



Information Guide

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 yurt.

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 yurts 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

Yurt Safety

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

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

No lighting of candles in the yurt – please use the light and rechargeable lantern provided.

No cooking in the yurt. Please use the camping stove and BBQ outside, and a safe distance from the yurt in order to prevent a fire.

If it is windy, or rainy - you may take your gas stove or BBQ to the covered outdoor area of the Dutch Barn, by the wicker screens. Please only use this area as there are often straw and hay bales in the other areas of the barn, which can easily catch fire from the smallest spark.

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

Please remember the yurt is essentially made up of flammable materials, so exercise caution with the woodburner, BBQ, and gas stove.

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

Mind your head going in and out of the low door of the Mongolian yurts!

Kitchen Safety

There is a fire extinguisher and blanket in the kitchen in the event of a fire.

In the event of a fire in the yurt or the barn facilities becoming out of control, please raise the alarm with other guests, and all leave the yurt field immediately and head to the farmhouse to raise the alarm.

A first aid kit can be found on the windowsill above the sink in the kitchen for minor injuries.

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

The Yurts

The yurts are authentic, traditional Mongolian Yurts (or Gers as they are called in Mongolia!). They are made up of 5 lattice wall sections tied together with horsehair. 81 roof poles hold up the crown wheel, and push the walls out providing rigidity in the structure. There is then an inner cotton liner, a layer of felt, a layer of heavy-duty waterproof canvas, a canvas sun cover, and finally the crown cover. Around all of these layers are 3 ropes that pull the layers tight, and also add to the rigidity of the yurt.

In Mongolia, temperatures vary from -55 degrees C to 45 degrees C, so we felt confident they could cope with our temperate English weather! We have lived in a yurt on and off for over a year, and full time for 6 months of that! So we can personally vouch for their warmth and comfort.

Woodburner:

The woodburners are made locally by Windy Smithy, and we hope you agree, are a lovely addition to the yurts. 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 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.
- 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 yurt 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 tongs and fire gloves provided.

Never leave children unaccompanied in the yurt 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.

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.

Keeping cool:

When the weather is hot, you can fold up the lower parts of the yurt canvas and felt to allow air in all around. This is particularly effective with the door open.

Food:

There is a Charcoal BBQ and Prakti stove for you to enjoy some al fresco cooking! Please ensure you keep these clean after use. 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.

You are welcome to prepare food in the yurt, and eat in the yurt. Any cooking however must be done outside on the BBQ, Prakti stove in your picnic area, or in the Dutch Barn kitchen. This is for safety reasons, and also to keep the yurts from smelling of food. Please keep a sensible distance from the yurt when cooking, and do not cook on the decking.

Please make sure you dispose of any food waste into the bins provided in the Dutch Barn kitchen. This is the countryside, and you don't want to attract any unwanted furry friends into the yurt!

If you need ice packs for your cool box you can exchange these at the chest freezer in the barn – please remember to put your used ones back, so that others can use them too.

Dutch Barn & Communal Areas:

Kitchen:

In the kitchen you should find all you need for preparing, cooking, and serving meals. Please wash up and dry what you use, so that it is available for others after you. We have provided cloths, washing up liquid, and tea towels to help with this.

Accidents can happen, so if you do break anything, please just let us know so that we can replace.

Please make sure you dispose of all food and rubbish in the appropriate bins to help keep the kitchen clean, and to help us recycle effectively.

Bathroom:

The loos and showers are cleaned regularly, but please do try and leave them as you found them.

We aim to make sure there is plenty of loo roll, hand wash etc. but please do raise this with Emma or Mark if you are running low!

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, where it is made into 'Somerset Brie'.

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. For safety reasons, please do not allow them to explore elsewhere without supervision.

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

You will find maps and information on local walks in the Dutch Barn.

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 Thurloxton - 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 windsurfing.

- 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

Heritage Trail Walk - the track going past Hill farm is the lane by the yurts - so you can start this walk here - Somerset Yurts are marked as '42' on the map

