

*The Place to make your home*

## **Somerton**

*in the heart of the beautiful county of Somerset*

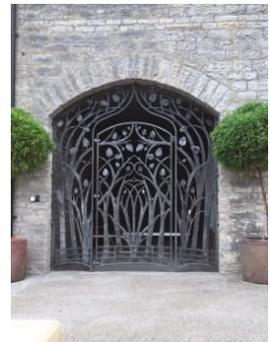
*(the land of the Summer people)*

Somerset has a rich history and a wide range of range of landscapes from moorland to woodlands, historic houses and stunning beaches. It's also home to renowned local produce of cheddar cheese, cider, and strawberries.

***Somerton is a traditional market town located in the centre of the county, But it's all change in Somerton, which is becoming one of the most creative, contemporary, and forward-thinking towns in the country.***

A gem of a county to live in, with all the benefits of living in a beautiful part of the south west, Somerton is close to all the facilities, yet small enough to feel at home in.

House prices have increased by 17.5% since 2015 placing Somerton as one of the most sought-after towns in Somerset that everyone wants to move to according to a recent survey for Somerset Live. Somerton is a mix of historic, stylish & quaint accommodation and several new developments complimenting local architecture.



High on a hill overlooking the heart of Somerset, it is easy to see why Somerton is the town that gave the county its name. The 'ancient royal capital of Wessex' has Roman and Saxon origins and retains a feeling of old-world charm, with its terracotta roof tiles and honey-coloured stone, but that chocolate-box appearance doesn't tell the whole story. It's easy to look no further than the pleasant market square, with an arched medieval Buttercross facing 16th-century coaching inn's, or the old town hall, alms houses and the building that was once the town's courthouse. But behind this handsome historic facade the town is undergoing something of a transformation.

The former courthouse building on West Street is at the centre of the development of the town's new artistic quarter in collaboration with local charity Arts Care Education (ACE) , <https://www.acearts.co.uk/> and after substantial and sympathetic redevelopment over the past few years the retail units are occupied and the retirement apartments known as Courthouse Mews <http://www.courthousemews.co.uk/> are all ready and waiting for new owners who want to live in a central location with all facilities to hand.

## Why Somerton is the most sought-after location

Its central location in Somerset makes it easily accessible

**By car:** Somerton is located just off the A303 main London to Cornwall road. Travel time to London 2hrs 25 minutes. Bristol and Bath are less than one hour away.

**By train and bus:** Main line trains to London Paddington stop at Castle Cary Station which is just 10 miles from Somerton the high-speed journey to London takes less than 1hour 40 minutes. There are also services to Cornwall and connections throughout the UK including Heathrow and Gatwick Airports. There is an extensive bus service that serves Somerton and connects to travel hubs and regional towns.



**By air:** Bristol Airport is around 30 miles from Somerton. Less than 45 minutes by car. With flights to over 130 European and International destinations.

### Nearby towns

**Taunton** - The county town of Somerset (20 minutes by car). Taunton has over 1,000 years of religious and military history, including a 10th-century monastery, Taunton Castle, and a vibrant shopping centre.

**Wells** - Is famous for its Cathedral and is England's smallest city it is located on the southern edge of the Mendip Hills and is a 20-minute drive from Somerton.

**Street** - Famous as the home of Clarks shoes and the Clarks Outlet Shopping Village. There are over 80 designer and high street brands in the outlet village including one of the largest shoe stores in the World and only a short drive from Somerton.

**Glastonbury** – Magical, mystical, spiritual with a 60's 70's atmosphere and home of the famous Glastonbury Festival. Just a 10-minute drive from Somerton.

**Bristol** - Is a city straddling the River Avon in the southwest of England with a prosperous maritime history. Its former city-centre port is now a cultural hub, the Harbourside, where the M Shed museum explores local social and industrial heritage. The harbour's 19th-century warehouses now contain restaurants, shops, and cultural institutions such as contemporary art gallery The Arnolfini.

**Bath** - Known for and named after its Roman-built baths. Bath is in the valley of the River Avon, 97 miles west of London and 11 miles southeast of Bristol. The city became a World Heritage site in 1987 and welcomes over 4 million visitors and tourists each year. Both Bristol and Bath are under one hour's drive from Somerton.

## **Somerton History**

Somerton is an ancient Saxon town and was the possession of the Saxon kings until well after the Middle Ages. The town has a rich architectural heritage including many wonderful churches which date back to the 15th Century.

It was during the Roman period that the town grew bigger and eventually became the capital of Wessex. The first signs of Roman inhabitation in the area are dated to around A.D. 48. The district was scattered with Roman villas, remains of which have been found in nearby Pitney and Low Ham.

It is no wonder that Somerton has been a populated town for over 2000 years. Somerton is an ideal area to build a town, the steep slopes of the valley of the river Cary, the borders of Sedgemoor to the north and the narrower cutting of the Mill Stream to the south. These all make ideal physical features for securing a town, as well as providing a flood free source of water.

## **Things to do:**



Drop into the old town hall to see local works by local artists and craftspeople. The town hosts a range of family events throughout the year, often in an around the town hall. Stop off at one of the cosy tea rooms in the town centre, and venture into the historic side streets to find independent shops selling Somerset produce and souvenirs. The town also hosts a monthly vintage and general market.

Those in search of fresh Somerset air will find walks aplenty on the outskirts of Somerton. One of the best takes you to the viaduct over which runs the railway from London to Taunton, and underneath you'll find River Cary and the fishing lakes stocked with trout.

For just over a week every July Somerton has an Arts & Musical Festival. During this week, the festival attracts visitors from near and far including visitors from overseas.

Set in some 17 acres, Somerton Recreation Ground is without question the green centre of this popular Somerset town. Situated within easy reach of the entire town, the Recreation Ground contributes significantly to the social and leisure needs of

residents and visitors of all age groups. Facilities include a well-equipped children's playground, skatepark, football and rugby pitches, floodlit tennis courts, multisport court, outdoor bowls, sports & social club with meeting/function room, changing rooms, showers, disabled toilets, and baby changing facilities.

Somerton has a vibrant community with classes and clubs to suit everyone, offering the opportunity to rediscover former interests. There is a thriving Somerton U3A, Probus group, Church Groups ensuring all spiritual needs are met whatever your faith, WI, Gardening Clubs, Walking Groups recently formed "Love Somerton group" and many, many more.

### **Dine out**

A new restaurant opened in 2019. Ex-Soho House director Ben Crofton's new gastronomic venture in a group of Grade II listed buildings in the centre of the town. As well as the restaurant, called 28 Market Place, <https://28marketplace.co.uk/> it also offers the Market Bakery, that supplies the restaurant's baked goods, Somerton Wines, stocking a selection of around 150 varieties and an artisan ice-cream shop. Great British Menu finalist Dan Fletcher is head chef and creates the restaurant's modern British-European menu, with a focus on quality produce sourced from the surrounding Somerset countryside.



Also in the marketplace and adjoining Courthouse Mews is the White Hart Inn <https://whitehartsomerton.com/> which dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Completely renovated in 2018 it offers designer accommodation and restaurant led by chef Maya Hendy who was recently runner up at the National Best breakfast Awards. In fact, Somerton's White Hart is very much a microcosm of the town as a whole - behind its ancient, time-

worn frontage lies a contemporary place that marries elements of tradition and insightful innovation, a combination that's key to both their ongoing success.

Somerton's residents and visitors look like they will be spoilt for great places to eat morning, noon, and night and there are numerous other gastropubs in both Somerton and the surrounding villages.

### **Local shops**



Spend your leisure time in one of the numerous independently run cafes and tea rooms or visit the local chocolate shop and book a workshop to make your own chocolates. <https://www.crafthousechocolate.com/>

There is also a great range of independently run shops, including local baker, butcher, vegetable shop, hardware, hairdressers, antiques, clothes, shoes – supplying everything for all your daily needs.

## Local places to visit:

Somerton is well positioned for access to a number of local attractions, including

- Glastonbury Tor & Abbey
- Wells Cathedral
- The Newt, hotel, and gardens
- Hauser & Wirth – art gallery and restaurant
- An abundance of National Trust properties and gardens - Lytes Cary manor, Montacute House, Stourhead House,
- Kelways garden centre Chelsea Flower show gold winner.
- Hestercombe House and gardens, Taunton
- Cheddar Gorge & Caves
- Longleat Safari Park & Gardens
- Center Parks at Longleat
- Frome artisan and vintage markets



## Health, Wellbeing & Beauty

Somerton has numerous Hair & Beauty salons located in the town centre. Courthouse Mews has a wellbeing centre where you can have a personalised training plan designed for you by Zoisa Holder instructor in the MELT method and Pilates. <https://www.zoisaholder.co.uk/>



There are numerous places for a serious days/weekend pampering to name a few:

The Newt - <https://thenewtinsomerset.com/>

Cedar Falls - <https://www.cedarfalls.co.uk/cedarfalls/>

Mount Somerset -

<https://www.themountsomersethotelandspa.com/>

## Schools:

Millfield – a co-educational independent school for pupils aged 13–18 years based in Street, Somerset. (founded in 1935).

Kings College - is an independent co-educational secondary day and boarding school in Taunton. A member school of the Woodard Corporation, it has approximately 450 pupils aged 13 to 18, including boarders. Its affiliated prep school is King's Hall School.

Queens College - is a co-educational independent school located in

Taunton. It is a day/boarding school for children aged 0–18. The school incorporates Nursery, Pre-Prep, Junior and Senior schools.

Taunton School - is a co-educational independent school in the county town of Taunton in Somerset in South West England. It serves boarding and day-school pupils.

Sherborne Girls school - is an independent day and boarding school for girls, located in Sherborne, North Dorset.

## Areas of outstanding beauty:

- **Somerset levels** 10 minutes' drive from Somerton immerse yourself in these protected wetlands with various environmental projects taking place and protection of the wildlife and birds with RSPB nature reserves.
- **Quantock Hills** area of outstanding beauty since 1956. Spend the day wandering around the leafy coombes or venturing to the highest point Wills Neck to experience the windy gales blowing in from the Bristol Channel and marvel at the 360 views.
- **Exmoor National Park** venture to Minehead and Porlock start of the South West Coast Path and head into the wild and rugged moors to Lorna Doone Valley or drive further through the moors to the towns of Lynton & Lynmouth.
- **Coastline** – The north Somerset coast stretches from Minehead to Weston super Mare or take a drive along the stunning, dramatic Jurassic coastline Devon & Dorset. Visit the fishing towns of Beer & Lyme Regis, the Victorian elegance of Sidmouth and enjoy the amazing cuisine in the numerous fish, fine restaurants along the way. Look for fossils at Charmouth and Chesil beach, and the Swannery in Abbotsbury but don't forget to have a cream tea and argue amongst yourselves is it jam or clotted cream first on the scone.

**Moving to Somerton to make it your forever home will not disappoint regardless of age, background, race, religion, gender Somerton's inclusive community has something for everyone. Being in the heart of Somerset you have access to Historical, Cultural, Environmental, leisure or Relaxation in a county**



**that has stunning countryside for all to enjoy**