Dorset Guided Walking with Sightseeing



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Walking with sightseeing	Dorset	3	103kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Uncover the rich history and coastal beauty of Dorset's UNESCO-listed Jurassic Coast on this guided walking with sightseeing holiday. Enjoy short, guided walks (4-5 miles), combined with time spent exploring local highlights. We'll discover the storybook village of Corfe, marvel at natural wonders like Lulworth Cove and the iconic Durdle Door, and see the mysterious hillside carving of the Cerne Abbas Giant. The itinerary also includes a visit to the historic market town of Dorchester and a nostalgic journey on the Swanage steam railway.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Exploring UNESCO World Heritage Site – the Jurassic Coast
- Discovering some of the UK's finest coastal walks
- Learning about the natural history that makes this area famous
- Snapping shots of charming Corfe, and the Cerne giant
- Riding the Swanage steam railway

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 2027 – tickets for Swanage Railway
- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

ITINERARY VERSION 1

Day 1 **Arrival Day**

Check in at the hotel is available from 3pm. Your leader will meet you at 18:30 to give you a quick introduction to the holiday before dinner.

Day 2 **Isle of Purbeck and Old Harry Rocks**

Distance: 4.5 miles (7.5km)

Ascent: 500 feet (160m)

Descent: 800 feet (240m)

Today we travel to the small village of Studland, on the Isle of Purbeck, where our walk takes us to Swanage, along the stunning South West Coast Path, passing the famous Old Harry Rocks. From Swanage we hop on board the heritage steam train (tickets included) to Corfe to explore this pretty village.

Day 3 **The Cerne Giant and Dorchester**

Distance: 4 miles (6km)

Ascent: 450 feet (140m)

Descent: 600 feet (180m)

A chance to escape the crowds and explore a bit of rural Dorset. We walk from Minterne Magna, northwest of Dorchester, up onto a ridge with lovely views above the Cerne Valley, then down into Cerne Abbas village, contouring below the famous Cerne Giant. After exploring this picturesque village, we transfer to Dorchester for some sightseeing.

Day 4 **South Purbeck Coast and Swanage**

Distance: 5.5 miles (9km)

Ascent: 600 feet (180m)

Descent: 850 feet (260m)

Walking on the Isle of Purbeck again, this time we leave from Langton Matravers, but first we drop in for a quick visit to the Purbeck Stone Museum. A hidden gem, the museum provides an explanation of the unique geology, and has some fascinating displays. Afterwards we set out on our walk to Swanage, enjoying great views towards the Isle of Wight. Our walk gives us the opportunity to explore the legacy of quarrying in the area, and to spend some time at the visitor centre at Durlston Country Park (a renovated folly). We continue to the Victorian seaside resort of Swanage, with the chance to visit its heritage centre, enjoy a town trail, or simply relax on the beach.

Day 5 **Lulworth and Durdle Door**

Distance: Two short walks combined come to a total of 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: total for both walks combined - 700 feet (220m)

Descent: total for both walks combined 1,000 feet (300m)

A day to explore the Lulworth Estate and the coast including a visit to Durdle Door. Alighting at the small hamlet of Coombe Keynes, our first walk passes through the imposing North Lodges before descending through Lulworth Castle Estate grounds. Here, we'll have time to visit the magnificent Lulworth Castle (entrance payable locally; free for English Heritage members). Afterwards, we'll take a short transfer to finish our holiday with a walk that descends to 'Scratchy Bottom' and joins the South West Coast Path which we follow to the much-photographed Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove.

Day 6 **Departure Day**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before check-out at 10:30am.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Gentle walking grade 3

Slightly longer walks, mostly on well-trodden paths, with some gentle gradients plus stiles and steps possible. Typically, 5-6 miles (8-10km) with around 650ft (200m) of ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

Kingston Country Courtyard

The Kingston Country Courtyard is 4* guest accommodation, rather than a hotel. Ideally located for exploring Purbeck, the KCC gives us a base from which we can explore this stunning coastline, away from the crowds. While it doesn't have the bells and whistles of a hotel, this converted farmstead features rustic yet comfortable ensuite rooms, all with free Wi-Fi, TV, and tea and coffee facilities. Enjoy outdoor seating in the courtyard and gardens, with views stretching to the coast and Corfe. All rooms open onto the original farm courtyard. The hotel is dog-friendly, so you might meet some four-legged friends in communal areas. Free parking is available for residents. Please note, some of the bathrooms at the hotel are wetrooms - a wet room is a style of bathroom where there's no separation between dry and wet areas. These make the bathrooms highly accessible. There are no communal lounges as such, but we have a dining room where our briefings and dinners will be held, and where you can socialise after dinner.

FOOD & DRINK

Dining at Kingston County Courtyard

Your stay is full-board. This includes daily breakfasts, packed lunches and evening meals.

Packed lunches

Our packed lunches will be too much food for some and not enough for others; if you feel you might need more food during the walk, please bring a supply of snacks to supplement this – it won't always be possible to buy these on the route. Your packed lunches will include: a bread sandwich or roll with a choice of filling; some fresh fruit; fruit cake/ flapjack or similar, crisps and/or biscuits. For those of you tackling a level 4 or above holiday, we would highly recommend bringing some trail mix or something similar to ensure you've some fuel in reserve should you need it.

Dietary requirements

Our partner hotels can cater for most dietary requirements, but it is important you advise us of any allergies and dietary restrictions you have at the time of booking.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Kingston Country Courtyard
West Street
Corfe Castle, Kingston
Wareham
BH20 5LR

If you wish to travel by public transport, please see below

By bus/train

The nearest train mainline railway station is Wareham. Catch the number 40 Purbeck Breezer bus from Wareham train station to Kingston, there is a bus stop directly outside the Kingston Country Courtyard.
https://www.morebus.co.uk/services/breezer-buses

SAFETY ON YOUR HOLIDAY

Walking safety

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

Weather conditions in the UK can vary throughout the day, and conditions in the mountains may be cold and windy even in summer. Use the following list as a guide when preparing for your holiday.

Essentials

- Suitable waterproof walking boots with ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof, wind-resistant jacket with a hood, taped seams and a hydrostatic head rating of at least 10,000 mm
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Spare warm clothing, such as a synthetic insulated jacket
- Comfortable walking clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Warm mid-layers, such as fleeces
- Gloves and a warm hat, even in summer
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Water bottle with a capacity of at least 1 litre
- Flask for hot drinks
- Sunscreen
- UV-protective sunglasses
- Spare high-energy food
- Head torch and spare batteries for holidays between October and March
- Passport (if applicable)
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

Recommended

- Several base layers, with long or short sleeves
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First-aid kit, including plasters, insect repellent, a midge net and a tick-removal tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bags
- Wallet or purse

- Camera
- Walking poles
- Sun hat
- Gaiters
- Mobile Phones
- Swimwear (please see accommodation information for hotel facilities)
- Membership cards for English Heritage, the National Trust or similar heritage organisations in Scotland and Wales, if you are a member. These may be useful when visiting attractions during your itinerary or on your free day.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Safety Information

Walking Safety

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Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

In the event of a problem

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

All our walk 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 and 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.

We advise you carry a copy of these trip notes or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

If you have any cause for complaints regarding accommodation, you should notify your leader who can then attempt to rectify the problem.

TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

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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