




Jurassic Coast Weekend



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.



Challenge Grading

Our trips are graded from Challenging (Grade 1) to Extreme (Grade 5).

This trek is graded **Demanding (2)**. Main challenges lie in the long distances over hilly terrain, much of it steep.

Many factors influence the Challenge Grading, such as terrain, distances, climate, altitude, living conditions, etc. The grade reflects the overall trip; some sections will feel more challenging than others. Unusual weather conditions also have a significant impact, and not all people are tested by the same aspects.

Our grading levels are intended as a guide, but span a broad spectrum; trips within the same grade will still vary in the level of challenge provided.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Meet Campsite

We meet at our campsite near Wool, Dorset, for a trek briefing, and get to know the rest of the group over dinner and an evening in camp.

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. Setting off, we can pause at the impressive Globe, an enormous limestone sphere engraved with an 1880s world map. There are fabulous views from the Globe, which accompany us as we walk west along the hilly coastline. This area was long used for mining famous Purbeck Marble and Portland Stone, which is evident from the old quarries other remains we pass. The stone was often lowered by crane and taken away by boat, and you can still see 'rut-ways' cut into the rock-bed at spots like the beautiful Dancing 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, enabling the steep slopes to be farmed. Seagulls, cormorants and



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Trekking Information

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! This trek is achievable for most people provided they train well in advance. We will supply you with a thorough training guide when you have registered. Please note that we do not permit dogs on our treks.

Crew & Trip Support

Your trip will be led by experienced Discover Adventure leaders, chosen for their experience, knowledge, friendliness and approachability, sense of humour and ability to safely and effectively deal with any situation that arises. They are also trained in expedition first-aid. You are in very safe hands with a Discover Adventure leader. The crew will have radios and phones, medical kit and other safety apparatus where necessary.

Detailed Itinerary (cont)

guillemots wheel overhead and wild flowers grow in abundance. Our route dips down to reveal small bays and ledges with access to the sea, before climbing sharply up again ... and again, and again! Finally we see Kimmeridge Bay in the distance, with the distinctive Clavell Tower, and our route flattens out a little. 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.

Continuing, there are more steep sections before us, but we are approaching famous Lulworth Cove, and our first view of this almost perfectly circular bay is breath-taking. Formed by glacial waters melting on the way out to sea, 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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Food & Accommodation

Accommodation is in shared two-man expedition-style tents (ie sleeping-room only!) 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 food is included except where specified in the itinerary. The food is very good, will give you lots of energy and there is plenty of it! Please let us know any dietary requirements well in advance.



Weather

It will hopefully be dry and clear, but even in the summer months we can be exposed to rain, strong winds, sea fog and storms. Be prepared for anything!



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