

## Places To Visit

At the Hambro Arms, we invite our guests to explore beautiful Dorset, based in our own historic village.

From charming towns and villages, National Trust properties, to beaches and stunning coastal walks, there is so much to see and do.

This guide only covers a small number of the attractions Dorset has to offer.

Please don't hesitate to ask for any help or advice.

We are here to make your visit to Dorset a memorable one.

Go and explore.....

## Blandford Forum



Blandford Forum, on the River Stour, the town was rebuilt in 1731 after a great fire destroyed much of the centre, the work was completed within 30 years by the Bastard brothers, who were noted period architects. and subsequently has remained largely untouched by re-development. The centre of Blandford Forum therefore remains a near perfect example of Georgian building style from 1731–60. Market Day is Thursday

## Dorchester

The county town of Dorset, Dorchester is a market town with a rich and varied history. The Casterbridge of Thomas Hardy novels, Dorchester has many places of interest to visit, including museums, attractions and the nearby hill-top earthworks at Maiden Castle.

Its market, which is held every Wednesday, is a focal point for many of the communities that surround the town. The main shopping area is South Street where you will find a mixture of local businesses rubbing shoulders with national chains.

Dorchester is home to the Dorset County Museum which has fine displays of local history; The Dinosaur Museum; Teddy Bear House and The Tutankhamun Exhibition. At the top of town you will find the impressive 'Keep', built in 1879 it now houses the Dorset Military Museum.

Facing the nearby roundabout is a statue of Thomas Hardy which was unveiled by Hardy's great friend, Sir James Barrie, on 2nd September 1931. Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) went to school in Dorchester and lived at Max Gate and although his ashes are buried at Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey his heart is buried at Stinsford, near Dorchester.

Dorchester has its roots deep in Roman history with many exhibits to be seen in the County Museum, but to get a feel for the real thing take a walk around Maumbury Rings, the town's Roman Ampitheatre or a look at the well preserved excavations of a Roman Town House in the grounds of County Hall. Just out of town en route for Weymouth you'll find the famous Iron Age Hill Fort, Maiden Castle a great place for a bracing afternoon stroll.

## Weymouth & Portland



This coastal town has a safe, sandy beach located minutes from the town centre and a variety of places to eat of activities and attractions to choose from.

Attractions include The Timewalk and Brewery Days which takes visitors on an unforgettable voyage to experience six hundred years of Weymouth and Portland's history.

Weymouth has an all year events programme, with events ranging from an International Beach Kite Festival to a Harley Davidson Parade and Beach Volleyball Championships to Free Summer Firework nights.

The Sea Life Park's themed marine displays reveal the fascinating habitats found beneath the waves

Why not take a walk around the historic harbour. The 'isle' of Portland, located on the World Heritage Coast, is an ideal place to visit for a host of activities, whether you're into adrenaline sports or visiting a relaxing spa. The waters provide the perfect setting for angling, diving and sailing and hosted the sailing events for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

With Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and historical architecture made from the world famous Portland Stone, you're never far away from sensing the history and nature of this rugged 'island'.

## Shaftesbury

Shaftesbury is a small Market Town with a history that goes back to medieval times and hill-top forts. Shaftesbury, home of Gold Hill (made famous by the 'Hovis' advertisement) has magnificent views out over the Blackmore Vale. There is a variety of independent shops, pubs and restaurants for the tourist to enjoy, in one of the friendliest towns in the area.



## Wareham

An ancient town and former royal borough, the charming market town of Wareham is a veritable delight wherever you look at any time of the year. Between the rivers Frome and Piddle, the attractive gateway to the Isle of Purbeck was a major port until the Middle Ages. It is now a thriving market town, happily combining the old and the new, for locals and visitors alike.

There are shops, pubs and restaurants and there are churches, St Mary's was largely rebuilt in the 19th century whilst St Martins still retains Saxon and Norman features. Throughout the year there is a market on Saturday on the Quay. A major new event is the Wareham Music Festival held over the August Bank Holiday weekend, with over 30 bands playing on the Quay, the Town Hall and in all the town's pubs.



## Wimborne Minster

The delightful historic, bustling market town of Wimborne Minster lies in the picturesque water meadows of the rivers Stour and Allen. The twin towers of the magnificent Minster Church of St. Cuthburga, founded in AD 705, dominate the town. The oldest part of the Minster is the massive 12th century central tower, which was once crowned with a spire which fell during a Service in 1600, miraculously without loss of life or injury.

The town is considered to have one of the best collections of fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth century buildings in Dorset. The streets are lined with original shops from this period and almost all the original buildings at the Corn Market and High Street have been well preserved. Wimborne is also a family friendly location with Wimborne Model Town on the outskirts of the town centre, the Priest's House Museum and a large variety of quality shops. It is the home of the famous Wimborne Market, one of the largest and most famous open and covered markets in the south of England.



## Poole

Poole is a coastal town, port and tourist destination. The town is situated beside a large natural harbour. Poole is positioned on a very popular stretch of coastline, with the resort of Bournemouth to the east, Studland to the south and the Jurassic coast southwest. The town has grown rapidly, and Sandbanks, a small sand spit across part of the harbour mouth, is so popular that it has the fourth highest land value, by area, in the world.

Poole Harbour (said to be the second largest natural harbour in the world after Sydney) has been a working port for many hundreds of years,

Bustling Poole Quay is a great base to sit back in one of the many restaurants and bars and watch the visiting yachts in the marina and harbour beyond. The Dolphin shopping centre, with over 100 shops, including Animal, M&S and Beales Department store, you'll find the latest fashion, gifts and great places to eat.



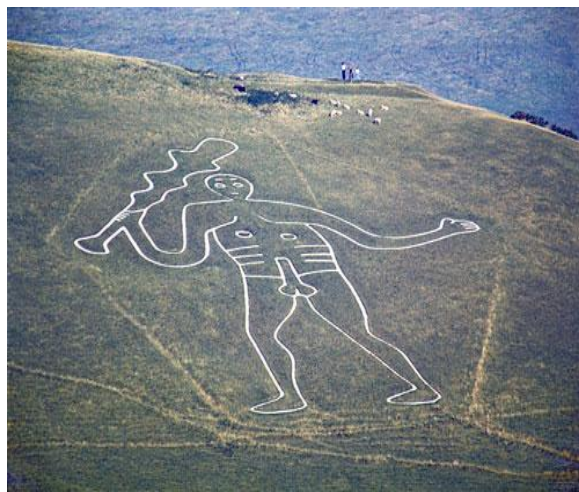
## Corfe Castle

The village of Corfe Castle, dominated by the ruined castle, is a visitor's delight. Situated in the heart of the "Isle of Purbeck", Corfe Castle and the surrounding area boast a wealth of things to see, to do and to enjoy, which encourage many visitors to return year upon year. It is now a National Trust property.



## Cerne Abbas

Cerne Abbas is a quaint village located on the edge of the river Cerne in Dorset around 7 miles from Dorchester. This is a beautiful but small village that is perhaps not well known in itself, but is world renowned for the ancient figure named the Cerne Abbas Giant or perhaps more descriptively known as the Rude Giant that overshadows the village from the chalk hillside above. There are a number of pubs and tea shops to enjoy.



## Hardys Cottage

Thomas Hardy's Cottage, in Higher Bockhampton, is the birthplace of the English author Thomas Hardy. He lived here until he was aged 34, during which time he wrote *Under the Greenwood Tree* and *Far from the Madding Crowd*. It is now a National Trust property.



## Kingston Lacy

Home of the Bankes family for more than 300 years, this striking 17th-century house is noted for its lavish interiors. The outstanding art collection includes paintings by Rubens, Van Dyck, Titian and Tintoretto, with the largest private collection of Egyptian artefacts in the UK. Outside, stroll across the beautiful lawns towards the restored Japanese tea garden. It is now a National Trust property.



## Stourhead

The jewel in the Stourhead crown has to be the world-famous 18th-century landscape garden and magnificent lake, shimmering with reflections of classical temples, mystical grottoes and rare and exotic trees. Secrets of the Hoare family history are revealed at Stourhead House, with the chance to discover the unique Regency library, collections of Chippendale furniture and inspirational paintings, all set amid 'picnic perfect' lawns and parkland. The lake and house are at the heart of a 1,072-hectare (2,650-acre) estate.



## Brownsea Island

An island situated in Poole Harbour, with fine walks and spectacular views of the Harbour, Brownsea is home to the endangered red squirrel. It is also famous for being the birthplace for Scouting and Guiding. The island offers a varied and beautiful landscape for enjoying the wonders of nature; from the patchworks of woodland, heath and grassy fields in the peaceful and secluded interior, to the cliffs and beaches of the coastline, which offer breathtaking views across the harbour to the Purbeck Hills.



## Montacute House

Montacute House is a magnificent, glittering mansion, built in the late 16th century for Sir Edward Phelips. There are many Renaissance features, and the Long Gallery, the longest of its kind in England, displays more than 60 of the finest Tudor and Elizabethan portraits from the National Portrait Gallery collection.



## Studland Beach and Nature Reserve

A glorious slice of natural coastline in Purbeck featuring a four-mile stretch of golden, sandy beach, with gently shelving bathing waters and views of Old Harry Rocks and the Isle of Wight. The heathland behind the beach is a haven for native wildlife and features all six British reptiles. Designated trails through the sand dunes and woodlands allow for exploration and spotting of deer, insects and bird life as well as a wealth of wild flowers.



## Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door

Lulworth Cove is the prime Dorset attraction for the budding geographer or simply for a leisurely walk along the Natural World Heritage Coastline and the challenging hills. By the Lulworth Cove there is the West Lulworth Heritage Centre acting as a museum about Lulworth and its coast and the history of the village, with plenty of Lulworth Souvenirs.

The Steps at the east end of the beach lead to the Fossil Forest and Mupe Bay with a stunning walk along the cliff top ( this footpath is within the MoD restricted area and is only open on weekends and the whole of August). A motor boat service from the beach will take you on a trip to Durdle Door or Mupe Bay by sea, from where you will have the best view of this spectacular coastline.



Durdle Door is a world famous geological wonder, with its massive rock arch, set right on the Jurassic Coast between Swanage and Weymouth, just along the coast path from Lulworth Cove, it is absolutely beautiful. Durdle Door has a sloping beach for bathing or snorkeling from, caves and exciting rock strata. Only a short walk from Lulworth Cove and makes a nice place to have picnic, sunbathe and go swimming.



## The Coastal Path

The Dorset Coast Path is just one section of the UK's 630 mile (1014 kilometre) long South West Coast Path, which starts at Minehead in Somerset and ends at Poole Harbour in Dorset. Excluding the Isle of Portland, the Dorset stretch is around 73 miles long and there is so much to see along this beautiful part of the coast.

The Dorset and East Devon part of the coast path was selected to be a World Heritage Site in December 2001. It is a stunning coastline to explore.

The coastal limestone plateau with its drystone walls and isolated buildings contrast with the fine beaches and extensive heathland at Studland, or the wide sweep and rocky ledges of Kimmeridge Bay.

Old cliff quarry workings at Seacombe, Winspit and Dancing Ledge are legacies of an industrial past. You will also pass quirky man-made features - the Clavel Tower at Kimmeridge, St Aldhelm's Chapel and the Great Globe at Durlston.

Here are just a couple of examples of the stunning walks available:

### *Lulworth - Weymouth*

This walk is perhaps the most beautiful on the whole of the coast path. Starting at the beautiful Lulworth Cove, it passes the famous and much photographed St Oswalds Bay and Durdle Door. After Durdle Door, the crowds go and there are some steep climbs up the chalk cliffs, but you're rewarded with stunning views around the coast. The view from the top of White Nothe is excellent, with Ringstead bay below. After White Nothe cliff, the path becomes less severe with smaller gradients, passing through the village of Osmington Mills and then into the popular resort of Weymouth.



## *Abbotsbury - Weymouth*

This walk starts from the beautiful village of Abbotsbury, behind Chesil Beach. The walk goes past the famous Swannery, then climbs onto a high path, inland for a while before dropping down back to sea-level behind The Fleet. The high-level path is difficult to follow at times, so we recommend the more detailed OL15 map for this walk.

Once down to the coast, the path continues behind The Fleet, all the way to Ferry Bridge near Weymouth. After Ferry Bridge, the coast path continues along the coast, with good views of Portland, past Nothe Point and Nothe Fort and into the centre of Weymouth.



[For details of these walks and more visit :  
www.exploresouthwestcoastpath.co.uk](http://www.exploresouthwestcoastpath.co.uk)

## Bovington Tank Museum

The tank was a British invention that changed warfare for ever when it was introduced in World War One – and Bovington has been the home of the tank ever since. From the Somme to Tiananmen Square or D-Day to Desert Storm the tank has played a part in shaping history – and it continues to do so today.

The Tank Museum is the only place where many of these rare and historic vehicles can be seen. Fresh from a £16m investment in new exhibitions & facilities, with almost 200 vehicles on display in 6 large halls, you will come face-to-face with tanks that have seen action in all the major wars of the 20th century.



## Monkey World

This internationally-acclaimed ape rescue centre, in 65 acres of beautiful Dorset woodland, is home to over 230 primates – including the largest group of chimps outside Africa. Many have been neglected, kept in unnatural conditions, or experienced unbelievable cruelty. At Monkey World, they can all enjoy the company of their own kind in a safe and natural environment, and some are now part of international breeding programmes for endangered species. The park is imaginatively laid out and has food and drink outlets, picnic areas, a woodland walk, and a lot of monkey and ape antics to be enjoyed by visitors of all ages.

## Abbotsbury Swannery



Abbotsbury Swannery is unique. This is the only place in the world where you are able to walk through the heart of a colony of nesting Mute Swans. The Swannery was established by Benedictine Monks who built a monastery at Abbotsbury during the 1040's. The monks farmed the swans to produce food for their lavish Dorset banquets. Abbotsbury Swannery, near Weymouth, has become one of the most popular things to do for the family visiting Dorset.

Located on the dramatic Dorset Coast, this unique natural wildlife habitat is also popular with film makers and has been used as a location for Harry Potter filming.

## Swanage Steam Railway



The award-winning standard gauge preserved steam railway. With easy car parking at our northern terminus at Norden, in Isle of Purbeck, visitors can experience a unique journey through six miles of beautiful scenery passing the magnificent ruins of Corfe Castle to the southern terminus at the seaside resort of Swanage.