



### AXMINSTER

The famous carpets were first made here by Thomas Whitty in 1755. Then, each time a carpet was finished, the bells at the Minster were rung in celebration. The Minster is at the heart of the town, and was once so prestigious that Saxon princes were buried here. Nearby is Axminster's Heritage Centre & Museum in Thomas Whitty House, where you can find out more about the town's carpet industry.



### LYME REGIS

Lyme Regis used to be on a railway branch line, and you could walk out to admire Cannington Viaduct, which used to carry the line high over a valley on the way. Walk out on to the Cobb, as the French Lieutenant's Woman did, to admire the sweep of the bay with tall cliffs disappearing into the distance, or discover the town's interesting independent shops, cafés and restaurants up the steep streets and down narrow alleyways.



### GOLDEN CAP

This towering cliff, owned by the National Trust, is the highest point along the south coast and well worth the climb to the top if you have the energy. On a clear day the views in all directions are spectacular. Get off the bus at Chideock and find the marked footpath to follow, but it's best to take a map to make sure you don't get lost. Allow a good 3 to 4 hours.



### BRIDPORT

With a bustling street market every Wednesday and Saturday, a farmers' market on the second Saturday of the month and vintage market on the last Sunday until the end of October, spending time in this historic town is always worthwhile. It also has an amazing selection of award-winning local food producers to tempt you, including England's oldest family butcher, RJ Balson & Son. For centuries it was famous for rope and net making - a hangman's noose was known as a Bridport Dagger! - and the wealth this produced gave rise to some fine buildings in the town and the broad high street. Don't miss out on Bridport's fabulous Hat Festival on Saturday 2 September 2023 - it's really quite a hoot, so do pop along. [bridportthefest.org](http://bridportthefest.org)



### ABBOTSBURY

This beautiful village of thatched cottages built from local golden stone, with welcoming tea shops and galleries, is world famous for its ancient swannery. This is home to over 600 free-flying swans and the only place in the world where you can walk among the breeding, nesting and hatching birds. [abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk/swannery](http://abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk/swannery)



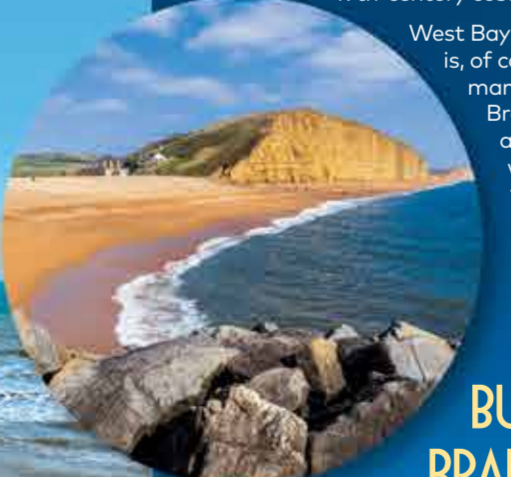
### ABBOTSBURY SUB TROPICAL GARDENS

It's a short walk to these wonderful gardens, a delight for the senses. They date from 1765 and have an intoxicating mix of formal and informal plantings, famous camellia groves and magnolias. With a charming Victorian Garden, woodland walks and walled gardens, it's a pleasant place to spend time in. Enjoy scrumptious food in the Colonial Restaurant, and check out the gift shop. There are stunning views of the Dorset Jurassic Coast from the viewpoint at the top of the Magnolia Walk. [abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk/gardens](http://abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk/gardens)



### WEST BAY

This lovely spot has towering golden cliffs, a broad beach of shingle and sand backed by old cottages, characterful kiosks and an early 19th-century customs house. West Bay's more recent claim to fame is, of course, being the location for many scenes in the TV drama Broadchurch. You could enjoy a Broadchurch-themed guided walk or check out boat trips from here.



### BURTON BRADSTOCK

Get off at the Hive Beach stop to get to the popular shingle beach surrounded by spectacular sandstone cliffs. Their geology makes them appear to glow bright gold in the sunlight. Pop into the Hive Beach Café for delicious coffee, tea and cake, or a tasty lunch.



### ST CATHERINE'S CHAPEL

High above the village on a lonely hill stands St Catherine's Chapel, built by the monks of the nearby Abbotsbury Abbey in the 14th century. It has 'wishing holes' where local women used to pray to St Catherine to help find them a husband! If you haven't the energy or time to climb up to the chapel, glance when you pass the viewpoint on Abbotsbury Hill to enjoy breathtaking views over the chapel and back along Chesil Beach towards Portland Bill.



### DORCHESTER

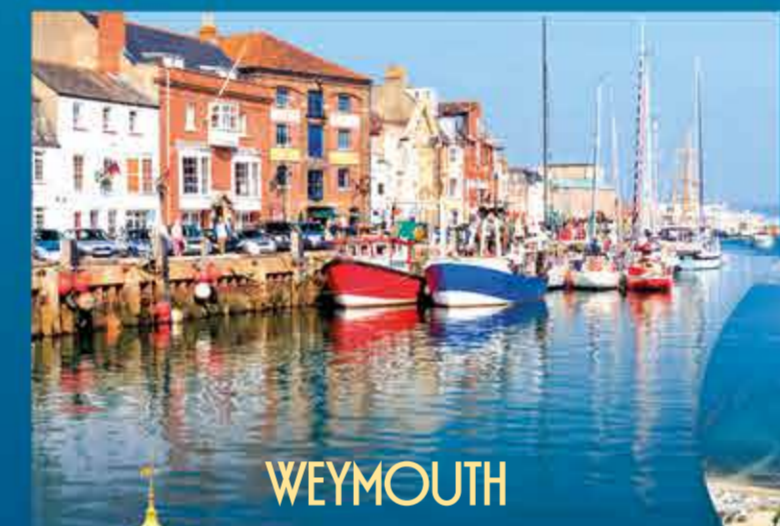
Wander down the long High Street and along pedestrianised Cornhill to get a flavour of Dorset's busy county town. The award-winning Dinosaur Museum is all about having a roaring good time, being devoted solely to dinosaurs. It has skeletons, fossils, life-size reconstructions and a few scaly surprises! Pop along to the Teddy Bear House to see over 100 years of teddies, from some of the earliest right through to today's TV favourites. In the Tutankhamun Exhibition the sights, sounds and smell of Tutankhamun's ancient Egyptian tomb and treasure have all been recreated to make you feel you're really there. Travelling from Weymouth? Use First bus route 10 direct to Dorchester up to every 15 mins.



[thedinosaurmuseum.com](http://thedinosaurmuseum.com)  
[teddybearmuseum.co.uk](http://teddybearmuseum.co.uk)  
[tutankhamun-exhibition.co.uk](http://tutankhamun-exhibition.co.uk)

### WEYMOUTH

Attractive Georgian seafront houses look over a fabulous sweep of sandy beach, complete with donkey rides and Punch and Judy shows. There's a pretty harbourside to watch the comings and goings of boats of all sizes from luxury yachts to fishing trawlers, and even cross harbour rowing ferries. Behind all this is a busy town centre, making Weymouth a great seaside destination. From sand sculptures to magical underwater world of dazzling sea creatures, Weymouth has attractions to delight everyone, come rain or shine.



### PORTLAND CASTLE

Explore one of Henry VIII's finest coastal forts, overlooking Portland Harbour and built in the early 1540s to protect against French and Spanish invasion. It's owned by English Heritage and admission includes a free audio tour telling the castle's history and the important part it played in both World Wars. Enjoy stunning sea views from the gun platforms and, if you're peckish, the Captain's Tearoom serves locally made cakes, sandwiches and snacks. [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/portland-castle](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/portland-castle)



### ISLE OF PORTLAND

Many famous buildings in London, like St Paul's Cathedral, owe their gleaming white surfaces to Portland stone, mined here since Roman times. As the open-top bus zig-zags up the side of the hill, you're rewarded with stupendous views, especially looking back over Weymouth and westwards along the entire length of Chesil Beach to Golden Cap and Lyme Regis in the far distance.

### PORTLAND BILL

The distinctive red and white tower first shone its famous four flashes of light every 20 seconds on 11 January 1906, guiding passing vessels through the hazardous waters around Portland Bill. You can climb the lighthouse and see for miles along the beautiful Jurassic Coastline and out to the treacherous Portland Race. Opening times at [trinityhouse.co.uk](http://trinityhouse.co.uk)



### WAREHAM

This market town, once a busy port with ships bound for France and beyond, has a pretty quayside as its focal point. The great Saxon earth walls, a defence against the Vikings, still surround the town. See St Martin's Church with medieval wall paintings and an effigy of Lawrence of Arabia originally intended for Westminster Abbey. Thursday is market day, plus there is a street market at the quay on Saturdays and a thriving farmers' market on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

### BOVINGTON TANK MUSEUM

Discover the history of the tank from its invention in 1915 through the 20th century and into the future, and how this important British invention has helped shape world history. You'll see many of the most important tanks in history, with a fascinating supporting collection in a massive state-of-the-art multimedia exhibition. And you can hear the stories of those who fought in and against these vehicles; from the Trenches to the streets of Basra. [tankmuseum.org](http://tankmuseum.org)



### MONKEY WORLD

It's heartwarming to know that Monkey World assists governments around the world to stop the smuggling of primates from the wild. And here these adorable refugees of this illegal trade, as well as those that have suffered abuse or neglect, are rehabilitated into natural living groups. With talks and displays, too, you'll discover so much more about our near relatives. [monkeyworld.org](http://monkeyworld.org)



### LULWORTH COVE & DURDLE DOOR

This geological marvel, a perfect horseshoe-shaped bay created by the sea, is on a stunning part of the Jurassic Coast. And half a mile west is famous Durdle Door, where you can watch and listen to the sea water crashing through a natural cliff arch. Swim in the cove, take a boat trip, or just enjoy the stunning scenery. The Heritage Centre tells the story of Lulworth from 50 million years ago to the present day.



### CORFE CASTLE

Perched high on a hill overlooking a picture postcard village with teashops to die for, Corfe Castle is everything you'd expect a romantic castle ruin to be. It was established by William the Conqueror and partially destroyed in the English Civil War. There are tales of treachery and treason and breathtaking views all around. [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)



### SWANAGE RAILWAY

Slip back in time to enjoy a ride behind a vintage steam locomotive or heritage diesel along the 12-mile round trip through the beautiful Purbeck countryside. Swanage and Corfe Castle are the main stations. [swanagerailway.co.uk](http://swanagerailway.co.uk)



### SWANAGE

A charming seaside resort with golden sands, sparkling clear waters, a lovely Victorian pier and a relaxed air about it. The town has independent bakers and farm shops and, of course, is terminus of the delightful Swanage Railway.

### POOLE

Wander down the traffic-free High Street to the Georgian Old Town and busy Quayside. You could watch the coming and going of boats and visit Poole Museum on the harbourside.



Use First bus route 10 direct to Dorchester up to every 15 mins.

