

BCP Tourism

CHRISTCHURCH ESCAPE

THE EVERYDAY



Credit Wedart Studio

BCP Tourism

Offering miles of glorious beaches and some of the UK's most stunning coastline the destination of Christchurch, in Dorset, is a must visit for 2020.

Here on the south coast we offer the perfect daytrip, weekend away or short break.

Discover the beauty of our award winning resort, explore our history and open spaces and treat yourself to fine dining and relaxation... book your autumn getaway to Christchurch and escape the everyday!



DISCOVER...

Red House Museum - Book your visit in advance and enjoy the museum and its grounds. A former Georgian workhouse, the Red House now reflects on Christchurch's rich history from pre-Ice Age to modern times. Discover the charming herb garden and south garden, which holds an unexpected dinosaur surprise!

Highcliffe Castle – The Castle and beautiful grounds have only recently re-opened to welcome visitors. Book your tickets in advance to discover more about this beautiful Grade 1 listed mansion house which has been described as arguably the most important surviving house of the Romantic and Picturesque style.

The Priory. – One of the few monastery churches to have survived Henry VIII's rule and reputed to be the longest Parish church in the country. Near the Priory grounds you will discover the spectacular Castle Ruins, which date back to the 11th Century and Constable's House.

The history of Christchurch stretches back to the 7th Century when the town was officially formed at the confluence of local rivers the Avon and Stour, which directly flow into Christchurch Harbour. Discover fascinating stories via blue plaques around the town, with many Grade II listed buildings ranging from old inns and public houses to a ducking stool and stocks.

Christchurch Quay – A short stroll from the Priory garden you will discover the beautiful Quayside at Christchurch. Hire a boat (check operational dates before visiting), grab an alfresco coffee, take in the views and enjoy a pleasant riverside walk.

FREEDOM TO EXPLORE...

Hengistbury Head Nature Reserve – A must for wildlife lovers, the nature reserve is located at the eastern end of this stretch of coastline. Teeming with life you will discover birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians living on this striking historic headland.

Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve - Situated on the north side of Christchurch Harbour, just below the confluence of the rivers Avon and Stour. The 65-hectare site has an unusual combination of habitats including salt marsh with creeks and salt pans, reed beds, freshwater marsh, gravel estuarine banks and sandy scrub.

Steamer Point Nature Reserve – Offering a different perspective with its clifftop location. The views from here are simply stunning as you take in the entire coastline with Poole in one direction and the Isle of Wight in the other. The area is located between Highcliffe Castle and Friars Cliff on the rugged Christchurch coastline comprising of woodland and aquatic habitats, supporting a wide variety of flora and fauna.

All locations perfect for an Autumn ramble or a family adventure!

...BEACH LIFE



Whilst not as well-known as our seafronts' at Bournemouth and Poole, Christchurch has six unique beaches offering peace and tranquillity away from the crowds. Friars Cliff and Avon Beach are popular family hotspots accessed from Mudeford with its exclusive beach huts. Mudeford Sandbank is a picturesque stretch that can be accessed from Mudeford Quay via **The Mudeford Ferry** (*check operational dates direct before visiting*) or on foot from Hengistbury Head.

Further east, Highcliffe Beach is a shingle and sand beach with a zigzag walkway up to Highcliffe Castle and Gardens offering visitors a beautiful viewpoint of the seascape.

TREAT YOURSELF...

RETAIL THERAPY

This charming town offers an eclectic mix of independent shops and boutiques to well-known high street stores. When looking to stop for some refreshments in between the shops head to Saxon Square, a pedestrianised open-air shopping area peppered with cafés, restaurants and bars to refresh.

TAKE IN A SHOW

The Regent Centre in the heart of Christchurch Town Centre is a restored 1930's art deco cinema. During the Autumn/Winter season they will be showcasing a selection of broadcasts to entertain and delight audiences who have missed 'on-screen action'.

TREAT THE FAMILY

A short journey from Christchurch you will find **Snowtrax**. The centre has an outdoor dry slope where you can ski, snowboard or use the ringos and skibobs. Fabulous fun for all. The centre replicates an Austrian ski setting and features a ski shop, alpine bistro bar and Alpine Adventure Park.

LUXURY BREAK AWAY

Enjoy everything this wonderful town has to offer in luxurious surroundings. **Christchurch Harbour Hotel & Spa** offers a relaxing coastal spa retreat, against the backdrop of spectacular harbour views. **Captain's Club Hotel & Spa** is home to a nautical themed design with river views. Here you can also spoil yourself at their award-winning spa!

Our local accommodation providers can cater for all tastes and requirements, visit our official tourism website **[accommodation page](#)** for further information.



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BEFORE YOU VISIT

Please check out the latest [visitor information](#) for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. It is important that visitors *Respect* the local area, in order to *Protect* themselves and everyone can then *Enjoy* this wonderful location.

Please contact businesses directly before visiting to check on their individual policies and how they are running.

It's best to **Know Before You Go**.

We're Good to Go - A UK-wide industry standard mark helping businesses to reassure customers that they have adhered to Government and public health guidance has been launched by Visit Britain and Visit England, helping you feel safe and secure when you visit any of our partners that are part of this scheme.

Planning Your Journey: Christchurch has excellent transport connections and a comprehensive road system making it one of the most accessible holiday destinations in the South West. Only a couple of hours on the train from London Waterloo, so you can leave your car at home, beat the traffic with [South Western Railway](#). When in resort we offer excellent transport links through [local bus](#) and train operators.

Please note changes can and do occur and are subject to change we strongly advise you check all details and procedures directly with the business/providers.

visit-christchurch.co.uk

