of our courses then they can be booked up to 1 day ahead on our website, if the day is free in our courses calendar you can start a new course subject of your choice, the 2 hour taster courses need two participants and the longer courses require just one participant to start a new course on a new date. We will run any course for between one and four guests at a time. They are suitable for complete novices & are very relaxing.

Please note that our craft courses are entirely optional – we don't expect our guests to whittle or carve if it's not their thing! Many don't, preferring to simply relax and soak up the atmosphere in the woods or to explore the surrounding area.

SELF CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT

Your accommodation will be cleaned and ready for you by 3pm on the day of arrival, please vacate before 11 am on the day of departure so that we have enough time to prepare for new arrivals. There is no real check in as such, on occasions (particularly at weekends) we may not meet guests at all as they simply come and go following the pre arrival and in-tent information packs, preferring the anonymity that the informal nature of Crafty Camping affords.

Please leave your car in the car park and walk through the small pedestrian gate indicated by the wooden owls (Oscar); follow the footpath down the LEFT HAND SIDE of the meadow (not down the rough track through the larger gate) and into the top corner of the wood through the tree arch. Follow the path down to the Woodland Workshop where you will see the parachute-roofed craft workshops and the large communal yurt and field kitchen by the pond. All the tents are signposted from here as well as being marked on the woodland map. There are no locks or keys other than to our tool chest!

All of the paths from the car park to each tent are lit with LED lights on sensors. However, it is still worth bringing a torch so that you can find your way in the unlikely event a power failure on arrival.

Please don't leave valuables in your car. Although we are in a remote and relatively crime-free area, we can't take responsibility for vehicles or contents in the car park.



We may or may not be on site when you arrive, however, once you're in your accommodation you will find a welcome and information folder with everything you need to know to settle-in, relax and enjoy your time in your new home. We tend to leave our guests to themselves unless needed for anything specific.

We can always be contacted on the duty phone number which is either Guy's phone, 07976 245085 (or occasionally an alternative number written on the field kitchen blackboard) if there is a problem or if something that needs fixing.

Please settle your bill from the honesty book/shop at the end of your stay. Payment can be made in cash or by credit card.

WHAT TO BRING/ON ARRIVAL

It is a good idea to have some 'starter' food as well as some milk. However, there are plenty of local shops and the local produce is excellent – so don't burden yourself with carrying too much! There is a list of local farm shops, deli's and wet fish shops, etc, in each tent and a labeled map in the communal yurt as well as on the info page of our website.

We have a selection of delicious 'Tom's Pies' in the freezer in the communal yurt/shop. These can be heated through in the field kitchen if you arrive late and hungry, they take about 40 mins from frozen. The Tytherleigh Arms (01460 220214) is our closest (and best) pub if you fancy going out for a drink and a good meal on arrival. On Friday nights The Bottle Inn at nearby Marshwood usually has 'The Curry Bus' outside – highly recommended for a good pint and eat-in or takeaway home made curry. (It's best to call them first to double-check though – 01297 678484.)

Other things to remember: Your Gift Voucher if you have one; a fishing rod and license (available from the local Post Office) if you fancy catching your own fish (please note the 'No Returns' fishing policy); and any toiletries that you want other than the included biodegradable Faith In Nature soap, shower gel, shampoo and conditioner.

Some returning guests have brought Crocs or flip-flops for walking around the site and dressing gowns/robes for getting to and from the sauna and generally relaxing around their tents, so do please bring these too if you think you may want them during your stay in the woods. We supply towels (and a heated towel rail) in each tent so there is no need to pack these.

Please bring a camera if you would like to enter our annual picture competition for the best photo uploaded to Trip Advisor, twitter or our Facebook page. The prize is a £150 gift voucher and the judging criteria entirely at Guy's discretion!

WE SUPPLY

Everyone staying with us is welcome to help themselves to complimentary Dorset Cereals and the Clipper tea, coffee, infusions and hot chocolate. We provide a starter pack of split and air-dried local firewood and kindling in each tent/shepherds hut. Further supplies of wood as well as locally produced charcoal can be purchased from the log store if required.

As well as the toiletries, each tipi, yurt, shepherd hut and bell tent has a double or kingsize bed with sheets, double duvet and pillows, and towels and reindeer skins. There is a wood-burner in each tent along with candle lanterns, a lighter, firelighters, a cold box, some ice packs (in the field kitchen freezer), a BBQ/brazier, BBQ tools, pots and pans, a Kelly kettle (for boiling water), a picnic table, camping chairs and a hammock. There is an electric light in each tent and electricity sockets for charging phones, laptops etc. There are also electric blankets and a heated towel rail in each tent.

WHAT COMMUNAL FACILITIES TO EXPECT

Everyone camping with us is welcome to make use of the following communal facilities.



The field kitchen, which has gas rings and oven, a wood fired pizza oven (bear in mind that this requires additional fire wood and one hour to heat up), hot and cold mains water and a washing up sink, a hand washing basin, biodegradable washing-up liquid, cutlery, crockery, glasses, mugs, cooking utensils and a large dining table with benches and sheepskins. There are also recycling, landfill and compost bins.

The woven willow woodland shower, which is supplied with lots of hot water and has a slate and oak floor. The changing area is under cover and the showering area is open to the trees/sky/stars. It's highly recommended in the rain! There are also washing/teeth cleaning sinks by this shower. These facilities are shared by the three bell tents. The other tents each have their own private hot tree shower and proper flushing loo.

The Sauna, which takes about 45 mins to heat up. There is another shower and loo by the sauna yurt.

You are welcome to browse our extensive craft and green woodworking library in the communal yurt, and craft DVDs, including the BBC Mastercarfts series that was filmed in the woods. There is also a selection of board games, and local 'things to see and do' information pack.

There is Wi-Fi available in the kitchen & communal yurt with no login/password required.

There are also flushing 'normal' loos (separate ladies and gents) by the workshop parachute shelters.

THE HOUSE RULES

We want everyone who stays with us to have a relaxed and enjoyable time. We try and keep rules to a minimum but there do have to be some:

- No pets. Sorry, but there are lots of pheasants, deer etc. in the woods and livestock in adjacent fields.
- No children. This policy was originally in response to insurance requirements that were impractical or would have ruined the feel of the yurts and living spaces. Having said that many guests now book specifically because they are seeking the peace and tranquility that an adult only atmosphere affords.
- No amplified music/radios and rowdy/noisy behavior that could disturb others on- or off-site.
- Please always remove shoes/boots inside the tents.
- Please shut down the air vent & close the door on all logburners when you are leaving them unattended. If leaving a bbq please make sure that it has died down before leaving these unattended.
- Fishing is only permissible with a valid rod license (available in the local post office) We have a 'No Returns' policy for the wellbeing of the trout & charge £3 re-stocking charge per trout.
- Please don't use the course tools and equipment without supervision.
- Please always close your tent door when leaving to prevent rain or bugs entering! This is Particularly important at night when any lights inside will act as a bug magnet if the doors are left open...
- Please do not bring candles or tea lights (which are specifically forbidden in and outside the tents on the insistence of the fire officer) We supply candle lanterns with glass guards in each tent & these are safe to use if candle light is preferred.
- Please do not put ANYTHING on top of the log burners ever...

EMERGENCY AND HEALTH

There is a First Aid kit in the communal kitchen behind the kettle and a more extensive box of dressings etc in the central island. The nearest small injuries NHS unit is in Chard (directions/map in/by the First Aid box and in tent information folders); the nearest Accident and Emergency Unit is at the hospital in Yeovil.

On some hot, humid and still days there may be mosquitos or midges in the woods. We recommend Avon 'Skin So Soft' as the most effective insect repellent! We sell this on site in the communal yurt/shop.



If you go walking in the area through long grass in shorts there is a chance of picking up ticks. (This applies to any long grass; it is an increasing problem countrywide due to rising deer numbers). If you do get a tick please refer to the guidance notes at the First Aid point in the kitchen. Avon 'Skin So Soft' is also an effective tick repellent.

RESTAURANTS THAT NEED TO BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE

There are many good pubs and restaurants and things to do on our local information map in the communal yurt. However, the following restaurants can be booked-up a long time in advance and so it's worth giving them a call before you come.

Our local pub, The Tytherleigh Arms, 01460 220 214 - excellent dinner and Sunday lunches.

Hix Oyster & Fish House, Lyme Regis 01297 446910

River Cottage Canteen, Axminster 01297 631862

River Cottage Park Farm – evening events and courses, 01297 630302

& Many more – see our local places to eat, shop and things to do in the information section of our website.

LOCAL TOURS & BIKE HIRE

Guided electric bicycle tours and/or rental can be arranged in advance with Jurassic Electric for those that want to explore some of the stunning countryside around us. They have electrically assisted bikes to make life easier in the rolling hills of West Dorset! Contact Martin, 07796 135256, to make a booking or arrange for delivery of rental bikes. Mention Crafty Camping to get a 10% discount on tours and rental.

www.jurassic-electric.co.uk

We hope that you enjoy your stay here in the woods.

Guy

