

Jurassic Coast Weekend Trek



Activity: Trek Grade:  Duration: 3 days

Stretching 95 miles between Old Harry Rocks in Dorset, to Orcombe Point in East Devon, the Jurassic Coast – England’s first Natural World Heritage Site – is the most geologically diverse coastline in the world. The exposed cliff sections allow you to look back through 185 million years of time; dinosaur remains have been found here, and it’s a fossil-hunter’s paradise.

With a more recent history of mining, shipwrecks and smuggling, this is a fascinating stretch of coastline. We take in some of its most spectacular scenery, from the renowned natural stone archway of Durdle Door to the beautiful circular Lulworth Cove, as we continually climb and descend the steep hills of the Jurassic Coast. We camp at a lovely campsite a short distance from our route.



Dates & Prices

2016
6 - 8 May 9 - 11 Sept

Fundraising Option
Registration Fee £75
PLUS Fundraising Target £460

Self Payment Option
Registration Fee £75
PLUS Trip Cost £230

2017
5 - 7 May 8 - 10 Sept

Fundraising Option
Registration Fee £75
PLUS Fundraising Target £490

Self Payment Option
Registration Fee £75
PLUS Trip Cost £245

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Meet Campsite

We meet at our campsite near Wool, Dorset, in the early evening for dinner and an evening briefing. After a good meal we have an opportunity to get to know the rest of the group and then a good night’s sleep ready for the rest of the weekend.

There will be transport arranged to pick you up from Wool railway station if required.

Day 2: Durlston Head – Kimmeridge

After a good breakfast, we transfer (approx. 30 mins) to Durlston Head, a Country Park on the cliffs above Swanage, for the start of our hiking challenge. This headland juts south and it’s not unusual to see migrating dolphins passing by in early summer. Setting off, we can pause at the impressive Globe, an enormous limestone sphere measuring 3m in diameter, engraved with an 1880s world map. There are fabulous views from the Globe, and they will accompany us as we walk west along the hilly coastline.

This area was long used for mining the famous Purbeck Marble and Portland Stone, and we see plenty of evidence of the activity as we pass old quarries and remains of huts along our way. The stone was often lowered by crane and taken away by boat,



Trekking Information

Our treks are graded from 1 (Moderate) to 5 (Extreme). This trek is Grade 2. We trek mainly on grassy paths but there are some stony tracks and small tarmac roads; some sections may be muddy. There are steep inclines both up and down.

The environment we walk through needs the respect of all its users to be preserved. Please walk on the path surface rather than on the vegetation growing beside it, don't remove stones from the paths and don't take short-cuts. Please follow the Countryside Code.

You will trek approximately 25 miles on this trip overall. It's more useful when training to think about the hours you need to walk for, and the type of terrain you will be trekking over!

Please note that we do not permit dogs on our treks.

DESIGNED TO BE CHALLENGING!

This trek is designed to be challenging for those of good health and fitness, and is achievable for most people provided they train well in advance. We will supply you with a thorough training guide when you have registered. Training for the challenge is all part of the preparation and requires commitment! Without it, you will find the trek less enjoyable – and we want you to have the time of your life!

and you can still see 'rut-ways' cut into the rock-bed at spots like the beautiful Dancing Ledge, where there's also a boat-sized hole cut into the lower ledge. Smuggling stories abound in this area and the rocky coastline had a large number of shipwrecks.

We continue west, over slopes cut into distinctive lynchets, or terraces, dating from medieval times – this enabled the steep slopes to be farmed. Our route dips down to reveal small bays and ledges with access to the sea, before climbing sharply up again. Seagulls, cormorants and guillemots wheel overhead and either side of the path wild flowers grow in abundance. As we pass the large quarry at Winspit, we climb gradually to St Aldhelm's Head, with its tiny, atmospheric Norman chapel perched on the headland. From here we plunge steeply downhill, aided by steps cut into the turf, and enjoy great views of the beautiful turquoise-blue Chapman's Pool below us. Climbing sharply up again, we can see in the distance our evening's destination – Kimmeridge Bay. Our last section has some flatter sections, and we can enjoy the views as Kimmeridge, with its distinctive Clavell Tower, draws nearer. The bay is home to the most amazing rock-pool and, tide permitting, there will be time for a paddle or to look for fossils before we are transported back to our campsite (approx. 20 mins).

Trek approx 14 miles / 22km

Day 3: Kimmeridge – Durdle Door

After breakfast we set out to rejoin the coastal path and continue walking west. It's not long before we enter Lulworth Ranges – land used as Army firing ranges. Not always open, this region is abundant in flora and fauna that, despite the military presence, has been protected from the development of farming, building and roads. It's also notable for its steep sections as we follow the contours of the cliffs, but the remarkable views over Worbarrow Bay are worth the effort! Time permitting, we can detour inland to the poignant village of Tyneham, deserted in the 1940s when the War Office commandeered the land. The church and schoolhouse are now museums, and many houses remain. The villagers were not permitted to return once the war had ended.

Food & Accommodation

Accommodation is in two-man tents, expedition-style (ie sleeping-room only!) at our campsite near Wool; you will share with someone else on the challenge. There are 'glamping' options (shepherd huts / tepees) should you wish to upgrade; these are limited in number and available on a first-come first-served basis. Please enquire for details.

All meals are included from Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime. The food is very good, will give you lots of energy and there is plenty of it! Being vegetarian or having other dietary requirements is not usually a problem provided you let us know well in advance.



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Detailed Itinerary (cont)

Continuing, there are more steep sections before us, but we are approaching the famous Lulworth Cove, and our first view of this almost perfectly circular bay is breathtaking. The cove was formed by glacial waters melting on the way out to sea, and this area of the Jurassic Coast is a geologist's dream. We have time to take in the amazing twisted rock layers around the cove before conquering our last steep uphill, over the white crumbling limestone cliffs that take us to Durdle Door, a clear arch in the rock carved out by the pounding waves. The sea is remarkably clear here, and it's an outstandingly beautiful place to finish our tough weekend's trek. After a group photograph at the finish point, we transfer back to our campsite to pack up and head for home after an exhausting but exhilarating weekend!

Trek approx 9 miles / 14km

Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

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What's Included

The tour cost includes all meals, accommodation and camping equipment except sleeping bag and sleeping mat. It also includes full trip support of experienced Discover Adventure leaders, drivers and cooks.

It does not include personal travel insurance (optional), extra food, drinks, souvenirs or personal items, or entrance to any tourist sites you may wish to visit.

We strongly recommend you carry a credit card in case of personal emergency.

Weather

Average summer temperatures for Dorset range from 10 – 25 °C. Even in the summer months we can be exposed to rain, strong winds, sea fog and storms. Be prepared for any weather! You will need appropriate, good quality footwear and clothing to cope with the weather conditions.



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