

Purbeck Ride

'Out of Car Experience - Cycling in Purbeck'

Circular route around Purbeck - 47 miles



*Durdle Door
Corfe Castle
Bluebell Woods*

*Time needed:
All day / weekend for
entire route
Can be ridden in
smaller sections*

*Grading: Difficult
Several very steep hills.*



Purbeck Ride

Distance: 47 miles

A long distance route for the dedicated cyclist, encompassing stunning coastal views, beautiful rural landscapes and interesting historic landmarks.

Starting point: Wareham Quay

Alternative starting points: Corfe Castle, Swanage, West Lulworth, Moreton and Bere Regis

Time needed: All day/weekend for entire route or can be ridden in small sections.

Degree of difficulty: Mainly on road, some very steep hills to the south west of the route around Lulworth.

Please take care on all roads and follow the Highway Code

Note: Sections of this route travel across land owned by the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and as a result some sections may be closed from public access. It is advisable to check the route in advance please call 01929 404819.

Directions

Section 1: Stoborough to Corfe Castle

- Leaving Wareham Quay **1**, turn left, over the bridge travelling south toward Stoborough past water-meadows on both sides.
- Head into the village between the two 30mph signs, passing the Kings Arms on your left.
- Take the first turning on the left into Nutcrack Lane **2**.
- Follow Nutcrack Lane and continue over the first cross roads.
- Take the second turning on your right, signposted Corfe Castle. You will later pass Slepe Farm on your left **3**.
- Follow the winding road through the National Nature Reserves (Stoborough Heath on your right). Look out for Middlebere Farm and Scotland Farm. Yes, you are now in Scotland! Fantastic views of Corfe Castle along this road.
- Follow the road past Scotland Farm and you will arrive at Norden. Turn right towards the roundabout. At the roundabout, follow the signs for Corfe Castle, taking great care on this busy road.

Section 2: Corfe Castle to Swanage

- Continue on the A351, past the National Trust Visitor Centre, and the road to Studland. Take the next left into Sandy Hill Lane **4**. Pass under the railway bridge, look right after going under the bridge and you will catch a glimpse of Corfe Castle railway station, part of the steam line from Norden to Swanage.
- Follow this winding lane for quite some time, passing Sandyhills Farm, Woolgarston, Aitwood Farm and ignoring all turnings off this road.
- At Knitson Farm **5** (see mural of cows on the barn wall), follow the road around the perimeter of the farm and caravan park. Then take the first turning right down Washpond Lane.
- Go past Swanage Middle School (on the right).
- Turn right at the T-Junction (main road).
- Continue until you see the signpost on the left for Langton Matravers.
- Turn left towards Langton Matravers.

Section 3: The Chalk Ridge

- Continue up through Langton Matravers. Look out for Putlake Adventure Farm on the left.
- Continue along the road as far as Kingston.
- At the Scott Arms **6** in Kingston, follow the road to the right and go downhill (this is very steep) towards Corfe Castle.
- At the T-junction, turn left into Corfe Castle. Continue through the village of Corfe Castle.
- After leaving the village, turn first left (at the base of the Castle mound). This is signposted Church Knowle and Creech.

Section 4: The Army Ranges

- Follow the winding road through Church Knowle. Note the 13th Century Church of St Peter **7**.
- Past the village, continue in the direction of Steeple/Creech until you reach Steeple and Creech Hill. Here you can see rocks that were folded, by pressure from the south, 25 million years ago in the same earth movements that created the Alps **8**.

- Climb this steep hill and turn left for East and West Lulworth enjoying the views from the top across Tyneham (from Whiteways viewpoint) and to the sea **9**.
- Begin the long winding descent toward the village. Look out for great views of the Castle on your right.
- As you leave the army ranges, turn left towards Lulworth Castle and villages.
- Turn left at the next junction towards West Lulworth. (Note Lulworth Castle **10** on the right which serves refreshments. Entry fee applies to castle and grounds. The Weld Arms is also a few metres up this road, should you wish to take a short detour).
- Finally turn left at the next junction into West Lulworth.
- Entrance to the village is down a steep winding lane, please take care. On arrival at West Lulworth, turn right at the war memorial **11**.
- Turn right at the next junction, towards Dorchester, up the hill and away from the sea.
- You will pass the entrance to Durdle Door **12** at the top of the hill, continue past through beautiful rolling countryside.
- When you reach Winfrith Newburgh turn left just after the churchyard towards Chaldon Herring (also called East Chaldon).

Section 5: Chaldon Herring and Tadnoll

- At Chaldon Herring Village Green follow the road round to the right towards Dorchester.
- Go past, or have a stop at, the Sailors Return Pub on the left.
- Head up the narrow, steep road **13**.
- Continue uphill, then downhill until you reach the main road, go straight over - signposted Tadnoll.
- Continue to the tiny junction just after the small bridge over the river and follow the road left.
- Continue along this road (you will find out at the junction that it is called Redbridge Road) following it round to the left until reaching a larger road just next to the railway bridge.
- Turn right, over the railway bridge and along the road to the next junction, turn right here into Moreton village.

Continued overleaf



Section 6: Moreton

- Note the tea rooms, on the left, are housed in the old village school **14**. Turn left signposted Moreton Church.
- Pass the little row of cottages on the left.
- Get off your bike and cross the ford over the River Frome **15**.
- After crossing, keep straight ahead on a gravel track until you meet the old Puddletown to Wareham Road.

Section 7: Piddle Valley

- Go straight across and at the next junction fork left towards Briantspuddle. Look out for horses grazing on Tonerspuddle Heath on the right.
- At the next junction, go straight across and down the hill towards Briantspuddle. Look out for the red telephone box.
- Turn right at Briantspuddle crossroads, just after the telephone box, signposted Throop. Note the village hall on the left **16**.
- Continue the winding road to Throop. You will see a row of staddle stones on the right.
- Just after the staddle stones, turn left down a gravel track **17**.
- Cross the fords over the River Piddle.
- Turn right at the farm, (note the lovely Turnerspuddle Church **18** at the left of the junction).
- Continue down the winding road through the village of Turnerspuddle.
- At the junction, turn left. The road is signposted Bere Regis.

Section 8: Hyde

- At the junction of the Bere Regis to Wool road, turn right.
- Then turn first left down the road signposted Hyde.
- Continue along this road, watching out for the small crossroads. Look out for Bere Heath Methodist Chapel **19** on the left.
- Continue past Bere Lodge and High Beeches on the left. Cross the bridge over the river. Follow the road up past the Dorset Golf and

- Country Club, on the left **20**.
- At the junction (Puddletown Road) turn left towards Wareham.
- At the junction with the A352 turn left and continue towards Wareham.
- At the roundabout, follow the signs to Wareham town centre.
- Follow the road and turn right at the town centre crossroads. Turn left before the bridge, back on to the Quay.



Nearest Campsites

Acton Field
Corfe Castle Camping and Caravanning Club
Durdle Door Holiday Park
Herston Yards Farm
Knitson Farm
Norden Farm
Redcliffe Farm
Ridge Farm
Rowlands Wait
Tom's Field Camp site



Wareham

Wareham, 'The settlement by the weir', was first given to the community by the Saxons, but archaeology has made it clear that its origins are much older. The discovery of two Iron Age pits in 1952 confirms that there was certainly a settlement by the late Iron Age. The Rex Cinema has a gas lit auditorium and is situated in a Victorian building in West Street.
Wareham: Gateway to Purbeck, Terence Davis.

Corfe Village

Royal castles (namely Corfe), required nearby townships to provide easily accessible labour, which is the reason that Corfe Village was built. The castle was greatly enlarged during the early 13th Century, which encouraged more trade and activity, making Corfe Village an attractive place to live. It later became the centre of the local stone industry with Purbeck Stone as its export.

The Village of Corfe Castle, Dorset County Council, 1994.

Swanage

The town of Swanage dates back to 1086, where it was recorded in the Domesday Book, that its population was no more than 30 people. Swanage's population has since risen by more than 9800. Its original name 'Swanwic', is thought to be derived from the two words 'Swan', the name of a bird in both Saxon and English and 'Wic', meaning a curvature or inlet of the sea.

Swanage Rediscovered, Danielle and Stewart Borrett

Information

Safe Cycling

- Check your cycle is in good working order
- Always carry refreshments and a cycle repair kit
- Wear reflective material, carry lights and take waterproofs
- It is advisable to wear a cycle helmet
- Increase the gap between cycles and cycle slowly when going downhill, especially on narrow lanes
- On narrow lanes always ride in single file and be ready for fast traffic as well as when crossing main roads
- Follow the Highway Code at all times

Please follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Photographic credits: Peter Booton, John Farmar, Mark Simons, Purbeck District Council and Purbeck Heritage.

Parking

Long stay car parking is available at Streche Road - off West Street, Wareham and Norden Park & Ride.

Railway Stations

There are railway stations on the London to Weymouth line at Wareham, Wool and Moreton. Telephone 08457 48 49 50 for train times or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk.

Swanage Railway runs a steam train service to Norden from Swanage, Harman's Cross and Corfe Castle. Telephone 01929 425800.

Maps

This route can be followed on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No.OL15 (Purbeck and South Dorset)

Tourist Information Centres

Free leaflets on where to eat and drink, beaches and events happening in Purbeck as well as guidebooks, maps, postcards, stamps and a small selection of gifts are available from:

Purbeck Information and Heritage Centre
Holy Trinity Church, South Street, Wareham
Tel: 01929 552740

Website: www.purbeck.gov.uk
Email: tic@purbeck-dc.gov.uk

Swanage Tourist Information Centre
Shore Road, Swanage
Tel: 0870 4420680

Website: www.swanage.gov.uk
Email: mail@swanage.gov.uk



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