

Visit Dorset

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#VisitDorset

local produce.

places to eat and drink to enjoy the best of Dorset's

to glamping and camping spots. You'll find the best

from luxury hotels, home from home Bed and Breakfasts

Visit Dorset provides information on where to stay,

For information on staying longer or exploring further,

Looking to stay longer?

Tag us in your days out for a share

#DorsetAttractions



Your perfect day

out awaits!

Seeking a perfect family day out? Look no further and discover the magic of Dorset.



Photo by Samuel Wolff

The Best of Dorset Attractions offers something for everyone. Delve into history at our fascinating museums, where stories of Dorset's past, its military heritage, and the awe-inspiring Jurassic Coast unfold. Take a moment to relax as you wander through enchanting gardens or thrill the family with unforgettable animal encounters. From nostalgic steam railways to artisan pottery, Dorset blends heritage with pure fun for all.

Explore our selection of top attractions, each promising a unique adventure.

For news and events of what's going on ahead of your day out:

dorsetattractions.co.uk

@BestOfDorset

@bestofdorsetattractions



Attraction Locations

Days out & things to do guide

BEST OF

DORSET

ATTRACTIONS



Scan for more days out

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1

Abbotsbury Swannery

Abbotsbury, nr Weymouth, DT3 4JG



Abbotsbury Swannery is home to a colony of over 600 Mute Swans, located on the dramatic Dorset Coast. A relaxing and calm place, a visit to the Swannery is a special and unique experience. Watch the daily mass swan feeds at midday and 4pm, explore the living willow maze which is crafted in the shape of a swan. Also, home to the Brambly Hedge Trail which takes place around the Swannery. Visit the website for what's on and event information.

OPEN Mid March - November. Every day from 10am-5pm, with last entry by 4pm

f **@**AbbotsburySwannery
T: 01305 871858
abbotsburyswannery.co.uk

2

Dorset Heavy Horse Farm Park

Edmondsham Road, Wimborne, BH21 5RJ



Dorset's favourite family run attraction provides an award-winning day out for EVERY GENERATION! Whether you are a family group, grandparent or young couple, embark on a FULL DAY of activities, events & animal adventure! Meet & feed our rare breed heavy horses, take a trip on the Heavy Horse Carriage Ride, enjoy a hands on 'interactive' farmyard feeding tours for budding little farmers, vintage truck displays and fairground rides, play parks and more. A day out in the heart of the countryside NOT to be missed! Smokey Joes Western Cafe - Open exclusively to park visitors.

OPEN From 5 April - 1 November 2025. See website for days and times as vary.

f **@**dorsetheavyhorsefarmpark
T: 01202824040
dorset-heavy-horse-centre.co.uk

3

Farmer Palmer's Farm Park

Wareham Road, Organford, Poole, BH16 6EU



Farmer Palmer's, the award-winning Dorset Farm Park, have thought of everything! Perfect for children 0-8 years, and with so much to do. Farmer Palmer's provides the ideal fun-filled day out, whatever the weather! Make memories with the animals, explore the indoor & outdoor play areas, enjoy some delicious treats from our Hen House Restaurant, experience our bumpy Tractor-Trailer rides, take a walk along our Dinosaur Discovery Trail, and so much more! Please note, pre-booking is essential.

OPEN 9.30am to 3pm, 4pm or 5pm subject to time of year. See website for details.

f **@**FarmerPalmersFarmPark
@FarmerpalmersUK
T: 01202 622022
farmerpalmers.co.uk

4

RockReef and PierZip

RockReef Pier Approach, Bournemouth, BH2 5AA



RockReef is celebrating 11 years of non-stop adventure! An Indoor Activity Attraction located at the end of Bournemouth Pier. From 28 Clip 'n Climb themed, indoor climbing walls providing varying degrees of exciting challenges, to a Highline aerial course, Vertical Slide, and Pier Cave, there's excitement for all ages. Take on the PierZip, soar 250 metres from Bournemouth Pier to shore! Rain or shine, RockReef is the ultimate indoor-outdoor thrill. Book now!

OPEN Public session times vary, visit website for opening and availability.

@rockreef_uk
T: 01202 983983
rockreef.co.uk

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Splashdown

Tower Park Leisure Complex, Poole, BH12 4NY



Spin, slide, whoosh! Join in the flumin' good fun at Splashdown, the south's favourite all action waterpark attraction. For the thrill-seekers, brave the Screamer with its vertical drop. Plunge into darkness on the Black Thunder, or why not slide into a disco on Infinity. Or just go with the flow on the Mississippi Drifter – a super fun tyre slide. Open Dorset School and Bank holidays and most weekends throughout the year, 2 and 3 hour tickets, great for all ages - see website for all the info. ONLINE BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

OPEN Varies by season - see website for details.

f **@**splashdownpoole
@splashdownwaterparks
T: 01202 716000
splashdownwaterparks.co.uk

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The Royal Signals Museum

Blandford Forum, DT11 8BJ



Dorset's hidden gem, the Royal Signals Museum has something for everyone. Follow an interactive path through time, and discover the Science, History and Technology of Army Communications from Semaphore & Satellite to Cyber. Featuring SOE, SAS, Spies Codes and Secret Agents, Women at War, Animals at War, Vehicle and Motorcycle Collections ... and more.

OPEN 10am - 5pm, Monday - Friday, 11am - 4pm Saturday, Closed Sundays. See website for more.

@signalsmuseum
T: 01258 482248
royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk

7

The Tank Museum

Bovington, BH20 6JG



Experience the Biggest Day Out in History at The Tank Museum, Dorset's largest indoor attraction with 10 exhibitions to explore. The Tank Museum brings the story of tanks and their crews to life, with the world's finest collection of tanks displayed in awe-inspiring, interactive exhibitions. See epic live displays, Santa in a tank, and more with their exciting, year-round events programme. Tickets include an Annual Pass and visitors get 15% off when they book online.

OPEN 10am - 5pm, open every day; Closed 4 July, 7, 14, 21 & 28 November, and 24-26 December 2025

@tankmuseum
@thetankmuseum
T: 01929 405096
tankmuseum.org

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Bennetts Water Gardens

Chickerell, Weymouth, DT3 4AF



An 8-acre garden renowned for its National Plant Collection of water lilies. Featuring ponds, lakes, a Claude Monet-style Japanese bridge, a tropical house, woodland walks, and a museum detailing local history, it offers a tranquil visitor experience.

OPEN Varies through seasons, see website for details.

T: 01305 785150
@bennettswatergardens
bennettswatergardens.co.uk **@**BennettsWG

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Forde Abbey and Gardens

Chard, TA20 4LU



Thirty acres of award winning gardens with cascading lakes, ponds and herbaceous borders. Delightful throughout the year with naturalised wildflower meadows and topiary lined vistas. Home to England's highest powered fountain. Café, gift shop, specialist plant nursery and pottery. Events all year.

OPEN March - October. 10:30am - 4:00pm

T: 01460 221290
fordeabbey.co.uk **@**FordeAbbeyandGardens
@fordeabbey

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Lemur Landings

Tower Retail Park, Yarrow Rd, Poole BH12 4NY



Play to the max at one of the premier children's entertainment centres in Dorset. Huge playframe, climbing zone, role play village where imaginations run wild. Check out our events for discos and phaser tag. Birthday parties our speciality. Fun for ages tots to 11.

OPEN Times vary, see website for details and booking.

T: 01202 740500
@LemurLandings
lemurlandings.co.uk **@**lemurlandingsplaycentre

11

Monkey World - Ape Rescue Centre

Longthorns, Wareham, BH20 6HH



Combining fun with conservation, at Monkey World man's closest relatives live naturally in family groups. Home to over 240 rescued apes and monkeys of more than 22 species, visitors support the rescue work, while having a great day out!

OPEN Daily 10am-5pm. Closed 25 Dec.

@MonkeyWorldOfficial
@monkeyworldaperescue
@mwaperescue
T: 01929 462537
monkeyworld.org

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The Etches Collection

Kimmeridge, Wareham BH20 5PE



Museum of Jurassic Marine Life hosting the finest collection of late Jurassic age fossils in the UK & home to the BBC Attenborough 'Giant Sea Monster' Pliosaurus skull. Features 'Prehistoric' aquarium, family friendly activities, fully accessible, gift shop & refreshments.

OPEN 10am - 5pm Monday - Sunday Closed 24,25,26 Dec.

T: 01929 270000 **@**theetchescollectionkimmeridge
theetchescollection.org **@**tec_kimmeridge

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Imagine winning a jam-packed 2026 filled with thrilling outings to Dorset's Top Attractions.



Scan to enter

To enter this amazing prize draw, simply scan the QR code and fill in your details before the 31st January 2026.

Terms and conditions will apply, scan code for more information.