

# SHERBORNE

## Visitor Guide



SHOPPING | EATING OUT | HISTORY | TOWN TRAIL



MAGNIFICENT ABBEY | TWO CASTLES | SPECIALIST SHOPS | QUALITY EATING

Welcome to Sherborne, a picturesque, mellow-stoned town surrounded by green valleys and wooded hills. With a wealth of history, an abundance of fine art, antiques, individually-owned shops and an array of quality eateries, Sherborne provides a captivating visit. There is so much to enjoy here. Whether you are visiting for the day or a little longer, check out [www.visitsherborne.co.uk](http://www.visitsherborne.co.uk) or pop into the Abbey which, in addition to hosting many musical events, is a **Visitor Information Point** and holds a full range of information leaflets to help you make the most of your visit, listing local attractions and what's on.

### FASCINATING HISTORY

Follow the town trail inside this leaflet to discover a Sherborne very much shaped and influenced by its past. There is much to explore including the town's impressive Abbey Church, two castles (one built by Sir Walter Raleigh), picturesque mediaeval buildings, an intriguing 15th century almshouse and world renowned schools. The town trail will help to guide you around Sherborne's star attractions and unravel its fascinating history. If you want to uncover more about the Sherborne of times gone by, a visit to Sherborne Town Museum is a must.



*Far From the Madding Crowd*  
Hollywood's 2015 adaptation of Hardy's classic novel was partly filmed in Sherborne along with *The Imitation Game* and the BBC's historical TV drama *Wolf Hall*.



### Key to Map Symbols

- Car Park
- 2 Electric Fast Charging Points
- Toilet
- Coach Park
- Church
- Footpaths (access by paid entry to Castles)
- Almshouse
- The Abbey Church
- Sherborne Museum
- The Bow Arch
- Conduit
- Cheap Street
- The Julian
- The George
- The Green
- The Manor House
- Paddock Garden
- Sherborne School
- Cheap Street Church
- Church House
- Pageant Gardens
- Sherborne Old Castle
- Sherborne New Castle
- Sherborne Steam and Waterwheel Centre



## Town trail ...

This trail will guide you around the main sites in Sherborne. The numbers in red circles relate to their position on the map. More information about the town, Abbey and Castles is available at [www.visitsherborne.co.uk](http://www.visitsherborne.co.uk). For those who wish to learn more about Sherborne's past, a visit to the Museum is a must. You can join and leave this trail anywhere along its path around Sherborne.

Following points 1 to 16 on the Trail route will take about an hour to walk without stops and is 1.5 miles in length. If you have more time, continue on to points 16 (Sherborne Old Castle) and 17 (Sherborne Castle and Gardens) - be sure to check opening times and prices in advance.

Start outside the Almshouse of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist on Trendle Street 1. It was built in 1437-38 to house 17 poor men and women. The residents received full board, lodging and clothing, in return for surrendering their possessions on entry and agreeing to abide by the administrative and religious rules of the house. The Almshouse continues to care for the elderly today and is open to the public in the summer months.

Walk up to the Abbey Church. The Abbey Church 2 is mainly 15th century and has the heaviest peal of 8 bells in the world. The most beautiful feature is the stone, fan-vaulted ceiling, definitely worth a closer look. The Great West Window was replaced and dedicated in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen in 1998. Detailed information about the Abbey is available inside.

The Digby Memorial standing in front of the Abbey was erected in 1884 to commemorate the life of George Wingfield Digby, a benefactor of the Victorian restoration of the Abbey.



Facing the Abbey, walk to the far right of the building and spot the 18th century sundial. Continue past the sundial, enter Church Lane and walk towards the Bow Arch. On your right you will find the Sherborne Museum 3 which presents the town's history, as far back as Roman times. Its exhibitions are always changing and it is well worth a visit, and entrance is FREE. Here you will find the model of Sherborne Old Castle before it was besieged and a digital version of the Sherborne Missal on loan from the British Library.

The Bow Arch 4 is 15th century and provides a gateway between commercial Sherborne and the Abbey precincts. It is believed that 12 Monmouth rebels from the local area were hanged here in 1685.

Walk beneath the Bow Arch and onto the Parade, where the regular markets are held.

Directly in front of you is the Conduit 5. This was the monk's lavatorium or washhouse originally sited within the cloisters c.1512. It was moved here after 1539 following the dissolution of the monastery. It has since been used as a water supply, a police station, a bank and a reading room.

Turn left, and head up Cheap Street 6. On your right opposite the Conduit, is the Abbey Pharmacy, a beautifully restored building dating from 1790. Number 73, a little further along, is 18/19th century and has a beautiful plaster ceiling depicting the Four Seasons, which you may be able to view. Further along on your left, a 16th century, half-timbered house called Abbeylands, can be seen.

Opposite is Swan Yard, a small walk-through shopping complex converted from stables.

As you reach the top of Cheap Street, you will see The Julian 7, beside a half timbered building, on your right. The Julian itself was also originally half timbered and was the early 16th century hospice of St. Julian of Norwich.

Next door to the Julian is The George 8. The George was built on the site of an earlier inn, and is 16th century. It is Sherborne's oldest surviving inn. Note the Tudor archway alongside.

Bearing left at the top of Cheap Street you will find The Green 9 on your left. This was built for a wealthy clothier and is the best preserved 17th century merchant's house in Sherborne.

Return back to the Julian. Facing back down

Cheap Street, take the next left turn into Newland. On your left you will see The Manor House 10. This is a much altered 15/16th century building. The most important point of interest is the late mediaeval oriel window. This building is now owned by Sherborne Town Council.

Continue along Newland. On the right hand side you will find Paddock Garden 11, a walled refuge and great spot to sit and relax.

Turn around and retrace your steps, back through Cheap Street. About halfway down, turn right and follow the road to see the great court of Sherborne School 12. (Private grounds.) This is one of the great public schools of England. It was re-founded in 1550 by King Edward VI and incorporates some of the monastic buildings. 650 boys attend the school today compared with only 40 in 1850. Several major films including *The Guinea Pig* (1948), *Goodbye Mr Chips* (1969), and *The Browning Version* (1994) were filmed here, and more recently *The Imitation Game* and the BBC's historical TV drama *Wolf Hall*.

Return to Cheap Street. Further down, on your right, tucked away behind the main shopping street you will glimpse Cheap Street Church 13 - worth a peek inside.

Continue down Cheap Street past the Conduit and follow the road into Half Moon Street. On your right is Church House Gallery built in 1532 as a Church House 14, with a row of shops below and one long room, the Parish Hall (with its identical windows), on the first floor. The Queen's Majesties' players performed here in 1587, to an audience which perhaps included Sir Walter and Lady Raleigh.

Cross the road and turn right into South Street. After about 200 metres you will reach the Pageant Gardens 15, on your right. The Gardens were funded by the great pageant of 1905 which was held to celebrate the 1200th anniversary of the founding of the town by St. Aldhelm, Sherborne's first Bishop.

Leave the gardens on the far side, turn to the right and walk along Digby Road to return to Trendle Street.

If you have more time, you might like to visit Sherborne's two castles 16 & 17. Sherborne Museum and Sherborne Steam and Waterwheel Centre 16, or visit [www.visitsherborne.co.uk](http://www.visitsherborne.co.uk) to find out about guided walking tours of the town.



### SHERBORNE OLD CASTLE 16

Now managed by English Heritage, the old castle was built in the early 12th century by Bishop Roger of Salisbury. It was acquired by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1592, but he was unable to convert it into a comfortable home and so he built Sherborne Lodge, now the New Castle, instead. The Old Castle was twice besieged in the 17th century during the Civil War and after the second siege in 1645, when the buildings were badly damaged, Parliament ordered that it be destroyed. The remains are very impressive and a model of the castle in its original state can be seen at Sherborne Museum.



### SHERBORNE NEW CASTLE 17

This was built on the site of a former hunting lodge which Sir Walter Raleigh started to convert about 1594. The Digby family became owners of the castle in 1617 and it has remained with the family ever since. You can discover all its fascinating history and see its fine collection of pictures, porcelain and furniture. The castle grounds and lake were designed by the famous 'Capability' Brown.

Allow plenty of time to visit Sherborne's two castles and please check the opening times before you set out. [www.visitsherborne.co.uk](http://www.visitsherborne.co.uk).

**P** Sherborne has a selection of long and short stay Pay and Display car parks. Larger vehicles can be accommodated in the commercial area of Culverhayes Car Park.

**EP** **Electric Charging Points:** there are currently two car parks in Sherborne with two fast charging points, Higher Newland car park off Coldharbour (A30), and Old Market car park off Hound Street. An additional super fast Electric Charging point will be arriving in Old Market in August 2022.

**Disabled Badge Holders:** entitled to up to one additional hour free provided at least the minimum charge has been paid. Permits for free disabled parking can be applied for at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking). If you require any further information, please contact our parking team on 01305 838236 / [parking@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parking@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).



### OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

Please check the websites for relevant opening times.

Sherborne Steam & Waterwheel Centre

[www.sswc.co.uk](http://www.sswc.co.uk)

Minterne Gardens

[www.minterne.co.uk](http://www.minterne.co.uk)

Haynes Motor Museum

[www.haynesmotormuseum.com](http://www.haynesmotormuseum.com)

Cerne Abbas Giant

### DOG FRIENDLY AREAS

Purlieu Meadow: just over the railway track near Sainsburys (off Gas House Hill)

The Terrace playing fields: up Dancing Hill A352 on the left half way up.

The Quarr Nature Reserve: off Bristol Road heading towards Wincanton

### PICNIC AREAS

Terrace playing field/Jubilee copse

Pageant Gardens

Paddock Garden

### VISITOR INFORMATION POINTS

Look out for **Visitor information point** sticker on shop windows. They indicate where you can find our free visitors' guides.

The Abbey

The Library next to Digby Hall, Hound Street

Sherborne Museum

The Corner shop on Halfmoon street/ Westbury

Telephone kiosk on Halfmoon Street



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