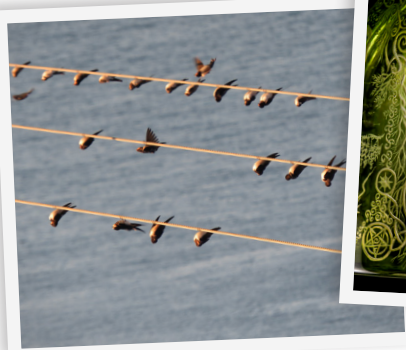


Turn the page for our *What's On* guide...



Don't miss the programme of exhibitions in the beautiful Fine Foundation Gallery at Durlston Castle by artists and makers from Dorset and around the country. With drawings, paintings, sculpture and ceramics there is always something new to enjoy.

Gallery

No visit is complete without exploring our free, accessible visitor centre at Durlston Castle - a unique Victorian building with spectacular rooftop views, café, gallery and shop. Step back in time and discover Durlston's Jurassic Coast, take a trip round the Durlston year with a cliffs, take a trip round the Durlston year with a immersive 4-screen film, or chat to our friendly Rangers and volunteers.



Durlston Castle

Food & Drink

Seventh Wave is a friendly, welcoming café and restaurant in Durlston Castle, with stunning views of the Jurassic Coast. Cakes and coffee are available all day and our freshly prepared meals use lots of local produce.

Open daily from 9:30am to 4pm (Monday to Friday) and to 4:30pm at weekends. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. For more information, call **01929 421111**, visit seventhwavrestaurant.co.uk or email seventhwavrestaurant@gmail.com



Accessibility

We aim to provide the highest level of access for visitors and want everyone to enjoy a great visit. In 2020 Durlston won the Visit England Gold for Accessible and Inclusive Tourism.

Start your visit at Durlston Castle, where we can offer advice to get the most from your day.

Comprehensive access information is available on our website.



Trampers available for hire



General information

The Park, car parks, hide and Learning Centre toilets are accessible daily between sunrise and sunset. **Castle opening times:** November - March (winter) 4pm, April - October (summer) 10am to 5pm. Castle closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day. **Café:** 9:30am to 4pm (winter) 5pm (summer). **Fine Foundation Gallery:** 10:30am to 4pm (winter), 4:30pm (summer). Please note the gallery may be closed for exhibition changeover or private events. See overleaf for details. **Dogs** are welcome on paths either on a lead or under very close control. Please clean up after your dog.

How to get here



Durlston Country Park, Lighthouse Road, Swanage, Dorset BH19 2JL

Follow the brown tourist information signs through Swanage. If you are coming by bike, please use the bike racks provided. There is no cycling at Durlston outside the car parks.

Phone: **01929 424443**
Email: durlston@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.durlston.co.uk

Durlston Country Park is owned and managed by:



Supported by:



National Nature Reserve



What's On guide inside
October 2026 - April 2027



Waymarked walking trails help you explore this stunning National Nature Reserve. Kids can enjoy our Wild Play trail, try out an Explorer's Bag or go wild in 340 acres of countryside. Join one of more than 200 events, or just enjoy tranquility and spectacular views - see overleaf. For more information about Durlston, including weddings, room hire, volunteering and school bookings, visit durlston.co.uk. Durlston is free to visit, but there is a charge for parking. Please pay (by cash or card) at the machines just before you leave.



Your day at Durlston



What's new?

Explore woodland walks with breathtaking views of Durlston Bay, enjoy a parkrun through spectacular coastal scenery, try stargazing or bird-watching for beginners, or enjoy seasonal local produce in our café.



Highlights this season include ranger-led guided walks exploring the nature and history of the park, expert-led workshops and events, stargazing sessions, and screenings from the Purbeck Film Festival. In the Fine Foundation Gallery, a varied programme of exhibitions includes Insects of Durlston and Durlston Past, works by the South West Guild of Glass Engravers, 'A Day Sketching' by Laurie King, featuring pen-and-ink drawings, and acrylic abstract paintings by Claudia Harris.

Ongoing

Everyone Needs a Shed!  **SH**
A variety of sessions at the Durlston Shed. Visit durlston.co.uk/ everyone-needs-a-shed for details.

Weekly Work Parties **FREE** 
Visit durlston.co.uk/volunteer

Every Monday, 2pm to 4pm
Cuppa and a Chat **FREE**  **SH**
Make friends and enjoy the lovely setting of the Durlston Shed.

Every Saturday, 9am
parkrun **FREE**
Get fit in a great location. Register through parkrun.org.uk

October

Thursday 1 October to Sunday 1 November, 10am to 4pm
Halloween Children's Trail  **LC**
The Great Halloween Mystery; follow the trail, investigate the wildlife suspects, collect clues and decode the secret message to win a prize. £3.50 per trail pack.

Thursday 1 October, 11am to 12:30pm
Victorian Durlston Walk  **CR**
Take a guided walk to discover Durlston's curious Victorian past. £3.50

Friday 2 and Saturday 3 October, 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm
Free Clay Workshop **FREE**  **LC**
Join '15 Days in Clay' to create monsters and cupcakes relating to their exhibition 'Edible Conversations'. Call Janna on 07980 563899 to book your space.

Tuesday 6 October, 7:30pm
Why Birds?   **LC**
A talk from birder Ian Lewis into how a pair of binoculars and a bird guide sparked a journey all over the world. £3.50, **FREE** for Friends of Durlston.



Thursday 8 October, 11am to 1pm
Hand-Painting Landscape Workshop - Skies  **BD**
A series of workshops (8 Oct, 12 Nov, 10 Dec, 21 Jan) to discover a unique, brush-free way of painting using only your hands with artist Shelley Perry. Booking required. Individual workshops £30 each or £108 for all 4. See durlston.co.uk for more details.

Saturday 10 October, 11am to 12:30pm
Glass Engraving Workshop  **LC**
Learn this fascinating craft. Adults and children (8+) welcome. Booking required. £18

Fine Foundation Gallery Exhibitions

Monday 12 to Thursday 15 and Monday 19 October to Thursday 5 November, 10am to 5pm
Miracle of Migration **FREE**  **FFG**
An exhibition to discover the incredible story of migration. £3.50

Monday 9 November to Thursday 3 December, 10am to 4pm
Durlston Past **FREE**  **FFG**
Explore the 20th century history of Durlston and its Pleasure Grounds.

Monday 7 December to Tuesday 12 January, 10am to 4pm
Incredible Insects of Durlston **FREE**  **FFG**
A showcase of the reserve's bugs, butterflies and beetles, including a historical specimen collection.

Thursday 14 January to Thursday 11 February, 10am to 4pm
Victorian Durlston **FREE**  **FFG**
Exhibition exploring the history of Durlston, George Burt and John Mowlem.

Closures

Sunday 11 October, 11am to 1pm
Art Workshop with Madelaine Devenay  **LC**
Learn to draw landscapes in pen and pencil. For beginners and intermediates. Materials provided. Adults and children (8+) welcome. Booking required. £25

Wednesday 14 October, 2pm
Layers in the Landscape Guided Walk  **CR**
Join us to discover how geology, history, people and nature combine to create a unique landscape. £3.50

Tuesday 20 October, 7:30pm
PFF Film: Our Land (12A)   **FFG**
For more info and to book visit purbeckfilm.com. £15: £6 (students, under 25s and UC).

Wednesday 21 October, 7:30pm
PFF Film: The Tale of Silyan (12A)   **FFG**
For more info and to book visit purbeckfilm.com. £9: £6 (students, under 25s and UC).

Thursday 22 October, 7:30pm
PFF Film: Everyone to Kenmure Street (12A)   **FFG**
For more info and to book visit purbeckfilm.com. £9: £6 (students, under 25s and UC).

Saturday 24 October, 10:30am to 4pm
Intro to Linocut Workshop  **LC**
Join printmaker Robin Mackenzie to learn reduction linocut. To book robin@robinmackenzie.co.uk or 07979 812083. £95 per person including materials.

Tuesday 27 October, 10am to 12:30pm
Family Scrub Bash **FREE**   **LC**
Join the ranger to help cut bushes to open up the ground for wildflowers. Wear durable clothing. Booking required.

Wednesday 28 October, 11am to 3pm
Wild Wednesdays **FREE**   **LC**
Drop in for painting, crafts and activities. Donations welcome.



Thursday 29 October, 2pm to 3pm
Sleepy Creatures   **LC**
Join a ranger to learn more about hibernation and how creatures survive the winter. Booking required. £3.50

Saturday 31 October, 7pm
Stargazing  **LC**
View Saturn, Milky Way and autumn deep sky objects. Weather dependant, visit durlston.co.uk for updates. £4

November

Tuesday 3 November, 7:30pm
Dorset Dogs   **LC**
Ross Packman shares how the Dorset Heaths Partnership works for a balance between dogs and wildlife. £3.50 **FREE** for Friends of Durlston

Thursday 5 November, 11am to 12pm
Castle Tour **FREE**  **CR**
Discover the history of Durlston Castle. Donations welcome.

Thursday 12 November, 11am to 1pm
Hand-Painting Landscape Workshop - Seas  **BD**
See 8 October



Saturday 14 November, 10:30am to 4pm
Make a Wood Engraving Christmas Card  **LC**
Join printmaker Robin Mackenzie to design, engrave and handprint your own Christmas cards. To book robin@robinmackenzie.co.uk or 07979 812083. £100 per person including materials.

Saturday 14 November, 7pm
Stargazing  **LC**
View Saturn and autumn deep sky objects. Weather dependant, visit durlston.co.uk for updates. £4

Wednesday 18 November, 2pm
Wellies and Wildlife Walk   **CR**
Join a ranger for a potentially muddy walk to find out more about how we manage the park for wildlife. £3.50

Sunday 22 November, 11am to 12:30pm
Glass Engraving Workshop  **LC**
See 10 October

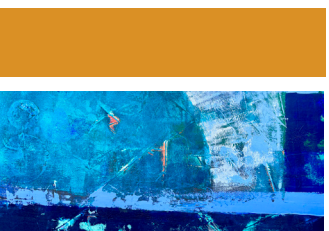
Saturday 28 November, 10:30am to 12:30pm
Park to Pier Guided Walk  **CR**
Guided Walk from Durlston Castle to Swanage Pier - wildlife, geology and history. A:£7, C:£3

December

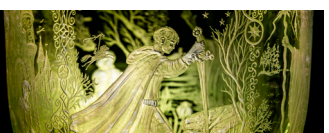
Thursday 3 December, 11am to 12:30pm
Burt's Grand Plans Walk  **CR**
Discover the curious history of the Victorian Pleasure Grounds and its restoration. £3.50

Saturday 5 December, 11am
December Birds and other Wildlife Guided Walk  **CR**
Come and discover the wildlife living and visiting Durlston during the winter months. £3.50

Thursday 10 December, 11am to 1pm
Hand-Painting Landscape Workshop - Land  **BD**
See 8 October



Saturday 3 to Thursday 15 April, 10:30am to 4:30pm
Returning to the Coast **FREE**   **FFG**
Artist Claudia Hettie explores the emotional and sensory experience of landscape and seascape. Through layers of bold colour, marks and texture, the works invite the viewer to create their own sense of depth, movement and memory.



Tuesday 20 April to Tuesday 4 May, 10:30am to 4:30pm
Glass Engraving **FREE**   **FFG**
An exhibition highlighting the unique and fascinating craft of glass engraving, with work on show from members of the Southwest branch of the Guild of Glass Engravers.

Friday 11 December to Monday 4 January, 10am to 3pm
Christmas Children's Trail   **CR**
Wrap up warm and enjoy a festive adventure around Durlston. Follow the clues and complete the trail to win a prize. £3.50 per trail pack.

Saturday 12 December, 7pm
Stargazing  **LC**
View Saturn and Winter deep sky objects. Weather dependant, visit durlston.co.uk for updates. £4

Sunday 13 December, 11am to 12:30pm
Glass Engraving Workshop  **LC**
See 10 October

Sunday 20 December, 11:30am to 1pm
Have a Very Merry Durlston Guided Walk  **CR**
Join a ranger for an hour's guided walk and finish off with a mulled wine (or hot chocolate) and mince pie. Booking required. £6

Monday 21 December, 11am to 2pm
Christmas Craft Drop in   **BD**
Drop in to make Christmas cards, crackers, or tree decorations. Recommended donation £2

Wednesday 23 December, 11am to 3pm
Wild Wednesdays **FREE**   **LC**
See 28 October

Christmas Day and Boxing Day
Durlston Castle and café closed

Wednesday 30 December, 11am to 3pm
Wild Wednesdays **FREE**   **LC**
See 28 October

Thursday 31 December, 10:30am to 11:30am
Dolphins and the Deep Blue Sea   **LC**
Discover the amazing lives of dolphins through games and activities. Booking Required. £3.50

January

Thursday 7 January, 11am to 12:30pm
Victorian Durlston Walk  **CR**
See 1 October

Saturday 9 January, 7pm
Stargazing  **LC**
View Saturn, winter deep sky objects and Jupiter. Weather dependant, visit durlston.co.uk for updates. £4

Sunday 17 January, 11am
New Year Guided Walk  **CR**
As the New Year begins, join a ranger to look at the history and geology of this special place. £3.50

Thursday 21 January, 11am to 1pm
Hand-Painting Landscape Workshop - Cliffs  **BD**
See 8 October



Thursday 28 January, 2pm
Durlston through the Years Talk  **LC**
Join a ranger to take a trip through Durlston's history in this illustrated talk. £3.50

February

Tuesday 2 February, 7:30pm
Coasts In Mind: Stories from your archive   **LC**
A talk about changing coastlines capturing public memories of Poole Harbour through images, videos. £3.50. **FREE** for Friends of Durlston.

Thursday 4 February, 11am to 12pm
Castle Tour **FREE**  **CR**
See 5 November

Friday 5 to Monday 22 February, 10am to 3pm
Boats of the Bay Children's Trail   **CR**
Find out more about the boats you'll spot from the Durlston cliffs and win a prize! £3.50 per trail pack.

Sunday 14 February, 11am to 12:30pm
Glass Engraving Workshop  **LC**
See 10 October

Tuesday 16 February, 10am to 12:30pm
Family Scrub Bash   **FFG**  **LC**
See 27 October

Wednesday 17 February, 11am to 3pm
Wild Wednesdays **FREE**   **LC**
See 28 October

Thursday 18 February, 10:30am to 11:30am
Nature Scrapbooking   **LC**
Join a ranger to create your own nature scrapbook from items you might find at the park. Booking required. £3.50

Sunday 21 February, 10:30am to 12:30pm
Park to Pier Guided Walk  **CR**
See 28 November

Saturday 27 February, 7pm
Stargazing  **LC**
View Jupiter, Mars and winter deep sky objects. Weather dependant, visit durlston.co.uk for updates. £4

March

Tuesday 2 March, 7:30pm
The Amazing Wood Engravings of Thomas Bewick  **LC**
Join Howard Oliver for a talk on Thomas Bewick, his wood engravings, detailed miniature images, local country scenes and his groundbreaking wildlife handbooks. £3.50. **FREE** for Friends of Durlston.

Wednesday 3 March, 10:30am
World Wildlife Day Guided Walk  **CR**
Celebrate the beauty and importance of wildlife with a guided walk around the park £3.50

Thursday 4 March, 11am to 12:30pm
Burt's Grand Plans Walk  **CR**
See 3 December

Friday 5 March, 7:30pm start
All Hands To The Halyard! Wareham Whalers Concert  **FFG**
Explore life at sea in the 18th and 19th centuries through maritime history and powerful sea shanties. Doors and bar from 7pm. Booking required. £10

Wednesday 10 March, 10am to 1pm
Volunteer Taster Day **FREE**  **LC**
Join us for a morning to try out ways to get involved at Durlston - from conservation work to gallery stewarding. Booking required.

Thursday 11 March, 10am to 3:30pm
Hand-Painting Full Day Workshop  **BD**
Join artist Shelley Perry for a full day workshop into the art of hand-painting. More info on durlston.co.uk. Booking required. £75

Friday 12 March to Monday 12 April, 10am to 3pm
Easter Children's Trail   **CR**
Hop on up to Durlston for our Easter Trail around the park. You might just win a prize! £3.50 per trail pack.



Saturday 13 March, 7pm
Stargazing  **LC**
View the Moon close to Pleiades cluster, Jupiter and Mars. Weather dependant, visit durlston.co.uk for updates. £4

Sunday 14 March, 11am to 12:30pm
Glass Engraving Workshop  **LC**
See 10 October

Wednesday 17 March, 11am
Discover Durlston Walk  **CR**
Enjoy and discover more about Durlston, from its history to its habitats. £3.50

Saturday 20 March, 10:30am to 4pm
Wood Engraving Workshop  **LC**
Join printmaker Robin Mackenzie to create your own wood engraving. To book robin@robinmackenzie.co.uk or 07979 812083. £95 per person including materials.

Sunday 21 March, 10:30am to 12:30pm
Park to Pier Guided Walk  **CR**
See 28 November

Saturday 27 March, 11am to 1pm
Art Workshop with Madelaine Devenay  **LC**
Learn to draw seascapes and boats in pen and pencil. For beginners and intermediates. Materials provided. Adults and children (8+) welcome. Booking required. £25

Tuesday 30 March, 10:30am
Beginners Birdwatching Guided Walk  **LC**
Borrow a pair of our binoculars or bring your own, and join a ranger to begin to discover birds and birdwatching. £3.50

Wednesday 31 March, 11am to 3pm
Wild Wednesdays **FREE**   **LC**
See 28 October

April

Thursday 1 April, 10:30am to 11:30pm
Let's Go Fly a Kite  **LC**
Join a ranger to design, make and test your very own kite! Booking required. £3.50

Thursday 1 April, 11am to 12:30pm
Victorian Durlston Walk  **CR**
See 1 October

Sunday 4 April, 10:30am to 11:30am
Guided 'Walkies'  **CR**
Find out about Durlston while enjoying a walk with your dog. Booking required. £3.50

Tuesday 6 April, 7:30pm
The Tower on the Hill   **CR**
Historian David Hawkings tells the fascinating story of water in Swanage, from prehistory to the present day. £3.50. **FREE** for Friends of Durlston.

Wednesday 7 April, 11am to 3pm
Wild Wednesdays **FREE**   **LC**
See 28 October

Thursday 8 April, 2:30pm to 3:30pm
Dinosaur Discovery   **LC**
Find out more about Durlston's prehistoric past through games and activities. Booking required. £3.50

Friday 9 April, 11am to 11:30am
Meet a Moth!   **CR**
See what we found in last night's moth traps. Donations welcome.

Saturday 10 April, 8:15pm
Stargazing  **LC**
View slender Moon with Earthshine, Mars and Jupiter. Weather dependant, visit durlston.co.uk for updates. £4

Sunday 11 April, 11am to 12:30pm
Glass Engraving Workshop  **LC**
See 10 October

Saturday 17 April, 10:30am to 4pm
Intro to Linocut Workshop  **LC**
See 24 October



Sunday 18 April, 2:30pm
Spring Flowers Guided Walk  **CR**
Join a ranger for a guided walk to spot cownslips and (hopefully) orchids! £3.50

Saturday 24 April, 11am to 11:30am
Meet a Moth!   **CR**
See 9 April

Sunday 25 April, 10:30am to 12:30pm
Park to Pier Guided Walk  **CR**
See 28 November

Friday 30 April, 2:30pm
Seabirds of Durlston