



Information Guide

Safari Lodges

Welcome to Somerset Yurts!

We really hope you enjoy your stay with us, and have provided this guide to help you get the most out of your time here in your safari lodge.

Emma and Mark are a few yards away at the farmhouse, so please don't hesitate to ask any questions you may have about the lodge or the local area if you see us about, or just contact us if you have a question - texting is usually better due to slightly dodgy reception around the farm!

Emma - 07766 073461

Mark - 07811 350176

Emergency Information

Nearest Doctors Surgery:

Crown Medical Centre
Venture Way
Priorswood
TA2 8QY
01823 282151

Boots Pharmacy at the Crown Medical Centre 01823 337888

Nearest Hospital:

Musgrove Park Hospital
Taunton
TA1 5DA
01823 33344

Nearest Vet:

Ani Medics
Creech Castle
Bathpool
Taunton
TA1 2DX
01823 240140

Safari Lodge Safety

There is a fire extinguisher and a fire blanket to use in the event of a fire in the lodge.

Strictly no smoking in the lodge, please use the terra-cotta pots outside to dispose safely of your cigarettes.

No lighting of candles in the lodge – please use the lights and rechargeable lantern provided.

Please use the Weber BBQ's provided and NEVER use a disposable BBQ on the decking outside or inside the lodge. The bottom gets extremely hot and can set the deck alight (we know from experience!).

Please remember the lodge is essentially made up of flammable materials, so exercise caution with the woodburner, BBQ, and hob.

Please be aware there is quite a step off the decking and the ground is quite uneven, so be careful!

Kitchen Safety

In the event of a fire in the lodge becoming out of control, please raise the alarm with other guests, and all leave the clamping site immediately and head to the farmhouse to raise the alarm.

Please exercise caution when cooking in the lodge - use the ceramic hob a safe distance from the canvas walls, and always use the trivet provided for placing hot pans on.

Woodburner:

We provide a complimentary basket to get you going, with additional nets of locally and sustainably sourced firewood at the barn. Please use the honesty box for payment.

- To light the woodburner, add a couple of the firelighters to the base of the woodburner.
- Next add some kindling in a tee-pee arrangement around the firelighters.
- Light the firelighters to get the kindling going.
- Then add one or two small cut logs once the kindling is going well.
- Close the door of the woodburner, and open up the top and bottom vents to keep plenty of air circulating.
- After about 5 to 10 minutes, you should then be able to add a couple more, larger logs.
- Close the door and leave the vents open for 10 to 20 minutes to ensure the larger log/s are burning well, then close the vents to half shut, which will slow the burner down, but keep the fire going for longer, and get it nice and hot.
- Keep adding the odd log here and there, as required. You may need to open the vents again if you add more wood, but remember to close them down again to keep the logs burning hotter and longer.
- Do not leave the door open once you have lit the burner, as you will burn through wood very quickly, and it will not get very hot. Sparks from the fire could also fly out onto the deck and rugs, starting a fire.
- You can close the door vent down to almost fully shut to keep the fire in for longer, or open up the vent if you need to get the fire going again before you add more logs.

The woodburner will burn for most of the night if you tend to it before bed. It's best to put a large log in before you go to bed, and turn the vents down to almost closed, once the log has taken. This will keep the burner going for as long as possible.

It is unlikely to keep the fire in all night, but you should be able to get another fire going first thing in the morning from the embers, and then you can hop back into bed to let the lodge warm back up, and listen to the crack and pop of the wood – so relaxing you may nod back off to sleep!

Woodburner Safety:

The woodburner obviously gets VERY hot, so please ensure you use the fire glove provided.

Never leave children unaccompanied in the lodge if the woodburner is lit. Please make sure your children are aware of the dangers of the woodburner, and do not allow children to help you with the woodburner, in case of accidents. There is a fireguard available in the Barn, please use this if you have small children.

Please do not put anything on top of the woodburner, or too close to it - things melt very fast, and can cause a fire.

Keeping warm:

Your woodburner should keep you nice and warm on chilly days and evenings. It's best to get it going and then close the vents down to keep it going for longer. If you need any help with the woodburner, please speak to Emma or Mark.

There are throws and blankets for you to use on the beds and the sofa beds, or to snuggle up into while listening to the crackle of the woodburner.

Remember to make sure the outer clear plastic windows are shut and secured with the toggles - this will keep the lodge warmer and reduce drafts.

Keeping cool:

When the weather is hot, you can carefully roll up the outer clear plastic windows, and secure open with the toggles. If you cannot reach the toggles, please use the red step provided with care. Remember to close these down again, and secure with the toggles, in the late afternoon if the weather is going to get chilly.

Opening the lodge up at the front:

Door without the front window:

You can open the zippered front door either by folding back and using the long rope with hook (the rope is on the inside and is hooked up on the outside. You might need to use the red step to reach, so please do so carefully.

You may also roll this door up if you undo both zips, and roll the door up like the windows, and use the toggles to secure - again, please take care using the red step provided.

Fully opening the front:

You can fully open the front of the tent up, which is lovely to do on a hot Summer day, really making the lodge feel very spacious and out in the countryside. You need to open the middle zip, and unclip the canvas from the deck inside the lodge. Make sure the window is closed with the plastic outside, and canvas inside, toggled down. Then you can fold both the canvas walls back, and hook them to the left and right hand hooks on the outside of the lodge (like above, but for both sides!)

Remember to re attach the side of the wall with the window back to the floor using the straps, and to close down this side before it starts getting chilly. Please do use care with the straps to help us keep them in great condition, and ask for help if needed.

Food:

There is a Charcoal BBQ for you to enjoy some al fresco cooking! Please ensure you use these off the deck, to the side of the lodge a safe distance away. You will need to buy your own charcoal for the BBQ, which we have available for sale in the outside/undercover area of the barn along with extra firewood.

Inside the lodge, you have a toaster, and a ceramic hob for boiling, and frying etc. Please read the instructions provided in the kitchen drawer for the hob, but in short you can operate it as follows:

- ONLY to be used on the kitchen worktop, and not anywhere else in the lodge.
- Plug into a suitable socket, ensuring you have enough space around the hob, and that you are not too close to the canvas wall.
- You will hear a beep when the hob is turned on - and the child safety lock will need to be pressed for 3 seconds to allow use. This is the icon on the control panel with the lock (far left).
- Press the on/off key (far right), the screen will display a 0
- Press - or + to control the heat setting. Use this as needed to heat your food, and be careful not to overboil - the hob does heat up very quickly :)
- When you are finished, you can use the trivet to put hot pans on if needed - please do not put hot pans on the worktop directly, or the plastic chopping board.
- Switch the hob off with the on/off key, or directly at the mains.
- Once the hob is cooled, wipe with a damp cloth to clean.

Please make sure you dispose of any food waste into the bin provided. This is the countryside, and you don't want to attract any unwanted furry friends into the yurt! There are 3 wheeled bins to empty rubbish into at the Dutch barn. The large one is for general waste, plus a 'glass only' and a 'mixed recyclables' bin. Please help us to recycle as much as possible. Food waste is to go in the general waste bin.

Dutch Barn & Communal Areas:

The kitchen and bathroom facilities are predominantly used by our yurt guests, as the yurts do not have their own kitchen and bathroom.

You are welcome to make use of the inside and outside space as you wish, especially the play areas and the campfire area in the far corner of the Mongolian yurt field.

You will find firewood and charcoal to purchase in the undercover area outside the barn, please use the honesty box there to pay as you go.

Dogs

We are delighted to welcome dogs to our farm, being a dog owner ourselves, we love taking her away with us on our holiday adventures, so love to be able to accommodate this here too. We do ask that you follow a few of our doggy rules, to ensure that everyone has a good time, is safe, and no damage is caused....

- Dogs must be kept on leads at all times around the site - we have cows grazing neighbouring fields, and other guests staying may not be as fond of dogs as we are :)
- No dogs allowed on beds, please use own dog crate/bed and blankets
- Please do not leave dogs unattended during the day or night in the lodges - the lodges can get hot during the day and distress your dog, plus damage could be done by a dog trying to get out of the tent.
- All dog poo to be cleared up around yurt field - please dispose of poo bags in the general waste wheelie bin at the dutch barn

The Farm:

Hill Farm is a working dairy farm. We have around 100 milking cows in the herd, producing around 2,000 litres of milk a day! Our milk goes to a local cheese maker, Lubborn Dairy.

The farm comprises approximately 300 acres of grassland and forage crops for the herd, and has been in the Cavill family for 3 generations.

Children are free to run around and play in the yurt field, please do not allow them to explore elsewhere without supervision. Please also supervise their play in the covered areas of the barn while they jump on the straw bales.

Please be aware of the following:

- For your own safety do not venture into the farm yard areas without permission and supervision from Mark
- Do not disturb the herd when they are grazing in the field. We occasionally have calves out with the herd and the cows can get pretty protective!
- The fields have electric fencing to keep the cows in so please do not touch this, or you will get a shock.
- There are lots of lovely walks around the farm and fields, please stick to footpaths or the edges of fields so as not to disturb the crops (this includes grass as this is our herd's food for the summer - and winter!)
- Please close any gates behind you
- Be careful in the lane as tractors and contractor cars and vans may be driving up and down it throughout the day

Places to go, things to do...

- Walks – see maps in the Dutch Barn.
 - The yurts are right on a circular Heritage Trail that loops around the Village of West Monkton.
 - Cothelstone Hill, around 15 mins drive from the yurts, has wonderful views, and you may spot some wild Exmoor ponies at the top! Stop in at Pines Cafe on the way back for refreshment!
- Hestercombe Gardens - Hestercombe is a unique collection of three gardens spanning three centuries of garden history and design. There is also a café and children's play area to explore. You can walk to Hestercombe from the yurt site – Emma and Mark can advise the best route.
- West Somerset Railway - Enjoy a steam or diesel train ride through 22 miles of stunning Somerset Coast and Countryside. Take a step back in time enjoying views of the Quantock Hills and Exmoor National Park and the West Somerset Coastline. The nearest station is a 20 minute drive into the Quantocks at Bishop's Lydeard
- Fyne Court - Spend a magical time walking through the woodland garden and the delightful meadows on the wider estate, then play one of a variety of games on offer in the courtyard. Only a couple of miles from the yurts, and free entry. We really recommend a visit here - you will love it. It's only around a 10 minute drive from the yurts - turn left at the end of the farm lane, and follow signs to Broomfield, and then you'll pick up the Fyne Court tourism signs.
- Taunton - The County Town of Somerset is only a 10-minute drive from the farm.
 - There are Local Farmers' Market is held every Thursday morning, and is well worth a visit.
 - Taunton Museum is very child friendly and a great place to explore.
- PYO at Thurloxtton - Seasonal fruit and veg in June, July, for you to pick and bring back to the yurts to enjoy! Only a couple of miles from the farm on the A38 towards Bridgwater - very seasonal, not always open depending on the crops!
- Charlton Orchards - founded in 1947, and has been producing traditional varieties of fruit for over 60 years. All of their produce can be purchased from the Apple Shed at the farm. Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm only.
- Monkton Elm Garden Centre -Local garden centre with good value and family friendly restaurant and café. Small play area for young children, and a pet shop.
- Taunton and Bridgwater canal - Accessible from the neighbouring village of Creech St. Michael, you can walk or cycle east to Bridgwater, or west into Taunton
- Somerset, Dorset, and Devon Coasts are within an hour's drive from Somerset Yurts, and boast some stunning coastline...
 - We thoroughly recommend picturesque Lyme Regis for its lovely shops, restaurants, mackerel fishing, and the Cobb. Nearby Charmouth is also lovely, and a little quieter than Lyme.
 - If you prefer sand, Exmouth has a lovely large stretch of sandy coastline, and is great for wind-surfing.
 - The Quantock and Exmoor coast has more rugged beaches, but they are fantastic for rock pooling.

Nearby places to eat

- The Monkton Inn - Found down the hill in the local village, just a stone's throw from the farm, The Monkton is warm and welcoming, offering fresh home cooking using local produce, at sensible prices. Ring 01823 412414 to make a booking. Blundells Lane, West Monkton, Taunton, TA2 8NP
- The Maypole Inn - Andy, Mags and Alana welcome you to the maypole inn to enjoy good quality home cooked food, excellent real ales and a warm and inviting atmosphere. Beer garden and adventure playground for children. Thurloxton, TA2 8RF. 01823 412 286
- Clavelshay Barn – Clavelshay Barn Restaurant is located in a traditional stone barn on a family run dairy farm on the edge of the Quantock Hills, offering a menu with the best local produce. Roughly 3 miles from the Yurts. Wednesday to Saturday from 7.00pm and Sunday lunch from 12.00pm. Clavelshay Barn, Clavelshay, North Petherton, TA6 6PJ, 01278 662 629
- Silvers Pantry, Proctors Farm, West Monkton - Tue - Sat from 9am to 4.30pm serving great coffee, beautiful homemade cakes, delicious pies, fresh juices, the best cheeses in the world! Also serve excellent hot and cold breakfast/brunch/lunch. 01823 413 443
- The Pines Restaurant & Diner - A great place to explore the Quantocks from. Open 7 days a week 9.30am to 4.30pm. Buncombe Hill, Broomfield, TA5 1 AX, 01823 451245
- Daisy Cottage Tea Rooms - Located next to the beautiful 14th Century Church of St Mary in Bishops Lydeard, Daisy Cottage Tea Rooms serves traditional loose-leaf tea, coffee, home-made cakes, light lunches in a vintage tea-room setting 5 Church Street, Bishops Lydeard, TA4 3AT, 01823 617098
- Monkton Elm Garden centre - Monkton Heathfield, Taunton, TA2 8QN, 01823 412381
- Hestercombe Gardens Cafe - Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, TA3 8LG, 01823 413923
- Fine Court Tearoom - Broomfield, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2EQ