Dorset Guided Walking



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Guided Walking Holidays	Dorset	4 & 7	110kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Discover Dorset and the Jurassic Coast on this guided walking holiday. Spanning over 96 miles, this coastline reveals 185 million years of history. Explore the fossil-filled beaches, Caribbean-like coves, and enchanting castles, that have earned this part of Dorset UNESCO World Heritage status. Highlights include Lulworth Cove, the chalk stacks of Old Harry Rocks, and Durdle Door, an impressive limestone arch carved by centuries of erosion. Our carefully planned walks showcase the area's top sights with daily guided options offering a fantastic way to explore this enchanting stretch of UK coastline.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- A choice of two walks each day
- Exploring UNESCO World Heritage Site – the Jurassic Coast
- Tackling some of the UK's finest coastal walks
- Learning about the natural history that makes this area famous
- Snapping shots of Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door, & Osmington White Horse
- Discovering hidden gems, far from the crowds

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 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 experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

ITINERARY - ITINERARY

Day 1 **Arrival Day**

Check in at the hotel is available from 3pm. Your leaders will be at reception at 6:30pm to meet the group and to give you a quick introduction to the holiday before dinner.

Day 2 **Kingston, Kimmeridge & Corfe**

Option 1 - Corfe Castle

Distance: 7½ miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 670 feet (205m)

Descent: 1020 feet (310m)

Walking right from our door, we head out to Golden Bowl and Houns Tout for excellent views from St Aldhelm's Head in the east to Portland Bill in the west. We then descend gradually on a new path towards Chapman's Pool before making our way inland via the Purbeck Way and Corfe Common to Corfe Castle Village where there will be plenty of time to explore. Relax in sun outside one of Corfe's cafes, watch for steam trains, or visit the romantic ruins of Corfe Castle, before a short ride on the local bus takes us back to our hotel.

Option 2 - Kingston and Kimmeridge

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Ascent: 1,330 feet (410m)

Setting off on our walk direct from the hotel door, we're treated to a circular route that takes in Swyre Head – the highest point on the Isle of Purbeck – and picturesque Kimmeridge Bay, where a giant pliosaur skull was discovered in 2022. There's time to take a peek inside the Wild Seas centre, which will reveal what nature to look out for on our walks over the next few days.

Day 3 **Stunning coastline all the way to Swanage**

Option 1 - Langton Matravers to Swanage

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 790 feet (250m)

Walk from the village of Langton Matravers to the coast at Dancing Ledge, a popular spot for rock climbers. From here we head east along the South West Coast Path, with time to visit the Durlston Castle visitor centre before continuing to Swanage. We've time to explore this traditional seaside resort with its beach, pier and steam railway.

Option 2 - Kingston to Swanage

Distance: 11 miles (18km)

Ascent: 1,590 feet (490m)

Departing from the door of the hotel again today, we'll head down to the coast towards pretty Chapman's Pool and St. Aldhelm's Head. From here the route follows the South West Coast Path, passing old quarries and Dancing Ledge to reach Swanage.

Day 4 **Corfe & Studland**

Option 1 - Corfe and Studland

Distance: 6½ miles (10 ½ km)

Ascent: 940 feet (290m)

Enjoy a stunning variety of inland and coastal scenery today. Our walk from Corfe Castle to Studland follows the glorious chalk ridge along the spine of the Purbeck peninsula, with the views getting ever more impressive as we near our destination. Panoramic views stretch north over Poole Harbour, and south to the English Channel.

Option 2 - Corfe, Old Harry Rocks & Studland

Distance: 11 miles (17 ½ km)

Ascent: 1,260 feet ascent (390m)

Decent:1,560 feet descent (480m)

Leaving directly from our hotel, we'll walk over rolling countryside to Corfe with its romantic castle ruins and steam railway. We cross the railway then take a fabulous chalk ridge along the spine of the Purbeck peninsula to Ballard Down and the coast at Old Harry Rocks. On a fine day you'll see as far as the Needles on the Isle of Wight.

Day 5 Overcombe, Osmington & Lulworth

Option 1 - Osmington to Lulworth

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Ascent: 1,200 feet (370m)

There's a trio of highlights today; the pretty smuggler's cove of Osmington, the iconic Durdle Door limestone arch, and the teardrop-shaped Cove. The section from Durdle Door to Lulworth Cove is a busy one, but we'll see why when we get there. Be sure to bring your camera for plenty of photos.

Option 2 - Overcombe to Lulworth Cove along the Coast Path

Distance: 9 miles (14½ km)

Ascent: 1,770 feet (540m)

Starting from the edge of Weymouth we pass through the smuggler's haunt of Osmington Mills and follow the fabulous roller coaster coast path all the way to Lulworth Cove. Tick off the geological wonders of Durdle Door and Stair Hole along the way.

Day 6 Departure Day

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

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Gentle walking grade 4

The most active Gentle grade, with longer walks, some ascent, and possible steps, stiles, or off-path uneven ground. Typically, 6-7 miles (10-12km) with around 1,000ft (300m) of ascent.



Moderate walking grade 7

The most active moderate grade. Longer distances and short but steep ascents and descents possible throughout the day. Hill walking experience desirable. Typically, 11-12 miles (18-19km) with around 1,800ft (560m) 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.

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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