



# Lulworth Cove via Tyneham and Durdle Door Circular walk

Dramatic coastal scenery, Lulworth cove, hidden beaches, a cliff arch, and a ghost town. Travel by car only.

Length			
	Main Walk	14.6 miles (23.5 km)	3,500 ft (1,050 meters) of ascent.
	Lulworth Cove to Durdle Door loop	4 miles (7 km)	750 ft (260m) of ascent (half the ascent if you don't go down to the beach)
	Tynham Village loop	5.5 miles (9 km)	1,000 ft (340m) of ascent

**Toughness** 10 out of 10 - the west loop (Durdle Door) is not too bad, the east loop (Tyneham) is harder, but its the coast path between them which is the killer!

**Features** This is a very beautiful and dramatic coastal walk, which takes in the iconic Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door (an arch), Purbeck's dramatic coastal scenery, and the abandoned coastal village of Tyneham.

The walk is a 'dog bone' shape, centred on Lulworth Cove by the Castle Inn (lunch pub)

## The Tynham Loop

The Tyneham loop starts at Povington Hill, a ridge with a 360° view of Purbeck (and a car park). It then descends into the abandoned village, which is worth exploring (church, museum), and climbs the other side of the valley to the cliff edge. It then follows the rollercoaster South West Coast Path (SWCP) along the cliffs to a beach, and more dramatic viewpoints. It then steeply re-ascends the Povington Hill ridge to Flowers Barrow, a stunning viewpoint (and the link point to the coast path 'in between' to Lulworth Cove)> Finally, there's a gentle ridge walk back to the to the start.

## The Coast Path in between.

This part of the walk is done twice to link the 2 loops. This is a lovely walk over Bindon Hill with stunning coastal views (and Lulworth Cove) in one direction, and a cliff side path for the return. The killer though, is the steep descent to sea level and equally steep re-ascent back up to the ridge at Arish Mell beach.

## The Durdle Door Loop

The Durdle Door loop is much gentler. It follows the SWCP west along cliffs to Durdle Door (an arch) and a nice beach below. The return is slightly inland, on a higher path (with less ups and downs) over open grassland, with fine views of the coast.

This is a 'car walk', as its not very suitable for public transport. There is a rare bus service from Wool Station, about 4 miles away. See below for details. For groups, there are reasonably priced taxis.

The eastern half of this walk (around Tyneham), and the coast path in between, is through a **Danger Area** (Army Tank Training Area). **It is sometimes closed - check the opening times before travelling.** If closed, you can always do the Western part of the walk from Lulworth Cove to Durdle Door.

### Diversions

[July 2017] The direct paths shown on the OS map from Lulworth Cove up on to the ridge are currently blocked due to erosion. Either walk along cove (along the beach) to its eastern side, or detour inland along the road to East Lulworth. See the route on the OS map page.

### Walk Options

The walk is a 'dog bone' shape. You can do either one loop or both at either end, or the entire walk.

- 54 The full walk
- 54A Tyneham Circular - ghost village, cliff path, ridge with sea views
- 54B Lulworth Cove via Durdle Door Circular - cove to the cliff top arch viewpoint, down to the beach, and back via an inland ridge.

### Links

- [Tyneham Village](#) was occupied by the army during WW2, but the villagers were never allowed back. The village church, school (now a museum, free), and some ruined house remain. The sign on the church reads: *Please treat the church and houses with care; we have given up our homes where many of us lived for generations to help win the war to keep men free. We shall return one day and thank you for treating the village kindly*
- The [Jurassic Coast](#) is a marketing name for this gorgeous stretch of very old coastline - white limestone, with lots of cliff features - coves and arches. It is the real star of this walk. The entire area is [geology heaven](#)
- [Lulworth Cove](#) - looks dramatic from afar, not quite so special close up.
- [Durdle Door](#) - a cliff arch, dramatic from near and afar.

### Travel

By train: There are occasion offers on SWT (~ £15 day return in 2016), but is better suited for a weekend trip.

By car: Start the walk in Tyneham which has free parking. Povington Hill Car Park (on the ridge above the village), not far from East Lulworth, is about 3 hours drive from London. You can also park below Povington Hill in Tyneham village itself. There is also a large, expensive car park at Lulworth Cove, or you can park 1km inland in West Lulworth village for free.

### Lulworth Cove

Lulworth Cove, nearby Durdle Dor (a cliff arch), the dramatic white cliffs coastal scenery are stunningly beautiful, and very popular and busy on sunny summer weekends.

### Travel

Wool Station is 4 miles north of Lulworth Cove. Trains from London Waterloo are hourly, and take about 2 hrs 20 mins.

### Wool Station to Lulworth Cove Updated : Spring 2017

Check online, these bus services change **every** year! - and 2018 was no exception : [Traveline South West](#).

- Summer Only: **30 : Swanage - Corfe Castle - Wareham station - Wool station - Lulworth Cove - Osmington - Weymouth station (stop K5)**. Daily. Almost hourly. Last bus to Wool station 1814.
- Summer only : **X55 bus service : Weymouth Station - Osmington - Lulworth Cove - Wool Station - Wareham Station - Poole**. Irregular times. Daily to 30 September. From Wool station to Lulworth at 10:30, 13:30. From Lulworth to Wool station at 12:55, 16:25. Last bus from Lulworth Cove is the 17:18 in the opposite direction to Weymouth station.
- Taxis for groups are very reasonable. Silvercars (01929 400409 or 07811 328281) quotes £13 for up to 8 people from Lulworth Cove to Wool Station.

Wool has a pub to await your train, and a local store that keeps long hours.

If doing the Lulworth Weymouth walk, consider doing the walk in reverse: Lulworth Cove to Weymouth. A train from London about 8am should connect at Wool Station with a bus to Lulworth Cove. You can then walk to Weymouth, which has regular trains. This is the only public transport option outside of the summer school holidays when the X43 bus operates.

### By Car

There are large expensive car parks at Lulworth Cove, and by the camp site above Durdle Dor. You can park about 1km inland in Lulworth Village for free

## Stay

Lulworth has a YHA youth hostel, a HF hotel, a campsite (mostly caravans, but they take tents), and some expensive B&Bs and Hotels

## Eat

[Lulworth Cove Inn](#) BH20 5RQ, 01929 400333, in Lulworth Cove, real ale, outdoor terrace, food was good for such a touristy place

Other options : The Lulworth Beach Hotel (restaurant) and a cafe. For drivers : up the road (0.5m) in West Lulworth is The Castle Inn, or in East Lulworth (2m), The Weld Arms

### Danger Area

This is an army firing range around Tynham, just to the east of Lulworth Cove. It is only open at certain times.

## Lulworth Range Walks

The range walks are open A) most weekends (they are closed about 6 weekends a year) and B) every day during school holidays (Christmas, Easter, Summer)

### 2018

The Lulworth Range walks and Tyneham Villages are **open** to the public every weekend with the **>exception** of the following:

1. 13th/14th January 2018
2. 24th/25th February 2018
3. 17th/18th March 2018
4. 13th/14th October 2018
5. 3rd/4th November 2018
6. 8th/9th December 2018

In addition to the weekends they are **open** every day during the following times; all dates are inclusive:

Christmas 16th December 2017 - 1 st January 2018  
 Easter 30th March 2018 - 15th April 2018  
 Spring Break 26th May 2018 - 3 rd June 2018  
 Summer 27th July 2018 - 2 nd September 2018  
 Christmas 22nd December 2018 - 7 th January 2019

Please check for latest information at the following websites:

- [Lulworth Access Times](#)
- For up to date information, visit the [MOD Access Website](#) and search around for the Lulworth Ranges PDF.
- Or try [Google: Lulworth Ranges](#), or [here](#) or [here](#).

### Help Us!

After the walk, we would love to get your [feedback](#)

### Photos

Upload your photos to the [SWC Group on Flickr](#), and [videos to Youtube](#). This walk's tags are:



### By Car

**Start** Main Road, West Lulworth, Dorset, BH20 5RQ

### Map Walk

This walk **requires** an OS map and a compass or GPS for navigation. You can print out OS maps using the link above.

### Help

National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Travelline SE (bus times): 0871 200 2233 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234

### Version

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# Walk Directions

This walk is a "figure of 8" - 2 loops centred on Lulworth Cove. You can start anywhere

These instructions are based on parking at Povington Hill car park, above Tyneham, but its possible to start anywhere along the route, e.g. Lulworth Cove car park

## The East Loop - Tyneham

1. Head inland along Lulworth Cove road, then take a path up then east over Bindon Hill.
2. Rejoin the SWCP. There is a killer descent then ascent.
3. At Flowers Barrow, a dramatic viewpoint, leave the SWCP, and follow the ridge east to Povington Hill, until you reach a downhill track to your left
4. A little further along the ridge is Povington Hill car park (free, marked on the OS map). From the car park, head west along the ridge to reach this point
5. Take the track south, downhill into the valley, to Tyneham Village, which you can see down to your right
6. After exploring the village continue south, and climb up to Gad Cliff on the opposite side of the valley
7. Detour east towards Tyneham Cap to enjoy the view, before returning to this point
8. Follow the SWCP west, past Worbarrow Tout and Worbarrow Bay (Tyneham's pretty beach) then a murderous climb up to the dramatic Flowers Barrow (viewpoint)
9. Continue on the SWCP, down to Mupe bay, and another murderous climb, continue along the coast until you reach Lulworth Cove
10. Lunch/Tea is at the Lulworth Cove Inn

## The West Loop - Durdle Door and Swyre Head

11. Head west along the coast path, following the SWCP towards Durdle Door. You pass Stair Hole (a cove in the making), and above St Oswalds Bay (access is from Durdle Door)
12. Vist Durdle Door.
13. Continue along the coast, turn back a km or so past Swyre Head
14. Return slightly inland, and higher up, with less ups and downs, along the path parallel to the coast, marked on the OS map.
15. Pass north of the caravan park, then go south east (south of the minor road) to meet a track going to the Lulworth Cove Road
16. Head south along the road to the pub and car-park
17. Lunch/Tea is at the Lulworth Cove Inn

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