



LEWTRENCHARD MANOR

DEVON

LEWTRENCHARD MANOR

A Jacobean manor tucked away in its
own secret valley

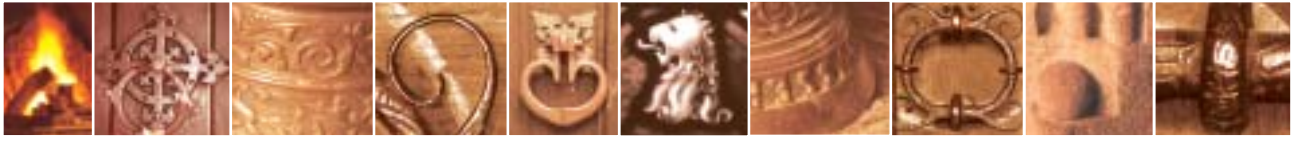


Hidden away in a wooded hollow just beneath the wild tors of Dartmoor, Lewtrenchard is a house virtually untouched by time. The original manor was mentioned in the Domesday Book, but today's impressive Jacobean dwelling, surrounded by peaceful parkland and beautiful gardens, dates from the early 1600's.

Over the years it was home to a series of colourful characters; James Gould, one of the earliest adventurers to trade on the Chinese mainland, Edward Gould the compulsive gambler and suspected murderer, and the Reverend Sabine Baring Gould, celebrated hymn writer, novelist and antiquarian who composed "Onward Christian Soldiers", whose desk still stands in the front hall.

Stepping over the ancient slate floor in the impressive hallway one immediately feels very much at home.





THE LOST WORLD OF LEWTRENCHARD



Opposite page

A grand entrance to a welcoming home.

This page, middle

The Lounge, with its deep sofas and roaring fire, invites one to do absolutely nothing at all.

This page, bottom right

The splendid Gallery, with its incredibly ornate plasterwork ceiling, is perfect for wedding ceremonies, champagne receptions and musical soirees.

Settled beside a massive log fire under the silent gaze of the numerous family portraits, watching the firelight flickering on the ancient oak panelled walls, the cares of the 21st century suddenly appear small and distant.

The ornate plasterwork of the ceilings, the stained glass windows bearing the coat of arms of the Baring Gould family, the profusion of ornament and carving - all these peculiar details conspire to draw you back to a time long forgotten. These are just a few of the many curiosities that make a stay at Lewtrenchard such a remarkable experience. Others include the portrait of Grace, the beautiful but

unschooled Yorkshire mill girl who stole the heart of Sabine Baring Gould. Sabine sent her away to be educated before marrying her. George Bernard Shaw was inspired by this celebrated story to write *Pygmalion*.

If you can stir yourself from this relaxing reverie, the extensive gardens and parklands offer the perfect way to work up an appetite. All the major attractions of the West Country are on your doorstep, but you'll find it hard to draw yourself away from the warm comforts of this secret and secluded country house where you are made to feel like a lifelong family friend.







A FLAVOUR OF THE WEST COUNTRY





Diners at Lewtrenchard are treated to generous helpings of wholesome modern English food, meticulously prepared and beautifully presented. Flavoursome rather than fussy, all dishes are made from the very finest fresh local ingredients. This means that the menu changes with the seasons. In the winter there is a strong emphasis on Devonshire game – snipe, teal, woodcock, pheasant, mallard and venison. The fishmonger calls every morning from the quayside at Looe, and locally caught wild salmon are an occasional feature. All of the herbs, and most of the vegetables, are grown in Lewtrenchard's own walled garden.

The quality of the cuisine attracts many non-resident diners and the atmosphere is cheerful and relaxed, with a lively buzz of conversation. This is partly due to the friendliness of the chef and staff, but the excellence and diversity of the cellar, which features modestly priced bottles from every wine producing region in the world, obviously helps.

In the summer months the secluded courtyard, garlanded with flowers, is irresistibly inviting for a leisurely lunch, relaxed afternoon tea or a romantic dinner.

Main picture

The colonnaded Courtyard provides the perfect setting for dining al fresco.

This page, bottom

The Front Dining Room, flooded with warm sunlight, is perfect for breakfast and lunch.





LIE BACK AND THINK OF OLD ENGLAND



Each of the bedrooms has its own unique character, whether it be burnished oak panelling, exquisite ornamental plasterwork, rich fabrics, extraordinary antique furniture or superb views over the gardens and parkland– in one you'll even find the original bed of Henrietta Maria, wife of the hapless Charles I.

However, they all have the same welcoming touches – freshly cut flowers from the gardens, luxuriously soft towelling robes, bowls of fresh fruit and irresistible home made biscuits. As much private living rooms as bedrooms, they provide the perfect setting in which to totally unwind and enjoy your own company.





This page, above

The St Gertrude with leaded windows on three sides, affords excellent views of the gardens to south, east and north.

This page, below left

If you are enjoying your own company room service will be happy to oblige.





AMPLE ROOM TO REMEMBER WHAT'S IMPORTANT



The elevated setting of the house provides splendid views over the magnificent gardens and peaceful parkland beyond. Designed by Walter Sorel, with obvious influences from Gertrude Jekyll, they are part of the National Gardens Scheme. Extending over several acres they feature streams and ponds, fountains and statuary, sunken lawns and a profusion of shrubs, plus a huge rustic dovecote and a recently restored walled vegetable garden.

The parkland includes "Madam's Walk", an avenue of splendid mature Beech trees, so called in memory of Margaret Gould. Mother of the feckless Edward, she saved the estate when her son's gambling debts threatened to ruin the entire family. There are other charming walks around the heavily wooded lake and along the banks of the River Lew.

Trout fishing, clay pigeon shooting, and hawk walking are all available on the estate, plus there is a croquet lawn. Excellent horseriding is available on Dartmoor and there's rough shooting nearby. So whether you want to smell the roses, walk off a good lunch, or catch your supper, the choice is yours.





This page, top

Lewtrenchard provides an atmospheric environment for business meetings or small conferences where you can get away from all the everyday pressures to talk and think in peace.

This page, right

Our wedding licence means you can get married and have the reception all under one very ornate roof. The Ballroom provides a uniquely splendid setting for dinner, and is also available for other celebrations such as anniversaries and corporate events.



BEYOND THE ESTATE

If you can tear yourself away from this idyllic country seat there's no shortage of other diversions on the doorstep. The craggy tors and wide open expanse of Dartmoor National Park is almost within walking distance and the stunning coastlines of both North and South Devon are barely 30 minutes away by car.

The world renowned Eden Project can be reached in 45 minutes and The Lost Gardens of Heligan within the hour – tickets for both can be provided at reception so you avoid queuing. Only slightly further afield you'll find two new attractions that are drawing large numbers of enthusiastic visitors. The Tate Modern in St Ives celebrates the town's development

as an artist's colony that included Ben Nicholson, Patrick Heron and Barbara Hepworth. Equally popular is the National Maritime Museum in Falmouth with its unique and interactive displays of small boats and the role they have played in people's lives.

Closer to home there's a host of National Trust properties to visit, including Lydford Gorge, Buckland Abbey, Lanhydrock, Cotehele and the breathtaking mock medieval Castle Drogo.

The young and enthusiastic staff at Lewtrenchard have a wealth of local knowledge and will be delighted to make suggestions, prepare personalised itineraries, and provide a delicious packed lunch.



By car Lewtrenchard Manor is situated at Lewdown on the West Devon Drive off the A386/A30 junction, 36 miles from junction 31 on the M5 at Exeter.

By train 2.5 hours from London Paddington to Exeter.

By air 30 miles from Exeter International Airport, 215 miles from London Heathrow. Heli-pad on site.



Our Other Services

For speed and convenience you can arrive or leave in style using one of the von Essen fleet of unbadged single or twin-engined helicopters. Lewtrenchard Manor, like all our hotels, has a heli-pad in the grounds.

We provide a complete helicopter service for business, pleasure or convenience. Reception staff can arrange transfers to and from international and regional airports, private homes, company headquarters and other venues.

If you want to make your break even more exhilarating, select a classic car from the von Essen fleet, including Aston Martins and Ferraris, or travel in the ultimate comfort of one of our Range Rovers or Bentleys.



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