

Use the crossing to cross the busy road. There is now another opportunity to catch a bus including the First Jurassic Coast X53 bus that operates from Poole to Exeter via Weymouth. If you wish to continue your walk into Weymouth then proceed up the hill past the Spice Ship Inn. Turn right following the public footpath sign to Bowleaze Cove passing the 14th century St Andrew's church and continue down the lane.

On reaching the caravan site take the path through the park eventually arriving at the entrance to the site and Bowleaze Cove. Turn right and proceed up the hill past the Look Out Café enjoying the fine views of the coast and Weymouth Bay. Walk along the footpath down the hill.

## St Andrew's Church



On reaching the Oasis Restaurant you now can walk along the sea wall into Weymouth passing the beautiful Greenhill Gardens. There is a frequent bus and train service that runs between Weymouth and Dorchester.

[www.westdorset.com](http://www.westdorset.com)  
[www.visit-dorset.com](http://www.visit-dorset.com)

## Greenhill Gardens



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## West Dorset Walks

# Dorchester to the sea at Weymouth



Wide and sweeping coastal views are combined with quiet valleys on this splendid walk. After passing Max Gate, the home of Thomas Hardy, the route then takes you through woods and close to Winterborne Came Church, the resting place of the Dorset poet William Barnes. The walk then continues through a gentle valley before emerging to give stunning views of the sea before descending through the picturesque village of Sutton Poyntz and then the final coastal walk into Weymouth.

**The walk is 10 miles long but can be shortened to 6 by finishing at Sutton Poyntz. Walking boots or stout shoes are recommended.**

Leaving the Dorchester Tourist Information Centre walk to the traffic lights and turn right. Continue down the street until reaching a turning on your right into High Street Fordington, the home of the Teddy Bear and Terracotta Warrior museums. This road bends left at once, follow it up the hill to St George's church and Fordington Green. The church was frequented regularly by the Hardy family. Continue along High Street Fordington descending the hill to the bottom before crossing the road to a mini roundabout. Now turn right into Allington Road which soon becomes Allington Avenue. Carry on up the hill and cross the railway bridge. Go straight on at the next roundabout passing the Original Thomas Hardy pub. Max Gate is now on your left. Carry on over the bridge and the busy A35.

## Max Gate

Max Gate is the house designed and lived in by Thomas Hardy. He wrote many of his famous works here including; Tess of the d'Urbervilles and Jude the Obscure. Contact telephone 01297 489481 or [westdorset@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:westdorset@nationaltrust.org.uk) for more information and opening times.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

At the Max Gate roundabout cross over the Wareham road and look for a footpath sign on your left to Winterbourne Came. Keep to the left hand side of the field and you will shortly see a further sign to Winterbourne Came.

On reaching a minor road go straight across and continue in the same direction along the drive. If you are not visiting the church look for a bridleway sign to the left for Came Down.

## Winterbourne Came Church



Take the right bridleway track signposted to Came Down. You are now on the Dorset Jubilee Trail, a 90 mile walk that crosses the county. Now follow the distinctive Jubilee Trail signs for the next 1½ miles. When you reach Came Woods there is sign in front of you on the trees marked "Private Keep Out". The Jubilee Trail now goes right, ignore this and turn left following the blue footpath sign up the hill.

After reaching the top go through the metal gate and turn right. You are now walking besides the gallops that are home to the Whitcombe Manor Racing Stables. At the end of the track turn right following the blue footpath signs taking you through a wood. When you reach a metal gate go through it and head diagonally through a path between two trees leading to a gate taking you onto a minor road.

Turn right and continue for 100 yards until you reach a crossroads. You now have glorious views of Portland and the coast.

Turn left, taking care as you walk beside the road for approximately 400 yards and look out for a chalk path on the right.

On reaching the track follow it and you will soon see a sign marked Inland Coast Path Osmington. Go through the gate and turn left keeping close to the fence. You now have more fabulous views over Weymouth and the coast. After passing 2 burial mounds, take the path to Sutton Poyntz keeping the fence on your left hand side.

Follow the path downhill passing a stone seat on your right. Nearly at the bottom of the hill you have a choice of 2 routes bearing right into Sutton Poyntz, either of which is acceptable. The path on your right takes you diagonally across fields heading for a metal kissing gate with a yellow footpath sign. Go through this and turn right on to a gravel track opposite Cobweb Cottage.

On reaching the Pumping Station turn left, soon reaching the Springhead pub on your left and the tranquil duck pond on your right.

Continue along the footpath through the village, turning left at the crossroads. From here it is possible to take a bus into Weymouth. To continue the walk carry along the pavement for a further 200 yards until you reach the main road.

## Sutton Poyntz

