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## PERFECT DARTMOOR

*Adrian Oakes*

Dartmoor represents to most people a place of restful beauty, a landscape in which it is easy to feel at one with the natural world. It is this sense of wilderness that first draws people to the moor; and its diversity which keeps them coming back. And it is a fact that the more one gets to know Dartmoor, the more there is to know.

Dartmoor became a National Park in 1951. It covers an area of 369 square miles and is home and work-place for over 30 000 people, as well as a favoured recreational focus for visitors. Towering granite tors dominate the landscape and are its most prominent and well-known feature. Much of the current landscape is the end result of habitation and farming dating back to prehistoric times. Plentiful evidence of this early occupation is to be found in standing stones, cairns, burial chambers, hut circles and stone rows. In more recent times quarrying and mining has left scars upon the landscape, while farms, hamlets and larger settlements have grown into desirable places to live, overturning many of the traditional occupations of country life in the past hundred years.

Dartmoor is not huge but is easily large enough to get lost in. Those who know the moor well will delight in the wonderful photographs this book contains, appreciating the endless patience of the photographer who has waited for that precise shot that encapsulates a particular fall of sunlight, the shadow across a hillside, and the bright flash of water tumbling in a stream. For those yet to discover the delights of Dartmoor, this book will provide inspiration to explore.



Adrian Oakes is a landscape and contemporary photographer based in Devon. He has kindled a great love and respect for Dartmoor over the last twenty years and more recently has focused on photographing its diverse landscapes and rich history. His clients include The Dartmoor National Park Authority and National Trust who also sell prints and cards of his work in many outlets.

Adrian specialises in panoramas of Dartmoor and East Devon and has had photographs published in a wide variety of media.



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*Bowermans Nose at sunrise.*



*Example of a double page spread.*



*Merrivale Stone row at sunset.*



*A Dartmoor pony grazes near Haytor at sunset.*



*Bennets Cross with flowers.  
In the distance is Birch Tor.*



*Some of the most attractive cottages on the Moor nestle in the small valley at Buckland.*



*Panorama looking from Hookney Tor towards Widecombe.*