

www.brooklandtravel.com  
info@brooklandtravel.com  
T: 0845 1212863 or +44 (0)1305 259467  
F: +44 (0)1305 259469



## TOURS THROUGH TIME

A RANGE OF FULLY GUIDED HISTORICAL TOURS

# Jurassic Coastal Castles

**2/5 July 2010**  
**from the King's Arms Hotel, Dorchester \*\*\***



Discover the historic town of **Dorchester** with a comfortable stay in the central Kings Arms Hotel and explore some of Dorset's finest castles and historic properties along the Jurassic coastline, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.

Join historian and author, **Julian Humphrys**, to explore **Corfe Castle** – this thousand year-old castle is an iconic survivor of the English Civil War and one of the most evocative ruined castles in England. Its strategic position in the gap between the **Purbeck hills** was perfect for defending inland Dorset from attacks from the sea. You'll explore the links and intriguing tales of the **Bankes family**, whose home for over 300 years was Corfe Castle.



You will also visit the beautiful manor house of **Kingston Lacy**, the later seat of the **Bankes family**. This 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion contains an outstanding collection of paintings and other works of art.

The picturesque harbour setting at Weymouth is home to **The Nothe**, built in 1872 to protect Portland Harbour and home to the English and American forces during World War II. Alongside the sheltered waters of Portland Harbour (which will be the venue for many of the sailing events scheduled for the 2012 Olympic Games) is **Portland Castle**. This castle was built by Henry VIII to defend the anchorage against possible French and Spanish invasion. From the top of the **Isle of Portland** you can see the expanse of **Chesil Beach** and the **Jurassic coastline** stretching as far as East Devon on one side and to Lulworth Cove and the chalk cliffs beyond on the other.

On the final day of the tour you will visit **Lulworth Castle**, ruined after a fire in 1929 and reopened some 50 years later after a 9 year conservation initiative between English Heritage and its owners. Lulworth is famous for its Cove, a natural horseshoe shaped harbour and there will be time for a little scenic touring including a visit to **Hardy's Cottage**, before returning to Dorchester.

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### Itinerary at a glance

Day 1 Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Day 2 Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Day 3 Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Day 4 Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July
<p>Independent travel and check-in to the hotel from 14.00 hrs.</p> <p>19.00hrs: Welcome Reception and introduction to the tour.</p> <p>19.30hrs: Dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Depart by executive coach for Corfe Castle.</p> <p>Continue to Wimborne Minster for a visit to Kingston Lacey. Free time for lunch and the gardens and grounds of the estate.</p> <p>Return to the hotel.</p> <p>19.30hrs: Dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>A short drive to Weymouth with a stroll along the picturesque harbour to the the Nothe Fort.</p> <p>Depart Weymouth for Portland and the Portland Heights Hotel for Sunday Lunch (included).</p> <p>After lunch, enjoy a stroll along to Church Ope Cove to the ruins of Rufus Castle. This is followed by a guided tour of Portland Castle.</p> <p>Return to the hotel. Free evening to dine out.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Check-out of rooms with secure storage available for luggage.</p> <p>Depart for Lulworth for a visit to Lulworth Castle.</p> <p>Lunch may be taken in the castle tearooms.</p> <p>There should be time to tour the area, including Lulworth Cove and Thomas Hardy's Cottage.</p> <p>Return to Dorchester and depart at leisure.</p>

### Full Itinerary

**Day 1** Check in to the hotel on **Friday** afternoon and perhaps spend time to exploring the county town, Thomas Hardy's "Casterbridge". Dorchester has a rich history dating back to prehistoric and Roman times and the **County Museum**, a short distance from the hotel, is worth a visit. The Jurassic Coast Geology gallery opened in 2006 telling the story of the whole of the Jurassic Coast and there is also a major gallery of Dorset's famous writers, including Thomas Hardy. Alternatively, take a visit to **Maiden Castle** (English Heritage), the largest Iron Age fort in the country (transport will be required to reach this site). At 19.00 hrs, join fellow tour members for a welcome reception where Julian Humphrys will provide an introductory talk. Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant afterwards.

**Day 2** On **Saturday** morning, we will depart by executive coach for a visit to **Corfe Castle**, built in the latter part of the 11<sup>th</sup> century on a chalky ridge - a classic example of how the underlying rocks control the development of the landscape and coastline. During the Civil War, the castle was besieged on two occasions and eventually fell into Parliamentary hands and reduced to a ruin. There is a fascinating and remarkable history to this castle. There will be time to explore the village, where Enid Blyton loved to holiday and where she would have gained inspiration for many of her novels.

The next visit is to **Kingston Lacey House** near Wimborne Minster. This Restoration mansion was designed by Sir Roger Pratt for Sir Ralph Bankes to replace the earlier seat of Corfe Castle. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Charles Barry transformed the house into an Italianate palazzo to house the paintings and works of art collected by William John Bankes on his extensive travels in the Mediterranean.

Lunch can be taken at here and there will be time to enjoy the extensive grounds and gardens before returning to Dorchester. Overnight at the Kings Arms Hotel with dinner included.

Cont/...

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**Day 3** After breakfast on **Sunday**, there will be a drive to Weymouth and then a short stroll along the harbour side to the **Nothe Fort**. Today the 70 rooms on three levels - (Ramparts, Courtyard and Magazines), contain displays including dioramas, ship, aircraft and tank models, photographs and exhibits. It is an important Coastal Defence Museum. The tour continues to Portland and time permitting, there will be a brief stop to see the ruined Sandsfoot Castle, another of Henry VIII's defensive castles. The road to Portland crosses between the sheltered waters of Portland Harbour on one side and the sheer bank of pebbles (Chesil Bank) and the sea on the other side. On a fine day, the top of the island provides an impressive viewpoint and photo stop, particularly from The Portland Heights Hotel where Sunday lunch will be served (included).

After lunch, subject to weather conditions, there will be drive to a site known as "Church Ope" followed by a short stroll to the ruins of Rufus Castle, also known as the "Bow and Arrow" Castle. There is very little still intact but the archway spans a pathway to a picturesque cove, "Church Ope Cove".

A tour of **Portland Castle** will follow. Unusually for a fortress of this period, Portland Castle has seen much interior alteration, though the exterior remains largely unchanged. It first witnessed serious fighting during the Civil War, when it was seized by both Parliamentarians and Royalists. It became a Seaplane Station during World War I, and was in the forefront of the D-Day preparations which helped to end World War II. **The Governor's Garden**, designed by Christopher Bradley-Hole as part of the Contemporary Heritage Garden series, contains an impressive circular amphitheatre made from local Portland stone, with two-level seating for about 200 people. This perfectly sheltered spot is a great place to relax and enjoy the dramatic sea and harbour views.

**Day 4** After breakfast on **Monday** we will check out of our rooms and the hotel will store any luggage until we return from touring. The final visit of this tour is to **Lulworth Castle**. Surrounded by beautiful parkland with views of the Jurassic Coast, this 17th-century hunting lodge has remained in the same family since 1641. Since a devastating fire in 1929, the building has been restored externally and consolidated inside. The displays, interpretation panels, gallery and unique basement-to-tower interior reveal secrets from the past.

Lunch can be taken at Lulworth Castle and there should be time to explore a little of the local area including **Lulworth Cove** and **Thomas Hardy's Cottage** before returning the hotel via Dorchester South or Dorchester West stations. Depart at leisure on return to the hotel.

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*Tour Costs / Overleaf*

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### Tour Cost

Cost per person:	£425
Cost for person for National Trust Member:	£407
Cost per person for English Heritage Member:	£420
Cost per person for both of above:	£402
Single Occupancy Supplement:	£75
Non-Refundable Deposit:	£100 per person

#### What's Included

- Three night's accommodation with dinner each evening and full English breakfast each morning
- Welcome reception and introduction to the tour on the first evening
- All visits as described in the brief itinerary
- Two course lunch at The Portland Heights Hotel
- Executive style coaching throughout
- Services of a professional tour leader throughout

#### Not Included

- Lunches and refreshments unless otherwise indicated
- Travel insurance (highly recommended) – details available on request

*Brookland Travel reserves the right to alter the itinerary should it be necessary due to conditions beyond their control. Every effort will be made to maintain the spirit of the theme.*

### How to Book

You can visit the website and the "Contact Us" page to make a provisional booking. Alternatively, please ring the office between 9.00am-5.00pm (Monday-Friday). A non-refundable deposit of £100 is required at the time of booking, unless you are booking less than 8 weeks before departure. In this case, full payment of the tour is required.

### Further Information

If you have any questions about the tour, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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### Your Accommodation



#### The King's Arms Hotel, Dorchester \*\*\*

High East Street  
Dorchester

T: 01305 265353  
E: [info@kingsarmsdorchester.com](mailto:info@kingsarmsdorchester.com)

[www.kingsarmsdorchester.com](http://www.kingsarmsdorchester.com)

The King's Arms hotel, a 19th century coaching inn, is well used in Hardy's novels and poems. The recently refurbished rooms offer en suite facilities with baths and showers, LCD screens, free broadband access, direct dial telephones, hospitality tray, mineral water, hairdryers, iron/boards, CD player, radio and night porter service. The hotel also offers complimentary on-site parking at the rear of the hotel. There is a public bar serving snacks and meals and a restaurant.

**Extra nights** may be available, on request. Please enquire at the time of booking, as we may be able to secure a competitive rate for you.

### Directions

#### By Road

**From the London and the East:** Take M3 to M27. Take M27 west to A31. Follow A31 A35. At the first roundabout you come to on the A35 take the 3<sup>rd</sup> exit (B3150) into Dorchester. At the traffic lights go straight on over a small bridge. The King's Arms is on the right hand side a little way up the road and there is a small arched entrance to the car park

**From the West:** Entering Dorchester on A37 pass the BP Garage and continue up the hill to a roundabout. At the roundabout take the first exit and continue down the hill. The King's Arms is just past the large church on the left hand side and there is a small arched entrance to the car park.

#### By Rail

Dorchester South Station (0.5 miles): trains run directly on an hourly basis from London Waterloo.

Dorchester West Station (0.5 miles): links to Bath, Bristol and the West. For journey details and times please contact National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50.

#### Local Taxis

A Line Taxis	01305 262 888
Dorset Cars	01305 250 666
Countyline Taxis	01305 269 696