

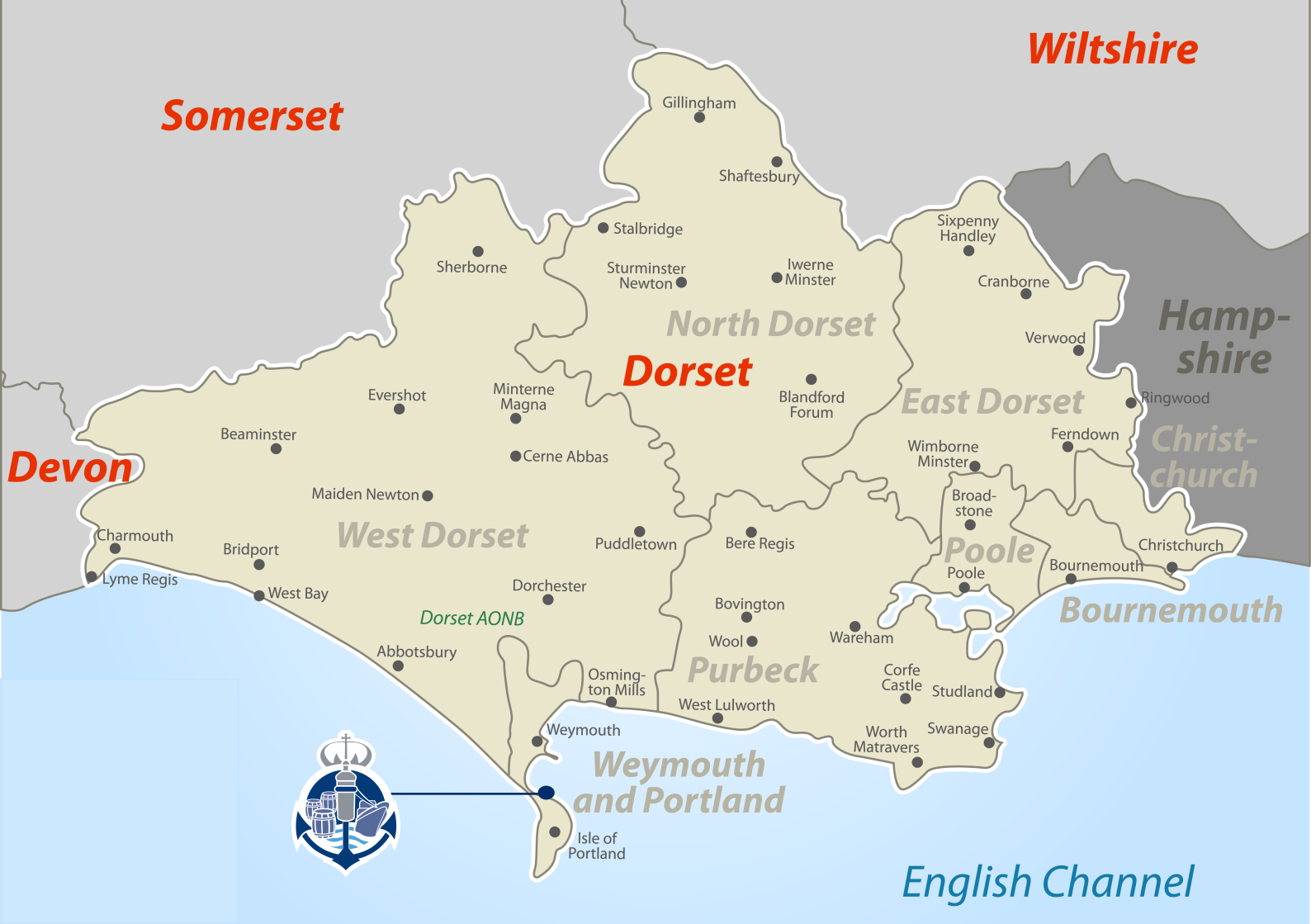


PORTLAND PORT

A Taste of England



March 2023



Welcome to Portland Port UK

“Welcome to Portland, a destination full of history and intrigue, located at the heart of the breathtaking Jurassic Coast.

Cruise guests visiting the port are treated to a whole host of exciting excursion options, including the bucket list, UNESCO World Heritage site, Stonehenge. In addition to this, passengers can experience the Roman City of Bath, Salisbury Cathedral, whimsical tales of Minterne House or the one of a kind, Abbotsbury Swannery.

As an award-winning destination, we pride ourselves on the warmth of our welcome as well as the variety of excursion options.”

Ian McQuade-
General Manager (Commercial)



Why Portland Port?



Portland Port lies in the sweep of Weymouth Bay, at the centre of the UNESCO World Heritage Jurassic Coast, an area renowned for its natural beauty and historical heritage. Local attractions include two other UNESCO World Heritage sites; Stonehenge and the City of Bath as well as numerous stately homes, castles, gardens, historic towns and so much more.

A visit to Portland Port allows easy access to quintessential England; the rolling green hills, narrow country lanes, picture postcard villages and long centuries of history. There is also traditional fish and chips in abundance, Michelin star restaurants, real ales, fine wines, award winning beaches and stunning cliff top walks. Portland Harbour has a wealth of history itself having played a significant role from the time of King Henry VIII, in preparations for the D-Day landings, up to hosting the sailing events for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Cruise Growth



Portland Port has witnessed remarkable growth over recent years. It was once a relatively unknown destination in the cruise industry, however, since 2007 it has quickly developed an enviable reputation as the most popular cruise port in the South West of England.

In September 2022, the port announced its biggest investment and development project to date; £26 million to build a new quay and extend the port's main berth, Outer Coaling Pier (OCP). The finished project will significantly enhance the port's capabilities by providing two adjacent berths, both capable of handling larger cargo vessels and cruise ships up to 350m in length.

An aerial photograph of Weymouth, Dorset, showing the town's buildings, the harbor, and the sea. In the top left corner, there is a circular inset showing a blue shuttle bus with its doors open. The main title is overlaid on the top right of the image.

Complimentary Shuttle Bus Service to Portland Castle & Weymouth

Portland Port operates a complimentary shuttle bus service, taking passengers directly from the ship to Portland Castle and Weymouth's Old Harbour.

The town has a three mile, award winning beach which can deliver the 'Summer Holiday' experience for those looking to sunbathe or take a dip in the sea.

The Nothe Fort has centuries of fascinating history locked away within its walls and hidden in its dungeons. Weymouth's Old Harbour has a range of artisan shops, eateries and pubs to choose from with plenty of places to sit, relax and watch the world and fishing boats go by.

For those wanting a little retail therapy, Weymouth town centre has a wide range of shops, catering for all tastes.



Exploring Portland



The Isle and Royal Manor of Portland is an explorers paradise. Warmed by the Gulf Stream and connected to the mainland at Abbotsbury by the wondrous Chesil Beach which runs 29 kilometres north to West Bay, Dorset.

Portland really does have it all; quiet coves, disused quarries, a rich and fascinating history with some of the best views in Britain as well as being a haven for wildlife.

The Isle of Portland is right on the port's doorstep, with a great selection of places to visit, there has never been a better time to visit this beautifully rugged destination.

UNESCO World Heritage Site - Jurassic Coast



JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 45 minutes

The Jurassic Coast World Heritage site stretches for 150 kilometres, from Orcombe Point in East Devon, right the way through Dorset to Old Harry Rocks near Swanage. This breathtaking stretch of coastline encompasses rocks and formations that have witnessed 185 million years of the earth's history.

With sweeping beaches, dramatic cliffs, blustery headlands and sheltered coves, the Jurassic Coast has many activities on offer from fossil hunting and a wide range of aquatic sports to more sedate activities such as visiting museums, walking and enjoying local food and drink in beautiful surrounds.



UNESCO World Heritage Site - Stonehenge



JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 1 hour 35 minutes

Stonehenge is one of the most iconic landmarks in the world and stands in the same condition today, as it did 3,500 years ago. Millions of people visit Stonehenge every year and many see it as a 'must-see' landmark.

Whilst there are no written explanations as to why Stonehenge was built, there are plenty of theories, from human sacrifice rituals to astronomical purposes.



UNESCO World Heritage Site - Roman City of Bath

JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 2 hours

Bath is a City of culture, home to some amazing Georgian architecture and Britain's only natural thermal spa, the world famous, Roman Baths. The City itself has been standing since the time of the Roman Empire so it is no surprise that it is the only city in the UK to be granted World Heritage status as a whole.

The fascinating history of Bath can be explored through the countless museums and wonderful buildings which are present throughout the City. To make the most of Bath, it is recommended that passengers allow a whole day for the trip.



Local Attractions - RSPB Weymouth Wetlands & Nature Reserves

JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 15 minutes to Radipole Lake and 20 minutes to Lodmoor

Weymouth Wetlands includes two nature reserves managed by the RSPB in Weymouth; Radipole Lake and Lodmoor Nature Reserves.

The Radipole Lake Nature Reserve has a Discovery Centre, café and walks around the reserve as well as wildlife information. The reedbeds are home to some stunning wildlife including kingfishers, otters and water voles.

Lodmoor is a quiet haven for wildlife with a large reedbed, open water, saltmarsh, wet grassland and bushes. The nature reserve attracts a variety of different birds including bearded tits, Cetti's warblers, gulls, ducks, kingfishers and winter waders. For anyone wishing to visit, there are paths to explore the reserve.

Local Attractions - Abbotsbury



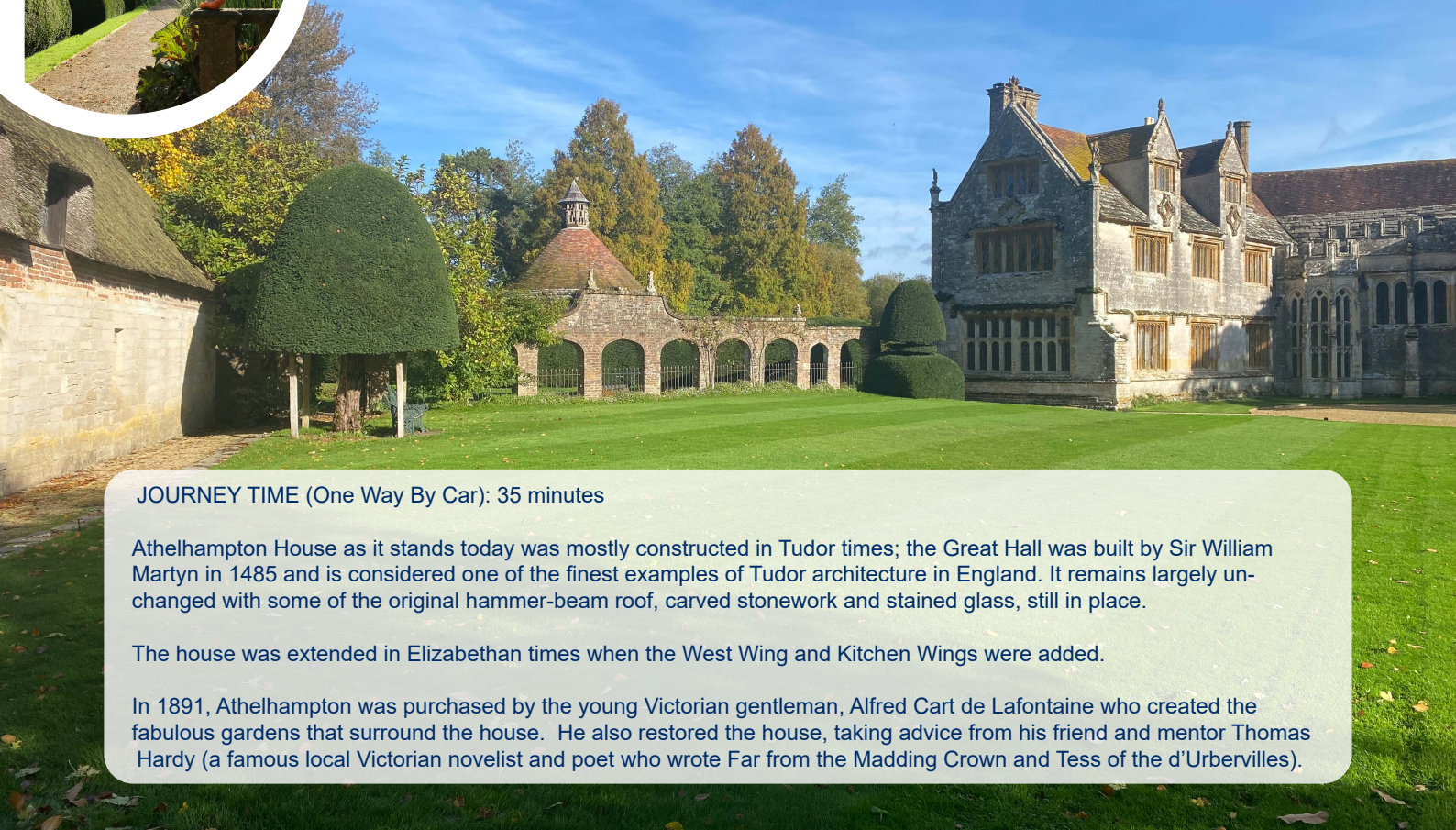
JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 25 minutes

Abbotsbury is a small picturesque village in the heart of rural Dorset, with plenty of things to see and do.

Abbotsbury Swannery is the world's only managed colony of nesting mute swans and visitors are able to walk right through the heart of it. From mid-May to the end of June you can witness the cygnets hatching all around the pathways. Besides the swans there is also a maze to get lost in, go-karts, tractor and trailer rides, a play area, gift shop and a coffee shop.

Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens were first established in 1765 by the Countess of Ilchester as a kitchen garden for her nearby castle. Since then, the gardens have been developed into a magnificent 20 acre paradise filled with rare and exotic plants from all over the world. The gardens are a mixture of formal and informal flowers, world famous for its Camellia groves and magnolias.

Local Attractions - Athelhampton House



JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 35 minutes

Athelhampton House as it stands today was mostly constructed in Tudor times; the Great Hall was built by Sir William Martyn in 1485 and is considered one of the finest examples of Tudor architecture in England. It remains largely unchanged with some of the original hammer-beam roof, carved stonework and stained glass, still in place.

The house was extended in Elizabethan times when the West Wing and Kitchen Wings were added.

In 1891, Athelhampton was purchased by the young Victorian gentleman, Alfred Cart de Lafontaine who created the fabulous gardens that surround the house. He also restored the house, taking advice from his friend and mentor Thomas Hardy (a famous local Victorian novelist and poet who wrote *Far from the Madding Crowd* and *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*).

Local Attractions - Langham Wine Estate



JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 35 minutes

Langham Wine Estate prides itself in crafting terroir-driven sparkling wines using grapes only grown on their Dorset vineyard. Visitors to the estate are welcome with tours and tasting sessions available as well as a café and shop.

The wine produced has won awards on an international level, winning the Decanter World Wine Awards in 2022

The winery is housed in a characterful old barn which is located within metres of the vineyard, the grapes that are so carefully nurtured throughout the year are picked and processed within a few hours, avoiding the need to transport the grapes and risk compromising the quality.

Local Attractions - The Etches Collection



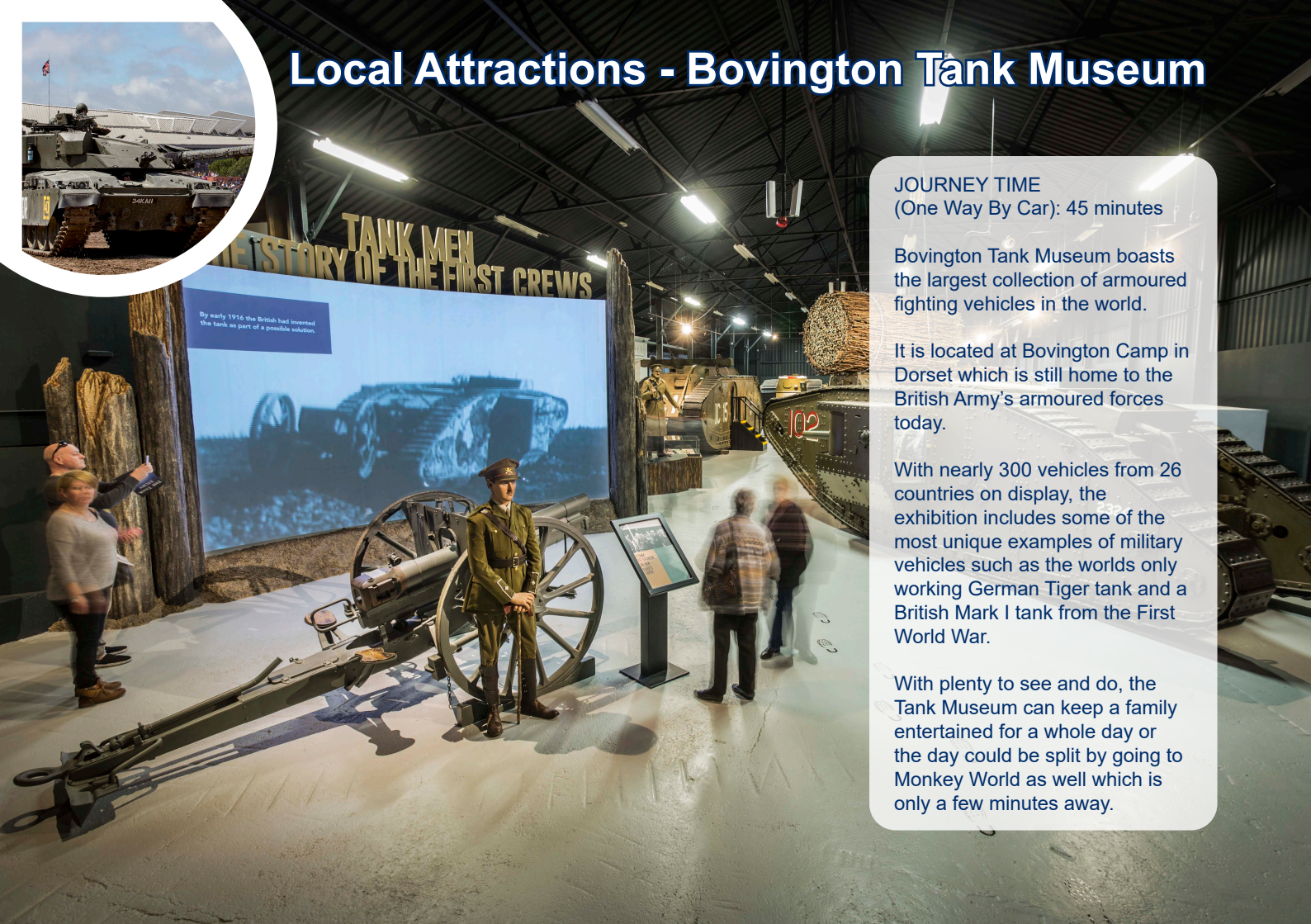
JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 55 minutes

Be mesmerized by sea monsters, prehistoric predators and the marine flora and fauna of 152-157 million years ago when the Jurassic Coast of Dorset was but a shallow, tropical sea.

All of the fossils in the collection were found by Dr Steve Etches MBE, in the Kimmeridge Bay locality.

See Jurassic marine life swimming above the amazing fossils in the museum gallery which has been brought to life using state of the art CGI imagery.

Local Attractions - Bovington Tank Museum



JOURNEY TIME
(One Way By Car): 45 minutes

Bovington Tank Museum boasts the largest collection of armoured fighting vehicles in the world.

It is located at Bovington Camp in Dorset which is still home to the British Army's armoured forces today.

With nearly 300 vehicles from 26 countries on display, the exhibition includes some of the most unique examples of military vehicles such as the worlds only working German Tiger tank and a British Mark I tank from the First World War.

With plenty to see and do, the Tank Museum can keep a family entertained for a whole day or the day could be split by going to Monkey World as well which is only a few minutes away.



Local Attractions - Monkey World Primate Ape Rescue Centre



JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 45 minutes

Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre is set in 65 acres of Dorset countryside and is home to over 250 primates.

The centre has more than 20 different species of primate and is dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of primates in need. There is also lots to see and do at the centre making it a great day out.

Local Attractions - Minterne House & Gardens

JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 45 minutes

Minterne House contains many interesting paintings, tapestries and mementos of its past residents, including the Churchill tapestries which are located in the dining room. The house is only open to visitors by prior arrangement, with tours of the house being led by the Right Honourable Henry Digby himself.

The house is surrounded by beautiful Dorset countryside with gardens landscaped in the manner of Capability Brown. The gardens are home to a world renowned and completely unique collection of Himalayan Rhododendrons and Azaleas.





Local Experience - Summer Lodge Country Hotel & Spa

JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 40 minutes

The Summer Lodge Country Hotel, Restaurant & Spa is an award winning hotel and ranked amongst some of the finest hotels in England. The hotel is well noted by all who visit for its fine dining and extensive wine menu.

If it is relaxation that you are looking for, then look no further, Summer Lodge has a heated indoor pool and numerous spa facilities available.



Local Attractions - Mapperton House & Gardens



JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 55 minutes

Mapperton is a glorious sandstone manor house with a fabulous valley garden located in rural Dorset amongst tumbling hills and unspoiled countryside. Home to the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, fifteen acres of gardens descend from the croquet lawn, through the formal topiary down to the wild garden.

Mapperton was transformed into Hardy's Everdene Farm for the filming of *Far From the Madding Crowd* starring Carey Mulligan and has been called the 'Nations Finest Manor House' by Country Life Magazine.



Local Attractions - Corfe Castle



JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 50 minutes

Enjoy one of Britain's most iconic and evocative survivors of the English Civil War, Corfe Castle which was partially demolished in 1646 by the Parliamentarians. Discover the castle's history, with fallen walls and secret places; there are tales of treachery and treason aplenty.

There are also plenty of other attractions close by to fill a day out; take a trip on a steam train to the stunning coastal town of Swanage or visit the nearby RSPB Nature Reserve of Arne.

Local Attractions - Swanage Railway



JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 50 minutes to Norden

Swanage Railway is a volunteer-led heritage railway that took 30 years of work by dedicated volunteers to rebuild it.

The railway attraction operates full-size steam and diesel passenger trains along the five and half miles of line from Norden to Corfe Castle and down to the Victoria seaside town of Swanage.

Local Attractions - Sherborne



JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 55 minutes

Sherborne has much to offer visitors, with its abundance of medieval buildings, stunning Abbey, picturesque Almshouse and two Castles. The quaint town also has a delightful shopping centre with a large choice of handcrafted goods and elegant fashions and has become an important town in the region for Art and Antique Dealers.

Local Attractions - Arne RSPB Nature Reserve



JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 55 minutes

Arne is an unusual and special landscape of open heath land and old oak woodland. It is a fantastic place for family walks at any time of year. The reserve overlooks wetlands where people can watch thousands of wading birds, ducks and geese including avocets, Black-tailed Godwits and Brent Geese in winter. In summer look out for Dartford warblers nesting in the heather, Nightjars flying at dusk and as many as 22 species of colourful dragonflies. Ospreys are regularly seen on migration in late summer and in autumn.

To make a full day out, Arne is located near the seaside town of Swanage, the castle ruins of Corfe Castle and the vast sandy beaches of Studland.

Local Attractions - Forde Abbey & Gardens



JOURNEY TIME (One Way By Car): 1 hour 10 minutes

Founded in the twelfth century, Forde Abbey flourished as a monastery for four hundred years, during which time it became one of the richest and most learned institutions of its kind in England. In 1539 with the dissolution of the larger monasteries, Forde Abbey was handed over to the Crown. The house and gardens are now a private residence, having been in the Roper family since 1905.

Forde Abbey has stunning and award winning gardens which include topiary lined vistas, colourful herbaceous borders, an arboretum, a bog garden and swathes of early Spring bulbs and camellias which provide interest all year round.

Local Attractions - Salisbury



JOURNEY TIME
(One Way By Car):
1 hour 20 minutes

Salisbury is a city of history and retains much of its early English Gothic heritage. The best example is Salisbury Cathedral which is home to the famous Magna Carta.

Close to the Cathedral are bustling markets, a buzzing art scene and some wonderful historic houses.

The city centre is perfect for retail therapy but there are also plenty of museums and other things to do.

A visit to Salisbury can be included in a trip to Stonehenge.



Excursion Ideas - Golf Courses in Dorset



It has been commented that Dorset offers the “best of both worlds” as far as golf is concerned. Whether you enjoy links or parkland style golf, there is plenty here to whet your appetite.

Courses of note include Came Down Golf Club, just north of Weymouth, which played an important part in the founding of the Ryder Cup, Bridport Golf Club, the oldest golf club in Dorset which has dramatic views of the Jurassic coastline and Weymouth Golf Club located in the centre of nearby Weymouth and enjoys magnificent views of the Dorset countryside and Jurassic Coast.

There are lots of courses available to play in Dorset and every one will appeal to discerning golfers as well as those who appreciate spectacular countryside.



Excursion Ideas - Adventure & Outdoor Activities in Dorset

The Dorset landscape provides the perfect setting for all manner of outdoor pursuits; with vast woodland wildernesses, mile upon mile of rolling countryside and some of the most dramatic coastline to be found anywhere. The county has an abundance of walks to enjoy, whether it's a coastal expedition tracing millions of year of history, or a countryside trail taking in Dorset's rich cultural heritage, it's all here for you to explore.

One of the best ways to see the Jurassic Coast is by sea with options ranging from high speed RIBs and guided coasteering adventures to paddle boarding and canoeing.

Whatever your activity we're sure you won't find a better backdrop.





Winter in the South West

Whilst it may not be as warm in the winter, there are still plenty of things to do in the South West.

Away from the bright lights of the big cities lies a calm and peaceful region with breathtaking scenery, just waiting to be explored by winter amblers.

For an amble of a different kind, explore some of the many winter markets which are full of handmade treasures, seasonal food and locally produced ales.

If it is too cold outside, then there are always restaurants, museums or stately homes to visit. Wherever you go, be sure to wrap up warm!



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Journey times were obtained using AA Route Planner