



— Tim Saunders and family visit the Jurassic Coast —

JURASSIC COAST

Millions of years ago the Jurassic Coast was under water. Creatures that swam in these waters have since turned into fossils. These can still be discovered at Charmouth beach by a keen eye.

At Seaton Jurassic we learn that a massive Jurassic landslide exposed fossils and we're taken on a memorable interactive journey through time.

Boarding the tram back to Colyford we sit on the open top deck. The journey cuts through wetlands beside the River Axe where there is a nature reserve.

At Beaminster Museum, Brian's enthusiasm is infectious and helps bring the wonderful exhibits in the museum to life.

"You must visit Bridport Carnival," recommends Shige, owner of Hell Barn Cottages in Chideock, where we stay. So we do and enjoy seeing the floats.

Hell Barn Cottages, a complex of five self-catering stone cottages, is only about 10 miles away down a country lane. We stay in Rosemary Cottage and park directly outside the accommodation, helpful for unloading. Downstairs is open plan given to sitting and dining and off this is a sizeable kitchen. There's a downstairs bathroom and shower. Upstairs are two bedrooms, easily accommodating the five of us. There's a popular games room where the children play and so do the adults, given chance: snooker, badminton and table tennis. Henry drives a go-kart. One evening Caroline, Harriett and I play badminton and it's great to see that Harriett's co-ordination is improving.

The furthest we travel is to Pennywell Farm near Buckfastleigh (70 miles away) where the children hold rabbits and piglets and feed and walk the goats. We watch piglet racing. With his local knowledge, Shige

recommends a hairdresser for Caroline in Bridport. She is happy with the results. Bridport itself is a busy market town with a good mix of independent and national retailers.

At Bridport Museum we learn that the town is famous for producing nets. Just over 20 miles away at Ilminster we visit a Creative Coverage art exhibition featuring selected professional artists and craftspeople.

We dine at the Talbot Arms at Uplyme, a busy and vibrant pub at the centre of the community run by Wendy and Steve. Caroline, Heidi and I enjoy beef and ale pie with chips while Harriett and Henry have sausages and chips. There's an ice cream dessert for the children.

For more information visit:

www.seatonjurassic.org
www.tram.co.uk
www.pennywellfarm.co.uk
www.beaminstermuseum.co.uk
www.talbotarms.com
www.charmouth.org
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