

# 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 be sure that you have downloaded your directions and site map as it's easy to get lost in the local lanes & Satnav is not always accurate out here in the sticks. As you enter camp you will find the current duty manager contact details displayed - but you will need to have got here 1<sup>st</sup> (the Duty Manger details change regularly and are not always planned in advance).

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, wine and fizz in the woods, there is a full stock list on the guests information page of our website. There is a cold box in each tent for storing milk/food etc as well as a dedicated shelf in your fridge in the field kitchen.

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. Our courses are suitable for complete novices & experienced craftsmen alike.

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, changed over, re-stocked 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 "check in" as such, on occasions (particularly at weekends) we may not see our 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. Having said that we are always on call should a problem arise, the duty manager's name and number is always displayed on the "in/out" board at the entrance to the camp opposite the field kitchen should you need to get in touch at any point during your stay. We are always here to help.

Please leave your car in the car park and walk through the small pedestrian gate, 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. 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 to collect.

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 leather welcome and information folder with everything you need to know to settle-in, relax and enjoy your time in your new home.

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

## WHAT TO BRING/ON ARRIVAL

On arrival to the camp you will see our "in/out" board, this has a slate name for each space on a peg, the top row indicates that guests are in and the bottom row indicates that guests are out or have departed. Please move your slate depending on whether you are in or out. This not only helps us get on with cleaning if guests leave before 11 but is also a fire officer requirement so that in case of fire we know who is on or off site for a roll call.

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.

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- please call 1<sup>st</sup> to check they have tables and last orders/opening times as these vary.

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.

## WE SUPPLY

Everyone staying with us is welcome to help themselves to complimentary Dorset Cereals and the Dorset tea & coffee. 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 DIY 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 a washing/teeth cleaning basin 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. 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. It is a slow rural connection... however most mobiles (EE & o2 for sure) can get a very good and very fast 4g signal on site which is usually much better than the landline broadband speed.

## 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, min age is 18. 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 – particularly after dark.
- 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.
- 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. 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.

## 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 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.



Please don't hesitate to text or call the duty manager if you have any questions or problems during your stay. We won't disturb at all you unless you need something.

We hope that you enjoy your stay in the woods.

Guy

P.s. We encourage our guests to switch off (or switch to silent at least) mobiles, laptops etc in order to get the most out of being in the woods. However we also want to encourage guests to spread the word about their time in the woods on social media (ideally when back home!) please do tag us in any posts if you do social media, all pages of our website have links/buttons to our social media channels. [www.mallinson.co.uk](http://www.mallinson.co.uk)

