

HALL&WOODHOUSE

Smugglers Inn to Lulworth Cove Inn bike ride

Part of the Woodhouse Walks & Badger Trails Series.
Walks & Trails produced with thanks by 'Tess of the Vale'  tessofthevale.com



Key Facts

Distance: 9.5 miles/15km.

Time: 3 hours.

Total climb: 950ft.

Max height: 540 ft.

Min height: 0 ft.

Terrain: Track, path, road and field.

Exertion: Medium. Some steep but short climbs.

Map: OL15 Purbeck and South Dorset.

Start: The Smugglers Inn (Postcode: DT3 6HA, Grid Ref: SY735817, What Three Words: hedgehog.feast.fleet).

How to get there: From Weymouth travel east on the A353. On entering Osmington village, take the second right following a narrow road to the sea. The Smugglers Inn is in the valley at the end, the car park to the right.

Dogs: Dogs are permitted accordance with the Countryside Code and any notices on route.





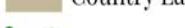
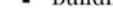


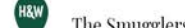
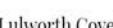

Refreshments: You always need a drink and a bite to eat at the start and the end of an epic bike ride! Starting at the Smugglers Inn and finishing at the Lulworth Cove Inn, you'll find a range of light bites and main meals available. Or if it's just a quick pit-stop, come and enjoy a pint or even a coffee and cake with us instead.



The Smuggler's Inn to Lulworth Cove

1 Mile



Key			
	Main Road		Water
	Country Lane		Buildings
	Woodland		The Route
	The Smugglers Inn & Lulworth Cove Inn		Start Point
	The Coast		Tracks
			Earthworks & cliff tops

The Ride

Smugglers Inn to Lulworth Cove Bike ride.

From the Smugglers Inn in Osmington Mills, cycle the hills and absorb the sights, to Lulworth Cove. Pass through the village of Osmington to admire the White Horse from the high ridge of Coombe Bottom to then descend and rise again to Ringstead. Enjoy the wide views from St Aldhelm's Head in the East to the Isle of Portland in the West. Follow the paths of the original Customs Officials while they patrolled the cliff tops for smugglers, passing White Nothe, Bats Head and Durdle Door. Meet the road at Daggars Gate, with its own little legend, to then cycle down to Lulworth Cove.



French ship sailed along the Dorset coast laden with the finest wine. Harry was quick to react, seeking revenge, raiding the vessel and capturing 12,000 gallons of the wine, leaving the wrecked French boat and crew to the mercy of the sea. Harry returned to Poole gifting the wine to the inhabitants. The whole town was drunk for a month and even today a Harry Payne day is celebrated every year in the town. His legend also lives on within Old Harry's Rocks, the chalk stacks adopting his name, the caves below believed to have once been a hiding place for his loot.

From the Smugglers Inn in Osmington Mills, cycle up the village road, passing the holiday village and the equestrian centre, to a T-junction with the A353. Turn left and take the next right when you enter into the village of Osmington.

Often forgotten in favour of Osmington Mills, Osmington is famous for its White Horse, carved into the chalk hillside, in 1808, to honour King George III. King George's health was deteriorating and was strongly encouraged to try sea bathing. The King and Queen both had faith that that fresh air and clear salty water was working and frequently returned to the welcoming town, often greeted with banners, flags and chants of 'God Save the King'. The effects on the



Head through the next gate and cut straight across the field, passing between two large pyramidal shipping beacons, the tip of one only visible as the cliff drops to the sea. The views stretch out toward the east and the high, circular cliffs of Lulworth Cove become more recognisable. Make your way through another gate in the dip to then rise again, the peak marked with a telegraph pole.

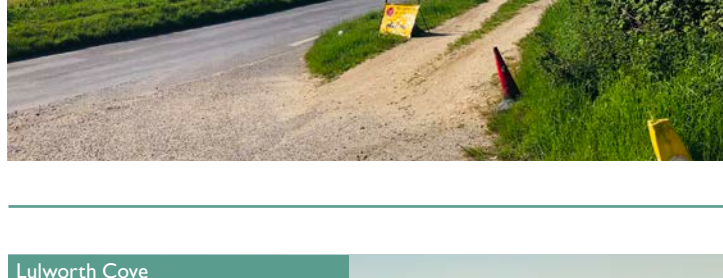
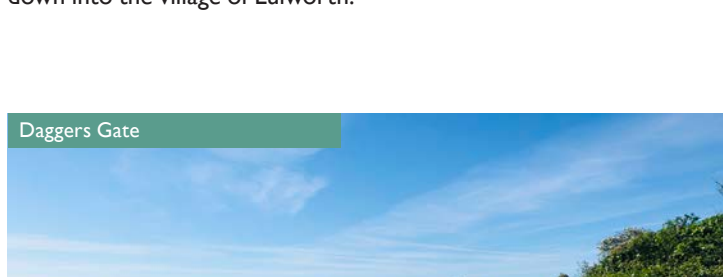
The views capture a huge expanse of the Dorset coastline. The peninsula of St Aldhelm's Head is as far as you can see to the east, the Isle of Portland still dominating the west.

Once through the next gate, you enter into your first deep clifftop valley leading down to Bats Head. After the following gate you enter into the second, deeper, dip of Scratchy Bottom that leads to Durdle Door. It was used as a location on the 1967 Thomas Hardy film 'Far From The Madding Crowd', where, in the opening scene, Gabriel Oak's sheep are driven off the cliff to their death by his own sheep dog, which he then shot.

On entering Scratchy Bottom, keep left, climbing up another hill to reach the top. It is then a quick run back down to meet the road at Daggars Gate. This ancient crossroads is believed to mark a witch's grave. Her ghost is said to haunt the area and appear in the form of a hare. After her death, her own daughter, back in 1789, returned to this exact spot, but not to wish her mother well, instead to brutally murder Sam Varnell, a local farmer, stabbing him to death. It was this tragedy that gave the crossroads its name.

At the junction you have a choice:

You can either continue straight over the road, following the track up the hill, the views opening up further to the east. The large Hillfort of Bindon Hill blocks the coastline, but beyond, the glimmer of Worbarrow Bay and the peak of Worbarrow Tout can both be seen. At the end of the track, meeting another road, turn right to ride down into the village of Lulworth.



By providing cycling routes, we are not guaranteeing usability or safety for any particular cyclist and you must be responsible for your own safety. Whilst care has been taken to include routes that are on rights of way, or paths or access areas where permission exists, inclusion of a route is no evidence of a current right of way or permissive access. There are inherent risks in any outdoor activity, and cyclists should take into consideration conditions on the day as well as their own fitness and experience levels to ensure they enjoy these routes safely.

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 hall-woodhouse.co.uk/woodhouse_walks