

DORCHESTER

Visitor Guide

shopping | history | attractions | eating | relaxing



Brewery Square



BREWERY SQUARE

A vibrant new quarter brings a Covent Garden feel to Dorset's County Town. Named after its roots, this is where Eldridge Pope brewed their famous ales from 1880 until the late 1990s. Today, Brewery Square is a popular shopping and leisure destination where modern restaurants, cafés, bars, brasseries and one of Dorchester's two cinemas provide entertainment. It's a great spot for busy parents to take a little time out as their children enjoy splashing in the fountains.



Poundbury



PRINCE CHARLES' POUNDBURY

A visit to Poundbury is like a visit to a living film-set. The mid-90s brainchild of Prince Charles has become a stylish, eco-friendly 'model' village quite unlike anywhere else. Its quintessential English charm has to be experienced to be believed. Grand imposing mansions mix with homely traditional cottages. Simply wander its interesting architecture where quirky and specialist shops invite and eateries tempt. Fresh local produce is also up for grabs at the farmers' market on the first Saturday of each month.

PARKING IN DORCHESTER

Dorchester has three Long Stay car parks and six Shoppers' car parks. All car parks are operated on a Pay and Display basis.

Disabled Badge Holders: Please refer to the disabled parking notices on display in each car park.

Larger Vehicles: Lorries, coaches, motorhomes, caravans, caravanettes, trailers etc can be accommodated at the Top O'Town car park in the commercial area/coach park.

For further information: Contact Parking Services on 01305 251010.

DORCHESTER TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE



- Advice on what to do, where to go and how to get there
- Booking agent for coach and ferry operators
- Ticket agent for local events and attractions
- Information on where to stay
- Maps and books

Open Monday to Saturday:

Mon 1000-1730 Tues 0930-1900 Wed 0930-1300
Thurs 0930-1730 Fri 0930-1900 Sat 0900-1600



Tourist Information Service of the Year, Dorset Tourism Awards 2014.

**Dorchester Library and Learning Centre, South Walks House,
Charles Street, Dorchester DT1 1EE t: 01305 267992 e: dtic@dorset.gov.uk**



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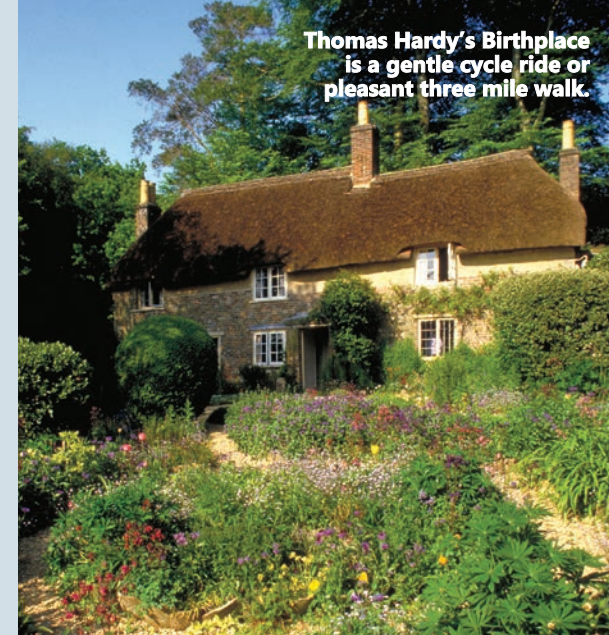


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If you are here just for the day or staying a little longer, you will find plenty to see and do in Dorset's County Town! Big name stores, chef-led restaurants, cafés, bars and bistros, museums, attractions, glorious gardens, river walks and a Roman Town House. This leaflet is packed full of information to help you explore. Read on and you will learn some of Dorchester's horrible histories and be introduced to the town's top attractions.

Call in at the Tourist Information Centre where friendly staff are keen to help you make the most of your visit. You can pick up leaflets, maps and guides including a 'Discover Dorchester' leaflet which contains four walks around the town's key sites.

much more online...
visit-dorset.com

Our website has everything you need to know about Dorchester, the rest of Dorset and the World Heritage Jurassic Coast.



Napper's Mite



MAIDEN CASTLE

Ancient Britain is evoked in all its mist-swathed, sword-happy glory at Maiden Castle, to the south of the town. This spectacular hill-fort dates back 6000 years and is the largest in Europe. Following the Roman invasion in AD 43, a new town of Durnovaria was established as a major garrison town and trading centre.

ROMAN ROOTS

The town's origins are evident at the **Roman Town House**, the finest example of its kind in Britain. Stroll the tree-lined Walks which define the boundaries of this old Roman town.

MAUMBURY RINGS

The mysterious 5000 year old Neolithic Henge has served important functions throughout all of its history. The Romans adapted it into an amphitheatre, Parliamentarians used it as a fort during the Civil War, and, during the 18th century it was the end of the line for those sent to the gallows.

THE HANGING JUDGE

In 1685, 'Bloody Assize' Judge Jeffreys notoriously hanged people and stuck their body parts around the town as a punishment to supporters of the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion. Whilst we are on this grisly subject, if you take a walk along the River Frome, you'll discover a charming thatched cottage whose name betrays its murky past - Hangman's Cottage. This privately owned home once belonged to the town's hangman - it is said that he kept his rope under the eaves.

SHIRE HALL DORSET

1834 saw the Tolpuddle Martyrs flex their industrial muscle and get deported for doing so. Following Heritage Lottery Funding, the site of their trial is to be transformed into a visitor attraction, Shire Hall Dorset, due to open to the public in 2018.

Hardy Country

This is the landscape that novelist Thomas Hardy used time and again as a backdrop for his tales of love and tragedy.

Dorchester is of course the 'Casterbridge' featured in his novels and you will find references to Hardy throughout the town.

You can visit his cottage birthplace at nearby Higher Bockhampton and Max Gate, his sophisticated Victorian town house on the eastern outskirts of the town. Both are run by the National Trust, please check their website for opening times or ask at the Tourist Information Centre. Hardy designed Max Gate himself and spent some 40 years of his life there before his death in 1928. Here he wrote poetry and his acclaimed novels 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles' and 'Jude the Obscure' and entertained the celebrities of the day - Virginia Woolf, Gustav Holst, HG Wells and Rudyard Kipling to name a few.



Hardy's study has been re-created at the Dorset County Museum in High West Street where the world's largest collection of his personal possessions is also on display.



The Keep



Dorchester Festival, Borough Gardens



Anonymous Festival

Attractions...

DORSET COUNTY MUSEUM

Meet Dorset's real dinosaurs as you uncover the past from Prehistoric to Roman times and explore the lives and works of Dorset's literary greats. This unique building on High West Street has a splendid Victorian Hall, colourful mosaics, and permanent exhibitions on Dorset Wildlife and Farming History. The Jurassic Coast Gallery celebrates the outstanding geological heritage of the Jurassic Coast, England's first natural UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here you'll find the giant jaws of the Weymouth Bay Pliosaur, uncovered after a landslide.



Pliosaur at Dorset County Museum



THE DINOSAUR MUSEUM

Ideal for children, life-sized reconstructions of dinosaurs, fossils and skeletons create an exciting hands-on experience. Multimedia displays tell the story of the giant prehistoric animals and their enthralling world millions of years ago.

TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBITION

Walk through a tomb filled with fabulous treasures – where sight, sound and smell combine to recreate one of the world's greatest discoveries. Marvel at Tutankhamun's famous funerary mask and the golden throne, replicated in exact detail.

TERRACOTTA WARRIORS MUSEUM

The Terracotta Warriors Museum is exclusively devoted to the 8th Wonder of the Ancient World. See unique museum replicas of the terracotta warriors from China, reconstructions of costumes and armour and learn their story through multimedia presentations.

THE TEDDY BEAR MUSEUM

Set in the 'house' of Edward Bear – a human sized teddy bear, come and meet a delightful collection of bears. From some real old chaps right up until today's TV favourites including Rupert Bear, Winnie the Pooh and Paddington.

THE KEEP MILITARY MUSEUM

Towering over the top of the town, The Keep is one of Dorchester's most impressive buildings. Occupying the former gateway to the Dorset Regiment Barracks and built in 1879 it has been transformed into a state-of-the-art military museum, telling the 300 year history of the Devon and Dorset Regiments. Climb to the top for superb rooftop views.

DORCHESTER SPORTS CENTRE

Fun, fitness and swimming for all! If you want to get active, you can enjoy a 50 station fitness studio, dance studio with group exercise classes, 3G sports pitch, fantastic new sports hall, a 25 metre swimming pool and small pool.



GARDENS, PARKS AND RIVER WALKS

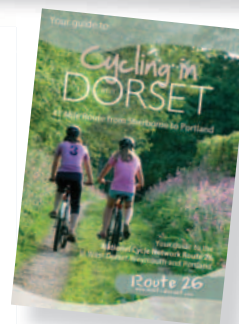
The Borough Gardens and Salisbury Fields are only a short walk away and offer play parks and plenty of open space for the children to enjoy. During the summer months the bandstand in Borough Gardens provides the music whilst children splash happily in the water feature play park. For some perfect peace, just two minutes from the town centre, take the River Walk along the River Frome and enjoy the lovely views across the water meadows.



Hangman's Cottage

ON YOUR BIKE

The National Cycle Network Route 2 and 26 go through Dorchester and are available free from the Tourist Information Centre.



Points of Interest

- 1 Dorchester Arts
- 2 Roman Town House
- 3 Thomas Hardy Statue
- 4 Shire Hall Dorset
- 5 Dorset County Museum
- 6 William Barnes Statue
- 7 Max Gate
- 8 Elisabeth Frink Statues
- 9 Terracotta Warriors Exhibition / Dorset Teddy Bear Museum
- 10 Dinosaur Museum
- 11 Citizens Advice Bureau
- 12 Town Pump / Cornhill
- 13 Cinema, Trinity Street
- 14 Cinema, Brewery Square
- 15 Tutankhamun Exhibition
- 16 Maumbury Rings
- 17 Borough Gardens / Children's Play Area
- 18 Keep Military Museum

What's On?

Dorchester buzzes with events all year round. One of the highlights is the Dorset County Show during the first weekend in September. Catch the latest blockbuster at one of Dorchester's two cinemas; the Dorchester Plaza, an 'art deco' picture house with four screens or the multiplex Odeon. Dorchester Arts offer a year round programme of events including music, theatre, comedy, dance and workshops. Summer festivals in the Borough Gardens and Maumbury Rings are always fun and the 'Dorchester Christmas Cracker' is sure to get you into the festive spirit in December.

A full list of events is available on www.visit-dorset.com

DELICIOUS DESTINATION

Dorchester is the ideal place for tasty treats with everything from cream teas and local delis to international cuisine and well known restaurant brands all within walking distance.

Local wine, ciders and ales, fish from the coast, meat from the hills. Dorset Blue Vinny Cheese, artisan breads or just a slice of Dorset Apple Cake - you are in foodie heaven here! Pack some local fare and enjoy a picnic in the fresh air at one of Dorchester's green spaces.



MARKET DAYS

Wednesday is Market Day so come and enjoy the lively atmosphere, pick up some fresh local produce, clothes, plants, flowers, antiques, collectibles and gifts.

The farmers' market is held on the first Saturday of the month at Poundbury and the fourth Saturday of the month in South Street.

Dorset County Show



www.visit-dorset.com #visitdorset



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Brewery Square



River Walk



Skate Park