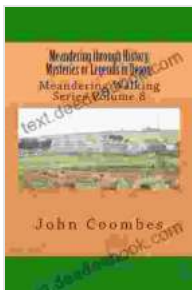


Meandering Through History: Mysteries and Legends in Devon Meandering Walking

Nestled in the heart of southwest England, Devon is a region brimming with natural beauty, ancient history, and captivating folklore. From the windswept moors of Dartmoor to the rugged coastline of Exmoor, Devon offers a treasure trove of walking trails that meander through its mesmerizing landscapes. As you embark on these trails, you'll not only immerse yourself in the region's breathtaking scenery but also uncover a rich tapestry of historical mysteries and enchanting legends.



Meandering through History, Mysteries or Legends in Devon. (Meandering Walking Series) by John Coombes

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
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The Enigmatic Landscapes of Dartmoor

Dartmoor, a vast and untamed wilderness, has long been shrouded in mystery and intrigue. Its desolate landscapes, dotted with ancient stone

circles and enigmatic tors, have inspired countless tales of supernatural encounters and hidden treasures.

One of the most famous legends associated with Dartmoor is that of the Hairy Hands. According to folklore, these disembodied hands emerge from the mists to grab hold of unsuspecting travelers. Those who escape their clutches often find their hair turned white overnight.

Another enduring mystery of Dartmoor is the disappearance of Amelia Dyer. In 1869, this notorious baby farmer was arrested and imprisoned in Princetown Prison, located in the heart of the moor. While awaiting trial, Dyer vanished without a trace. Some believe she escaped with the help of her accomplices, while others whisper that she may have met a sinister fate within the prison's grim walls.

Mysteries of Exmoor's Rugged Coastline

Exmoor, a wild and rugged peninsula, boasts a dramatic coastline that has witnessed its fair share of maritime mysteries. One of the most enduring legends is that of the spectral ship, the Mary Celeste. In 1872, this American brigantine was found adrift off the coast of Exmoor, with no crew or passengers on board. The mystery of what happened to the Mary Celeste has never been fully solved, fueling speculation of ghostly encounters and supernatural intervention.

Another enigmatic incident occurred in 1940, when a German U-boat sank the British merchant ship, the SS Dumana, off the coast of Exmoor. According to survivors, the U-boat surfaced after the sinking and fired on the lifeboats, killing several crew members. The motive for this act of brutality remains a haunting mystery.

Legends and Folklore Woven into the Two Moors Way

The Two Moors Way, a long-distance walking trail that traverses both Dartmoor and Exmoor, weaves together a rich tapestry of history, myth, and legend. As you walk along this scenic path, you'll encounter ancient stone bridges, abandoned settlements, and forgotten battlefields that whisper tales of times gone by.

One of the most poignant legends associated with the Two Moors Way is that of Katey and Tom, two young lovers who were tragically separated during the English Civil War. According to folklore, Katey waited for Tom's return on top of Yes Tor, Dartmoor's highest peak, until she turned to stone. Today, a granite cross marks the spot where her petrified figure is said to stand, a poignant reminder of lost love and unfulfilled promises.

Unveiling Mysteries Along the Tarka Trail

The Tarka Trail, a scenic walking and cycling path that follows the coastline of North Devon, offers a unique blend of natural beauty and literary history. The trail is named after Henry Williamson's beloved novel, "Tarka the Otter," which recounts the adventures of a young otter in the region's rivers and estuaries.

As you follow the Tarka Trail, you'll encounter picturesque fishing villages, secluded coves, and towering sea cliffs that inspired Williamson's enchanting tale. You'll also delve into the region's smuggling history, as the trail passes by hidden coves that once served as havens for smugglers and their illicit cargoes.

Exploring the South West Coast Path and Its Hidden Treasures

The South West Coast Path, England's longest national trail, offers a breathtaking journey along Devon's dramatic coastline. As you walk this rugged path, you'll not only be rewarded with stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean but also uncover hidden treasures and historical relics.

One of the most captivating discoveries along the South West Coast Path is the ancient Tintagel Castle, said to be the birthplace of King Arthur. Perched on a rugged headland, Tintagel is steeped in Arthurian legend and offers a glimpse into the realm of chivalry, magic, and mythical quests.

Further along the path, you'll encounter the picturesque town of Clovelly, a living reminder of Devon's maritime heritage. This charming village, with its whitewashed cottages and cobblestone streets, was once a thriving fishing port and a haunt for smugglers and pirates.

Devon's meandering walking trails offer more than just breathtaking scenery; they are gateways to a world of mystery, legend, and historical intrigue. As you wander through these enchanting landscapes, you'll not only immerse yourself in the region's natural beauty but also uncover a rich tapestry of hidden treasures, unsolved mysteries, and captivating folklore.

From the enigmatic Hairy Hands of Dartmoor to the spectral ship of Exmoor's coastline, from the tragic love story of Katey and Tom to the hidden smuggling coves of the Tarka Trail, Devon's walking trails unravel a captivating narrative that weaves together history, mystery, and legend.

So, lace up your boots and embark on a meandering journey through Devon's enchanting landscapes. With each step you take, you'll not only discover the region's natural wonders but also delve into the realm of the unknown, where mysteries linger and legends come alive.



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