

In this guide you'll find some recommendations for things to do in Bournemouth, the local area and beyond. You'll discover the best places to stay, restaurants to dine in and transport to use.

Key



Places to go



Places to eat



How to get there



Where to stay



Creative interests

BOURNEMOUTH AND POOLE

☀️ **Bournemouth Pier**

The Pier we know and love today was built in 1880 and has been home to attractions such as a theatre, arcade and shops. Now there's something for all the family including a climbing centre and a zip-wire down to the shore. It's the perfect place for fun, food and a piece of history.

😊 Harry Ramsden's — Fish and Chips

☀️ **Bournemouth Lower Gardens**

Take a walk starting from our golden sandy beach, where you can enjoy seafront attractions, and walk through the picturesque Lower Gardens for a look at the seasonal flowers, palm trees, and squirrel families.

- 😊 Urban Garden, Town Centre
- 😊 Cote Bournemouth, Town Centre
- 😊 Eat Pho and Pho Café, Town Centre
- 😊 BH2 – Cinema complex in Bournemouth Town Centre with a number of casual dining restaurants to suit all preferences

☀️ **Westbourne**

Placed just 15 minutes west of Bournemouth Town Centre you can find the charming neighbourhood of Westbourne. A great spot to explore the Victorian Arcade full of independent shops, cafés, and pubs. Wander away from Westbourne, and you'll find a path from the centre to the beautiful Argyll Gardens, just a short walk away from the beach at Alum Chine.

- 😊 Chez Fred — Fish and Chips
- 😊 The Westbourne — Pub
- 😊 Camden — Bar and Kitchen

☀️ **Southbourne**

Just along the coast is Southbourne, a charming coastal suburb which has plenty to offer, starting from brewpubs, cafés and restaurants to the famous Fisherman's Walk nature trail which cuts through woodland to family-friendly Southbourne Beach.

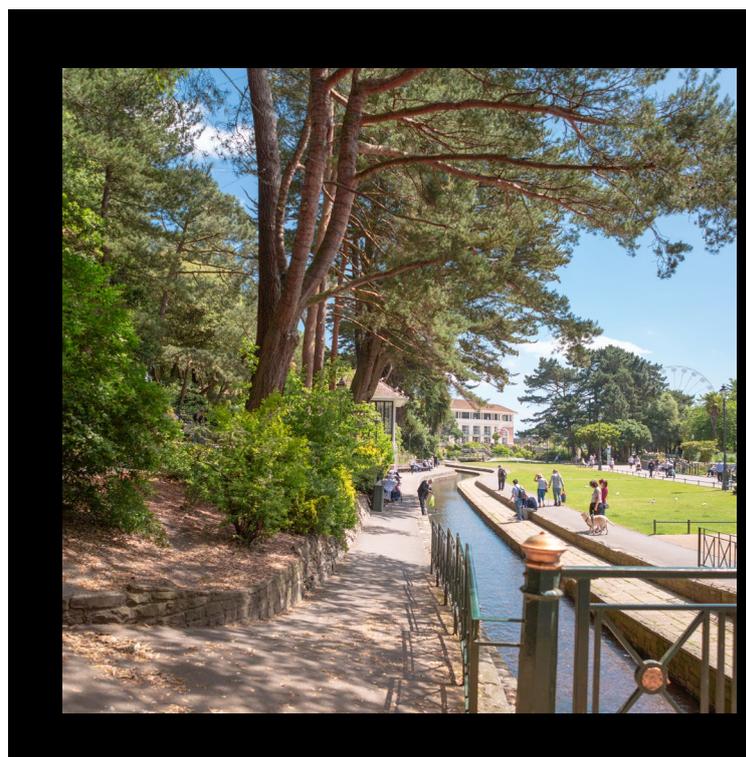
😊 Spyglass and Kettle — Pub

☀️ **Poole Quay**

Explore the treasures of Poole's historic quayside, delve deep into the heart of the Old Town where sea captains and pirates once stood. Immerse yourself in Poole's fascinating history by visiting the Poole Museum.

☀️ **Sandbanks Beach**

Considered one of Britain's best beaches and has been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag for over 30 years.



☀️ **Hengistbury Head**

A wild and unspoilt headland, boasting walking routes that lead to spectacular and panoramic views of the nature reserve, Christchurch Harbour, Bournemouth Bay and across to the Isle of Wight.

☀️ **Coy Pond Gardens**

An oasis in an urban setting with exotic trees and gentle walks along the river in Branksome suburb.

♥️ **Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum**

Once the home of two Victorian collectors and travel enthusiasts, Sir Merton and Lady Annie Russell-Cotes. Now, it houses important worldwide collections of paintings, sculpture, furniture, and ceramics, showcases the beautiful Victorian interior. This clifftop gallery overlooks the sea and is surrounded by a beautiful garden.

♥️ **BEAF Arts Co**

An open-access, multi-artform festival and year-round arts programme based in The Old School House (TOSH), Boscombe.

😊 **Nearby campus**

L'Arte Café — Coffee and sandwiches

Makisu — Japanese Restaurant

Subway — Sandwiches

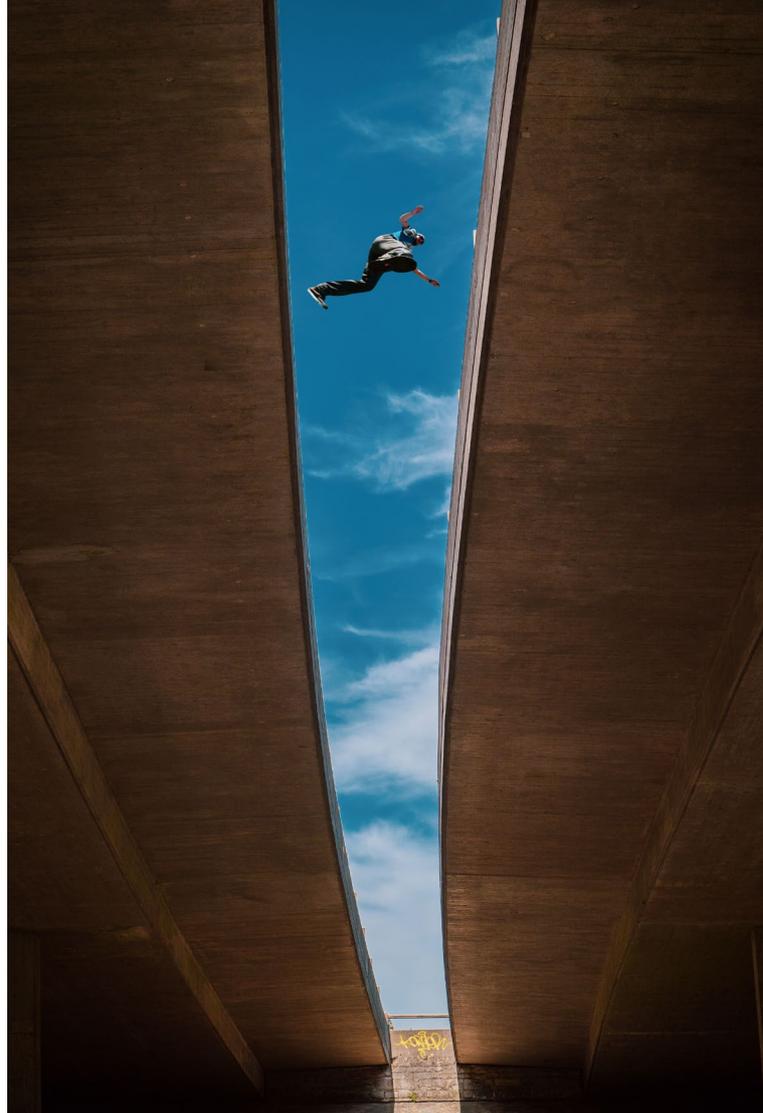
Tesco Express — Supermarket

Aldi — Supermarket

Antepli — Turkish cuisine

Nippon Inn — Japanese cuisine

Luxor — Egyptian and Lebanese cuisine



LOCAL AREA AND *BEYOND*

☀️ Christchurch

A harbour town near Bournemouth, situated between two rivers and home to the largest parish church in England. Cobbled streets lead to the historic ruins of the town's castle overlooking the river while beautiful parks and glades open to life upon the water at the quayside. During summertime, you can rent a boat there or hop on the Vintage Ferry Service.

😊 The Boathouse

☀️ Wimborne Minster

Beautiful, historic market town which is also the name of the church that dominates the town! Full of 16th-, 17th- and 18th-century fronted shops and pubs and a home to the Tivoli Theatre, a 1930s art deco cinema and theatre.

☀️ Swanage

This charming coastal town is a great choice for a relaxing break. It is where you can spot a steam train ride through the countryside. The town makes an ideal base for exploring the nearby Purbeck Hills and Jurassic Coast.

☀️ The Jurassic Coast

A World Heritage Site on the Channel coast. It stretches from Exmouth in East Devon to Studland Bay in Dorset for about 96 miles and was inscribed on the World Heritage Site UNESCO. You should start exploring the coast from Old Harry Rocks formation – breathtaking views guaranteed!

☀️ Durdle Door

One of Dorset's most photographed and iconic landmarks, this extremely popular, natural limestone arch is part of the Jurassic Coast. From there you can take a walk to breathtaking, world-famous Lulworth Cove. It is known for its unique geology and landforms including the Lulworth Crumple and Stair Hole.

☀️ New Forest National Park

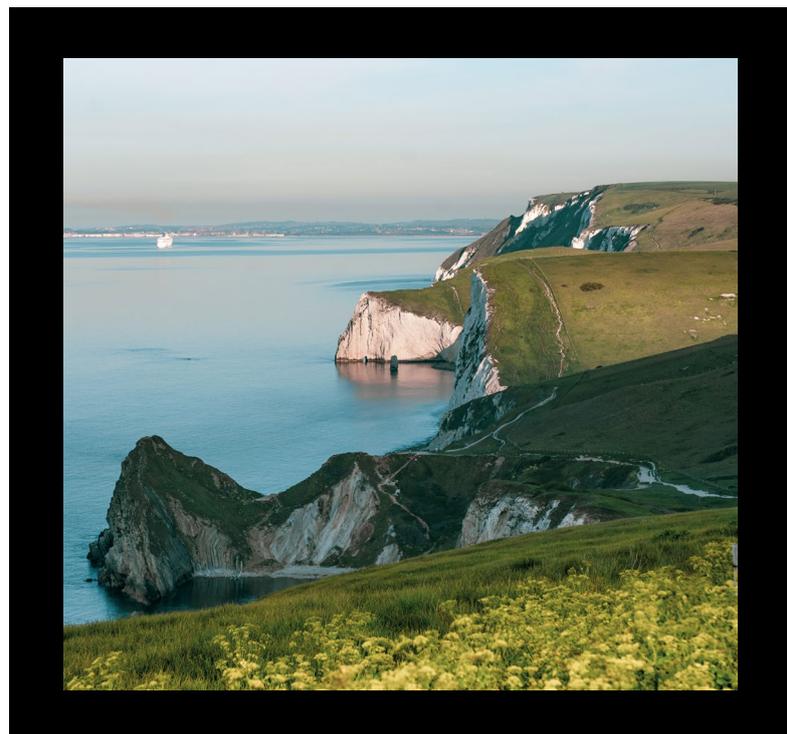
One of Europe's most important locations for nature and conservation. Unique mix of landscapes including ancient woodlands, wetlands and bogs, and open heathlands are a home to many rare species of plants and wildlife long since lost from the UK and Europe. There are wonderful walking and cycling paths for everyone, bringing you closer to nature.

☀️ Corfe Castle

These castle ruins are one of Britain's most iconic and evocative survivors of the English Civil War, which stand on a natural hill overlooking the village with the same name, guarding the main route through the Purbeck Hills. Breathtaking views, historic village and 1,000 years of Corfe Castle history as a royal palace and fortress – a must-see for everyone.

☀️ Stonehenge

One hour away by car but can be accessed by local public transport (this will take a bit longer!)



TRANSPORT AND HOTELS

Bournemouth and the greater area have wonderful public transport links so you can visit the area without worrying about parking (or driving on the other side of the road!) The local bus service is extensive and will allow you to visit much of Dorset in comfort.

! **UNIBUS and MoreBus**

These provide services across Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch. There is a bus station outside of Bournemouth University, next to our campus. Bus times can be found on their website.

! **Taxi**

Local taxi companies include:
PRC Streamline: +44 (0) 1202 373 737
United Taxis: +44 (0) 1202 779 999

Helpful links

[National Express](#)
[South Western Railway](#)
[Cross Country Trains](#)
[Mega Bus](#)
[UNIBUS](#)
[Morebus](#)

★ **Hotels & Overnight stays:**

[The Green House Hotel](#)
[Marriott Hotel Westcliff](#)

Budget friendly hotels

[Premier Inn Westbourne](#)
[Premier Inn Bournemouth East](#)

Alternatively, you can find places to stay at [airbnb.com](#) or [booking.com](#)

☀ **Shopping**

Bournemouth Town Centre
Poole Town and Dolphin Centre
CastlePoint Shopping Centre



A DAY TRIP IDEA



Have a free day in the area?

Hop on the 🚩 Purbeck Breezer bus route 50. Buy a day ticket for about £10 – per person, which will allow you to ride the bus all day (including hop-on/hop-off and your return trip).

The 50 route will take you through Bournemouth, Westbourne, Canford Cliffs and to Sandbanks where you will ride the bus on to the chain ferry across the mouth of Poole Harbour. The open-aired double decker bus ride offers staggering views of the neighborhoods and beaches. We recommend sitting up top if you can!

Once you are on the other side, you can stop along the way and visit the gorgeous beaches or continue on the bus to the terminus in 🌞 Swanage Town Centre. Swanage is a popular beach for swimming, walking, or enjoying a meal in one of the beach-side cafes.

After you have had your fill of Swanage, return to the bus station, and use your day ticket to catch the 🚩 Purbeck Breezer route 40 which will take you to 🌞 Corfe Castle.

Corfe Castle was built in 1083 by William the Conqueror. You can visit the National Trust site and wander the castle ruins, learning about early English history, or you can grab a drink or bite to eat in the pub gardens overlooking the castle ruins (😊The Greyhound Pub is very popular).

Authentic English experience: if pub gardens aren't for you, 😊 the National Trust Tea Room near the entrance to the castle offers a delicious cream tea – very popular afternoon treat of a pot of tea and scones with clotted cream and jam.

Once you have wandered around Corfe Castle, you can get back on the 🚩 route 40 bus and it will take you back to Poole where you can catch a bus back to 🌞 Bournemouth Town Centre.

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

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