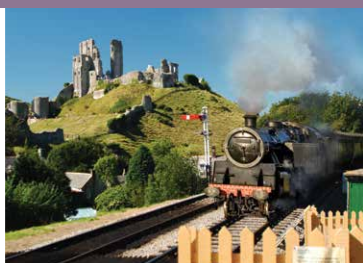




Days Out | Things To Do | Events | Map | 2023

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JURASSIC COAST | NATURAL BEAUTY | VIBRANT TOWNS | PICTURESQUE

Get ready to fill your days full of fun and adventure!

From the chalk downlands in the north to the rugged beauty of Purbeck in the south, natural harbours in the east to the fossil flecked World Heritage coastline in the west, you will never be short of something to do.

Dorset is a county of contrasts offering the very best of countryside, coastline, events, attractions and outstanding natural beauty.

This is the landscape that novelist Thomas Hardy used as a backdrop for his tales of love and tragedy, it's easy to imagine life as it was portrayed in his fictional Wessex hamlets. Each turning leads to a new adventure, a secret hiding place or an atmospheric, mellow-stoned village. Head to a peaceful nature reserve or climb one of Dorset's prominent Iron Age hill forts for breathtaking views. There are animals to meet and museums, castles, houses, parks and gardens to explore. Vibrant towns offer high street brands, independent shops, unique handcrafted gifts, art and antiques. Feed your appetite at some of the south west's finest restaurants, cosy pubs or tempting tearooms – you might even find one of the nation's top chefs in the kitchen!



Hardy's cottage



Bridport



Sherborne



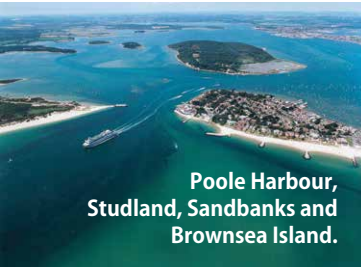
Dorchester,
Dorset's County
Town.



**Abbotsbury,
Chesil Beach and
the Fleet Lagoon.**



Isle of Portland



**Poole Harbour,
Studland, Sandbanks and
Brownsea Island.**



Weymouth



Bournemouth

VILLAGES | GOLDEN SANDS | STAR ATTRACTIONS

Miles of magnificent coastline make Dorset a natural attraction. Sandcastle building, crazy golf and buckets of traditional seaside fun spill along premier coastal resorts from Lyme Regis in the west to Christchurch in the east. Secluded coves invite you to explore rock pools and colourful harbours are perfect for young crabbers. Jet-skis, rib rides, sail boats, fishing boats, kayaks and watersports-of-all-sorts launch from all along the coast. And for divers and snorkellers, there are superb reef and drift dives with diverse marine life to discover. To find your perfect beach or water sport activity see www.visit-dorset.com

a foodies' haven ...

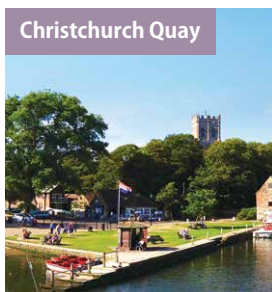
Indulge with an abundance of fresh local produce.



**Turn to the middle to
find a useful map to
help you plan a great
day out in Dorset ...**



Swanage



Christchurch Quay



Lyme Regis



Sturminster Mill



Moors Valley Country Park & Forest



Lulworth Castle



Bournemouth hosts the country's largest free Air Festival each year.



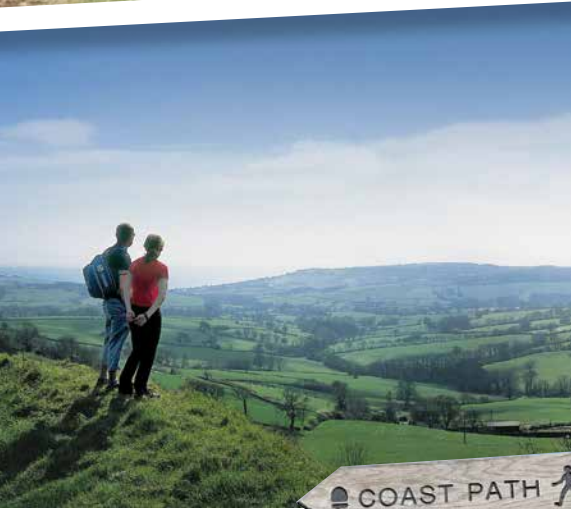
Athelhampton House and Gardens



Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



Sandsfoot Castle



COAST PATH

What's on ?

Festivals, fairs and fireworks, shows, regattas and carnivals, Dorset is buzzing with events all year round. Art centres and theatres across the county provide a full programme of shows, concerts and exhibitions. Below is just a taster of what's happening in 2023, you will find a full, regularly updated list online at www.visit-dorset.com.

APRIL

Easter Easter Egg hunts across Dorset
8 Abbotsbury Food Fair
9 Easter Bonnet Parade, Lyme Regis
21 - 23 Bournemouth Writing Festival
26 - 30 Bridport Film Festival
27 - 4 May Sherborne Abbey Music Festival
28 - 30 Teddy Rocks Festival, Blandford Forum

MAY

Mid May - end June Baby swans at Abbotsbury Swannery
6 Sherborne Summer Festival
12 - 14 Swanage Railway Heritage Diesel Gala
20 & 21 Christchurch Cheese & Chilli Festival
21 Lulworth Castle Motor Show
27 - 29 Christchurch Food Festival
27 - 11 Jun Purbeck Art Weeks
29 Sherborne Castle Country Fair

JUNE

1 - 3 Swanage Fairy Festival
2 - 4 Poole Seafood Festival
3 & 4 Wessex Folk Festival, Weymouth
9 - 11 Wimborne Folk Festival
10 & 11 Highcliffe Food & Arts Festival
11 - 24 Bridport Food Festival
16 - 17 DorsetFest, Blandford Forum
17 Harry Paye Day, Poole
17 Chesil Rocks, Weymouth
17 & 18 Swanage Fish Festival
17 - 19 Weymouth Armed Forces Celebrations
23 - 25 TankFest at the Tank Museum
24 Poole Folk on the Quay
24 & 25 Shake & Stir, Southbourne
25 - 2 Jul Beaminster Festival

JULY

1 & 2 Gold Hill Festival, Shaftesbury
7 & 8 Poole Sand Polo
7 - 9 Swanage Jazz Festival
9 Shaftesbury Food & Drink Festival
14 - 16 Jurassic Fields Music Festival, Bridport
14 - 16 Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival, Tolpuddle
16 Sherborne Classic & Supercars Show
21 - 23 Wilkswood Reggae Festival, Swanage
22 - 29 Lyme Regis RNLI Lifeboat Week
23 Wareham Carnival
27 - 30 Camp Bestival, Lulworth Castle
28 - 30 Poole Harbour Festival
29 & 30 Mudeford Arts Festival
29 & 30 Weymouth Food & Family Festival
29 - 5 Aug Swanage Regatta & Carnival

AUGUST

5 Stompin' On The Quomps, Christchurch
5 Dorset Food & Arts Festival, Poundbury
5 & 6 Great Dorset Chilli Festival, Sturminster Newton

AUGUST CONTINUED...

5 - 12 Lyme Regis Regatta & Carnival
10 - 14 We Out Here Festival, Wimborne St. Giles
11 - 20 Swanage Lifeboat Week
12 & 13 Christchurch Carnival
14 - 20 Bridport Carnival & Torchlight Procession
16 & 17 Gillingham & Shaftesbury Agricultural Show
17 - 20 Purbeck Valley Folk Festival
24 Melplash Show, West Bay
25 & 26 Corfe Castle Open Air Cinema
25 - 28 Lyme Regis Folk Weekend
26 & 27 The Oak Fair, Sturminster Newton
31 - 3 Sep Bournemouth Air Festival

SEPTEMBER

2 Bridport Hat Festival
2 & 3 Dorset County Show, Dorchester
2 - 9 Gillingham Walking Festival
7 - 10 B-Side Festival, Portland
8 - 10 Swanage Folk Festival
9 & 10 Bournemouth Film & Comic Con
9 & 10 Dorset Seafood Festival, Weymouth
9 & 10 Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival
15 - 24 Inside Out Dorset Festival
17 Weymouth Ironman 70.3
24 Wessex Heavy Horse Show, Gillingham
30 Shaftesbury Carnival

OCTOBER

1 - 7 Gillingham Carnival Week
5 - 8 Swanage Blues Festival
14 - 21 Dorchester Literary Festival
15 Weymouth Beach Motocross
20 - 4 Nov Purbeck Film Festival
21 - 23 Sherborne Castle Autumn Colours Weekend
23 - 31 Halloween events in Dorset

NOVEMBER

4 & 5 Bonfire and fireworks events in Dorset
5 - 11 Bridport Literary Festival
18 - 10 Dec Town Christmas lights switch on
24 - 22 Dec Illuminate at Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens
25 & 26 Dorset Food & Drink Christmas Fair, Athelhampton
26 Candles On St. Catherine's Hill, Abbotsbury
Mid Nov - early Jan Christmas Tree Wonderland, Bournemouth

DECEMBER

Across Dorset there are Christmas markets, carols by candlelight, ice skating, pantomimes and festive shopping events. Weymouth Harbour Swim takes place on Christmas Day.

The Great Outdoors

Dorset has miles of coastal and country walks to roam. Climb to the highest point on the South Coast – Golden Cap, where the views are breathtaking. Explore the stunning Jurassic Coastline on a 25 mile hike, part of the South West Coast Path, take a guided town trail, or, for something completely different, try trekking

with donkeys or llamas. Cycle routes take bikers into wooded vales, over windswept plains and through honey-hued villages en route to some of the UK's loveliest pubs.

Horse riders can enjoy an excellent choice of riding centres, stables and bridledways and golfers have superb courses on which to play a round.

You will find plenty of opportunities to fish both inland and off the coast.

For the family there's leisure centres, swimming pools, soft-play areas and sport activities such as archery, rock climbing, abseiling, paragliding and the heart-pumping, thrills of coasteering, quad biking, paintballing and dirt buggy riding.



Old Harry Rocks



Portland



North Dorset Trailway



FERTILE GROUND: The Cerne Abbas Giant has been attracting visitors for centuries.

Shire Hall Museum



Wimbome Model Town



Russell-Cotes



FOOD FESTIVALS: From cheese and chillies to seafood and organic gin, food festivals are very popular across Dorset.



Market days ...

Enjoy the hustle and bustle of market day. You will find one somewhere in the county each day of the week. Regular Farmers' Markets also offer fresh local produce directly from the producers. For details see: www.visit-dorset.com

For up to date information on everything to see and do in Dorset visit:

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