



### PLENTY TO SEE BESIDE THE SEA

Stroll along Marine Parade to Cobb harbour a great spot to sit and watch the boats come and go. On clear days you will be rewarded with spectacular views right around the coast to the famous Chesil Beach and as far as Portland. The beach here is perfect for sandcastle building and the calm waters ideal for bathing, splashing and paddling. The terraced, Langmoor and Lister Gardens provide stunning views of the beach and coastline. Here you can enjoy a peaceful woodland walk, crazy golf, putting and table tennis.

### FUN ON THE WATER

Cast a line on a mackerel fishing trip, take a gentle boat cruise, hire a kayak or paddle board or really get the heart pumping with an exhilarating rib ride.



### STAR ATTRACTIONS

Meet the Lyme Bay Ichthyosaur at the family orientated Lyme Regis Museum, live sea creatures at Marine Aquarium and view over 12,000 fossils at Dinosaurland. Wander the artisan quarter of Town Mill complete with a fully restored watermill, galleries, crafts folk, a café, microbrewery and deli. On the outskirts of Lyme is a cliff top golf course and driving range. Within just a few miles is Seaton Jurassic, the Seaton Tramway and Pecorama's Miniature Beer Heights Light Railway, beautiful gardens and indoor and outdoor play areas.

### WHERE TO PARK

The best place to park is Charmouth Road, Holmbush and Hill Road car parks on the edge of Lyme Regis. All West Dorset District Council, Lyme Regis Town Council and NCP car parks operate 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 Holmbush car park and Charmouth Road car park. For more information visit [www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk) or [www.travelinesw.com](http://www.travelinesw.com)



### LYME REGIS TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

- Advice on what to do, where to go and how to get there
- Details of fossil walks and tidal safety advice
- Ticket agent for local events and attractions and theatres
- Local accommodation booking service
- Maps, books, parking permits, gifts and souvenirs

**CHURCH STREET, LYME REGIS, DT7 3BS**  
t: 01297 442138 e: [LTIC@dorset.gov.uk](mailto:LTIC@dorset.gov.uk) [www.visit-dorset.com](http://www.visit-dorset.com)



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Produced in partnership with Lyme Regis Town Council.

Design and Artwork: email: [annie@creative-studios.com](mailto:annie@creative-studios.com)

Photography: [www.simonemmettphotography.com](http://www.simonemmettphotography.com). Roy Shepherd [www.discoveringfossils.co.uk](http://www.discoveringfossils.co.uk). Dinosaurland. [creative-studios.com](http://creative-studios.com). Toad Hall Cottages. [www.lymebayribcharter.co.uk](http://www.lymebayribcharter.co.uk). Mark Simons. Ginger Beer shop. Lyme Regis Museum. Lyme Regis Town Council. [www.lymeregismackerelfishing.com](http://www.lymeregismackerelfishing.com). Marine Aquarium.



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# LYME REGIS Visitor Guide

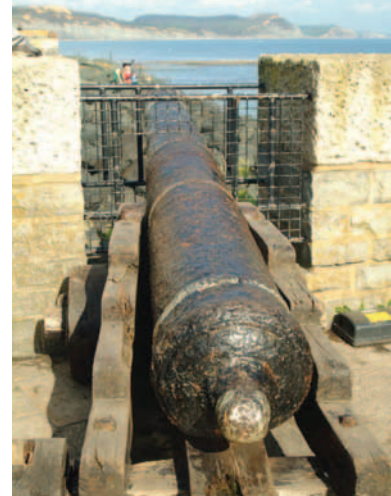
What to SEE · What to DO · Town TRAIL and MAP







Entertainment all year round at the Marine Theatre



Town Mill



Marine Parade

## Town trail ...

Follow the town trail to find out more about Lyme Regis.

The trail starts and ends at the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) on Church Street. The numbers displayed relate to the position of each point of interest on the map.

**1 THE MARINE THEATRE** was originally built as a 'Bath House' in 1804. The two baths, one for ladies and one for gents were filled with seawater and heated by two large boilers. The baths may still be under the main floor of the Theatre, but the old Pump House is now a dressing room.

It became the Theatre in around 1936. Today it hosts year round events, ask at the TIC for details.



The Guildhall

**2 THE THEATRE SQUARE** outside the Theatre, provides wonderful views during performance intervals. It also forms part of an award-winning sewage and coast protection scheme constructed during 1993 and 1994.

**3 GUN CLIFF** is where the town's guns were once installed. Old accounts list many repairs to the Guildhall windows, which were damaged by the shock waves when the guns were fired for practice. In 1690 a French galley approached Lyme after having 'overrun, sacked and burnt Teignmouth on Aug 5th'. A cannon on the Gun Cliff was fired and the shot fell near the galley, which made off without a fight. The French galleys had 50-60 huge oars, rowed by criminals and slaves. The boats usually carried 336 oarsmen and 150 officers and crew.

**4 THE GUILDHALL** has stood here since the 16th century. The area by the entrance to the Guildhall was known as Cockmoile Square and was the site of the town stocks. The last man to be put in the stocks was Tommy Pearce who was sentenced in 1836 for drunkenness.

**5 LYME REGIS MUSEUM**

The award-winning Lyme Regis Museum was purpose built in 1901 and first opened to the public in 1921. Here you can uncover all the town's stories including that of Mary Anning. Mary was the greatest fossil hunter ever known and her discoveries, including the first complete Ichthyosaur, were some of the most significant geological finds of all time. Find out more at the museum it is well worth a special visit. Fossil hunting walks are available all year.

**6 THE PILOT BOAT INN** On January 1st 1915, the battleship 'Formidable,' with a crew of 750 men, was torpedoed in Lyme Bay in terrible weather. Two lifeboats were launched, but only one made it to the shore after a small crowd on the beach used ropes to bring it in. Forty-eight exhausted survivors were taken to the Pilot Boat Inn. The dog 'Lassie', belonging to the landlord of the Pilot Boat, revived someone put aside as dead, by licking his face.

**7 THE COBB GATE** was the location of warehouses during Lyme's important trading times. Horses were used to take bales of supplies and goods to the ships. The horses apparently knew the route so well they could do it unguided.

**8 MARINE PARADE**

The wall along the parade was rebuilt in 1903 to hold back earth movement from the gardens above. During summer evenings you can enjoy weekly performances in 'The Shelters' by the Lyme Regis Town Band. The Jane Austen Garden, above the Parade, commemorates the author

who lodged in the town in 1803-04 and used the Cobb, town and surrounding countryside as part of the setting for her novel Persuasion, written in 1815-16.



Filming Jane Austen's 'Persuasion'



The Cobb

**9 THE COBB** is the town's artificial harbour first mentioned in 1294. It was originally completely detached from the land and was joined in 1756. The Cobb was badly damaged by storms

and was rebuilt in local Portland stone in the 1820's. A plaque on the Cobb wall provides details of this work.

In 1588 several ships sailed from the Cobb to meet the Spanish Armada.

The steps leading to the upper part of the Cobb, made from protruding stones, are known locally as 'Granny's Teeth'. The Cobb also featured in the film adaptation of The French Lieutenant's Woman, which starred Meryl Streep and Jeremy Irons. The novel was written by local author, the late John Fowles, and filmed in the town in 1980.

**Admiral Sir George Somers**

Born in Lyme in 1554. He became Mayor of Lyme and in 1609 discovered Bermuda, after he set sail for Jamestown, Virginia, got caught in a hurricane and became shipwrecked on the Island. Somers eventually reached Virginia. He set off to return to England and called in again at Bermuda where he died in 1610. His heart was buried on the island, but his body, pickled in rum, was brought back to England and buried in Whitchurch Canonorum. Bermuda had really been discovered a hundred years earlier by Spaniard Señor Juan Bermondez who named the island after himself. Despite this, the towns of Lyme Regis and St George's, Bermuda were officially twinned in 1996. Whilst at the end of the Cobb take time to visit the Marine Aquarium which includes an exhibition on the Cobb's history.

**10 MONMOUTH BEACH**

James, Duke of Monmouth landed at Lyme Regis in 1685 to begin his rebellion against King James I. The attempt to overthrow the King and claim the crown for himself was ill fated. He was captured and twelve of his local supporters were executed on the beach, under the orders of Judge Jeffreys.

**11 LANGMOOR AND LISTER GARDENS**

offer mini golf, table tennis, a putting green and a quiet haven in which to relax. Joseph Lister is famed for discovering the use of antiseptics.

**12 BROAD STREET**

As well as lovely shops, there are a number of interesting houses in this street. Look out for the blue plaques that will tell you more.

**ROYAL LION** From a window of this Inn, James Whistler saw Rose Rendall, the subject of his painting, 'The Little Rose of Lyme'. Rose was the daughter of a grocer who had a shop in the street. It is said that she ran away when Whistler said he wanted to paint her because she thought he meant literally to do just that.

**13 SHERBORNE LANE**

This is one of the oldest lanes in Lyme Regis and has several attractive cottages. It is very steep and narrow.



**Key to Map** (not to scale)

- Tourist Information Centre
- Car Park
- Toilet
- Coach Park
- Church
- Footpaths

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Map not to scale

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## Other walks in Lyme Regis



**THE RIVERSIDE WALK**

The River Lim meanders through the town before it gently cascades into the sea. Follow the route of the river for a pleasant walk towards Uplyme on the East Devon Way.

**FOSSIL HUNTS**

If you want to hunt for fossils, join a guided fossil hunt or rock pool ramble with an expert from the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, the Lyme Regis Museum and other local experts. Details are available from the TIC.

**GUIDED WALKING TOURS**

For a more detailed exploration of Lyme Regis visit the TIC for details of guided walking tours.



Dinosaurland

Unique gifts inspired by the Jurassic Coast



## Where to stay

If you are looking for somewhere to stay in or around Lyme Regis, why not take advantage of the accommodation booking service offered by the Tourist Information Centre? Alternatively, visit our website [www.visit-dorset.com](http://www.visit-dorset.com)



Marine Aquarium



Potter, Town Mill







# Welcome !



Lyme Regis Museum



Towards Golden Cap

Lyme Regis is a beautiful seaside town, set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, on the border where Dorset meets Devon. Quaint, narrow tangled streets that host individual shops, tempting eateries and galleries lead their way down to the famous 13th Century Cobb harbour and family friendly beach. Lyme Regis offers plenty to see and do. Take time to discover the town's fascinating history, uncover the lost world of the Jurassic Coast and

enjoy the many simple pleasures of being beside the seaside. The best place to start is the Tourist Information Centre where you'll find friendly staff ready to help you make the most of your visit (see back cover).

**much more online ...**  
[visit-dorset.com](http://visit-dorset.com)

## LYME'S JURASSIC COAST

Lyme Regis forms part of a 95 mile stretch of coastline awarded World Heritage Site status by UNESCO for its outstanding geology. It is ranked alongside the Grand Canyon and Great Barrier Reef as one of the natural wonders of the world. 185 million years of earth history is represented along the coast, providing a fascinating journey through time. The loose material on the beaches around Lyme Regis and Charmouth are the very best place to find fossils especially after rough weather.

Always check the tide times and the Fossil Collecting Code of Conduct before setting out and please do not climb or dig into the cliffs. Better still, join a guided fossil hunt walk from the Lyme Regis Museum or nearby Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. To explore more of the Jurassic Coastline, a Jurassic Coast bus runs regularly between Axminster and Weymouth allowing you to hop on and off along the way including stops at Abbotsbury, West Bay, Charmouth and Lyme Regis.

## DELICIOUS DESTINATION

Dorset is a haven for foodies and Lyme Regis tempts with all things deliciously divine. Cosy tea shops, chic bistros and eateries so close to the sea you almost get your toes wet! Menus chalk up their catch of the day and tasty takeaways offer the simple pleasure of supper on the beach.

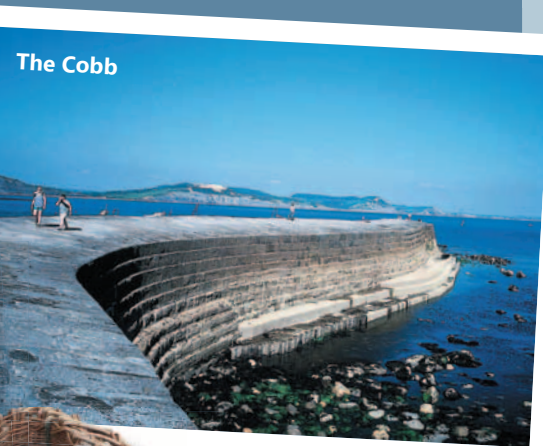
## WHAT'S ON ?

With a full calendar of events there is always something going on. There is a Fossil Festival in May, the RNLI Lifeboat Week in July, Regatta and Carnival Week in August, ArtsFest in September and annual Jazz and Folk Festivals. Lyme Regis is rightly proud of its cultural hub of arts activity. Art galleries and working craft shops proudly display quality works from local and national artists. The Marine Theatre hosts shows and musical productions throughout the year.

**for a full events list see**  
[visit-dorset.com](http://visit-dorset.com)

## GETTING ABOUT

For walkers, the immediate coastline around Lyme Regis is dramatic and beautiful with many rambling paths, including the South West Coast Path. To the west is the Undercliff Nature Reserve and to the east is Golden Cap, the highest point on the south coast. The National Cycle Network Route 2 is a 30 mile cycle route from Lyme Regis to Dorchester. It passes through the most rural parts of West Dorset and is a great way to get about. The West Dorset Pedal, a pack of five shorter cycle rides, uncovers West Dorset's finest food and arts. The closest railway station is Axminster, which is served by regular buses to and from Lyme Regis. A regular bus service also runs to Dorchester, Dorset's historic county town. Call in at the Tourist Information Centre for details.



The Cobb



Gone Fossiling

**open for town trail**

