

Things to do...

On the estate

Walks

There are many lovely walks around the estate (a map is in cottage guide). The South West Coast Path also runs through the southern boundary of the estate near the beach. You can walk from Marbles to Lyme Regis (takes 2 hours with children approx 3 ½ miles) or to Seaton (approx similar distance) and beyond. Alternatively just a stroll along the driveways and paths of the estate can while away a few enjoyable hours. The X53 costal bus service runs from Seaton and Lyme Regis and is useful to catch for a return journey!

The beach

The walk to the private Charton Bay beach takes about 20 minutes from the door. The path is rugged and very steep in parts. You may wish to take the car down the track (rugged, narrow terrain) and park in the small car parking area before taking the cliff path to the beach. See further information overleaf in the cottage guide, but please note that the path can be slippery and is steep in parts so please be cautious with older people and toddlers.

Nearby places to visit/days out

Lyme Regis (2 ½ miles) – An ancient seaside town with great shops, galleries, cinema & Theatre. Many cafe's, bars and restaurants to choose from. Sandy beach ideal for children and families. Monmouth Beach is great for fossils, large and small. RNLI lifeboat, boat trips and fishing trips available from the historic cob walls. Parking available at Holmbush Car park - £1.70 all day, other car parks are more expensive. It is advisable to use the park and ride in summer months.

Recommended places to visit in Lyme:

Dinosaur museum.

Fossil shops and museum – have a chat with local experts and review their finds

Marine aquarium – meet the local 60 year old lobster!

Town Mill and Bakery – working water Mill, shop and bakery

Heading West...

Seaton (3 miles) – Through Axmouth and along the Axe estuary with its wildlife nature reserve. Pebbled beach (rock pools at western end), traditional shops and fish and chips. Coastal path walk to Rousdon and Lyme Regis or Beer.

Electric tramway – open top trams rides to Colyford. Well worth a trip. Antiques centre in Colyford

Beer (6 miles) – Unspoilt fishing village of smugglers and lace making fame. Sheltered pebble beach offering fishing trips and sailing/pleasure boat trips.

Beer quarry caves - learn about the Beer stone quarrymen of 2000 years ago

Pecorama - a must for children of all ages.

Branscombe – Pretty seaside village. Vibrant Beach cafe, shingle beach

Devenish Pitt Riding Centre – Family run riding centre offering lessons and hacks. Usually closed Mon/Tues except for bank holidays and School holidays.

Axminster – Market town, variety of shops and supermarket. River Cottage Canteen, cafe, restaurant and grocery store.

River Cottage Canteen (01297 631862)– Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstalls Dorset restaurant, cafe and grocery store.

Honiton – Historic town, known for antiques shops and cafe's.

Sidmouth – Elegant town with stunning architecture, pebble beach and lengthy promenade. Shops, cafes and restaurants to suit all tastes.

Donkey Sanctuary – Free access to meet and learn about adopted and rescued Donkey's.

Bicton Park - Historical gardens, 19th Century Palm House, woodland railway, a good family day out.

Otterton Mill – working water mill and museum. Lovely cafe and studios of local work. Shop selling locally milled flour and groceries.

Exmouth – Long sandy beaches with sand dunes and a promenade. Several cafe's, mainly open air. Family holiday resort.

Darts Farm, Topsham – retail shopping centre, Fired Earth, Aga, Orange Tree. High quality local produce and gifts. Great Fish and Chip cafe, good indoor cafe/restaurant, children park, animals and PYO fruit and veg in summer months

Topsham – lovely fishing village with good range of shops, cafe's restaurants and antiques centre. Boat trips provided from the quay to a lovely riverside pub

Heading East....

Charmouth – Pebble beach, great for fossil hunting. Charmouth Heritage Coast education centre and Beach Cafe. Traditional shops, several pubs and fish and chip shops.

West Bay – Traditional fishing town and harbour. Shingle beach, popular family seaside resort. Selection of fish restaurants, pubs and cafe's

Chideock – winding roads leading to a wide open shingle beach, flanked by fabulous cliff top paths. Great pub, "The Anchor" (01297 489215) lovely to eat outside.

Bridport – Historic Dorset market town. Street markets held every Wednesday and Saturday, Farmers market on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Art centre, galleries, museum.

Eype – secluded, quiet shingle beach, accessed via winding country lanes. Great walks along beach and cliff top paths. Golden Cap.

Burton Bradstock – Further along the coast, very pretty village with several small shops and pubs. Great beach cafe "The Hive" (01308 897 070) at National Trust beach.

Abbotsbury – Another very pretty Dorset village. The Sub-tropical gardens, Swannery and childrens park are all well worth a visit, albeit a little pricey.

In Marbles

Serenity Aromatherapy: Swedish massage, hot stone therapy, foot treatment, all available from our local therapist in the privacy of your holiday accommodation. Please see brochure for further details and contact numbers, please contact Nikki directly or call your property owner.

Games: A selection of family games and cards are available in the living room. Please ensure these are kept in good order for all visitors to enjoy

Books, CD's, Blu-Ray & Video: A selection of books, CD's, movies and documentaries are available for you to use during your stay. Please do not remove from the property, any losses will be charged for. Instructions for use can be found in the House Guide

TV: Providing Freeview channels. Please note however, signal reception varies in inclement weather due to rural location. Please do not re-tune the channels. Instructions for use can be found in the House Guide.

Please feel free to add suggestions or comments. This list will be updated each season.

Restaurants, Pubs and Cafe's

The Dower House Hotel, Rousdon (01297 21047)– just at the end of the drive, hotel dining and bar.

The Wheelwright Inn, Colyford (01297 552 585)– Winner of Best dining Pub, South West award 2009. Very pleasant for lunch, evening meal or just a drink.

The Mill, Tea and Dining Rooms, Lyme Regis (01297 44 57 57) – much reviewed in the press, Dorset Life and Country Living magazines, a well located, tea room and fresh-food restaurant.

The Ship Inn, Axmouth (01297 21838)– recently refurbished and changed owners to ex-residents of Rousdon Estate.

Harbour Inn, Axmouth (01297 20371)– country pub, good food, pleasant views and garden

The Anchor Inn, Sea Town, Nr Chideock (01297 20371)– Beach side public house offering great garden and good pub food and drinks.

Hix Oyster and Fish House, Lyme Regis (012974 46910)– Opened in 2009 by celebrated chef Mark Hix. A pleasant restaurant sitting above the beautiful harbour and Cobb wall of Lyme Regis. Locally sourced and seasonal produce.

The Harbour Inn, Lyme Regis (012974 42299)– Good Pub food, large selection and reasonably priced, right on the beach front at Lyme.

Harry Tate's Tapas Bar, Lyme Regis (01297 442699)– Under new ownership for 2011, a small comfortable Tapas bar located on the first floor with a open terrace right on the beach front in Lyme Regis. Limited opening times out of season.

The Hive Beach Cafe, Burton Bradstock (01308 897 070)– Good locally sourced fish cafe/restaurant. Good for a weekend breakfast, lunch or dinner any time of year.

Janes Cafe, Lyme Regis (01297 442657) – Good selection of pit stop meals and drinks, a great place to stop for a cup of tea out of season. Outside seating area during summer months

The Beach Cafe, Lyme Regis (01297 445923)– Lyme Regis beach front, great English Breakfast at weekends

The Sea Shanty restaurant and shop, Branscombe (01297 680 577)– located right on the beach at Branscombe, good selection of reasonably priced food.

The River Cottage Canteen, Axminster (01297 631862)– Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall's Dorset restaurant and cafe, serving locally sourced seasonal produce. Great for lunches, busy for dinner (best to book ahead)

Herbies Fish and Chip van, Sea front Lyme Regis – great fish and chips using locally caught cod!

Rinky Tinks, Marine Parade, Lyme Regis – crazy ice cream sundaes and a good cup of tea, very kitch!

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