

longlands



Armed with little more than a collection of Cool Camping guidebooks and their cherished 1965 Splittie, Bella, Bugsie and the kids hit the open road in 2010, with a view to permanently escaping the hustle and bustle of London. Over the course of three years, the family travelled up to the Outer Hebrides (twice!), down to Devon, took weekend trips to the New Forest, and enjoyed a wonderful summer travelling through France, all the while making notes describing what made each site special and contemplating the idea of opening their very own glamping getaway.

When the family decided to leave London, they were looking for a location with some very specific requirements: conveniently close to the sea (to be able to sneak in a lunchtime surf!), breathtaking views and plenty of space to create the ultimate rural retreat. Months passed before Bella and Bugsie locked eyes on a delightful destination on the western border of Exmoor, only five minutes from the picturesque coastal village of Combe Martin. In July 2012, that destination became Longlands – and we think you’ll love it...

The accommodation at Longlands is as picturesque as its natural surroundings, with

five thoughtfully positioned, identical safari tents (sleeping six) furnished with vintage leather sofas, luxurious linen, and a blanket box filled with family-friendly games. At the heart of each lodge is a fully-equipped kitchen with a wood-burning stove, keeping the cosy interior warm in all weathers whilst also providing a means of cooking. Not finished there, each country-inspired abode has its very own shower room and separate en-suite bathroom, with flushing loo and basin, plus a wide range of natural aromatherapy products.

After spending a memorable day exploring North Devon and its many delights, Longlands is a comforting enclave to return to each night. Bella and Bugsie have done their hosting homework, pre-empting every need. The ‘Longlands Larder’ is testimony to that, with hard-to-resist, local produce (milk, jam, chutney and cheese) stocked 24-hours a day. Guests can also dine on their private BBQ, overlooking the sheltered valley and rolling hills all the way to the sea. Allow your days to float by effortlessly, whilst enjoying the simplicity of field living – albeit in a luxury canvas lodge.



**Longlands Farm, Coulsworthy, Combe Martin,
North Devon EX34 0PD 01271 882004**
longlandsdevon.co.uk

✿ Five fully-equipped luxury Safari lodges (each sleeping 6) housing a king bedroom, twin bedroom and a double cabin bed. There's a wood-burning stove (can also be used for cooking – either on top, as you would on a hob, or in its oven compartment), small gas ring, sink, cooking utensils, pots, pans, crockery, cutlery and everything you could need, including fresh herbs and condiments. Three-seater leather vintage Chesterfield and blanket box, filled with games. Each lodge has its own en-suite shower room (and separate wash room), with proper flushing loo. Hot water for the shower, sink and basin is provided by a wood-burning boiler. All bed and bath linen are provided, plus a range of natural aromatherapy bathroom products. Large deck area at the front of the lodge with sofa, table and chairs with fabulous views over the lake and valley, private BBQ area with fire bowl and a bench. Charcoal and marshmallows are available from the larder shop and BBQ baskets can be ordered from the menu.

✿ Meet the real 'Beast of Exmoor' – be a keeper for the day, or feed the lemurs, meerkats and penguins at Exmoor Zoo (01598 763352). Discover a house full of treasures and secrets, spy on rare horseshoe bats and enjoy a carriage ride at nearby Arlington Court (01271 850296). The Wildlife and Dinosaur Park in Combe Martin (01271 882486) is only 2 miles from Longlands: visitors can swim

with sea lions, feed the lions, shadow a keeper, or fly a bird of prey. Take a short trip (5 miles) to Watermouth Castle Theme Park (01271 867474) and descend into the dungeons, get lost in a maze and marvel at the Watershow Extravaganza. Finally all you budding artists can indulge your creative side at Paint a Pot Studios in Braunton (01271 813999). Take some time out to create a ceramic masterpiece; they will even post your creation home to you once it has been glazed and fired.

✿ The 'Longlands Larder' is a 24-hour onsite shop. It has all the essentials such as butter, milk, jam, chutney, cheese and many not-so-essentials (crisps, nuts, olives, and chocolates). Longlands can also cater for every meal of your stay, should you wish to try their freshly baked bread pastries, pies, pasties, suppers and desserts. The site also has a licence and can provide local ciders, beers and wines.

✿ The Fox & Goose in Parracombe (01598 763239) is the nearest pub to Longlands (4 miles). It serves great food, has a wonderful atmosphere and is a favourite with locals. The Black Venus (01598 763251) in Challacombe is highly recommended – around 6 miles from the site – or, for something a bit different, head over to Ilfracombe to the restaurant of artist Damien Hirst at The Quay (01271 868090). His gallery, Other Criteria is also on the quayside right next door to the restaurant.

✿ Open mid-March–early-Nov

✿ Midweek breaks (Monday to Friday) start at £575, and weekends (Friday to Monday) £595.

