

GETTING AROUND IN DORSET



The X53 bus in Bridport

TRAVEL WITHIN DORSET

DRIVING

Within Dorset there are sections of dual carriageway and many towns are bypassed. However during busy periods progress may be slow due to most of the roads being narrow and twisting as well as passing through small villages.

Accordingly, driving times between different parts of the county may be relatively long. With such a lot of beautiful scenery and so many places to visit, this should be regarded as a bonus to the visitor.

It is the quietness of the thousands of miles of narrow, single track lanes which wind be-

The many quiet lanes are great for cyclists



tween hedges across the countryside that are one of Dorset's principal attractions. However, great care needs to be taken as the locals do not drive slowly! Very large tractors, lorries and other traffic are frequently encountered.

BUSES

Dorset offers two special treats. The Route 50 Purbeck Breezer starts at Bournemouth train station then follows the coastline to Sandbanks. It then takes the chain ferry to Studland before ending up at Swanage. Open top buses are used on the year-round route.

The X53 Jurassic Coast Bus Service operates every two hours in the summer from Exeter via Sidford, Beer, Seaton,

Lyme Regis, Charmouth, Bridport, Abbotsbury, Weymouth, Wool and Wareham to Poole. Tickets offer unlimited travel for a day. The service is ideal for walkers planning routes along the South West Coast Path. Full timetables at firstgroup.com/ukbus/dorset

CYCLING

Dorset offers a great deal to cyclists, however many of the main roads are not recommended. Most are narrow, with many blind summits and bends, and can be very congested at peak periods.

The good news is that the county has thousands of miles of delightful side roads and lanes to explore. Cycling is perhaps the best way to enjoy the Dorset countryside as the slow pace allows far more appreciation of the surroundings.

WALKING

The county is a paradise for all walkers, ranging from serious long distance types doing the South West Coast Path to those taking a short stroll. Walks are suggested through-

Dorset has many fingerposts





Walking on the Jurassic Coast out the book and in the Itineraries Section. A variety of books about walking routes are included in the bibliography.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

The dorsetforyou.com website has a great deal of useful information about all forms of travel within the county. This includes car, bus, cycling, walking, rail, boat and air. The live travel alerts are especially useful: mapping.dorsetforyou.com/TravelDorset

Another excellent website for Dorset transport and travel information is dorset-transport.info. It offers live transport information on aircraft movements, trains and National Express coaches. Some buses also have tracking devices.

Dorset county sign



DISTANCES BY ROAD FROM DORCHESTER

| WITHIN DORSET | | mi | km |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Dorchester | Blandford Forum | 18 | 29 |
| | Bournemouth | 29 | 46 |
| | Bridport | 15 | 24 |
| | Christchurch | 34 | 56 |
| | Exmouth | 60 | 97 |
| | Lyme Regis | 26 | 42 |
| | Poole | 24 | 39 |
| | Portland Bill | 17 | 27 |
| | Shaftesbury | 31 | 49 |
| | Sherborne | 20 | 32 |
| | Swanage | 26 | 42 |
| | Wareham | 20 | 33 |
| | Weymouth | 9 | 14 |
| NEARBY AIRPORTS | | mi | km |
| Dorchester | Bournemouth Airport | 29 | 46 |
| | Bristol Airport | 62 | 100 |
| | Exeter Airport | 55 | 89 |
| | Gatwick | 138 | 222 |
| | Heathrow | 111 | 178 |
| | Luton Airport | 144 | 232 |
| | Southampton Airport | 55 | 89 |
| | Stansted | 173 | 278 |
| FERRY PORTS | | mi | km |
| Dorchester | Dover | 199 | 320 |
| | Holyhead | 339 | 546 |
| | Hull | 309 | 497 |
| | Newcastle | 379 | 609 |
| | Pembroke | 213 | 343 |
| | Plymouth | 99 | 159 |
| UK TOWNS, CITIES AND PLACES | | mi | km |
| Dorchester | Aberdeen | 587 | 945 |
| | Birmingham | 169 | 273 |
| | Bristol | 62 | 100 |
| | Edinburgh | 457 | 735 |
| | Exeter | 55 | 89 |
| | Inverness | 612 | 985 |
| | John o'Groats | 728 | 1172 |
| | Lands End | 176 | 283 |
| | London Centre | 130 | 209 |
| | London M25 | 113 | 182 |
| | Salisbury | 40 | 65 |
| | Yeovil | 21 | 34 |