



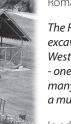
Welcome to Dorchester

The vibrant town of Dorchester has much to offer its visitor. It is the county town of Dorset and with its rich historical connections it makes for a fantastic stay or day out.

History & Heritage

Originally sited on the spectacular hill fort of Maiden Castle, the largest and most complex Iron Age hill fort to be visited in Britain, the town was developed in its current location by the Romans in AD43. The town, now on the banks of the River Frome, rapidly grew to be Durnovaria, one of the most

important towns in Roman Britain England.



The Roman Town House excavated in the North West corner of the town - one of Dorchester's many hidden gems and a must-see.

In addition to its Roman influence, Dorchester

was the setting for some very dramatic events – Judge Jeffreys"Bloody Assize' took place here in 1685 and the Tolpuddle Martyrs were tried in the Old Crown Court in 1834. A rich and fascinating collection of exhibitions and artefacts from Dorchester's past can be seen at the Dorset County Museum...

Other must see ideas....

- Maumbury Rings. It has a long and varied past.
 Originally a Neolithic henge monument, then a Roman amphitheatre and later being used for public executions.
- Town Trails Leaflet. A free publication with a choice of four easy to follow fascinating walks.

Thomas Hardy

Dorchester is world famous for its strong connection with the writer and poet
Thomas Hardy. As well as being the setting for 'The Mayor of Casterbridge', Dorchester was where Hardy lived for most of his later life and is where he wrote some of his most famous novels including the 'Mayor of Casterbridge', 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles' and 'Jude the Obscure'. As you stroll along the streets you can see many of the places that inspired and appeared in his novels.

Other must see ideas....

- Hardy Statue. Unveiled in 1931by his friend James Barrie, author of Peter Pan.
- Max Gate. Designed by himself in 1885. Now a National Trust Property open Wednesdays - Sundays.

Shopping & Eating Out

Today, Dorchester is a thriving town especially on a Wednesday when the weekly market brings with it a lively atmosphere. There are many places to shop including a great collection of gift stores and independent retailers as well as some high street favourites. Dorchester has a wide selection of delicious eateries. The new and expanding Brewery Square development offers an exciting choice of restaurants and shops.



Other attractions

The town is blessed with many varied museums catering for all tastes. The Dorset County Museum offers something for all ages and runs a wide range of events and exhibitions throughout the year. There is also a Tutankhamen, Dinosaur, Terracotta Warriors, Teddy Bear and Keep Military museum. It also has a variety of play parks, a swimming pool and a choice of two cinemas for those rainy days.

Other must see ideas....

- The award winning Borough Gardens complete with its Victorian clock, bandstand and fountain.
- The River Frome running through the town.

Notes			