

CAAR Spring rally 2026

- Our spring rally for 2026 will take in the west country counties of Cornwall, North Devon and North Somerset
- Dates: Saturday May 9th to Sunday May 17th (8 nights).
- It will feature 3 hotels.
- Tour mileage: shouldn't exceed c. 200 miles excluding travelling to and from the first and last hotels

The hotels

1. The Jamaica Inn on Bodmin Moor, central Cornwall. 3-nights: Sat 9th, Sun 10th Mon 11th, leave Tuesday morning, heading to....
2. The Woolacombe Bay Hotel, N Devon. 3 nights Tues 12th, Wed 13th, Thurs 14th, leave Friday morning, heading to...
3. The Hiton Doubletree Cadbury House Hotel, N Somerset for 2 nights, Friday 15th and Saturday 16th. Sunday morning head for home

Jamaica Inn



Made famous by Daphne du Maurier, Jamaica Inn is located on a high, remote spot in mid-Cornwall's Bodmin Moor; one of the most famous old inns in England. Comfortable rather than luxurious the Inn makes a good base for exploring Cornwall's north and south coasts.

The former includes Padstow (23 mls / 45 mins), Boscastle (17 mls / 35 mins) and Tintagel (18 mls / 35 mins). On the south coast there is beautiful Fowey (22 mls / 35 mins), Mevagissey (28 mls / 45 mins), betwixt which is Charlestown, an 18th Century Georgian harbour and a UNESCO world heritage site.

Charleston has been the authentic set for many films and TV series, including Poldark, even, apparently, Dr Who! For those with long memories Charlestown featured in the Onedin Line.

Yet closer is NT Lanhydrock and Bodmin Jail, each just 15 minutes away by car.

Woolacombe Bay Hotel

There are many various options for getting from Jamaica Inn to Woolacombe, none more than c. 70 miles / 2 hours. Follow the coast via Bude up to Bideford, cross moorland to Holsworthy etc.

Whichever way you chose, perhaps visit the estuary town of Appledore, home to the N Devon Maritime Museum. Or pop into Tapley Park Gardens at Instow which you will probably pass between Bideford and Barnstaple. Clovelly is nearby too; apparently Britain's most Instagram-able village in a recent survey.



Overlooking Woolacombe Bay, one of the UK's best surfing beaches, the hotel is on the edge of the Exmoor National Park and International Dark Sky Reserve, "there's nowhere more untamed than the haunting wilds of Exmoor" (so the website proclaims!).

During our stay it is intended to take a trip on the West Somerset (Heritage) Railway from Bishops Lydiard to Minehead and back with a cream tea on the return journey. (Subject to timetables yet to be published).

Other options include, NT Arlington Court with its carriage collection and RHS Rosemoor. Or head back to still nearby Clovelly or Tapley Park Gardens.

Cadbury House Hotel

There are again various routes that one can take from Woolacombe Bay Hotel to our next and final hotel but, as a suggestion, follow the coast via famous Porlock Hill (we'd be travelling down the hill), perhaps detour to Taunton to visit Britain's newest and widely publicised car museum, The County Classics Motor Museum. Then on to Western Super Mare, birth place of Roald Dahl, with its Victorian Grand Pier before heading to our last hotel, the Hilton Doubletree, in N Somerset. A journey of c. 100 mls / <3 hrs.



From here one can visit the famous caves at Cheddar Gorge or Wookey Hole, visit the Cheddar Cheese company and see authentic cheddar being made or head to Bristol to see Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge or his SS Great Britain, "the ship that changed the world".

Cost:

The anticipated cost based on 2 people sharing but including all breakfasts and dinners is c. £2,500.