

EXMOUTH

**LET'S GET
TOGETHER AND
TALK!**



1 ORGANISATION • 7 LANGUAGES • 32 DESTINATIONS • COUNTLESS MEMORIES

WELCOME TO SPRACHCAFFE

You are obviously totally committed not just to having a holiday, but at the same time, also learning a new language or improving your skills in a language you already know. This is why we would like to send you our warmest congratulations! It is great when people want to make the world a bit smaller for themselves.

It pleases us even more that you have chosen Sprachcaffe. Lively teaching methods, a relaxed and stress-free atmosphere, learning through interaction and chatting (which helps you bond with others) - we have become experts for 30 years, with 32 destinations worldwide.

In the enclosed documents you will find everything you need to know for your trip. **Please do not travel without this information sheet.**

We wish you a great holiday and lots of success

Your Sprachcaffe Team



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Getting to Devon - Exmouth

It is not recommended to travel by **car** to Devon mainly due to the high channel fees. Note that the seasonal tariff is calculated on the vehicle's length and the number of persons travelling. Moreover, one should not forget that in England, people drive on the left-hand side of the road. This might cause difficulties for a lot of European drivers.

Thus, the best way to get to Devon is by **flying** to London, Bristol or Exeter.

London has two main airports, "Heathrow" in the west and "Gatwick" in the south. The time indications on your flight tickets are always stated in local time.

From the airport to Exmouth by bus: The National Express coach service from Gatwick via Heathrow to Exeter departs approximately every 2 hours, every day. The travelling time from Gatwick is about 5.5 hours, from Heathrow about 4.5 hours. To save money buy a return ticket which costs approximately GBP 30–35.

When arriving at either airport follow the signs to the bus station. Tickets can be purchased there or in advance by phoning 08705-80 80 80 or online (www.nationalexpress.co.uk). If you arrive at Gatwick Airport it is also possible to take the Airport Shuttle bus to Heathrow Airport. This service departs every 15 minutes and you can pay on the bus. This saves time because there is normally a delay between arriving at Heathrow Airport on the National Express service and connecting with the Exeter service.

When you arrive in Exeter you will be at the bus station. From here it is very easy to take a local bus to Exmouth. You can pay on the bus. Just ask for "a single ticket to the Strand, Exmouth". These local buses to Exmouth depart approximately every 15 minutes. However, if you arrive in Exeter after midnight, it may be necessary for you to take a taxi to your accommodation.

From the airport to Exmouth by train: English trains are complicated, expensive and unreliable. We strongly recommend you use the National Express coach service. However, if this is not possible you can take the train, but first you must go to London Paddington station.

If you arrive at **Gatwick Airport** you can take the Gatwick Express train to London Victoria station. These trains depart every 15 minutes. Tickets can be bought at the airport station or on the train. From Victoria station you can take the Underground (Tube) or a taxi to Paddington station.

If you arrive at **Heathrow Airport** you can take the Heathrow Express directly to London Paddington station. These trains depart every 15 minutes. Tickets can be bought at the airport station or on the train.

From **Paddington** you must take a Great Western Train to Exeter Central station. Tickets can be bought in advance by phoning 0345 48 49 50 or www.thetrainline.com. Please note booking your fares as much in advance as possible will guarantee you the cheapest prices, and remember to check the prices of two singles instead of a return when you book online.

When you arrive at **Exeter Central station** you can take one of the many local trains to Exmouth. The trains can sometimes be a little faster than the bus, but it is always more expensive. When you buy a train ticket, tell the ticket person when you want to go and when you want to return and ask for the cheapest ticket available. Normally single tickets are only 1-5% cheaper than a return ticket, so it is better to buy a return ticket if possible, depending on how long you are staying in Exmouth.

Approximate prices:

Bus 3,45 GBP

Taxi (during the day) 18 GBP, at night or very early in the morning ca. 30 GBP

Accommodation

It is our aim to provide the best service possible. However, if you have any issue during you stay please talk directly to the school staff.

Host family

The first address after arrival is stated on your voucher.

Very important!

Please contact your host family before leaving home to give them your approximate arrival time. This is very important as the family will want to plan their day and be at home for your arrival.

Please also take into consideration the time difference (i.e. Central European Time minus one hour!).

Living with an English host family involves learning and adapting to a different lifestyle! You will be able to practice what you have learned during the course and you will become more confident while communicating with the family. If you wish, you can bring the host family a small present – perhaps something typical from your country, area or family.

English host families are generally open-minded, helpful and welcoming. In general, the families will introduce you to their habits on the day of your arrival, such as, for example, the handing over of the key, times for meals and use of the facilities.

Normally, you will share the bathroom with other members of the family. Please make sure that you always leave your room and bathroom clean and tidy and that you do not damage the furniture. Please take the family into consideration and avoid unnecessary noise, especially late in the evening. Please do not use the family telephone to call your family at home, although most host families are happy for your family to call you at home.

Please inform your host family in advance if you are not at home for a meal, if you plan to go on a trip for a few days or if you will be away overnight. Otherwise, your family will be worried unnecessarily!

In general, families do not mind if you invite new friends from the course round but you should always ask for their permission before doing so. Please also note that our English families do not allow students to smoke in their rooms, although some families allow smoking in designated areas of the house or garden. When staying with a host family, bed sheets will be provided, but students should bring their own towels.

If you are delayed or have problem reaching the family, please call the family directly!

The school - Sprachcaffe Languages Plus

On the first day, we expect you to be at school at 8:30am. All course participants have to do a placement test to determine the language level. We kindly ask you to do the test online at home before your departure. On the first day of school you are informed of your group and the lesson will start immediately.

The address of the school is: **Sprachcaffe / Devon PLUS English Centre**
 1 Victoria Road
 GB - EX8 1DL Exmouth, Devon
 Phone: 00 44-1395-22 71 71
 Fax: 00 44-1395-22 71 72

Emergency mobile number: 00 44-(0)7890153507

School office hours: Monday to Friday 8.15am – 4.15pm.

For the lessons, you will only need a dictionary, paper and pen as all other material will be provided by the school.

The school office provides various services for the students:

- Individual advice in case of questions regarding the language course.
- Additional learning books can be borrowed or bought.
- Please contact the team directly in case of problems or discontent or if anything is not the way it should be. Our colleagues will help you in any way they can.
- The school is the contact address for your family and friends at home! Your mail will be taken and stored for you at reception.
- On the communication board, you will find a list of activities suggested by the school for the coming week.

The Lessons

All teachers are native speakers who have academic qualifications as well as foreign language teaching experience. All teachers are so-called "native speakers", which means that they teach in their mother tongue. The teachers are your advisers, and are competent and committed.

The topics of the lessons are varied and stimulating. As well as course-books, our teachers also use supplementary materials such as newspaper articles for example of current affairs, theatrical or literary reviews, etc. as part of the lessons. Communication forms the basis of our teaching methods, through dialogues, speaking exercises and discussions. This is supplemented with input in the form of grammar, vocabulary and language analysis. Our students mainly come from Western Europe, as well as the Far East, South America and Eastern Europe. Our "top" nationalities are German, Italian and Spanish.

We offer three different types of courses:

Semi-Intensive course	4 lessons, each 45 min
Intensive courses / educational leaves	6 lessons, each 45 min
Private lessons	2 to 6 lessons per day

The course groups are formed by the Director of Studies according to the language level. A student may switch to a lower or higher level group after consulting the Director of Studies. The maximum number of students in one group is 10.

Lessons are not held on the following public holidays in 2013: 26.08. Please note that lessons lost on public holidays, late arrival or early departure will not be replaced.

During your stay, we aim to offer you an effective and proven method of teaching. Our employees and teachers are experienced in dealing with long-term students and courses preparing for examinations. However, please also take into consideration that the teachers, despite their experience and abilities, are not fully responsible for the results, and all participants are expected to show commitment and active participation in the course in order to achieve their best.

For organisational reasons during high season lessons might be held in the afternoon.

Please note!

In the unlikely event the school won't be able to create a group course due to not having enough students at the same time/level, smaller group courses or single lessons for a reduced amount will be provided instead: 20 lessons = 12 lessons, 30 lessons = 18 lessons. Under the rare circumstances of being forced to cancel, all fees will be refunded. The minimum number of participants for examination preparation courses is 4 students."

It is our aim to provide the best service possible. However, if you have any issue during you stay please talk directly to the school staff.

Language test

Sprachcaffe has introduced a new online placement test. We kindly ask you to do it before you arrive at school. Doing the online exam in advance will allow you to start your lessons straight away.

To access the online test, please go to <http://shop.sprachcaffe.com/onlinetests/>. You can log in using your surname (or email address) and booking number (see our documents for the correct spelling).

The test can be done at any time up to 12:00pm (CET) Friday before the programme begins. Thereafter the test will be switched off and you will no longer be able to access it.

Please do not use a dictionary or any other aids when doing this exam as its purpose is to assess your language ability and place you in an appropriate class. It is better not to answer questions that you do not know, as guessing will affect your score and could result in your being placed in a class that is too difficult for you.

You have 45 minutes to do the exam from the moment you enter the site. Thereafter, the test will automatically shut down. If you finish before time runs out, you can click 'submit' at the bottom of the test. The test result will be forwarded automatically to Sprachcaffe. You will find out your teacher's name and classroom number on your first day at school.

Information about Exmouth

The East Devon Coast from Exmouth to Dorset has been officially ranked alongside the Great Barrier Reef and the Grand Canyon as one of the natural wonders of the world. The coast provides a walk through 185 million years of the earth's history and stretches from Orcombe Point at Exmouth in Devon to Dorset. The town forms a rough rectangle, with one corner defined by the sea and river frontages (each about a mile long), and stretching around 2.5 miles (4 km) inland, along a north-easterly axis. The docks lie at the western corner of this rectangle, where the river passes through a relatively narrow passage into the sea, the mouth of the estuary being nearly closed by Dawlish Warren on the opposite shore of the river. The seafront forms a fine 2-mile long beach; at its eastern end, the town is limited by the cliffs of the High Land of Orcombe, a National Trust-owned open space which rises to a peak at Orcombe Point.

Geologically, the low hill known as "The Beacon", in the centre of the present town, is formed of breccias that are an outcrop of a similar formation on the west side of the Exe estuary. The rising land on which the town has grown is formed of New Red Sandstone. This solid land is surrounded by mudflats and sand spits, some of which have been stabilised and now form part of the land on which the town is built, and some of which remain as tidal features in the estuary and off the coast; the outflow from the river flows eastwards, parallel to the beach, for some distance, limited by sandbanks that are exposed at low tide.

In addition to its substantial summer tourist trade, Exmouth serves as a regional centre for leisure industries, particularly watersports such as sailing and wind-surfing, the growing sport of kite-surfing, and outdoor activities such as bird-watching and walking. The Exe estuary is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is noted in particular for its wading and migrating birds. A large part of the estuary lies within a nature reserve. Exmouth marks the western end of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, which stretches eastwards along the coast to Poole, in Dorset; the South West Coast Path allows for walking along this coast. The town is also at the western end of the East Devon Way path that leads to Lyme Regis.

What do to do and see

You will find lots of things to see and do in Exmouth. Exmouth has miles of beautiful white sand for you to enjoy so its ideal for sunbathing. to relax - plus the sand is great for making sand castles!

The Beacon

Above the Esplanade and its garden rises the Beacon, where the first houses were built when Exmouth began to develop as a holiday resort in 1972. The rapidity of its growth is indicated by the fact that by 1818 assembly rooms were already established here. Many of the houses built in that period still remain, some of them having been converted and enlarged to form present-day hotels and guest houses.

The most prominent building in this area is Holy Trinity Church, built between 1823 and 1825, and enlarged at the beginning of the twentieth century. Nearby are the Manor Grounds where the Tourist Information Centre is situated.

Phear Park

Half a mile further inland, reached by way of Exeter Road and Park Road, is Phear Park where you will find a golf course, bowling greens and tennis courts.

Fishing

For the fisherman, Exmouth combines the pleasure of both river and sea angling: pollack, bass and mackerel being amongst the variety of fish which can be caught.

Cliff top path

Eastwards, beyond the lawns of the Esplanade, are ample car-parking facilities, and beach chalets which can be hired during the season. From here rises the Maer, a stretch of heath land through which a cliff top path

leads towards the neighbouring town of [Budleigh Salterton](#). This is one of the pleasant walks which can be enjoyed from Exmouth. Woodbury Common, to the north-east, is another popular stretch of open heath land, which is an ideal holiday centre for those who want a quiet, restful vacation, away from the noise of a large town, and yet with a variety of activities available close at hand. (For more information visit: <http://www.exmouth.com>)

General information about England

The United Kingdom is made up of four constituent countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It occupies all of the island of Great Britain and the northeast part of the island of Ireland, sharing a land border with the Republic of Ireland. The United Kingdom is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, and its ancillary bodies of water, including the North Sea, the English Channel, the Celtic Sea, Saint George's Channel, and the Irish Sea. The United Kingdom is linked to France by the Channel Tunnel.

Geography

With an area of about 242,000 sq km (93,000 sq miles), it is just under 1000 km (about 600 miles) from the south coast to the extreme north of Scotland and just under 500 km (300 miles) across at the widest point.

Population

The approximate population of the United Kingdom is 61.4 million (England 51,446,000, Wales 2,993,000, Scotland 5,169,000, Northern Ireland 1,642,000). Population density in England is higher than the rest of Great Britain with 375 people per sq km.

Language

English is the main language spoken in Britain and is also one of the most widely used languages in the world. Approximately 310 million people speak English as their first language with a similar number speaking it as a second language. The English language has spread to all corners of the world (essentially due to the British Empire in the nineteenth and early twentieth century) and has thus become the business language of the world. Worldwide, it is taught [as a second language](#) more than any other.

Modern English derives primarily from one of the dialects of Anglo-Saxon but has also been greatly influenced by other languages, such as French. There are many regional dialects and variations in the English language.

Sports

Football maintains a consistent popularity across the country and is often indicative of trends of wider culture in England, such as in clothing and music. Different sports directly represent the different social classes within England. Rugby league, for instance, is generally seen as the sport of the Northern working class, whereas cricket and rugby union have their origins in the private schools of the 18th and 19th centuries respectively. However, since the English Rugby World Cup victory in 2003, the sport has seen a revival in widespread popularity across the class system. Likewise, after the Ashes victory of 2005, cricket has regained much of the popularity it had lost throughout the 1990s. Tennis is also one of England's major sports; this can be seen through one of the most prestigious tournaments in Tennis, Wimbledon being held in England.

Electricity

Electrical appliances in Britain are rated for 220-240 Volts, and 50 Hz. Electrical adapters may be purchased in Britain if necessary. Video recorders are designed to accept standard PAL format video tapes.

Religion

Christianity was first introduced to Britain by the Romans. Officially, the UK remains a Christian country. This is reflected throughout British public life – for instance there is an established church in England and a national church in Scotland. The Head of State is a Christian monarch crowned by an Archbishop in Westminster Abbey. British society could be said to belong to the Judaeo-Christian tradition, and the majority of people in the UK, 72%, identify themselves as Christians.

Cuisine

The openness of English diners to foreign dishes has meant that English cooking does not enjoy as high a profile as other nations' culinary traditions. More recently, a new style of cooking called Modern British has emerged that combines traditional British ingredients with foreign culinary influences. Popular world cuisines in England are Indian and Chinese.

However, the full English breakfast remains an enduring tradition for many, despite the increasing popularity of the continental-style breakfast, or no breakfast at all, for busy workers. In the UK, tea and beer are the most popular drinks. Cider is produced in the West Country, and the south of England has seen the reintroduction of vineyards producing high quality white wine on a comparatively small scale.

Hotels, bars and clubs

From the age of 14 students may enter a public bar or public house to purchase and drink soft drinks only. Students are prohibited from buying or drinking beer, wines or spirits unless they are 18 years old or over. Note that students who are over 18 years old may not purchase drinks for a person under 18 years old. The legal age for purchasing and smoking tobacco in Britain is 18.

Money

The currency in UK is the British Pound or Sterling (GBP).

It is best to exchange money or cash travellers cheques at any bank (there is one in each of the large airports and several in the main street of every town), post office or at a large travel agency with an exchange desk. Your school will be able to advise you of the most convenient one. It is better not to change money at a small exchange bureau (usually situated in the tourist areas of the town), because they usually charge a high commission or have a bad exchange rate. Long term students can open an account at any bank. The school will be able to advise you of the nearest bank which you can use.

VAT (value added tax) of 15% is payable on most items bought in shops (with the exception of non-luxury items such as basic foodstuffs, children's clothes, books and so on) as well as things you receive bills for, such as telephone charges.

US dollars are NOT an acceptable form of payment in the UK. The dollar is considered a foreign currency, and visitors carrying dollars should exchange them for Sterling at a bank or travel agent. This, of course, incurs commission charges, and it is therefore advisable to try to obtain Sterling before coming to the UK.

Feedback

Before the everyday routine back at home sets in completely we would be very pleased if you could give us your feedback. As a participant you can tell us about your experiences. Just fill out the online form at <http://www.sprachcaffe.com/english/feedback.htm> We always welcome ideas, tips and constructive criticism!

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D – 60594 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: 069 (0) 6109 120
Fax: 069 (0) 603 1395
Email: info@sprachcaffe.com
www.sprachcaffe.com

We wish you a wonderful stay and a successful language course!

**Your
Sprachcaffe Team**

School location



CHECK LIST BEFORE DEPARTURE

Things you might want to think of when packing your luggage

Important travel items

- travel guide
- reading material
- dictionary
- cash, credit card
- phone number of your credit card company, in case you have to block the card
- vaccination card
- inform Sprachcaffe about arrival time
- alarm clock
- sunglasses

First-aid kit

- sunscreen
- any medicine required
- insect spray
- medicine for stomach trouble
- plasters
- after-sun lotion
- tweezers

Travel documents

- identity card
- flight or train ticket
- student ID
- Sprachcaffe travel documents

Sport/Hobby

- camera
- extra film, extra memory card
- music / radio
- batteries
- sports equipment

Insurances

- travel health insurance
- luggage insurance
- insurance card from your car insurance
- phone number of your car insurance

Checklist for returning home

- Buy souvenirs for friends and relatives at home
- Exchange addresses with people in the course, teachers and host family
- Pick up course participation certificate
- Tidy and clean up the room
- Pack and check the rooms for anything left behind