

ENID BLYTON

This leaflet aims to show you how you can discover Purbeck in the footsteps of Enid Blyton. Use the map and travel information to go on a self-guided trail of this beautiful area and uncover fascinating stories and incredible sights along the way.

Enid Blyton was one of the most successful British authors of the twentieth century. She had an extensive love affair with Dorset, which provided the inspiration for many of her books and characters.

The Famous Five, Secret Seven and Noddy are just a few of the household names created by the author, but less well known is the fact that she based some of her characters and locations on people and places in Dorset.

Enid Blyton wrote more than 700 books in 40 years, but she still found time for three holidays a year in Purbeck for over twenty years.

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EXPLORE ENID BLYTON COUNTRY

A circular route by public transport.

Catch the 40 bus from Poole bus station or Wareham railway station, which goes to Swanage via Corfe Castle. If you are driving then please use the Norden Park & Ride where for most days throughout the year, you can catch the steam train from Corfe Castle to Swanage. From Swanage you can catch the 50 bus to Bournemouth via Studland. You could include the spectacular walk along the coast path via Old Harry.

www.travelinesw.com
Swanage Railway, tel 01929 425800.

Take a boat trip from Poole Quay around the harbour and see all the islands. You won't be able to land in winter - but Brownsea was out of bounds in Enid's day too. The boats have a covered saloon and serve hot & cold drinks. Look out for the excellent bird watching and Jurassic Coast trips. In summer, take a boat trip from Bournemouth to Swanage.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Discover Purbeck Information Centre,
Wareham. Tel: 01929 552740.
Swanage Information Centre,
Swanage. Tel: 01929 422885.

www.dorsetforyou.com

Enid Blyton
COUNTRY
DORSET



"Below them spread the Dorset countryside, shimmering in the heat of the day, the distance almost lost in a blue haze."

ENID BLYTON

Purbeck provided inspiration for many of the characters and locations in Enid's books. Among the places associated with the author are:

SWANAGE

1 Swanage has one pier less than it did in the Blyton heyday, when she and Kenneth, her husband, used to swim round both before supper. In recent years, the Grosvenor Hotel has made way for what must be Britain's most elegantly designed sewage pumping station. The bookshop where she would sign copies of her works is now Martins the newsagent.

However, the great authoress would recognise two other familiar Swanage landmarks - The Wellington Clock Tower and The Grand Hotel, the hotel that she favoured in the 1950's.

Although always a visitor, rather than a resident, Enid Blyton became an integral part of Purbeck life and was also elected president of the annual Swanage Carnival and Regatta.

ISLE OF PURBECK GOLF CLUB

2 In 1950 Kenneth purchased The Isle of Purbeck Golf Club from Harry Palmer.

This magnificent heathland course is consistently ranked among the top 100 courses in the British Isles by Golf World. It dates back to 1892 and the original 18 holes were extended to 27 under Enid Blyton's ownership. Park in the layby and admire the view.

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CORFE CASTLE

3 Corfe Castle was the inspiration for Kirrin Castle in Enid Blyton's Famous Five books. The author visited the ruin in 1941, arriving by steam train from Swanage - you may like to imagine yourself as one of the Famous Five disembarking at Corfe Station. When the station is open, you can even photograph yourself alongside a painting of the Five, with the castle in the background.

The Ginger Pop shop (www.gingerpop.co.uk) in the square stocks at least 150 Blyton books and tapes, as well as period toys and ginger beer - the Five's favourite drink. It organises themed walks and events for Blyton buffs.

Can you find "The window in the wall" in the square, where there is a model of a scene from a Blyton story?

BROWNSEA ISLAND

4 "Whispering Island" is based on Brownsea Island, now owned by the National Trust. In Enid Blyton's day it was owned by the very reclusive Mrs Bonham-Christie, who would not tolerate visitors and allowed the island to return to nature. In 'Five Have a Mystery to Solve', Enid described it as 'Keep Away Island'.

STOBOROUGH HEATH

5 "Mystery Moor" is reputedly based on the heath between Blue Pool and Ridge. Heathland birds and all six native species of reptile and the vivid marsh gentian can be found here.

STUDLAND

6 "Little Noddy Goes to Toyland" was published in 1949, with worldwide sales quickly soaring sky-high. Many more books were to follow, who hasn't heard of Noddy now? Reputedly, Mr Plod is founded on the Studland policeman of those days, PC Christopher Rone, who must surely now rank as the world's most famous policeman! In the early 1960's Enid stayed at the Knoll House Hotel, until her dementia made holidays too difficult.



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