

## MEET YEOVIL'S AUSTRALIA SPECIALISTS

By Heather Muir, Manager – Miles Morgan Travel, Yeovil



With the recent news of flights recommencing to Australia we have seen an upturn in demand from customers wanting to plan their visit to this amazing country.

Boasting iconic landmarks, unique wildlife, an enviable beach culture, rich history with fabulous food and wine, it's not surprising that Australia is consistently voted the world's most desirable destination by UK travellers.

Miles Morgan Travel are the south-west and Wales' leading Australia experts. With an expert in every shop we specialise in tailor-making holidays and tours of every standard and duration whether you're simply looking for a return flight to Sydney or a complicated multi-centre trip with stopovers around the world, you are guaranteed the best possible service and advice. Our position as a specialist ensures we are always first to receive offers and reductions on all types of travel down under.

Our reputation as the south-west and Wales' leading Australia specialists is growing, people are travelling from far and wide to enjoy our free appointment service and first-hand

experience to find out what this diverse and stunning part of the world has to offer.

Jon Shillito and Sharon Boon have been our resident Australia specialists in our Yeovil branch for many years. They have built a strong following of regular and loyal customers and are known for their in-depth knowledge of Australia.

Jon Shillito comments, 'I have worked in travel, organising trips to Australia for over thirty years and I am always determined to find the right itinerary for your trip down under. As a trained Aussie specialist, I am inspired by this great country and can help you to get the most out of your trip of a lifetime.'

Sharon Boon says, 'I have travelled extensively in Australia. One of my favourite trips included visiting Sydney, Brisbane and Frazer Island on an escorted tour; this was a perfect way to experience this part of Australia. The professional and friendly tour guides shared their vast knowledge of this diverse and fascinating country along the way.

## AUSTRALIA WITH THE SPECIALISTS



Tailor-made holidays | FREE appointment service | Flights, hotels & stopovers | Escorted tours | Cruises | Campervan and car hire | Rail and coach passes | Special experiences & excursions



Call in and see Sharon or Jon today

**miles morgan**  
travel  
www.milesmorgantravel.co.uk

Phone lines open until 10pm  
01935 428488  
14-16 Middle Street, Yeovil,  
Somerset, BA20 1LY

Everything was seamless right from meet and greet at the airport on arrival right through to the end.'

If you are thinking of going to Australia then please do come and see either Jon or Sharon at 14-16 Middle Street, Yeovil. Call to book a free appointment on 01935 428488, as their experience and knowledge will make all the difference to your forthcoming holiday of a lifetime.

## A VISIT TO PORTLAND CASTLE

By Tim Saunders, Travel Correspondent

It takes the best part of three hours to travel to Portland Castle from our Hampshire home – and it's only 85 miles away. But it is well worth the trip.

This 450-year-old Portland stone structure has much history to tell. Overlooking Portland harbour it was built by Henry VIII in the 1540s to protect against the French and Spanish invasion. We marvel at the Tudor craftsmanship of this, one of Henry's finest gun forts. The main point of this prominent structure was protection and with this in mind canons are situated on the roof and to the side. We stroll around with a helpful and informative audio guide, which even the children can operate easily. There's a huge amount of information to take on board and it would be necessary to revisit a number of times for me to remember just some of the facts. It is interesting to note that the windows are so narrow to prevent enemy fire from getting through. It would certainly be tough to penetrate.

English Heritage has sympathetically restored this castle and presented the chambers as they would have been used. The kitchen is the most obvious room and it does get you thinking about the challenges of feeding the soldiers.

At least being by the coast meant fish was in plentiful supply.

A local vicar ended up living here and restoring it, and the castle was used in the first and second world wars. Later the head of the local naval base lived here and then it was handed over to the nation. We all marvel at this grand building, and how difficult it would be to build today let alone 450 years ago. It's a harsh landscape in which to build such a fortress. As we arrive at the top, a helicopter at the former naval base is preparing to take off, making a huge racket.

The children discover an exhibit that shows you how to load a cannon correctly and if you get it right a light flashes, at which point you can push a button and it fires. Henry is in his element; he can't press the switch enough. He returns two or three times throughout our visit! There are some other interactive exhibits including games of the time and create your own stain glass window.

After our trip around the castle we relax in the grounds where there is a very peaceful garden and a large sweeping stone bench that could easily accommodate fifty bottoms. The children

play hide and seek and perform cartwheels while Caroline and I have a few minutes.

Afterwards we stroll through the car park to a little private beach where the children play in the sand. No trip to Portland can be made without visiting Portland Bill and on the way back we spot a park that the children insist on visiting.

For more information, visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/portland-castle/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/portland-castle/).

