

Dog-friendly Somerset 2025

Welcome to the second instalment in **Dogstaycation®** summer travel series! This time, we're off on a tail-wagging adventure in dog-friendly Somerset: steeped in history, rich with fascinating stories, and home to some truly stunning architecture.

Local Favourites

As always, every place featured in this travel guide has been tried and tested by us – and, of course, approved by our tireless adventurer, cockapoo Winnie. From peaceful city strolls to pup-welcoming historic landmarks, everything included is genuinely dog-friendly (not just dog-tolerant).

Picture-Pawfect Spots

This guide, created by **Dogstaycation®**, is packed with welcoming spots and practical information to help you and your pup make the most of your Somerset escape. With step-by-step directions and a well-balanced three-day itinerary, it gives you plenty of time to explore, unwind, and create unforgettable memories together.

So, clip on the lead, pack a few extra biscuits, and get ready to discover the very best of Somerset – paw prints and all.



You'll wander through the UK's smallest city – the charming **Wells**. You'll also explore the glorious grounds of **Tyntesfield** and roam the mystical ruins of **Glastonbury Abbey**.

Day 1

1. Stay at The Crossways, a dog-friendly hotel near Wells

Address: Stocks Lane, North Wootton, Somerset, BA4 4EU

Conveniently located in the heart of Somerset — just 10 minutes from both Wells and Glastonbury — The Crossways offers stylish 5-star accommodation at excellent value. The hotel features 26 rooms, including elegant four-poster suites, as well as comfortable double and twin rooms.

Enjoy exceptional dining at the on-site AA Rosette-awarded restaurant. We especially recommend their popular Curry Night, held every Thursday, with dishes available for just £10 per person.

Dogs are very welcome throughout the hotel, including the bar area (excluding the main restaurant). **Pet charge** is £25.00 per pet for the first night, £15.00 per pet per night thereafter. Ample free parking available for guests.



2. Explore Wells – England's Smallest City

Wells, the smallest city in England, is a charming destination and an ideal spot for dog owners. Its name comes from the three natural wells—one in the market square and two within the grounds of the Bishop's Palace.

Despite having a population of just around 12,000 (as of 2018), Wells has held city status since medieval times, thanks to the iconic Wells Cathedral. The city's historic charm has made it a popular filming location for period dramas and major productions.



3. Have Lunch at The Crown at Wells

Address: Market Place, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2RP

Just a short stroll from Wells Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace, The Crown at Wells is a historic, dog-friendly pub dating back to the 15th century. With a welcoming atmosphere, reasonably priced menu, and hearty meals, it's a perfect spot to relax and refuel after a walk through the city.



Day 2

1. Visit Dog-Friendly Wells Cathedral

Address: Cathedral Green, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2UE

Construction of Wells Cathedral began around 1175, when Reginald de Bohun, Bishop of Bath, was inspired by the emerging Gothic architectural style. As a result, Wells Cathedral became the first in England to be built entirely in the Gothic style from its foundation.

The most striking feature of the Cathedral is its magnificent West Front, adorned with 300 life-size original medieval statues. The interior is equally impressive, with an intricately vaulted ceiling, beautiful stained glass windows, and the distinctive “scissor” arches—added between 1338 and 1348 as an ingenious engineering solution to support the central tower.



Dogs are welcome inside the Cathedral.

Open every day, 07:00 – 18:00.

Admission: £15.00 (adults), ticket valid for one year. Entry is free for those who come to pray, attend a service, or light a candle.

2. Walk Around the Gardens of the Bishop's Palace

Address: Wells, Somerset, BA5 2PD

The Bishop's Palace has been the home of the Bishops of Bath and Wells for over 800 years. Built in 1206 as the residence of the first Bishop, Jocelin Trotman, parts of the building are still in use as a private home for the current Bishop. However, the majority of the palace and its stunning grounds are open to visitors.

Dogs are welcome on a lead in the gardens. Open every day, 09:30 – 17:30.

Admission: £14 (day ticket) or £25 (annual pass). **Top tip:** Joint Ticket (entry to both Wells Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace) – £22.

3. Take Remarkable Pictures of Vicars' Close

Just a short walk from Wells Cathedral, Vicars' Close is a beautifully preserved cobbled street lined with medieval stone houses. At either end stand the Vicar's Hall and the Close Chapel. It is widely considered the oldest continuously inhabited residential street in England—and possibly in all of Europe!



Day 3

1. Visit Glastonbury Abbey

Address: *Magdalene Street, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9EL*

Glastonbury, a picturesque town that is 15 minutes from Wells, holds a unique charm that goes far beyond its world-famous music festival. The town has a character, blending spirituality with rich history, quirky shops and landmarks like Glastonbury Abbey.

Located in the heart of Glastonbury, the now-ruined Glastonbury Abbey was once one of the wealthiest and most influential monasteries in England. Its origins trace back to the 8th century. After a devastating fire in 1184, the abbey was rebuilt, and by the 14th century, it had regained its prominence and wealth. Steeped in myth and legend, Glastonbury Abbey is famously associated with King Arthur, who is said to be buried in the grounds.



Dogs are welcome throughout the site.

Open every day, 10:00–18:00. **Admission** is £14 (adult) or £12.10 (if you book online).

You can also join a Free Guided Tour which lasts approximately 30–45 minutes.

2. Visit Tyntesfield, a Victorian Gothic country house

Address: *Wraxall, Somerset, BS48 1PA*

If you have some time left, we recommend a visit to Tyntesfield. It's about 44 minutes from Wells, but definitely worth the trip. Tyntesfield is closely tied to the legacy of the Gibbs family. William Gibbs, a successful merchant and one of the wealthiest men in England at the time, built his fortune by trading guano—a highly effective fertiliser imported from Peru.

In 1843, Gibbs purchased what was then known as Tyntes Place. He later rebuilt and expanded the property, transforming it into a grand Neo-Gothic family home for his wife and their seven children. The Gibbs family owned the estate until 2001. To prevent the property from being sold into private ownership, the National Trust launched the "Save Tyntesfield" campaign in 2002. Within just 100 days, they raised an impressive £8.2 million, securing the estate for public access.



Dogs are welcome in all areas except the house.

Open every day, Estate: 10:00–18:00 (Estate), 10:30–15:30 (House). **Admission** is £20.00 (adults) or Free for National Trust members.

Parking is £5.00

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- Carefully chosen selection of dog-friendly hotels across the UK;
- Useful information on local walks, dog-friendly pubs, cafes, and restaurants;
- Fascinating stories about dog-friendly historic houses and castles;
- Expanding list of pet-friendly events and pet-friendly news;
- Unique variety of unusual places like dog-friendly cathedrals, dog-friendly zoos and dog-friendly theatres;
- Helpful guides and tips for travelling with your dog.

We sniff out the best—so you don't have to!

