

Photographing Thomas Hardy's Dorset Coast

Destinations: Dorset Coast & England
Trip code: LHETH



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

It is well-known that the novels of Thomas Hardy and later his poems are based on places in Dorset, where for example, Casterbridge is Dorchester and Budmouth is Weymouth. This Photographing Thomas Hardy's Dorset holiday is a photographic pilgrimage to the county covering his whole life from his birthplace at Higher Bockhampton to Max Gate, his final residence in Dorchester, with easy short walks on landscapes that have inspired many scenarios in his novels.

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Find out how to get the best results from your own camera
- Our professional photography leader will guide and encourage, in small groups of up to 12 guests
- Daily image review sessions offer constructive feedback throughout your holiday

TRIP SUITABILITY

Suitable for all levels of photographic experience

ACCOMMODATION

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

Following the relaxation in government guidance on 19 July, we are continuing to take extra steps to keep our guests leaders, and staff safe in our HF country houses. We ask all our guests to respect the measures put in place.

The English, Scottish and Welsh governments are not in sync, so measures in our country houses will vary between the nations. With the relaxation of social distancing in England, from 19 July we will be allowing larger groups to dine and relax in the bar together. However, we will still give guests space e.g. we will seat 6 people at a table where pre-pandemic we may have seated 8. We will ensure our public rooms are well ventilated by opening doors and windows wherever possible. If you have any concerns about distancing, please speak to the House Manager. The government recommendation for England is to wear face coverings in crowded areas. You must wear a face covering by law in public areas in hotels in Scotland. This is mandatory in public spaces; however, face coverings will not be required whilst eating and drinking in the restaurant and bar areas or whilst you are outside our houses. In Wales face coverings will remain a legal requirement indoors, with the exception of hospitality premises.

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 will though be increasing the frequency of cleaning in our public areas providing particular attention to frequently touched items including door handles and handrails.

Menus for the week will be available in your room on arrival. A self-service breakfast will be served from 7.45am – 9am. Picnic lunches will now be pre-ordered the night before from an order form in the room. Evening meals will be table service. A dinner order form will be available in each room for completion. Dinner is served at either 7.15pm or 7.30pm. Please check at the house for details. The bar will be open. We will be offering a table service but guests can also come to the bar to order (depending on local restrictions).

Join our team after dinner on Wednesday evenings for the HF Big Pub Quiz. There will be one other evening of entertainment at the start of the week, which will vary depending on the country house that you are staying at. Our Walk Leaders will also be on hand in the bar or lounge for individual or small group walks talks briefings, which allow guests to talk through the following day's walk options and ask any questions. All of our swimming pools are open, except for Glen Coe, which will not re-open this year. Swimming Pools will be operated in line

with maximum capacities.

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 (currently closed) 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 or view the accessibility information online for [West Lulworth House](#)

TRAVEL DETAILS

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 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@durdledoorcabs.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.

It isn't possible to park in the HF car park, which is just for drop offs. The main public car park across the road though is free for HF Holidays' guests, as long as you book your car in with staff at West Lulworth House within 30 minutes of arriving. Note though, 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 for details.

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

LOCAL AREA

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.

HOW TO BOOK

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 £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit 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. 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

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

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.

PRICE GUARANTEE

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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