

INFORMATION FOR MEDIA

Out and about - exploring beyond Bournemouth

Dorset and the surrounding area offer natural beauty providing some of the most stunning scenery in the country. Home to rolling hills, rugged coastline, lush forest and mile after mile of golden sand, the county is easily accessible and perfect for exploring in a car, on foot or by bike.

The seaport town of **Poole** is home to the second largest natural harbour in the world. The historic quay area offers boat trips along this magnificent stretch of coastline and ferry rides to National Trust gem, Brownsea Island - renowned birthplace of Baden-Powell's scout movement and famous for its red squirrel population.

The ancient **New Forest**, created as the hunting ground of William the Conqueror, is ideal for cyclists, walkers and horse riders. Ponies, donkeys and cattle all roam freely through the area's picturesque villages, to include Burley and Brockenhurst.

Wimborne is a quaint market town with a colourful town square overlooked by the impressive church towers of 12th century Wimborne Minster. The town has a very lively three-day folk festival in early June.

Weymouth, located to the west of Dorset, is a busy harbour town and host venue of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic sailing events. Weymouth Bay offers spectacular views across the Jurassic Coast and its sandy beaches set against the backdrop of a distinctive Georgian seafront.

Dorset's **Jurassic Coast** is a stunning World Heritage site, recording 185 million years of history in its rugged cliffs. Explore Durlston Head, Dancing Ledge, Lulworth Cove and don't miss Durdle Door's famous rock archway. A camera is a must!

The small village of **Studland** on the Isle of Purbeck is known for its National Trust beach and nature reserve, home to all six of Britain's native reptile species. Studland Bay, protected by Old Harry Rocks, has great views of the Isle of Wight and the area served as Enid Blyton's inspiration for Toytown in the classic Noddy books.

Just inside the Wiltshire border to the north is **Salisbury**, famous for its cathedral which boasts the tallest spire in the UK and the best preserved copy of the Magna Carta. Steeped in legend and folklore, the Salisbury area is also home to one of Britain's most popular historic sites - Stonehenge.

Corfe Castle is an iconic survivor of the English Civil War, with over 1,000 years of history packed in its dramatic ruins. Perched on a hill, the castle site has great panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and overlooks a delightful village constructed almost completely from local grey Purbeck limestone.

From its medieval roots, **Christchurch** town still bustles with life like it first did many moons ago. Christchurch Priory and Christchurch Castle offer a fascinating step back to another time and stunning view of the harbour where the Avon and Stour rivers meet.

Other adventures include hopping on a ferry to the Isle of Wight, walking from Portland to West Bay along 18 miles of shingle at Chesil Beach, visiting T. E. Lawrence's (Lawrence of Arabia) cottage at Clouds Hill near Wareham, and seeing Shaftesbury's iconic Gold Hill - the steep, cobbled street from the memorable Hovis advert.

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Please contact Bournemouth Tourism PR office for more information
pr@bournemouth.gov.uk or call 01202 451750

Last updated: 14/10/2016

