



10 GREAT THINGS TO DO WHILE STAYING AT THE ACORN INN

1. A walk through the Melbury Estate Deer Park. Situated at the end of the village (please ask reception for printed directions) enjoy a gentle stroll or bracing walk through the Dorset countryside. For Alex and I this is our favourite walk in Dorset and it is a bonus that it is right on our doorstep. The beauty of the park is second to none and the combination of deer in the park with a working farm makes the walk interesting as well as beautiful.
2. Burton Bradstock. Visit the National Trust protected Burton Bradstock Beach (there is no entrance fee) and have the most fantastic fresh fish lunch at the award winning Hive Café looking out to sea. We discovered the Hive about two years ago after being recommended to go there by friends. The fish is amazing, fresh and on display, the atmosphere relaxed and very informal and the view, well once you see it you will understand. Allow plenty of time to savour it and bear in mind you can't book a table so you might have to wait for one. Children can run along the beach and build sandcastles, dogs are allowed on the beach between October and May. There are wonderful coastal footpaths either side of the Hive on which dogs are very welcome all year round.
3. Coastal Drive to Abbotsbury. Take in the stunning views over the Jurassic Coast towards Abbotsbury. Once you have arrived why not have a Dorset cream tea in one of the little cafes or have a wander around Abbotsbury sub-tropical gardens that are breathtakingly beautiful. Given the choice we will always try to find a lesser used path to get home and this trip takes us out of our way but the views make it well worth while. Sweeping vistas down to the sea and rolling hills make it beautiful at any time of year. The gardens at Abbotsbury are wonderful and we love spending hours wandering through discovering new nooks and secret alcoves every time we go.
4. Thomas Hardy landmarks are all over West Dorset. You may be keen to explore Hardy's Dorset – beginning in Evershot here at the Acorn (called the 'Sow and Acorn' in Tess of the d'Urbervilles), perhaps visit Hardy's house (Max Gate) and Admiral Hardy's monument which gives you a 360 degree view of Dorset. For Hardy fans there is endless information and items of interest for you to enjoy. It is easy to allow yourself to travel back and enjoy Dorchester, or Casterbridge, from Hardy's perspective.
5. Choose from some of the many relaxing massages and treatments at the Summer Lodge Spa, just opposite us. Completely unwind in the pool, Jacuzzi and sauna.



6. The spectacular Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door are a short distance away. Lulworth cove is famous for it's fossilised remains and although it takes some effort to get to it is well worth the walk. Durdle Door has it's breathtaking natural arch, eroded by wind and tide for thousands of years. Picture postcard perfect.
7. Mapperton, Kingston Maurward, Kingston Lacy, Montacute, Minterne, and Forde Abbey are just some of the stunning gardens and historic houses all within a short drive. We are also very lucky to have a large variety of museums and attractions locally such as the Fleet Air Arm, Haynes Motor Museum, Monkey World, Bovington Tank Museum, Tutankhamun Exhibition and the Terracotta Warrior Museum. Finding things to do on wet afternoons is really easy here as we are fortunate to have so many quality and varied attractions on our doorstep. We take our little boy to Monkey World and Kingston Maurward because he loves to see the animals and then I am allowed to go to the Motor museum and the Fleet Air Arm museum. Alex is happy in the Tutankamen museum or we all enjoy the beautiful houses in the area.
8. Afternoon Tea at Summer Lodge – Enjoy the most delicious afternoon tea at Summer Lodge. Try the incredible freshly home made cakes, scones, sandwiches and biscuits in the magnificent drawing room or in the wonderful gardens. Summer Lodge is a wonderful, relaxing way to spend a pampered afternoon. Their superbly trained staff anticipate all of your needs allowing you to just relax.
9. The Famous Cerne Giant is only a 10-minute drive away. Whether you believe him to be an ancient monument or a more recent parody of Oliver Cromwell you cannot but be amazed at the scale of the giant. He dominates his hillside and draws admirers from around the world to marvel at him.
10. Stonehenge is estimated at over 5000 years old, and is a marvel of engineering that still baffles scientists and indeed visitors to the site. It is open throughout the year, but be sure to check the opening times for Stonehenge.