



03 DORSET LULWORTH COVE & DURDLÉ DOOR

■ Distance: 8½ miles/13.8km ■ Time: 4-5 hours ■ Grade: Moderate



SEE
FEATURE
ON PAGE 83

View E from Swyre Head (beyond Point 2) overlooking Durdle Door.

PHOTO: FIONA BARLTROP



CHOSEN BY... FIONA BARLTROP

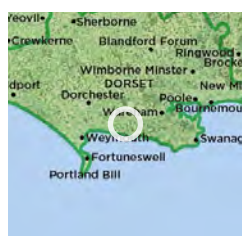
Lulworth Cove and nearby Durdle Door are two of the most famous geological features of the Jurassic coast, and duly popular (summer/bank holidays best avoided). The most heavily used stretch along the South West Coast Path is that between the two of them, which involves a long steady climb from Lulworth Cove to the top of the hill and a corresponding descent to Durdle Door. Thankfully thereafter it's a good deal quieter as you continue along the rollercoaster-like grassy chalk cliffs - the stunning scenery and views well repay the effort! The walk leads to

the striking chalk headland of White Nothe continuing along the high cliffs above Ringstead Bay, with a return along an easier inland ridge-top route.

1 Start

Head to end of car park and follow wide stone-pitched Coast Path (CP) uphill to top, where it levels out, then dips down to a gate (Durdle Door car park up to R). Turn L down track to viewpoint above Durdle Door. As with Lulworth Cove and adjacent Stair Hole there are five types of rock exposed in the cliffs here (Durdle Door arch is of Portland stone). Either side are beaches of Man O'War Bay (to L) and Durdle Door (to R), good for swimming.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Lulworth Cove, BH20 5RQ, grid ref SY822800; or NT car park N of South Down Farm, grid ref SY757824

Is it for me? Strenuous ascents/descents along SWCP: initially surfaced, then grassy; easier, more level walking along inland stretch. Start from NT car park adds 1 mile to route
Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest towns Wareham, Weymouth & Dorchester

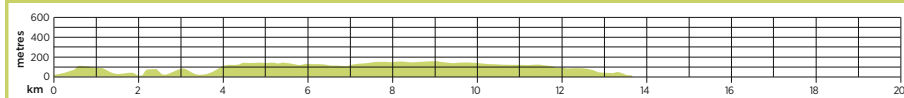
Refreshments Choice at Lulworth Cove; Durdle Door Ice Cream Kiosk

Public toilets Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door (car park)

Public transport X54 bus Weymouth-Poole; X55 and Purbeck Breezer 30 (Easter/May to Sept). All call at Wool station

Maps OS Explorer OL15; Landranger 194

GRADIENT PROFILE



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OS Explorer map OL15 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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2 1 mile/1.7km

Continue along CP above beach, gently rising, then descending to dry valley of Scratchy Bottom. Steep climb up Swyre Head follows – great views back – then it's down, up, down and up again past a beacon. Beyond it path levels out, leading to Whitenoth Cottages. Turn L out onto headland, pass pillbox/lookout and bear L along top to stone bench with superb view E along chalk cliffs.

3 3½ miles/5.4km

Return to CP, turning L to continue on cliff-top path to kissing gate. Fork R across grass (NT land) passing to R of dwelling. Go through kissing gate in far corner to join track at bend.

4 4¼ miles/6.9km

If starting from NT car park, keep ahead to return to it. Otherwise turn immediately R through another gate onto stone track, passing barn on R. Route continues as grassy track/path through fields. Keep ahead at junction (not marked on OS map) indicating East Chaldon to L and Warren and CP to R.

5 6½ miles/10.6km

Go through bridle gate (noting waymarks on post alongside) into another field. Take R fork maintaining direction and height, heading towards some scrub by a fence. Continue along grass to R of scrub. After turning on R for Scratchy Bottom, path, now a track, reaches Newlands

Farm. Turn R along access road and R again down road to Durdle Door Holiday Park. Where road forks just past turning area, branch off L along path that runs through belt of trees on edge of Park.

6 7¾ miles/12.4km

Exit woodland through gate and turn L signed for West Lulworth. Path heads gently downhill. At signpost by gate on L, keep ahead by fence on L, then L to start. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



**Ordnance
Survey**

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING