

Immerse Yourself in Ilminster



Independent shops, cafes, antiques, galleries, markets and fairs make this characterful market town an attractive base from which to explore South Somerset.

At its centre are the Market Square and the colonnaded Market House, with many fine old buildings in surrounding streets, including the 15th century St Mary's church. **The Ilminster Arts Centre** based in the Meeting House, East Street, is a venue for exhibitions, music, workshops and childrens' events. A shop showcases the work of some of the region's finest craft makers.

Ilminster is the proud home of the new store **Temperley London at Phoenix Studios**. Alice Temperley MBE founded her eponymous label Temperley London in 2000, a year after graduating from the Royal College of Art. Alice continues to head up the creative direction of this British independent brand, now in its twentieth year of business. Temperley Bridal, which launched in 2006, is defined by ethereal, timeless silhouettes and is inspired by the romance and decadence of a bygone era.

A short distance away is the National Trust Tudor manor house, **Barrington Court**. The atmospheric house and gardens were chosen as a location for the TV series Wolf Hall. Beautifully restored in the 1920s by the Lyle family, (of Tate & Lyle fame), the unfurnished rooms can be freely explored. The gardens were inspired by Gertrude Jekyll, and there's a walled vegetable garden, a restaurant, gift shop and five independent artisan workshops. Alternatively enjoy a pub lunch at **The Barrington Boar** with good walks nearby.

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Off the beaten track but just two miles south of Ilminster is Perry's Cider Mills. Perry's started its journey as a sideline to a blacksmiths in 1920 and has now become an awardwinning cider producer. Enjoy the cider mills, the farm and a little museum before heading to the cafe to sample more cider!

If you need to stretch your legs and get walking there's a five mile route between Ilminster and Chard which is part of the historic Stop Line Way www.ilminsterweb.com/Pages/Documents/Publications/The_Stop_Line_Way.pdf

Following the track of the old Great Western Railway it's an easy stretch for walking or cycling and parts are easily navigated by wheelchairs or pushchairs. Built by the Army in 1940 to stop any invasion into the South West by Nazi Germany the full length is 75 miles stretching from coast to coast.

Check out the day, weekend and summer schools in the inspiring surroundings of **Dillington House**. They also hold a range of concerts and events or you can just enjoy Sunday lunch or afternoon tea – followed by relaxing woodland walks.

You'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to refreshments in the area. There's The Green House Cafe and Country Deli, the stylish Monks Yard serving locally sourced food or a great little café, the Cafe & Terrace at Jordans Courtyard where you can also browse the artisan gift shop or even enjoy a day spa.

Useful Information

Ilminster Arts Centre, Meeting House, East Street, Ilminster T: 01460 54973 www.themeetinghouse.org.uk

Temperley London at Phoenix Studios, Cornhill, Ilminster **TA19 0AD** T: 01460 259561 www.temperleylondon.com

Barrington Court, Barrington, near Ilminster **TA19 0NQ** T: 01460 241938 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/barrington-court

The Barrington Boar, Barrington, Ilminster TA19 0JB T: 01460 259281 www.thebarringtonboar.co.uk

Perry's Cider Mills, Dowlish Wake Ilminster TA19 0NY T: 01460 55195 www.perryscider.co.uk

Dillington House Ilminster TA19 9DT T: 01460 258648 www.dillington.com

The Green House, Beech Barn, Eaglewood Park Whitelackington, Ilminster TA19 9DQ T: 07772 286500 www.facebook.com/TheGreenHouseIlminster

Monks Yard, Horton Manor, Horton Cross Ilminster **TA19 9PY** T: 01460 200020/259286 www.monksyard.co.uk

Café & Terrace at Jordans Courtyard Horton Cross, Ilminster **TA19 9PY** T: 01460 298608 www.jordanscourtyard.co.uk

Disclaimer – please check individual places for latest opening times and guidelines.

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