

WE BOUGHT A ZOO WHERE IS IT LOCATED

WE BOUGHT A ZOO WHERE IS IT LOCATED: DISCOVERING THE REAL-LIFE SETTING BEHIND THE STORY

WE BOUGHT A ZOO WHERE IS IT LOCATED IS A QUESTION THAT HAS INTRIGUED MANY FANS OF THE POPULAR BOOK AND MOVIE BY THE SAME NAME. THE STORY, WHICH TELLS THE HEARTFELT JOURNEY OF A FAMILY RESTORING A RUNDOWN ZOO, HAS CAPTIVATED AUDIENCES WITH ITS CHARM, EMOTIONAL DEPTH, AND BEAUTIFUL DEPICTION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION. BUT BEYOND THE SCREEN AND THE PAGES, MANY WONDER ABOUT THE ACTUAL PLACE THAT INSPIRED THIS TOUCHING TALE. SO, LET'S DIVE INTO WHERE "WE BOUGHT A ZOO" IS REALLY LOCATED, AND EXPLORE SOME FASCINATING DETAILS ABOUT THE REAL ZOO, ITS HISTORY, AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

WE BOUGHT A ZOO: THE REAL LOCATION BEHIND THE STORY

THE STORY OF "WE BOUGHT A ZOO" IS BASED ON A TRUE EXPERIENCE, AND THE ZOO IN QUESTION IS THE DARTMOOR WILDLIFE PARK. THIS ZOO IS LOCATED NEAR THE TOWN OF BOVEY TRACEY IN DEVON, ENGLAND. THE PARK WAS PURCHASED BY BENJAMIN MEE IN 2006, AND HIS JOURNEY TO RESTORE AND REOPEN IT FORMS THE HEART OF BOTH HIS MEMOIR AND THE FILM ADAPTATION.

WHY DARTMOOR WILDLIFE PARK?

DARTMOOR WILDLIFE PARK WAS ONCE A THRIVING ATTRACTION BUT HAD FALLEN INTO DISREPAIR BEFORE BENJAMIN MEE AND HIS FAMILY TOOK OVER. LOCATED ON THE EDGE OF DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK, THE SETTING OFFERS A UNIQUE BLEND OF NATURAL BEAUTY AND RUGGED COUNTRYSIDE. IT'S THIS SCENIC BACKDROP THAT ADDS DEPTH TO THE STORY, SHOWING HOW A STRUGGLING ZOO CAN BE TRANSFORMED WITH PASSION, DEDICATION, AND A VISION FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

ABOUT BOVEY TRACEY AND DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

BOVEY TRACEY IS A CHARMING MARKET TOWN NESTLED IN DEVON, SOUTHWEST ENGLAND. KNOWN AS THE "GATEWAY TO THE MOOR," THIS LOCATION PROVIDES AN IDYLIC SETTING WITH ROLLING HILLS, WOODLANDS, AND OPEN MOORLAND. DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK ITSELF IS FAMOUS FOR ITS WILD LANDSCAPES, ANCIENT FORESTS, AND GRANITE TORS — MAKING IT A PERFECT PLACE FOR A ZOO FOCUSED ON ANIMAL WELFARE AND NATURAL HABITATS.

VISITORS TO THE AREA CAN ENJOY NOT ONLY THE ZOO BUT ALSO HIKING, CYCLING, AND EXPLORING THE MANY HISTORICAL SITES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT DARTMOOR. THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE STORY'S APPEAL, AS IT EMPHASIZES THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HUMANS, ANIMALS, AND NATURE.

VISITING THE ZOO TODAY: WHAT TO EXPECT

IF YOU'RE WONDERING "WE BOUGHT A ZOO WHERE IS IT LOCATED" BECAUSE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN VISITING, YOU'LL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THE DARTMOOR WILDLIFE PARK REMAINS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. AFTER BENJAMIN MEE PURCHASED AND REVITALIZED IT, THE ZOO HAS CONTINUED TO GROW AND IMPROVE, FOCUSING ON BOTH VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND ANIMAL CARE.

ANIMAL EXHIBITS AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS

THE ZOO HOUSES A VARIETY OF ANIMALS, FROM EXOTIC SPECIES LIKE LIONS AND TIGERS TO MORE FAMILIAR CREATURES SUCH AS LEMURS, MEERKATS, AND BIRDS OF PREY. THE TEAM AT DARTMOOR WILDLIFE PARK IS DEDICATED TO CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION, OFTEN WORKING WITH ENDANGERED SPECIES AND PARTICIPATING IN BREEDING PROGRAMS.

VISITORS CAN EXPECT INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS, EDUCATIONAL TALKS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT THE CHALLENGES FACING WILDLIFE TODAY. THE ZOO'S EMPHASIS ON CREATING NATURALISTIC ENVIRONMENTS FOR THE ANIMALS HELPS FOSTER A DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

ONE OF THE REASONS "WE BOUGHT A ZOO" RESONATES SO WELL IS ITS FAMILY-ORIENTED APPROACH. THE ZOO IN BOVEY TRACEY REFLECTS THIS BY OFFERING ACTIVITIES THAT ENGAGE CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE. THERE ARE PLAYGROUNDS, PICNIC AREAS, AND SEASONAL EVENTS THAT MAKE A DAY VISIT ENJOYABLE AND EDUCATIONAL.

WHETHER YOU'RE PLANNING A WEEKEND TRIP OR A DAY OUT, THE ZOO'S LOCATION NEAR OTHER DARTMOOR ATTRACTIONS MAKES IT AN APPEALING DESTINATION FOR NATURE LOVERS AND FAMILIES.

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY: BENJAMIN MEE'S JOURNEY

UNDERSTANDING "WE BOUGHT A ZOO WHERE IS IT LOCATED" ALSO MEANS APPRECIATING THE PERSONAL STORY OF BENJAMIN MEE, THE MAN BEHIND THE PURCHASE. HIS MEMOIR, ALSO TITLED **WE BOUGHT A ZOO**, CHRONICLES THE CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS OF BUYING AND REVITALIZING THE STRUGGLING ZOO.

THE CHALLENGES OF REVIVING A ZOO

BUYING A ZOO IS NO SMALL FEAT. BENJAMIN MEE FACED COUNTLESS OBSTACLES, FROM FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES TO DEALING WITH THE LEGALITIES OF ANIMAL WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY. THE ZOO HAD BEEN CLOSED AND WAS IN POOR CONDITION, REQUIRING EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS AND STAFF RECRUITMENT.

HIS STORY HIGHLIGHTS THE PERSEVERANCE NEEDED TO TURN A DREAM INTO REALITY, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT. LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTEERS, AND ANIMAL EXPERTS ALL PLAYED A ROLE IN HELPING THE ZOO REOPEN.

THE IMPACT OF THE MOVIE ADAPTATION

THE 2011 FILM ADAPTATION STARRING MATT DAMON BROUGHT GLOBAL ATTENTION TO THE DARTMOOR WILDLIFE PARK AND BENJAMIN MEE'S STORY. WHILE THE MOVIE WAS FILMED IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND CALIFORNIA, IT HELPED RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE REAL ZOO IN DEVON.

THIS INCREASED INTEREST HAS BENEFITED THE ZOO BY ATTRACTING VISITORS AND SUPPORTERS WHO WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE PLACE THAT INSPIRED THE HEARTFELT STORY. IT ALSO EMPHASIZES THE UNIVERSAL APPEAL OF THEMES LIKE FAMILY, RENEWAL, AND CARING FOR ANIMALS.

EXPLORING SIMILAR ATTRACTIONS IN THE AREA

IF YOU'RE CURIOUS ABOUT "WE BOUGHT A ZOO WHERE IS IT LOCATED" AND PLAN TO VISIT DEVON, YOU MIGHT WANT TO EXPLORE SOME OTHER WILDLIFE AND NATURE-RELATED ATTRACTIONS NEARBY.

OTHER WILDLIFE PARKS AND NATURE RESERVES

DEVON BOASTS SEVERAL WILDLIFE PARKS AND NATURE RESERVES THAT COMPLEMENT A VISIT TO DARTMOOR WILDLIFE PARK:

- **PAIGNTON ZOO:** ONE OF THE UK'S LARGEST ZOOS, LOCATED ALONG THE ENGLISH RIVIERA, OFFERING EXTENSIVE ANIMAL COLLECTIONS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.
- **EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK:** JUST NORTH OF DARTMOOR, THIS PARK OFFERS WILD LANDSCAPES AND THE CHANCE TO SEE NATIVE SPECIES LIKE RED DEER AND EXMOOR PONIES.
- **DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST RESERVES:** VARIOUS RESERVES ACROSS THE COUNTY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA IN THEIR NATURAL HABITATS.

TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR VISIT

- CHECK THE ZOO'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE FOR OPENING HOURS AND ANY SPECIAL EVENTS OR ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS.
- CONSIDER VISITING DURING WEEKDAYS OR OFF-PEAK TIMES FOR A QUIETER EXPERIENCE.
- WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES AND BRING WEATHER-APPROPRIATE GEAR, AS THE DARTMOOR AREA CAN BE QUITE CHANGEABLE.
- COMBINE YOUR TRIP WITH HIKING OR EXPLORING NEARBY TOWNS LIKE MORETONHAMPSTEAD OR ASHBURTON FOR A FULL DEVON EXPERIENCE.

WHY THE LOCATION MATTERS IN "WE BOUGHT A ZOO"

THE QUESTION "WE BOUGHT A ZOO WHERE IS IT LOCATED" ISN'T JUST ABOUT GEOGRAPHY—IT ALSO TOUCHES ON THE SPIRIT OF THE PLACE. THE DEVON COUNTRYSIDE, WITH ITS RUGGED BEAUTY AND CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITIES, MIRRORS THE THEMES OF RENEWAL AND CONNECTION FOUND IN BENJAMIN MEE'S STORY.

THIS LOCATION ALLOWS THE NARRATIVE TO BLEND REAL-WORLD CONSERVATION CHALLENGES WITH PERSONAL GROWTH AND FAMILY BONDS. THE ZOO'S SETTING NEAR DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING NATURAL HABITATS AND RESPECTING WILDLIFE.

IN A WAY, THE LOCATION BECOMES A CHARACTER ITSELF, SHAPING THE EXPERIENCES OF THOSE WHO BUY, RESTORE, AND VISIT THE ZOO. IT'S A REMINDER THAT PLACES CARRY STORIES, AND SOMETIMES, THOSE STORIES INSPIRE US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED "WE BOUGHT A ZOO WHERE IS IT LOCATED" BECAUSE YOU WERE TOUCHED BY THE STORY, NOW YOU KNOW THE REAL PLACE WHERE THIS REMARKABLE JOURNEY TOOK PLACE. WHETHER YOU'RE A FAN OF THE BOOK, THE MOVIE, OR SIMPLY CURIOUS ABOUT ZOOS AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, DARTMOOR WILDLIFE PARK IN DEVON OFFERS A GENUINE SLICE OF THIS INSPIRING TALE—AND A CHANCE TO WITNESS THE MAGIC OF TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHERE IS THE ZOO LOCATED IN THE MOVIE 'WE BOUGHT A ZOO'?

THE ZOO IN THE MOVIE 'WE BOUGHT A ZOO' IS LOCATED IN ROSEMOOR, NEAR PORTLAND, OREGON.

IS THE ZOO FEATURED IN 'WE BOUGHT A ZOO' A REAL PLACE?

YES, THE ZOO FEATURED IN 'WE BOUGHT A ZOO' IS BASED ON THE REAL-LIFE DARTMOOR ZOOLOGICAL PARK IN DEVON, ENGLAND.

DID THE MOVIE 'WE BOUGHT A ZOO' FILM AT THE ACTUAL ZOO LOCATION?

No, the movie was filmed in California, although it is based on events at Dartmoor Zoological Park in England.

WHAT IS THE REAL LOCATION OF THE DARTMOOR ZOOLOGICAL PARK DEPICTED IN 'WE BOUGHT A ZOO'?

Dartmoor Zoological Park is located in Devon, England.

WHY WAS THE LOCATION CHANGED FOR FILMING 'WE BOUGHT A ZOO'?

The filming location was changed to California for logistical and production reasons, even though the story is set in England.

CAN YOU VISIT THE ZOO FROM 'WE BOUGHT A ZOO'?

Yes, you can visit Dartmoor Zoological Park in Devon, England, which inspired the movie 'We Bought a Zoo.' It is a functioning zoo open to the public.

IS THE ZOO IN 'WE BOUGHT A ZOO' LOCATED NEAR A MAJOR CITY?

The real Dartmoor Zoological Park is located in a rural area in Devon, England, not near a major city, while the movie's fictional zoo is near Portland, Oregon.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We Bought a Zoo: Where Is It Located?

WE BOUGHT A ZOO WHERE IS IT LOCATED is a question that frequently arises among fans of the 2011 film "We Bought a Zoo," as well as readers of the memoir by Benjamin Mee on which the movie is based. The story, which chronicles the incredible journey of a family purchasing and renovating a struggling zoo, has captivated audiences worldwide. However, the exact location of the zoo and the real-life backdrop of this heartwarming tale often remain unclear to many. This article delves into the geographical and historical context of the zoo, examining its significance, features, and how location influenced the narrative's development.

THE REAL-LIFE LOCATION OF THE ZOO

The zoo featured in "We Bought a Zoo" is the Dartmoor Wildlife Park, situated in Devon, England. This park is the actual place Benjamin Mee and his family purchased, and it provides the authentic setting for both the memoir and the film adaptation. Dartmoor Wildlife Park lies near the town of Bovey Tracey, on the edge of Dartmoor National Park, an area known for its rugged moorland and scenic beauty.

The park itself was established in the 1960s and had gained a modest reputation as a local attraction before falling into financial difficulties. When Benjamin Mee acquired it, the zoo was facing closure due to funding shortages and regulatory challenges. The location's rural nature, coupled with its proximity to natural landscapes, presented both opportunities and obstacles in reviving the facility.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LOCATION IN THE STORY

The Dartmoor Wildlife Park's location in Devon plays a crucial role in the narrative. The rural setting

UNDERScores the family's commitment to preserving a community treasure and highlights the logistical challenges of operating a zoo outside a major urban center. The remoteness adds a layer of complexity to animal care, visitor access, and infrastructure development, all of which are central themes in the memoir.

Moreover, the proximity to Dartmoor National Park enriches the story with a backdrop of natural beauty and ecological awareness. This setting allows for a narrative that intertwines human determination with environmental stewardship, reflecting the broader context of wildlife conservation in the UK.

FEATURES OF DARTMOOR WILDLIFE PARK

Understanding the characteristics of the Dartmoor Wildlife Park helps shed light on the scope of the project Benjamin Mee undertook. The park is relatively small compared to major zoological institutions, covering an area of approximately 30 acres. Despite its size, it houses a diverse collection of animals, ranging from exotic species to local wildlife.

ANIMAL COLLECTION AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS

At the time of purchase, the zoo was home to various species, including big cats, birds, primates, and reptiles. The diversity presented both challenges and opportunities for the Mee family. Maintaining suitable habitats and meeting the animals' complex needs required significant renovations and expertise.

Conservation efforts at Dartmoor Wildlife Park, while modest in scale compared to larger zoos, align with broader wildlife preservation goals. The location's natural environment allows for educational programs and breeding initiatives aimed at raising awareness about endangered species and habitat protection.

RENOVATION AND OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

The rural location of Dartmoor Wildlife Park meant that infrastructure improvements were essential. Upgrading enclosures, ensuring compliance with animal welfare regulations, and attracting visitors in a less populated area demanded strategic planning and substantial investment.

Benjamin Mee's story highlights these challenges vividly, illustrating the difficulties of balancing financial constraints with ethical responsibilities. The family's experience underscores the broader realities faced by small zoos worldwide, particularly those situated outside metropolitan areas.

WHY LOCATION MATTERS: COMPARING WITH OTHER ZOOS

The location of Dartmoor Wildlife Park contrasts with many well-known zoological parks situated in or near large cities. Urban zoos benefit from higher foot traffic, diverse funding sources, and easier access to veterinary services and specialists. In contrast, rural zoos like Dartmoor Wildlife Park often rely heavily on community support and face logistical hurdles.

This contrast is evident when comparing Dartmoor with zoos such as London Zoo or Chester Zoo, both of which are larger and more centrally located. These institutions have greater resources to invest in research, conservation, and visitor amenities. However, smaller rural zoos play a vital role in local education and conservation efforts, often fostering close-knit community relationships.

PROS AND CONS OF A RURAL ZOO LOCATION

- **Pros:** Proximity to natural habitats can enhance animal welfare and educational programs; lower land costs; potential for unique visitor experiences in scenic surroundings.
- **Cons:** Limited visitor numbers due to accessibility issues; challenges in attracting skilled staff; higher costs for transportation of supplies and animals; difficulty in marketing and fundraising.

These factors contextualize the story of "We Bought a Zoo" and explain some of the hurdles the Mee family overcame.

IMPACT OF LOCATION ON PUBLIC PERCEPTION AND MEDIA

The location of Dartmoor Wildlife Park has also influenced public perception and media portrayal of the story. The British countryside setting adds a layer of charm and authenticity that resonates with audiences seeking a genuine connection to nature and animal welfare.

The film adaptation, although shot primarily in the United States, retains references to the English origins of the story, which serves to highlight the universal themes of family resilience and community spirit. The zoo's English location enriches the narrative, providing a tangible sense of place that grounds the story in reality.

TOURISM AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Following the notoriety gained from the book and film, Dartmoor Wildlife Park experienced increased interest from tourists and animal enthusiasts. This surge has potential economic benefits for the local community, including job creation and heightened awareness of regional attractions.

However, sustaining this interest requires ongoing investment and strategic outreach, especially given the park's relatively remote location. The story of "We Bought a Zoo" serves as both inspiration and a case study for rural zoological parks seeking revitalization.

In summary, the answer to the question "We Bought a Zoo Where Is It Located" is that the zoo is located at Dartmoor Wildlife Park in Devon, England. This location is integral to the story's emotional and logistical fabric, shaping the challenges and triumphs experienced by Benjamin Mee and his family. The rural setting underscores the unique nature of their endeavor, illustrating the intersection of family dedication, wildlife conservation, and community engagement.

[We Bought A Zoo Where Is It Located](#)

We Bought A Zoo Where Is It Located

Related Articles

- [going to be a big sister](#)

- [civ 6 district placement guide](#)
- [my date with the presidents daughter](#)

[Back to Home](#)