



## Things to see and do

*There is so much to do in Dorset, and also nearby Wiltshire, Somerset & Hampshire all in easy reach so this list is really a few highlights. Found somewhere you'd recommend then do let us know as we can keep adding to the list.*

### Walk from the door

- Short circular route up onto Melbury Beacon (45 mins ) or extend with a walk out and around Fontmell Down or across to Compton Abbas airfield. Want a big trek, then head over to Win Green and Tollard Royal to make a day of it (Pub in Tollard Royal – check to book.)
- Walk into Shaftesbury through lovely quiet rural lanes to go and visit the hilltop medieval town (1h-1h15 mins walk)

### Shaftesbury

- Gold Hill – take a picture at the Hovis Hill, and visit the free [Gold Hill Museum](#) (great trail for young children)
- Pick up an [Ecco Gelato](#) at the top of Gold Hill, and walk out onto Park Walk. Pop into the free Shaftesbury Abbey Museum.
- Take [the short or long tree trail routes](#) around the town (get a free map in Tourist Info centre which is inside Morrisons on Bell Street). A great walk with a dog, for fantastic views.

### Beaches

*Impossible to list and review all the Dorset beaches, so here's a very edited list!*

- Nearest is [National Trust's Studland Beach](#) (45 mins drive). 4 miles of stunning beach with white sands and safe swimming. Dogs on leads. If it's a beach type of day when the roads may get busy we recommend leaving here early (9am latest) to beat the queues. Free for NT members, or an all-day parking ticket. Check website for details. You pass Corfe Castle & Village on the way, and Swanage around the corner make for a great full day out.
- Durdle Door is another very famous beach and world heritage site. Does get super busy so same advice about leaving early applies. Needs to be seen once in a lifetime at least!
- Want to do beach with the dog – visit the Dorset Dog website <https://dorsetdogs.com/> to find out where you can go off-lead / on lead. Many beaches have different rules so check before you go!

### Dinosaur hunting?

- Kimmeridge Bay & the [Etches Collection Museum](#) – A fantastic small museum in a stunning Purbeck location, with a walking trail. 50 mins drive. Also great for rockpools & snorkelling
- Charmouth Beach – One of the safest places to have a go. An onsite visitor centre will give you lots of advice and daily fossil wardens will help out should you need it. 1hr 10 mins drive. Can stop in at Bridport, West Bay or Hardy Monument on your way.
- The Dinosaur Museum (great for 10 yrs and under), and the Dorset Museum in Dorchester. A great rainy day option. 45 minutes drive.





## Tweens or Teens

- [Studland Watersports](#) for paddleboarding, kayaking or pedalos (45 mins drive)
- [Moors Valley Country Park](#) (35 mins drive) for pretty much anything you want to do (cycling, play, laser tag, Go Ape & Segway)
- [Dorset Adventure Park](#) – with a waterpark and mud trail near Corfe Castle (35 minutes drive)

## Shade for dogs

- The Woodland Trust's Duncliffe Wood is a 13 minute drive away via the A30 from Shaftesbury. Park and enjoy the woodland. The Udder Farmshop is nearby, with a café but note, dogs only allowed outside.
- Kingston Lacy or Stourhead (National Trust) wider estate walks, great for shade
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## Food & Drink

### Other Farm shops

- [Udder Farm Shop](#) - Onsite butchers, fresh fruit and veg, (and the Udder café & Restaurant – see below)
  - 11 minute drive, open 7 days a week
  - Make a morning of it with a walk at [Duncliffe Wood](#)
- [Ansty Pick Your Own, Farm Shop](#) & tea room – Fresh fruit and veg, seasonal events, tea room
  - 12 minute drive, closed Mondays
- [Gold Hill Organic Farm shop \(and café\)](#)
  - 16 mins drive, open Thursday, Friday, Saturday
  - Tie it in with a visit to two of the most stunning hillforts in Dorset, [Hambledon Hill](#) & [Hod Hill](#)

### Places to eat

- [The Fontmell](#), a lovely pub in Fontmell Magna, just 7 minutes drive away, recently reopened. It's not a huge pub so book ahead recommended. Dogs are welcome in the bar area only so definitely book ahead if you are bringing the pooch. You can walk from the farm if you like. [Check out the route here.](#)
- New for 2023 – [Compton Abbas Airfield Restaurant](#), recently taken over by film director Guy Richie. See the planes and enjoy the food and Gritchie ales, in walking distance if you don't mind a good hill! Food service: Tues and Wed 09:30 – 15:00. Thurs and Fri 09:30 – 15:00 and Light Evening Menu from 18:00 – 21:00. Sat 09:30 – 15:00 and 18:00 – 21:00 (Booking Advised). Sun 09:30 – 16:00.
- [Udder café & restaurant](#) - Good quality breakfast, lunch and dinner. Look out for special offers like the 'Fish & Chips Friday £10 a head' - best sit down fish & chips in the area, or pick up a leaflet from us to get the 'Buy one get one free' breakfast (book ahead)
  - Booking recommended (especially for lunch) Book online.
  - 11 minute drive, open 7 days a week
  - No dogs, great for children, families & couples





- [The Forester Pub](#) - A traditional pub in a beautiful setting with fantastic food and lovely hosts. Dogs very welcome. Team it up with a visit to English Heritage's [Old Wardour Castle](#) which featured in Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves, and head to the hills to lap up the views at the [National Trust's Win Green](#)
  - Book online or give them a call
  - 12 minute drive, open 7 days a week food served from noon until 9pm
  - Dogs welcome indoors or out, great for children, families & couples
- [The Half Moon](#) – The closest pub in driving distance. Good for families, serves great portions and great if you need somewhere quick, easy and no fuss. If you want something a bit more fancy, this probably isn't the one for you.
  - Book online or give them a call
  - 4 minute drive, open 7 days a week food served from noon until 9pm
  - Great for children, families & couples, no dogs.
- [The Mitre Inn](#) - right in the middle of Shaftesbury, the Mitre has a fantastic terrace with views overlooking Melbury Beacon so is a great spot for lunch or dinner. Dogs welcome inside and out.
  - 6 mins drive+ short walk – you'll need to park at nearby pay & display Bell Street or Angel Lane
  - Dogs welcome inside, great for couples & families

### **Take aways (\*if also dine in)**

- [China Cottage](#) – 4 Bell Street. Take-away or delivery 01747 855200
- [\\*San Tonio Restaurant](#) and Takeaway (Italian) – 1 Mustons Lane 01747 855 566
- [\\*Nest](#) (Upmarket street food and a cracking menu) Eat in, or Take away - Next to Santander Bank, High Street, 01747 854172
- [\\*Aroma Indian Restaurant](#) (Eat in, delivery or take-away) – 2 Bell Street, 01747 855560
- [Dominos](#) (take-away or delivery) 01747 858598

