

# Dorset Coast Path Guided Trail Holiday

**Tour Style:** Guided Trails

**Destinations:** Dorset Coast & England

**Trip code:** LHLUL

**Trip Walking Grade:** 3



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Enjoy dramatic scenery as you journey along the spectacular 'Jurassic Coast' in Dorset - England's first Natural World Heritage Site. Our trail follows the final section of the South West Coast Path, from Golden Cap to Studland Bay.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- High quality en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day
- The services of an HF Holidays' walks leader
- All transport on walking days

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## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

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- Stay in the stunning horseshoe cove at Lulworth
- Take on sections of England's first Natural World Heritage Site - the spectacular 'Jurassic Coast'
- Enjoy dramatic scenery and fossil-filled beaches

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## TRIP SUITABILITY

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This Guided Walking /Hiking Trail is graded 3. The walking /hiking is on well-defined coastal paths and includes some strenuous sections where there are steep ascents and descents and will require a good level of fitness. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday.

### Fitness

We want you to be confident that you can meet the demands of each walking day and get the most out of your holiday. Please be sure you can manage the mileage and ascent detailed in the daily itineraries. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.

It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.

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## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

Your leader will give an introductory talk about the holiday.

### Day 2: Golden Cap To West Bexington

We start from Golden Cap, the highest point on the South Coast of Great Britain (626ft). On a clear day we can enjoy views across Lyme Bay and as far as Dartmoor. We will walk along the famous Jurassic Coast into the pretty village of Seatown, before the next hill takes us over to West Bay. Beaches and sandstone cliffs take us past Burton Bradstock to the start of the 18-mile long Chesil Beach at West Bexington.

11 miles (18km), with 1,350 feet (420m) of ascent.

### Day 3: West Bexington To Upwey

From West Bexington we take the Inland Coast Path section via Abbotsbury, with views out towards Chesil Beach and a chance to explore one of the UK's most important ancient ceremonial landscapes. Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age constructions and remains line our route. We pass the National Trust monument to the Battle of Trafalgar, hero Vice-Admiral Hardy, on its exposed setting above Portesham. We finish at the village of Upwey, north of Weymouth.

11 miles (17.5km), with 1,300 feet (400m) of ascent.

### Day 4: Weymouth To Lulworth Cove

We start this section from the outskirts of this seaside resort made popular by regular visits from King George III. The path goes over grassy cliff tops to reach the old smugglers' haunt at Osmington Mills. From there we continue to Ringstead Bay and ascend to White Nothe cottages, the highest coastguard cottages on the Dorset Coast. The landscape becomes more dramatic as the path descends and ascends steeply three times before passing the famous arch of Durdle Door and finally descends with wonderful views into Lulworth Cove.

10 miles (16km), with 1,800 feet (550m) of ascent.

### **Day 5: Lulworth Cove To Kingston**

Walking from Lulworth around the Cove, we ascend on to the Lulworth Army Ranges. Access to the path here is restricted to when there is no live firing. We pass above the Fossil Forest and the attractive bay at Mupe and then follow a dramatic and scenic section of steep cliffs to Warbarrow Bay and Tyneham, the deserted village, leaving the Ranges at Kimmeridge Bay. We then follow the Kimmeridge Ledges towards the picturesque village of Kingston, with its fine church and traditional pub.

12 miles (20km), with 2,500 feet (750m) of ascent.

### **Day 6: Kingston To Durlston**

From Kingston, we rejoin the South West Coast Path to take us first to the beautiful headland of St Aldhelm's Head – a stunning start to the day. We reach the cliffs of Dancing Ledge, interspersed with caves. Our route then progresses along white cliffs to Durlston Head and the Visitor Centre.

9 miles (15km), with 1,450 feet (440m) of ascent.

### **Day 7: Durlston To South Haven Point**

From Durlston we continue to Peveril Point and into the Victorian resort of Swanage. After following Swanage Bay and ascending on to the Downs, the iconic sea stacks of Old Harry mark our final stretch of the coast path, past Studland and on to South Haven Point, the end of the South West Coast Path.

9 miles (14.5km), with 925 feet (280m) of ascent.

### **Day 8: Departure Day**

## **ACCOMMODATION**

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### **West Lulworth House**

Set just 200 yards from the sea, West Lulworth House has a highly coveted location just above the lake-still expanse of Lulworth Cove on Dorset's iconic Jurassic Coast. Built in 1881 by the then Mayor of Weymouth, it has been perennially popular with walkers, twitchers and fossil hunters. As well as 22 delightful bedrooms, there's a south facing garden and elevated terrace with cracking views, an outdoor heated pool and a pair of lovely lounges, perfect for a relaxing walking holiday exploring the Jurassic Coast. Step out the front door and on to the coast path. To the west lies Middle Beach and the picture perfect Durdle Door, with its massive rock arch and gently sloping beach. East lie the beaches of Mupe Bay and Arish Mell. But you're here for the walking and what adventure you'll have on the coast path or exploring the interior. Then there's Lulworth Castle and the famous ruins of Corfe Castle standing guard over the Purbeck Hills to explore.

## Matchless Country House Accommodation

### Accommodation Info

### Need To Know

### Important Covid-19 Steps We Have Taken For Guest Safety: Please Read

As we slowly reopen in the wake of the Coronavirus lockdown, our country house stays are set to be organised a little differently; extra steps have been taken to keep our guests, house teams and leaders safe while we return to action. We ask all our guests to respect the measures put in place.

Initially the overall capacity of the houses has been reduced. Guests must wear face coverings in public spaces. To adhere to social distancing guidelines, we have taken the necessary steps to space out furniture and seating in public areas. In addition, a one-way system will be in place around the house. Adequate signage will be displayed to support the direction of travel to be followed by guests and house teams.

As a temporary measure, we will not be servicing rooms during a stay. Extra tea, coffee, milk, and toiletries will be made available on request for all guests. It is recommended that guests bring their own toiletries for the duration of their stay. We have removed all non-essential and reusable items from our rooms for the meantime including cushions, hairdryers, bathrobes, bed throws, and printed materials to reduce the number of items that need to be disinfected. Hairdryers will be available on request. Clean towels will be available on request. We will though be increasing the frequency of cleaning in our public areas providing particular attention to frequently touched items including door handles and handrails.

For now, there is no cream tea on arrival day. We have also adapted our food offering to remove all buffets and open food items. Different sittings may be required for breakfast and dinner due to the occupancy and size of the house. Picnic lunches will now be pre-ordered the night before from an order form in the room. The bar in each country house will be open, and we will be offering a table service for drinks. At this time there is no, or only a very limited, evening social programme available. Outdoor swimming pools at those houses that have them will re-open throughout August, except at Freshwater Bay House, where the pool will remain closed for 2020. Indoor swimming pools will remain closed.

For more information and to see all the steps taken, [visit our page on how house stays will be adapted](#).

### Rooms

*Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi*

Stay in one of the main building's bright, beautifully presented rooms or in the adjoining cottage. With 22 bedrooms, West Lulworth House has plenty of space and there's a range of Good, Better and Best Rooms to choose from: each room has an airy feel and the same cosy style. Opt though for Room 4 on the first floor of the main house for its weathered, pastel-painted wood panels and the lovely view looking over the cove, or squirrel yourself away in Room 23 in the cottage to the side of the main house for a large room with more sumptuous views to soak up.

*All 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' and 'Best' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress and larger television – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-25 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.*

### Facilities

*Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, attractive garden, outdoor swimming pool, multi-purpose activity*

room, lounge, library and board games to borrow

After a day walking on the Dorset Coast or hunting for fossils, come back to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Relax by sitting in the sunny south facing gardens or take a table on the terrace with matchless views of the cove below. Slip in to the heated outdoor pool then surface in time to retire to the cosy lounge and its squishy sofas and seafaring decorations to read up on the area or the attractive bar with its pretty tiled insets for a sundowner.

## Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at West Lulworth House is hearty and has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Once a week the dining room hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might tuck in to flavours such as Dorset blue Vinney, pork fillet with Purbeck Cider and apple sauce and New Forest wild mushroom tagliatelle. Settle in under the large roof lantern or beside the panoramic double doors to dine in style – if the sun's out they'll even throw the doors open to let the outside in.

## Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865

## TRAVEL DETAILS

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Our address is: West Lulworth House, Lulworth Cove, Dorset BH20 5RJ  
Tel: [01929 400253](tel:01929400253)

We recommend getting the train to Wool and then a taxi transfer to West Lulworth House. However if you are planning on driving, please note that you can only park in a public car park. Please check the process below.

### By Train:

The nearest railway station is at Wool. For train times and route planning by train visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or phone 03457 48 49 50.

### By Taxi:

The 5-mile journey from Wool railway station takes approximately 10 minutes. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, Durdle Door Cabs. As a guide price, it costs £12 per 4-seat taxi in 2020. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. They will arrange shared taxis wherever possible. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Durdle Door Cabs\*  
Tel: +44 (0) 1929 444546  
Email: [info@durdle-door-cabs.com](mailto:info@durdle-door-cabs.com)

The return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the West Lulworth House Manager.

\*Durdle Door Cabs is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

### By Car:

The recommended route is via Bere Regis and Wool – although slightly longer this avoids the traffic through Bournemouth and Poole. From Bere Regis follow signs to Wool. At Wool cross the level crossing and turn left following signs to Lulworth Cove and West Lulworth. Continue for a further 4 miles to Lulworth Cove. As you enter Lulworth Cove Village, there is a slip road on your left to West Lulworth House.

This car park is free for HF Holidays' guests as long as book your car in with House staff within 30 minutes of arriving, failure to do this could result in a fine from the Lulworth Estate.

## Travelling From Overseas

If you're travelling from Europe the most convenient airport is at Southampton. From Southampton Airport Parkway station (adjacent to the airport terminal) there are direct trains every hour to Wool - journey time 1hr 20mins. See [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for details.

For most guests, travelling to either London Heathrow or London Gatwick airport is the best option. See [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for onward connections by train to Wool.

## LOCAL AREA

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Lulworth Cove is a justifiably popular destination, with day-trippers and holiday-makers drawn by the stunning local scenery. The cove itself is a near-perfect semi-circle which has been carved by the soft rocks by the waves. A 20-minute walk along the cliff path will take you to Durdle Door, one of the area's other geological wonders. This impressive natural sea arch was formed from the more resistant limestone. The free Heritage Centre next to the public car park is well worth a visit during your stay.

Facilities in Lulworth Cove are limited to a selection of pubs, cafés and souvenir shops. The nearest towns are Wareham, Dorchester and Weymouth, which all have a good selection of banks, chemists and supermarkets.

During your visit to Dorset you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest:

### Bovington Tank Museum

[The Tank Museum](#) at Bovington, 20 minutes' drive north of Lulworth Cove, houses a particularly impressive collection of tanks from around the world. Trace the history from the tank's origins in the First World War to the present day.

### Lulworth Castle

Situated just a couple of miles inland from the cove, [Lulworth Castle](#) is a 17th century mock medieval castle that was once the heart of an extensive estate. Having been gutted by fire in 1929 it was derelict for many years, but has since been completely renovated.

### Corfe Castle

The iconic ruins of [Corfe Castle](#) stand guard over a natural gap in the Purbeck Hills, about 30 minutes' drive from Lulworth. Dating from the 11th century it is now maintained by the National Trust.

### The Etches Collection - Museum Of Jurassic Marine Life

[The Etches Collection](#) houses the finest single collection of Late Jurassic fossils, all found by Dr Steve Etches MBE in and around Kimmeridge Bay. The museum takes visitors on a journey of the marine flora and fauna which lived here over 150 million years ago. The museum is located in Kimmeridge village, some 8 miles from Lulworth Cove. It can be reached in around 21 minutes by road or on foot (if the Lulworth Range Walks are open) – which takes somewhat longer!

### Swanage Railway

Ride on this lovingly restored [Swanage Railway](#) branch line through the glorious Purbeck countryside. Steam hauled trains run throughout the year. You may want to leave your car in the Park & Ride at Norden, about 30 minutes' drive from Lulworth, and use the railway to visit the attractive seaside resort of Swanage.

## Monkey World

Located near Wool, 20 minutes' drive north of Lulworth Cove, [Monkey World](#) is a world-renowned ape rescue centre familiar to many from the TV programme 'Monkey Life'. Monkey World provides a home for apes rescued from mistreatment in the pet trade, circuses and used in medical laboratories. Apes are rescued from all over the world. Residents include four separate groups of chimpanzees, three groups of orang-utans, capuchin monkeys and several species of gibbon.

## Abbotsbury Swannery

[Abbotsbury Swannery](#) is the world's only managed colony of Mute Swans. Some 600 of them live and breed here, nesting unusually close to each other. Visitors can walk through the colony and help feed the birds. Visit from mid-May to the end of June to see hundreds of adorable cygnets. The swannery is near Weymouth, about 20 miles from Lulworth Cove (40 minutes' drive).

## Brownsea Island

[Brownsea Island](#) is located in the middle of Poole Harbour; boats depart from Poole Quay and Sandbanks, about 40 minutes' drive from Lulworth Cove. The island is now a nature reserve, managed by the National Trust and one of last remaining places to spot red squirrels in the UK. Brownsea is also famous as the location of the world's first scout camp in 1907.

## Weymouth

Weymouth is a fine Regency seaside resort with an ever-popular beach and bustling harbour. Visitors can learn about the town's fascinating history in the [Weymouth Museum](#).

## Thomas Hardy's Cottage

The writer Thomas Hardy was one of Dorset's most celebrated residents who used the local towns and villages around Dorchester as the setting for many of his novels. His [birthplace near Dorchester](#) is around 30 minutes' drive away and now owned by the National Trust.

## Cerne Abbas Giant

This 180ft figure carved into a hill just outside the village of Cerne Abbas is one of the UK's most famous chalk hill figures – and the largest. His exact age and purpose is still debated; you decide if you think he once held a cloak over his arm and a severed head in his hand! The [Cerne Abbas Giant](#) is near Dorchester, about a 45-minute drive from Lulworth Cove.

## Athelhampton House & Gardens

Located near Dorchester, about 30 minutes' drive away, [Athelhampton House](#) is a fine Tudor manor house dating from 1485. The surrounding formal gardens are also impressive and were created between 1891 - 1899.

## Kingston Lacy

This fine country house and estate is located near Wimborne Minster, about 45 minutes' drive from Lulworth Cove. Dating from 1665, and now managed by the [National Trust](#), it houses a fine collection of antiques, with many notable examples from the Middle East and Egypt.

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## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Holiday Information

We try to create a relaxed atmosphere on the walk but please listen to safety instructions from your leader.

Keep members of the group in view especially when weather or visibility is poor. If you leave the group, then your leader will no longer have responsibility for you. Our leaders consider the safety of the group as a whole and are likely to be more cautious over potential risks such as bad weather.

### Essential Information

*"There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong type of clothing!"* goes the adage. Come prepared for all eventualities and you'll walk in comfort as well as safety. Britain's famous for its changeable weather, so here's our advice on what to wear and bring.

#### Essentials

- Waterproof walking boots providing ankle support and good grip.
- A waterproof jacket and over-trousers
- Gloves and a warm hat (it can be chilly at any time of the year)
- Rucksack
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- A small torch (everywhere in winter, year round in mountains)
- Sun hat and sunscreen

*Denim jeans and waterproof capes are not suitable on any walks.*

#### Recommended

- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed
- Specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- A first aid kit inc plasters– your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication
- Sit mat (insulated pad to sit on when you stop for a break)

#### You Might Also Want

- Walking poles, particularly useful for descents.
- Insect repellent
- Flask for hot drinks
- Rigid lunch box
- Gaiters
- Blister kit (eg Compeed) just in case
- Waterproof rucksack liner

### Useful Information

#### Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your Guided Walking/Hiking Trail and are delighted to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.

Please ensure you complete and hand in your registration form on arrival and let the leader know about any



medical problems you may have. This may be useful in the event of a problem on the walk and will be treated confidentially by the leader.

## In The Event Of A Problem

If you become separated from the party, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you.

All our leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack. Call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas).

Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

Your trail leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For your own interest you may consider looking at the following:

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

National Trail Guide South West Coast Path – Exmouth to Poole by Roland Tarr

The Official Guide to The Jurassic Coast by Professor Denys Brunsden: (ISBN 978-0-9544845-0-7).

Explorer Maps 116 and OL15

## HOW TO BOOK

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When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

### PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

### NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £20 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

### BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name.

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Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

### **MANAGE MY BOOKINGS**

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

### **YOUR FINAL BALANCE**

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

### **PEACE OF MIND**

#### **ATOL:**

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

#### **MEMBER OF ABTOT:**

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

### **TRIP NOTE VALIDITY**

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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## PRICE GUARANTEE

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We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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