

# DORSET PLACES TO VISIT

## WHAT TO SEE & DO IN DORSET

Dorset offers the visitor a huge range of things to see and do within a relatively small area. Whatever your interest, whether it be archaeology, history, old churches and castles or nationally important formal gardens, it is here.

**Museums** The county features a large number of museums, from the world class Tank Museum to the tiniest specialist village heritage centre. All are interesting and staffed by enthusiastic people who love to tell the story of their museum.

**The National Trust** maintains a variety of properties here. These include Thomas Hardy's birthplace and his house in Dorchester. The grandiose mansion of Kingston Lacy is the creation of the Bankes family. Private mansions to visit include Athelhampton House and Sherborne Castle.

**Nature** enthusiasts will not be disappointed as the county is a year round destination for bird watchers. It is famous for its wild flowers, butterflies and dragonflies. With the 95mi (155km) long Jurassic Coast UNESCO World Heritage Site and nearly 60 varied nature reserves, there is plenty of scope.

**Walkers** will find Dorset very welcoming, with its huge network of paths, long distance and shorter. Routes can be planned by combining information in this guide with the relevant Ordnance Survey map. Alternatively there are many walking books available. Tour guides also lead groups in many places.

*The Nine Stones, Winterborne Abbas*



**Cycling** Cyclists will find the thousands of miles of winding hedge-lined lanes very enticing. There is no better way to observe the life of the countryside than on an ambling bike ride. The more energetic cyclist will find a large variety of suggested routes in leaflets at the TICs.

**Activities** For people who prefer more organised activities there is a wide range on offer, particularly in the vicinity of Poole, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Weymouth. These cover everything expected of prime seaside resorts with things to do for every age and inclination.

**Coastline** For many the prime attraction of Dorset is its coastline, with many superb beaches. Those at Poole, Bournemouth, Weymouth and Swanage have traditional seaside facilities and entertainments during the summer. People who prefer quiet coves or extensive beaches will not be disappointed, especially in the winter.

**All-Year Attraction** Dorset is a county which will reward the visitor at any time of year and in any weather. That so many visitors come back time and again is testament to the place, but also to the welcome afforded by the Dorset folk.

**Accommodation** This guide specifically does not cover information about accommodation, eating out or shopping as these are well covered by annual tourist guides and subject to frequent change. Dorset offers everything from five star hotels, self catering and bed & breakfast to campsites.

**Eating Out** ranges from top class restaurants to very good chip shops. Dorset offers an excellent range of local produce including prime beef, lamb, pork and seafood as well as fruit and vegetables in season. Few are disappointed.

**Shopping** The many small towns and villages have retained a wide selection of local shops. These include butchers, bakers, fish shops, drapers, bookshops, hardware stores, newsagents and antique outlets and other interesting businesses.

### TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

[visit-dorset.com](http://visit-dorset.com)

There are several Tourist Information Centres in Dorset, all in the main towns and villages. [visit-dorset.com](http://visit-dorset.com) is the Official Dorset Tourism Information website and covers the huge range of things to see and do in Dorset.

Brochures may also be requested from here on Christchurch, West Dorset, Swanage & Purbeck as well as the main Dorset Guide.

**Blandford Tourist Information Centre**,  
Riverside House, West Street, Blandford  
DT11 7AW Tel 01258 454770

**Bournemouth Tourist Information Centre**,  
Westover Road, Bournemouth BH21 2BU  
Tel 0845 051 1700

**Bridport Tourist Information Centre**, Bucky  
Doo Square, South Square, Bridport DT6 3LF  
Tel 01308 424901

**Christchurch Information Centre**, 49 High  
Street, Christchurch BH23 1AS  
Tel 01202 471780

**Discover Purbeck Information Centre**, South  
Street, Wareham, Purbeck BH20 4LR  
Tel 01929 552740

**Dorchester Tourist Information Centre**,  
Antelope Walk, Dorchester DT1 1BE  
Tel 01305 267992

**Lyme Regis Tourist Information Centre**,  
Church Street, Lyme Regis DT7 3BS  
01297 442138

**Poole Welcome Centre**, 19 The Quay, Poole  
BH15 1HJ  
[pooltourism.com](http://pooltourism.com) Tel 01202 253253

**Shaftesbury Tourist Information Centre**, 8  
Bell Street, Shaftesbury SP7 8AE  
Tel 01747 853514

**Sherborne Tourist Information Centre**, Digby  
Road, Sherborne DT9 3NL  
Tel 01935 815341



*Sculpture by the Lakes*

**Swanage Tourist Information Centre**, The  
White House, Shore Road, Swanage  
BH19 1LB Tel 01929 422885

**Wimborne Tourist Information Centre**, 29  
High Street, Wimborne Minster BH21 1HR  
Tel 01202 886116

Other information sources include visitor attractions, museums, local shops, accommodation providers and rural post offices. Books and guides are available from TICs, local bookshops and visitor attractions, as well as online.

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*Charmouth Beach*



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Roman Aqueduct.....	162
Roman Fort, Hod Hill .....	248
Roman Road, Thorncombe Wood .....	174
Roman Town House, Dorchester .....	163

## ART & CRAFT

**Sculpture by the Lakes**, Pallington Lakes, Dorchester DT2 8QU [sculpturebythelakes.co.uk](http://sculpturebythelakes.co.uk)  
Tel 07720 637 808.....237

Studland Beach



**Tout Quarry Sculpture Park**, Isle of Portland  
Tel 01305 821638.....198

## BEACHES, COAST & CLIFFS

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Weymouth, sandy beach .....	182
White Nothe, cliffs, rocky beach .....	187
Worbarrow Bay, sand, shingle, cliffs.....	207

## BOAT TRIPS

**Adventure Voyages**, Mudeford Quay,  
Christchurch [adventurevoyages.co.uk](http://adventurevoyages.co.uk)  
Tel 07968 334 441

**Bournemouth Boating Services**, 323 Belle Vue  
Road, Bournemouth BH6 3BA  
[bournemouthboating.co.uk](http://bournemouthboating.co.uk) Tel 01202 429 119

**Brownsea Island Ferries**, Hethfelton, East  
Stoke, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6HJ  
[brownseaislandferries.com](http://brownseaislandferries.com) Tel 01929 462383  
From Poole Quay & Sandbanks to Brownsea  
Island, also to Swanage and Wareham.

**Fleet Observer (Glass Bottom Boat)**, Wyke  
Regis, Weymouth DT4 9NU  
[fleetobserver.co.uk](http://fleetobserver.co.uk) Tel 01305 759692.....341

**Greenslade Pleasure Boats**, The Orange Kiosk, Poole Quay, Dorset DT15 1HJ  
[greensladepleasureboats.co.uk](http://greensladepleasureboats.co.uk)  
 Tel 01202 669955 Boat trips from Poole Quay to Brownsea Island, Swanage and Wareham

**Weymouth Whitewater**, Nr town bridge, Weymouth [weymouth-whitewater.co.uk](http://weymouth-whitewater.co.uk)  
 Tel 0789 9892 317

**CASTLES**

**Christchurch Castle**, Castle Street, Christchurch BH23 1AZ [english-heritage.org.uk/christchurch](http://english-heritage.org.uk/christchurch) Tel 01202 495127  
 Ruined Norman keep and motte .....300

**Corfe Castle**, Purbeck BH20 5EZ [nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle)  
 Tel 01929 481 294 One of the most romantic ruined castles in England ..... 220

**Highcliff Castle**, Lymington Road, Highcliff BH23 4LE  
[highcliffcastle.co.uk](http://highcliffcastle.co.uk) Tel 01425 278 807

**Lulworth Castle**, East Lulworth, Purbeck BH20 5QS  
[lulworth.com](http://lulworth.com) Tel 01929 400 352  
 Partially restored 17<sup>th</sup> cent. mock castle ...205

**Sherborne Castle**, Sherborne DT9 5NR [sherbornecastle.com](http://sherbornecastle.com) Tel 01935 813 182  
 Originally built by Walter Raleigh.....156

**Sherborne Old Castle**, Sherborne DT9 3SA [english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk) Tel 01935 812730  
 Slighted 11<sup>th</sup> century bishop's palace.....156

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*Great Dorset Steam Fair*

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**EVENTS & FESTIVALS**

**Bournemouth Air Festival**  
[bournemouthair.co.uk](http://bournemouthair.co.uk)  
 Spectacular air show in late August.....299

**Bridport Literary Festival** [bridlit.com](http://bridlit.com) Tel 01308 424901 Held annually in early November

**Dorset Art Weeks** [dorsetartweeks.co.uk](http://dorsetartweeks.co.uk)  
 Annually in late May and early June

**Dorset County Show**, Agriculture House, Acland Road, Dorchester DT1 1EF  
[dorsetcountyshow.co.uk](http://dorsetcountyshow.co.uk) Tel 01305 264249  
 Annually in early September in the Showground northeast of the town off the A35 .....112

**Dorset Food Week**  
[visit-dorset.com](http://visit-dorset.com) late October/early November

**Great Dorset Steam Fair**  
[gdsf.co.uk](http://gdsf.co.uk) Amazing event at Tarrant Hinton, northeast of Blandford, over several days at the end of August .....244

*Fossil fish*



# DORSET PLACES TO VISIT



*Compton Acres Gardens*

**Lyme Lifeboat Week** [lymeregis.org](http://lymeregis.org) Held in July, culminates with the Red Arrows.....132

**Lyme Regis Fossil Festival**  
[fossilfestival.com](http://fossilfestival.com) Tel 01297 445021  
Held annually in the first week of May .....132

**Sandworld Sand Sculpture Festival,**  
Weymouth seafront [sandworld.co.uk](http://sandworld.co.uk)  
Tel 07411 387 529 April to November....182

**Shaftesbury and Gillingham Show,** Station Road, Gillingham SP8 4PY  
[gillshaftshow.co.uk](http://gillshaftshow.co.uk) Tel 01747 823955  
Held in late August in the Showpark.....256

**Sherborne Castle Country Fair**  
[sherbornecountryfair.com](http://sherbornecountryfair.com) Tel 01749 814041  
Held annually in late May

**Spirit of the Sea** [spiritofthesea.org.uk](http://spiritofthesea.org.uk) Tel 01749 814041  
In late May in Weymouth

**Stock Gaylard Oak Fair,** Sturminster Newton DT10 2BG [stockgaylard.com](http://stockgaylard.com)  
Tel 01963 23511 Held annually in August.....253

**The Purbeck Film Festival** [purbeckfilm.com](http://purbeckfilm.com)  
Tel 07443 468850 Held in October

*Weymouth Sealife Adventure Tower*



**Thomas Hardy Festival**  
[hardysociety.org](http://hardysociety.org) Tel 01305 251501  
Held in late July/early August ..... 106, 170

## FAMILY ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

**Abbotsbury Children's Farm,** Church Street, Abbotsbury DT3 4JJ [abbotsburytourism.co.uk](http://abbotsburytourism.co.uk)  
Tel 01305 871817.....148

**Adventure Wonderland,** Opposite Bourne-  
mouth Airport BH23 6BA [adventurewonderland.co.uk](http://adventurewonderland.co.uk) Tel 01202 483 444.....260

**Farmer Palmer's Farm Park,** Organford, near Poole BH16 6EU  
[farmerpalmers.co.uk](http://farmerpalmers.co.uk) Tel 01202 822 022

**Go Ape! Live Life Adventurously!,** Nr Ringwood BH24 2ET [goape.co.uk](http://goape.co.uk)  
Tel 0845 643 9248, 01305 871281 .....272

**Weymouth Sea Life Adventure Park, Pirate Adventure Mini Golf & Model World,** Lodmoor Country Park, Weymouth DT4 7SX [sealifeweymouth.com](http://sealifeweymouth.com) Tel 01305 781 797 ..... 186

**Shoresports,** Mudeford Quay, Christchurch BH23 4AB  
[shoresports.co.uk](http://shoresports.co.uk) Tel 07867 575 .....280

## GARDENS

**Abbotsbury Tropical Gardens,** Abbotsbury, West Dorset DT3 4LA  
[abbotsburygardens.co.uk](http://abbotsburygardens.co.uk) Tel 01305 871412  
Old-established and very impressive .....148

**Athelhampton House Gardens,** 5 miles east of Dorchester off A35, DT2 7LG  
[athelhampton.co.uk](http://athelhampton.co.uk) Tel 01305 848363  
One of the best gardens in England.....174

**Bennett's Water Gardens,** off A354 at Weymouth on B3157 DT3 4AF  
[bennettswatergardens.com](http://bennettswatergardens.com) Tel 01305 785150  
Former gravel pit.....186

**Compton Acres,** 164 Canford Cliffs Rd, Poole BH13 7ES  
[comptonacres.co.uk](http://comptonacres.co.uk) Tel 01202 707591  
Wonderful and varied restored gardens ....288

**Cranborne Manor Gardens**, Cranborne, East Dorset BH21 5PP

[cranborne.co.uk](http://cranborne.co.uk) Tel 01725 517248

Only open on some Wednesdays .....269

**Forde Abbey Gardens**, nr. Thorncombe, West Dorset TA20 4LU

[fordeabbey.co.uk](http://fordeabbey.co.uk) tel 01460 221290

Especially good in spring and autumn.....141

**Kingston Lacy**, Wimborne Minster, East Dorset BH21 4EA [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)

Tel 01202 883402 Stately home & gdns.....261

**Kingston Maurward**, off A35 east of Dorchester DT2 8PX

[kmc.ac.uk/gardens](http://kmc.ac.uk/gardens) Tel 01305 215003 .....174

**Knoll Gardens**, Hampreston, Wimborne, East Dorset BH21 7ND

[knollgardens.co.uk](http://knollgardens.co.uk) Tel 01202 873931 .....260

**Larmer Tree Gardens**, Tollard Royal, of A354 north of Tarrant Hinton SP5 5PT

[larmertreegardens.co.uk](http://larmertreegardens.co.uk) Tel 01725 516971.261

**Mapperton Gardens**, nr Beaminster, West Dorset DT8 3NR

[mapperton.com](http://mapperton.com) Tel 01308 862645 .....141

**Minterne Gardens**, Minterne Magna, on A352 north of Dorchester DT2 7AU

[minterne.co.uk](http://minterne.co.uk) Tel 01300 341370.....155

**Upton Country Park**, Poole Road, Poole off A35 BH17 7BJ [uptoncountrypark.com](http://uptoncountrypark.com)

Tel 01202 262753.....289

### MUSEUMS - MILITARY

**Bournemouth Aviation Museum**, Merritown Lane, Christchurch BH23 6BA

[aviation-museum.co.uk](http://aviation-museum.co.uk) Tel 01202 473 141

Hands on old aircraft, great for all little boys and girls of all ages ..... 273, 298

**Portland Castle**, Liberty Rd, Castletown, Portland DT5 1AZ

[english-heritage.org.uk/portland](http://english-heritage.org.uk/portland)

Tel 01305 820 539 Well-preserved Henry VIII "Device Fort" .....190



*Autumn Colours Marshwood Vale*

**Royal Signals Museum**, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum DT11 8RH

[royalsignalsmuseum.com](http://royalsignalsmuseum.com) Tel 01258 482248

Fascinating story of army communications...246

**The Keep Military Museum**, Bridport Road, Dorchester DT1 1RN

[keepmilitarymuseum.org](http://keepmilitarymuseum.org) Tel 01305 264066

Devon & Dorset Regimental history.....165

**The Nothe Fort**, Barrack Road, Weymouth DT4 8UF

[nothefort.org.uk](http://nothefort.org.uk) Tel 01305 766626

Impressive 19<sup>th</sup> century fort and museum .....188

**The Tank Museum**, Linsay Rd, Bovington, Purbeck BH20 6JG

[tankmuseum.org](http://tankmuseum.org) Tel 01929 405 096

Hugely impressive collection of tanks .....232

### MUSEUMS - MAIN

**Dorset County Museum**, High West Street, Dorchester DT1 1XA

[dorsetcountymuseum.org](http://dorsetcountymuseum.org) Tel 01305 262735

Excellent and essential visit.....164

**Poole Museum**, 4 High Street, Poole

BH15 1BW [boroughofpoole.com/museums](http://boroughofpoole.com/museums)

Tel 01202 262 600

Very good and interesting museum .....285

*The Tank Museum*



# DORSET PLACES TO VISIT



*The Nothe Fort*

## MUSEUMS - SMALL & SPECIALIST

**Beaminster Museum**, Whitcombe Road, Beaminster DT8 3NB  
[beaminstermuseum.org](http://beaminstermuseum.org) Tel 01308 863623140

**Blandford Fashion Museum**, Lime Tree House, Blandford DT11 7AA [theblandfordfashion-museum.co.uk](http://theblandfordfashion-museum.co.uk) Tel 01258 453006 .....243

**Blandford Town Museum**, Blandford DT11 7HQ [blandfordtownmuseum.org](http://blandfordtownmuseum.org) Tel 01258 450388.....243

**Bridport Museum**, 25 South Street, Bridport DT6 3RJ [bridportmuseum.co.uk](http://bridportmuseum.co.uk) Tel 01308 458703.....144

**Dinosaurland Fossil Museum**, Coombe Street, Lyme Regis Tel 01297 443541.....167

**Gillingham Museum**, Gillingham SP8 4UA [gillinghammuseum.co.uk](http://gillinghammuseum.co.uk) Tel 01747 823234.....257

**Gold Hill Museum & Garden**, 1 Gold Hill, Shaftesbury SP7 8JW [goldhillmuseum.org.uk](http://goldhillmuseum.org.uk) .....256

**Langton Matravers Museum**, St George's Close, Langton Matravers BH19 3HZ [langtonia.org.uk](http://langtonia.org.uk) .....224  
*Fossils in Charmouth Heritage Centre*



**Lyme Regis Museum**, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis DT7 3QA [lymeregismuseum.co.uk](http://lymeregismuseum.co.uk) Tel 01297 443370.....133

**Marine Aquarium and Cobb History**, The Cobb, Lyme Regis 01297 444230.....133

**Mill House Cider Museum**, Owermoigne DT2 8HZ Off A352 north of Owermoigne [millhousecider.com](http://millhousecider.com) Tel 01305 852220  
 Fascinating old cider-making equipment ..175

**Portland Museum**, 17 Wakeham, Portland DT5 1HS [portlandmuseum.co.uk](http://portlandmuseum.co.uk) Tel 01305 821804  
 Small but interesting museum .....194

**Priest's House Museum & Garden**, 23-27 High Street, Wimborne Minster BH21 1HR [priest-house.co.uk](http://priest-house.co.uk) Tel 01202 882533 .....262

**Red House Museum & Garden**, Quay Road, Christchurch BH23 1BU [3.hants.gov.uk/redhouse](http://3.hants.gov.uk/redhouse) Tel 01202 482860  
 Excellent with dioramas and many artefacts ..304

**RNLI Boathouse Museum**, Fishermen's Dock, Poole BH15 1RA [poole-lifeboats.org.uk](http://poole-lifeboats.org.uk) Tel 01202 666046 Main exhibit is *Thomas Kirk Wright*, motor lifeboat dating from 1939 .....284

**RNLI HQ Museum**, West Quay Road, Poole BH15 1HZ [rnli.org](http://rnli.org) Tel 08451 226999  
 Restaurant with great views of Harbour .....283

**Russell- Cotes Museum**, Russell Cotes Road, Bournemouth BH1 3AA [russell-cotes.bournemouth.gov.uk](http://russell-cotes.bournemouth.gov.uk) Tel 01202 451858  
 Eclectic Art Nouveau collectors' house.....297

**Shaftesbury Abbey Museum & Garden**, Shaftesbury SP7 8JR [shaftesburyabbey.org.uk](http://shaftesburyabbey.org.uk) Tel 01747 852910.....256

**Sherborne Museum**, 1 Church Lane, Sherborne DT9 3BP [sherbornemuseum.co.uk](http://sherbornemuseum.co.uk) Tel 01935 812252.....156

**St Michael's Loft Museum**, Christchurch Priory, Christchurch BH23 1BU [christchurchpriory.org](http://christchurchpriory.org) Tel 01202 488645....304

**Sturminster Newton Museum & Mill**, Broad Oak, Sturminster Newton DT10 1HL  
[sturminsternewton-museum.co.uk](http://sturminsternewton-museum.co.uk)  
 Tel 01258 473178  
 Restored working watermill.....252

**Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre**, The Square, Swanage BH19 2LJ [swanagemuseum.co.uk](http://swanagemuseum.co.uk) Tel 01929 475836 .....216

**Teddy Bear Museum**, Salisbury Street, Dorchester DT1 1JU [reddybearmuseum.co.uk](http://reddybearmuseum.co.uk)  
 Tel 01305 266040.....167

**Terracota Warriors Museum**, Salisbury Street, Dorchester DT1 1JU [terracotawarriors.co.uk](http://terracotawarriors.co.uk)  
 Tel 01305 268885.....167

**The Dinosaur Museum**, Icen Way, Dorchester DT1 1EW [thedinosaurmuseum.com](http://thedinosaurmuseum.com)  
 Tel 01305 269860.....167

**The Tutankhamun Exhibition**, High West Street, Dorchester DT1 1UW  
[rutankhamun-exhibition.co.uk](http://rutankhamun-exhibition.co.uk)  
 Tel 01305 269571.....167

**Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum**, Tolpuddle, Dorchester DT2 7EH  
[tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk](http://tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk) Tel 01305 848 237  
 The start of trade unions.....176

**Tudor House**, 3 Trinity Street, Weymouth DT4 8TW [dorsetmuseums.co.uk](http://dorsetmuseums.co.uk)  
 Tel 01305 779711.....182

**Wareham Town Museum**, 3 East Street, Wareham BH20 4NN [warehammuseum.co.uk](http://warehammuseum.co.uk)  
 Tel 01929 553448.....226

**MUSEUMS - OUTSIDE DORSET**

**Ashmolean Museum**, Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PH  
[ashmolean.org](http://ashmolean.org) Tel 01865 278000  
 Many artefacts from Dorset excavations

**Exeter Museum** (Royal Albert Memorial Museum), Queen Street, Exeter EX4 3RX  
[ramuseum.org.uk](http://ramuseum.org.uk) Tel 01392 265858  
 Many artefacts from Dorset excavations



*RNLI Boathouse Museum*

**Natural History Museum**, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD [nhm.ac.uk](http://nhm.ac.uk)  
 Tel 020 7942 5000 Many fossils from Dorset including large Plesiosaurs and Ichthyosaurs

**Salisbury Museum**, The Kings House, 65 The Close, Salisbury SP1 2EN  
[salisburymuseum.org.uk](http://salisburymuseum.org.uk) Tel 01722 332151  
 Many artefacts from Dorset excavations

**Wiltshire Museum**, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1NS  
[wiltshire-museum.org.uk](http://wiltshire-museum.org.uk) Tel 01380 727369  
 Many artefacts from Dorset excavations

**NATURE**

**Abbotsbury Swannery**, Abbotsbury DT3 4JG  
[abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk](http://abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk) Tel 01305 871858  
 Best in April and May .....148

**Arne RSPB Reserve**, east of Wareham, Purbeck BH20 5BJ [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)  
 Tel 01929 553360 Wonderful heathland reserve overlooking Poole Harbour .....228

**Avon Heath Country Park**, Birch Road Ringwood BH24 2DA Off the A338 southwest of Ringwood [dorsetforyou.com](http://dorsetforyou.com)  
 Tel 01425 478470.....272

*Gold Hill, Shaftesbury*





# DORSET PLACES TO VISIT



Roman Pottery in Poole Museum

**Brownsea Island**, Poole Harbour BH13 7EE  
[nationaltrust.org.uk/brownsea-island](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/brownsea-island)  
Tel 01202 707 744

Essential destination for all birders.....290

**Durlston Country Park**, Lighthouse Road,  
Swanage BH19 2JL [durlston.co.uk](http://durlston.co.uk)  
Tel 01929 424443 One of the best places for  
wildlife in Dorset - an essential visit .....214

**Dorset Wildlife Trust**, Brooklands Farm,  
Forston, Dorchester DT2 7AA  
[dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk) Tel 01305 264620

**Moors Valley Country Park and Forest**,  
southwest of Verwood on B3081  
[moorsvalley.co.uk](http://moorsvalley.co.uk) Tel 01425 470721 .....272

**Portland Bird Observatory and Field Centre**,  
Old Lower Lighthouse, Portland Bill DT5 2JT  
[portlandbirdobs.org.uk](http://portlandbirdobs.org.uk) Tel 01305 820553  
Dorset's only Bird Observatory.....196

**Radipole Lake RSPB Reserve**, Weymouth  
DT4 7TZ [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk) Tel 01305 778313  
Wetland reserve all year birding interest...185

**Studland Visitor Centre**, Knoll Beach,  
Studland, Purbeck BH19 3AQ [nationaltrust.org.uk/studland-beach](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/studland-beach) Tel 01929 450500  
Local habitats and wildlife.....219

*Fossil in Natural History Museum found by Mary Anning*



## NATURE - JURASSIC COAST

**Charmouth Coastal Heritage Centre**, Lower  
Sea Lane, Charmouth DT6 6LL  
[charmouth.org](http://charmouth.org) Tel 01297 560772  
Excellent Jurassic Coast Centre.....136

**Chesil Beach Visitor Centre**, Portland Beach  
Road, Portland DT4 9XE  
[dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/chesil-beach-centre](http://dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/chesil-beach-centre)  
Tel 01305 206191  
Interpretation Displays & Cafe.....184

**Jurassica** "will be the world's most spectacular  
attraction celebrating the lost world of Prehistoric  
Earth. There will be an aquarium, featuring  
animatronic Jurassic marine reptiles, the sea mon-  
sters of prehistoric Earth. There will be three galleries  
featuring fossil collections from the Natural History  
Museum and world-class specimens currently in the  
hands of private collectors." [jurassica.org](http://jurassica.org).....199

**The Jurassic Coast, Dorset and East Devon  
World Heritage Site** [jurassiccoast.org](http://jurassiccoast.org) Runs  
for 95mi (155km) from Orcombe Point near  
Exmouth to Old Harry Rocks in Purbeck...120

**Kimmeridge Fossil Museum**, Kimmeridge,  
Purbeck BH20 5PE [theetchescollection.org](http://theetchescollection.org) is  
due to open in 2016. It will house over 2,000  
fossils collected locally by Steve Etches.....211

**Purbeck Marine Wildlife Reserve**,  
Kimmeridge Bay, Purbeck BH20 5PF  
[dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk) Tel 01929 481044  
Unique marine reserve.....210

**Seaton Jurassic**, Underfleet, Seaton, Devon  
EX12 2LX [seatonjurassic.org](http://seatonjurassic.org) is due to open in  
2015 and will be "the Jurassic Coast's newest and  
most exciting visitor experience, telling the story of  
its geology and ecology.".....121

## VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

**Bournemouth Oceanarium**, Pier Approach,  
West Beach, Bournemouth BH2 5AA  
[oceanarium.co.uk](http://oceanarium.co.uk) Tel 01202 311 993 .....294

**Cerne Abbas Giant**, A352 from Dorchester  
[nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk) tel 01297 489481  
Famous landmark cut into a chalk hillside...154

**Clouds Hill**, Bovington, Purbeck BH20 7NQ  
[nationaltrust.org.uk/clouds-hill](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/clouds-hill)

Tel 01929 405 616.....234

**Dorset Heavy Horse and Pony Centre**,

Verwood BH21 5RJ between Verwood and Cranborne  
[dorset-heavy-horse-centre.co.uk](http://dorset-heavy-horse-centre.co.uk)

Tel 01202 824040.....260

**Fiddleford Manor**, over the River Stour from Sturminster Newton  
[english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk)

Tel 01258 453731

Interesting original features .....252

**Hall-Woodhouse Brewery**, Blandford DT11

9LS [hall-woodhouse.co.uk](http://hall-woodhouse.co.uk) Tel 01258 452 141

Brewery tours and Visitor Centre.....242

**Hardy's Monument and Viewpoint**, Black

Down, Portesham DT3 4ET

[nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk) Tel 01297 489481

Spectacular panoramic views.....151

**Mangerton Mill**, Bridport DT6 3SG north of Bridport off the A 3066

[visit-dorset.com](http://visit-dorset.com) Tel 01308 485224

Watermill, cafe and craft shops .....145

**Max Gate**, Alington Avenue, Dorchester DT1

2AB off the A35 east of the town

[nationaltrust.org.uk/max-gate/](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/max-gate/)

Tel 01305 262538 Thomas Hardy's house....170

**Monkey World**, Longthorns, Wareham BH20

6HH Off the A352, north of Wool

[monkeyworld.org](http://monkeyworld.org) Tel 01929 462537 Many

species of rescued apes and monkeys.....236

**Old Crown Court and Cells**, High West

Street, Dorchester DT1 1UZ

[visit-dorset.com](http://visit-dorset.com) Tel 01305 267992 Where the

Tolpuddle Martyrs were tried .....164

**Palmers Brewery**, West Bay Road, Bridport

DT6 4JA [palmersbrewery.com](http://palmersbrewery.com)

Tel 01308 422 396 Tours & Visitor Centre..144

**Place Mill**, Christchurch Quay, Christchurch

BH23 1BY

[visitchristchurch.info](http://visitchristchurch.info) Tel 01202 487626

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Abbotsbury Swannery

**Portland Bill Lighthouse**, Portland DT5 2JT

[trinityhouse.co.uk](http://trinityhouse.co.uk) Tel 01305 820495

Panoramic view from the tower .....196

**Swanage Railway**, Station House, Swanage

BH19 1HB

[swanagerailway.co.uk](http://swanagerailway.co.uk) Tel 01929 425800

Steam trains Swanage to Corfe Castle .. 217, 222

**The Blue Pool**, south of Wareham BH20 5AR

off the A351 [bluepooluk.com](http://bluepooluk.com)

Tel 01929 551408 Old china clay pit.....223

**Thomas Hardy's Cottage**, Higher

Bockhampton, Dorchester DT2 8QJ

[nationaltrust.org.uk/hardys-cottage/](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/hardys-cottage/)

Tel 01305 262366 Cottage and garden....170

**Town Mill**, Lyme Regis DT7 3PU

[townmill.org.uk](http://townmill.org.uk) Tel 01297 443579.....134

**Weymouth Sea Life Tower**, Festival Pier,

Weymouth DT4 8DX

[weymouth-tower.com](http://weymouth-tower.com)

Panoramic views of Weymouth.....184

**Wimborne Model Town and Gardens**, King

Street, Wimborne Minster BH21 1DY

[wimborne-modeltown.com](http://wimborne-modeltown.com) Tel 01202 881924

Across the road from the Minster.....262

Hardy's Monument, Portesham

