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 **Essex Outdoors Mersea to open coastal campsite for families**

ESSEX residents will be able to explore the county and settle down for night under the stars thanks to the opening of a new camping venue.

With many people staying within the United Kingdom this year, Essex Outdoors Mersea is opening its site to cater for families looking to holiday at home.

To ensure that all families in the county can enjoy a summer break, Essex Outdoors Mersea is providing affordable holiday accommodation for those looking to enjoy some quality time together and all the great outdoors has to offer. This new offer caters for families which have found it difficult to find availability given the current demands for domestic holidays.

By opening the venue, visitors will be able to get away from it all in one of Essex’s most stunning and popular coastal locations. The site at Essex Outdoors Mersea is ideal for people wanting to get back to basics, unplug from their digital and gaming devices and enjoy simplicity and tranquillity.

Visitors to the campsite can pitch their own shelter, book a family sized ‘patrol’ tent or choose a wooden pod for their accommodation. Visitors to the campsite, which is located next to the beach, can use the toilet, washing and shower facilities, the site’s swimming pool - at certain times by booking at the reception area - and even enrol their children onto one of the School Holiday Activity Days running throughout the summer at Essex Outdoors Mersea**\***.

Councillor Louise McKinlay, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance, said: “Throughout the past year and a half many of us have lived our lives online and have only been able to enjoy our natural surroundings when out for a daily walk.

“Now is the perfect time to head out, get active and enjoy nature. This new camping offer provides a localised opportunity for a staycation set in beautiful surroundings. Families can also make use of the facilities such as access to the swimming pool, beaches and local walks for a fun and healthy getaway in the outdoors.”

An Essex Outdoors spokesperson commented: “We are delighted to be able to offer people a new experience and one which will allow them to enjoy our fantastic county. Mersea is a wonderful island with a rich history and heritage and there is much to explore.

“Essex has so much to offer, from coastal to countryside walks to its vibrant towns and city, which is why we have decided to open up the venue to cater for all families, whether they are local or from further afield.”

For more information about camping at Essex Outdoors Mersea as well as availability and dates please visit [https://www.explore-essex.com/places-to-go/camping-mersea](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.explore-essex.com%2Fplaces-to-go%2Fcamping-mersea&data=04%7C01%7C%7C24b268f30295492785b208d942e6d734%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C637614381474519055%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PUZ%2BnuNrbmrP5Bv11KfWO%2F0NyyWfrWP7%2BGvx3chpZzw%3D&reserved=0).

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**Notes for editors:**

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**Explore Essex:** Explore Essex brings together a unique group of Country Parks and heritage venues which are owned by Essex County Council. Its mission is to deliver a broad range of exciting facilities and activities for the people of Essex with an emphasis on culture, heritage and environment. [www.explore-essex.com](http://www.explore-essex.com) @exploressex @exploreessex.

**Essex Outdoors:**

Essex Outdoors (part of Essex County Council) is the natural home of outdoor adventures for schools, groups and individuals. Creating unforgettable experiences and bringing out the best in young people, with amazing activities at four centres across the county for everyone, outside.

**Essex Outdoors Mersea:**

With over 60 acres of beautiful grounds and commanding far-reaching views across the estuary. The coastal location at Essex Outdoors Mersea is quite special – the surrounding marshes and beaches the ideal environment for shore-based studies and with access by boat to local creeks and areas of special scientific interest.

**Details:**

* Pitches measure 8m x 8m, allowing for lots of space for distancing.
* Maximum of 6 people per pitch.
* Prices start from just **£10 per person per night** for a simple grass pitch.
* Unfortunately, we do not accept dogs or pets at any of our campsites.
* Open from 26 July to 30th August 2021.
* Cars are only allowed onto pitches for loading/unloading.
* Ample parking available away from pitches.
* Allocated toilets and showers.
* Bookable swimming pool via the site’s reception area on certain days.
* Beach access.
* **\***Children may also be able to be booked into Essex Outdoors School Holiday Activity