



# PORTLAND PORT

## A Taste of England



A Perfect Location | A Unique Opportunity

January 2017



# Welcome to Portland Port UK

“Welcome to Portland, a destination full of history and intrigue, located at the heart of the breathtaking Jurassic Coast. Cruise guests visiting the port are treated to a whole host of exciting excursion options, including the bucket list, UNESCO World Heritage land mark, Stonehenge. In addition to this, passengers can experience the early Roman City of Bath, the inspiring Salisbury Cathedral, the whimsical tales of Minterne House or the fascinating, one of a kind, Abbotsbury Swannery. As an award-winning destination, we pride ourselves on the warmth of our welcome as well as the variety of excursion options.”

Ian McQuade - General Manager (Commercial)



# Why Portland Port?

Portland Port lies in the sweep of Weymouth Bay, at the centre of the UNESCO World Heritage Jurassic Coast, an area renowned for its natural beauty and historical heritage. Other local attractions include two more UNESCO World Heritage sites; Stonehenge and the City of Bath as well as numerous stately homes, castles, gardens, historic towns and much, much more.

A visit to Portland Port allows access to the quintessential England of rolling green hills, narrow country lanes, picture postcard villages and long centuries of history. There is also traditional fish and chips in abundance, Michelin star restaurants, real ales, fines wines, award winning beaches and stunning cliff top walks.

Portland Harbour has a wealth of history itself having played a significant role from the time of King Henry VIII, in preparations for the D-Day landings, up to hosting the sailing events for the London 2012 Olympic Games.



# Cruise Growth at Portland Port



Portland Port has witnessed remarkable growth over recent years. It was once a destination that was relatively unknown in the cruise industry, however, over the last decade it has quickly developed an enviable reputation as the most popular cruise port in the South West of England.

The port's success in the cruise sector is evident by its acclaimed status as an award winning cruise destination after winning 'Most Improved Destination' in 2012 and Most Responsive Port' in 2014 from the industry leading publication, Cruise Insight Magazine.

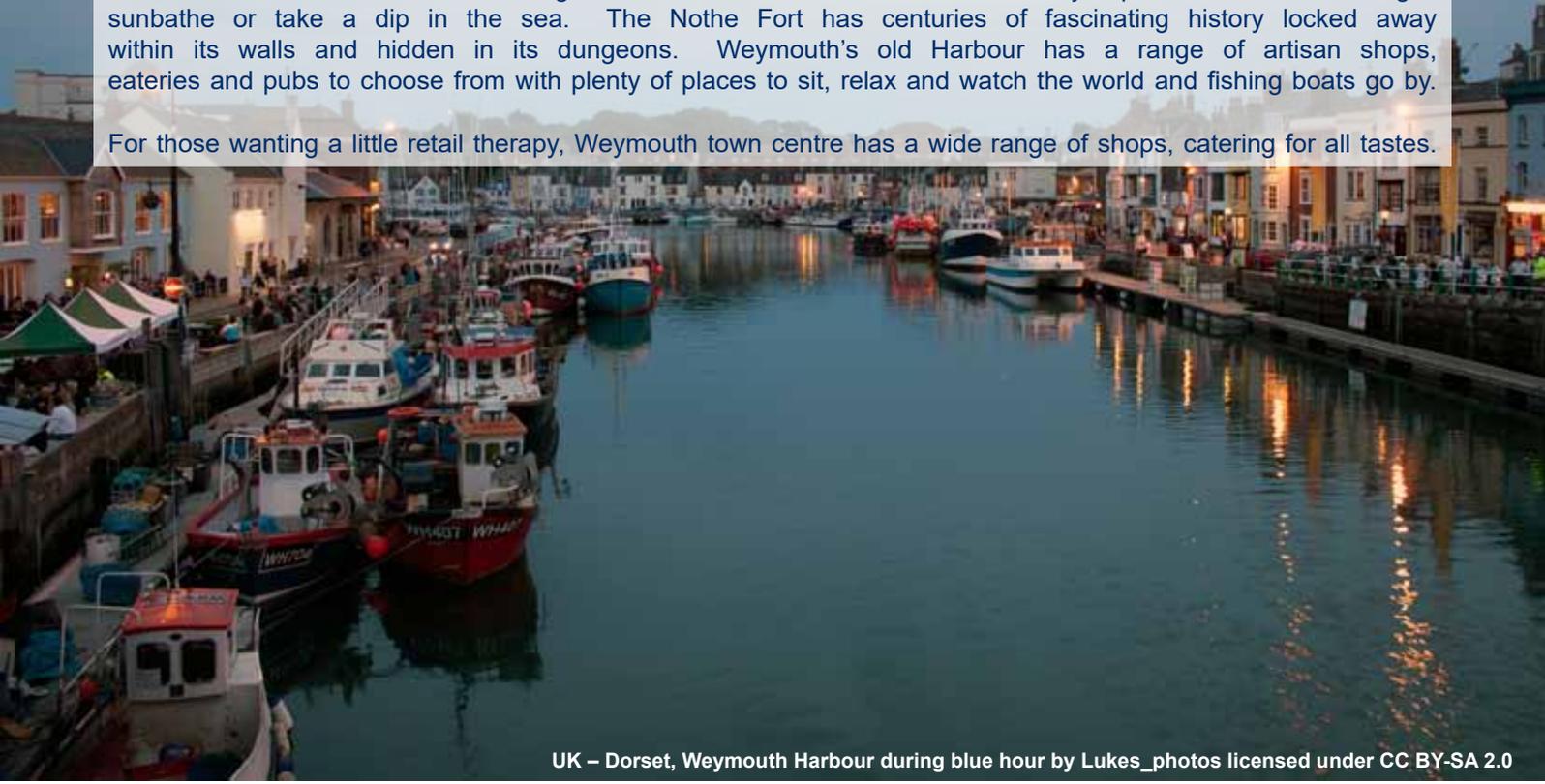
# Take the shuttle bus to Weymouth

The Georgian seaside resort of Weymouth is the nearest town to Portland Port and has much to offer.

Portland Port operates a complimentary shuttle bus service, taking passengers directly from the ship to Weymouth's Old Harbour.

The town has a three mile, award winning beach which can deliver the 'Summer Holiday' experience for those looking to sunbathe or take a dip in the sea. The Nothe Fort has centuries of fascinating history locked away within its walls and hidden in its dungeons. Weymouth's old Harbour has a range of artisan shops, eateries and pubs to choose from with plenty of places to sit, relax and watch the world and fishing boats go by.

For those wanting a little retail therapy, Weymouth town centre has a wide range of shops, catering for all tastes.



# Exploring Portland

The Isle and Royal Manor of Portland is an explorers paradise. Warmed by the Gulf Stream and connected to the mainland at Abbotsbury by the wondrous Chesil Beach which runs 29 kilometres north to West Bay, Dorset.

Portland really does have it all; quiet coves, disused quarries, a rich and fascinating history with some of the best views in Britain as well as being a haven for wildlife.

The Isle of Portland is right on the port's doorstep, with a great selection of places to visit, there has never been a better time to visit this beautifully rugged destination.



# UNESCO World Heritage Site - Jurassic Coast

JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 45 minutes

The Jurassic Coast World Heritage site stretches for 150 kilometres, from Orcombe Point in East Devon, right the way through Dorset to Old Harry Rocks near Swanage. This breathtaking stretch of coastline encompasses rocks and formations that have witnessed 185 million years of the earth's history.

With sweeping beaches, dramatic cliffs, blustery headlands and sheltered coves, the Jurassic Coast has many activities on offer from fossil hunting and a wide range of aquatic sports to more sedate activities such as visiting museums, walking and enjoying local food and drink in beautiful surrounds.

# UNESCO World Heritage Site - Stonehenge

JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 1 hour 35 minutes

Stonehenge is one of the most iconic landmarks in the world and stands in the same condition today, as it did 3,500 years ago. Millions of people visit Stonehenge every year and many see it as a 'must-see' landmark.

Whilst there are no written explanations as to why Stonehenge was built, there are plenty of theories, from human sacrifice rituals to astronomical purposes.



# UNESCO World Heritage Site - Roman City of Bath



JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 2 hours

Bath is a City of culture, home to some amazing Georgian architecture and Britain's only natural thermal spa, the world famous, Roman Baths. The City itself has been standing since the time of the Roman so it is no surprise that it is the only city in the UK to be granted World Heritage status as a whole.

The fascinating history of Bath can be explored through the countless museums and wonderful buildings which are present throughout the City.

To make the most of Bath, it is recommended that passengers allow a whole day for the trip.

# Local Attractions - Bennetts Water Gardens

JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 15 minutes by car

Bennetts Water Gardens are 8 acres of gardens which are home to National & International Collections of Water Lilies, flowering from late spring through to the autumn, creating one of the most outstanding displays of water lilies in Britain with the Monet Bridge as a centrepiece.

Grass pathways lead you through the series of ponds and lakes surrounded by wetland plants, native trees, palms, wild plants and flowers.

There are scenic places to sit and unwind and shaded woodland walks to explore. The Tropical House contains exotic plants including a cacti collection and a Family Nature Trail keeps young visitors interested.



# Local Attractions - Abbotsbury

JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 25 minutes

Abbotsbury is a small picturesque village in the heart of rural Dorset, with plenty of things to see and do.

Abbotsbury Swannery is the world's only managed colony of nesting mute swans and visitors are able to walk right through the heart of it. From mid-May to the end of June you can witness the cygnets hatching all around the pathways. Besides the swans there is also a maze to get lost in, go-karts, tractor and trailer rides, a play area, gift shop and a cafe.

Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens were first established in 1765 by the Countess of Ilchester as a kitchen garden for her nearby castle. Since then, the gardens have been developed into a magnificent 20 acre paradise filled with rare and exotic plant from all over the world. The Gardens are a mixture of formal and informal flowers, world famous for it's Camellia groves and magnolias.

Facilities include the Colonial Restaurant, a quality gift shop and a fantastic plant centre where many of the flowers grown in the Garden can be purchased.



# Local Attractions - Athelhampton House



**JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 35 minutes**

Athelhampton is a 15th Century Manor House with Grade I listing, located five miles east of Dorset's county town of Dorchester.

The house is finely furnished throughout with many grand rooms including the Great Hall, the wine cellar and the Great Chamber. A gallery in the west wing exhibits the works of the Russian artist, Marevna who lived at the house in the 1940's and 1950's.

There is also has a Grade I listed walled garden which dates from 1891. The garden is full of vistas and gains much from the beautiful fountains and the River Piddle which flows through it.

# Local Attractions - Sculptures by the Lakes

JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 40 minutes

Sculptures by the Lakes is a rare attraction for art lovers and those looking for some peace and quiet, it truly is one of a kind.

It is tucked away in 26 acres of Dorset's beautiful countryside.

Simon Gudgeon, the sculptor, combines stunning scenery with impressive and unique sculptures.



# Local Attractions - Bovington Tank Museum



JOURNEY TIME (One Way):  
45 minutes

Bovington Tank Museum boasts the largest collection of armoured fighting vehicles tanks in the world.

It is located at Bovington Camp in Dorset which is still home to the British Army's armoured forces today.

With nearly 300 vehicles from 26 countries on display, the exhibition includes some of the most unique examples of military vehicles such as the worlds only working German Tiger tank and a British Mark I tank from the First World War.

With plenty to see and do, the Tank Museum can keep a family entertained for a whole day or the day could be split by going to Monkey World as well which is only a few minutes away.

# Local Attractions - Monkey World

## JOURNEY TIME

(One Way):

45 minutes

Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre is set in 65 acres of Dorset countryside and is home to over 250 primates.

The centre has more than 20 different species of primate and is dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of primates in need.

There is lots to see and do at the centre making it a great day out.



# Local Experience - Summer Lodge Country Hotel & Spa

## JOURNEY TIME

(One Way): 45 minutes

The Summer Lodge Country Hotel, Restaurant & Spa is an award winning hotel and ranked amongst some of the finest hotels in England. The hotel is well noted by all who visit for its fine dining and extensive wine menu.

If it is relaxation that you are looking for, then look no further, Summer Lodge has a heated indoor pool and numerous spa facilities available.

Built in 1798 as a dower house by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Ilchester, the property was enlarged in 1893 with a second floor being added, by the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl who commissioned his friend and local author, Thomas Hardy (an architect by profession) to draw up the plans.



# Local Attractions - Corfe Castle

JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 55 minutes

Enjoy one of Britain's most iconic and evocative survivors of the English Civil War, Corfe Castle which was partially demolished in 1646 by the Parliamentarians. Discover the castle's history, with fallen walls and secrete places; there are tales of treachery and treason aplenty.

A favourite haunt for adults and children alike, you can't fail to be captivated by these romantic castle ruins and their breathtaking views across the Purbeck hills.

There are also plenty of other attractions close by to fill a day out, such as the coastal town of Swanage and the RSPB's Nature Reserve of Arne.

# Local Attractions - Arne RSPB Nature Reserve



**JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 1 hour**

Arne is an unusual and special landscape of open heath land and old oak woodland. It is a fantastic place for family walks at any time of year. The reserve overlooks wetlands where people can watch thousands of wading birds, ducks and geese including avocets, Black-tailed Godwits and Brent Geese in winter. In summer look out for Dartford warblers nesting in the heather, nightjars flying at dusk and as many as 22 species of colourful dragonflies. Ospreys are regularly seen on migration in late summer and in autumn.

To make a full day out, Arne is located near the seaside town of Swanage, the castle ruins of Corfe Castle and the vast sandy beaches of Studland.

# Local Attractions - Minterne House & Gardens

JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 45 minutes

Minterne House contains many interesting paintings, tapestries and mementos of its past residents, including the Churchill tapestries which are located in the dining room. The house is only open to visitors by prior arrangement, with tours of the house being led by the Right Honourable Henry Digby himself.

Minterne nestles in 1300 acres of beautiful Dorset countryside with gardens laid out in a horseshoe below the house and landscaped in the manner of Capability Brown. The garden trail is around a mile in length with benches at regular intervals so as to enjoy the peace and tranquillity. The gardens are home to a world renowned and completely unique collection of Himalayan Rhododendrons and Azaleas.



# Local Attractions - Sherborne



**JOURNEY TIME (One Way): 55 minutes**

Sherborne has much to offer visitors, with its abundance of medieval buildings, stunning Abbey, picturesque Almshouse and two Castles. Sherborne also has a delightful shopping centre with a large choice of handcrafted goods and elegant fashions and has become an important town in the region for Art and Antique Dealers.

# Local Attractions - Salisbury

A photograph of Salisbury Cathedral at dusk. The cathedral's iconic spire is the central focus, reaching towards a clear, light blue sky. The building's Gothic architecture is highlighted by warm, golden lights from below, creating a strong contrast with the cool tones of the twilight. Bare tree branches are visible in the foreground on the left, and a few small figures can be seen on the green lawn in front of the cathedral.

**JOURNEY TIME**  
(One Way):  
1 hour 20 minutes

Salisbury is a city of history and retains much of its early English Gothic heritage. The best example is Salisbury Cathedral which is home to the famous Magna Carta.

Close to the Cathedral are bustling markets, a buzzing art scene and some wonderful historic houses.

The city centre is perfect for some retail therapy but there also plenty of museums and other things to do.

A visit to Salisbury can be included in a trip to Stonehenge.

# Excursion Ideas - Golf Courses in Dorset

It has been commented that Dorset offers the “best of both worlds” as far as golf is concerned. Whether you enjoy links or parkland style golf, there is plenty here to whet your appetite.

Courses of note include Came Down Golf Club, just north of Weymouth, which played an important part in the founding of the Ryder Cup, Bridport Golf Club, the oldest golf club in Dorset which has dramatic views of the Jurassic coastline and Weymouth Golf Club located in the centre of nearby Weymouth and enjoys magnificent views of the Dorset countryside and Jurassic Coast.

There are lots of courses available to play in Dorset and every one will appeal to discerning golfers as well as those who appreciate spectacular countryside.



# Excursion Ideas - Adventure & Outdoor Activities in Dorset

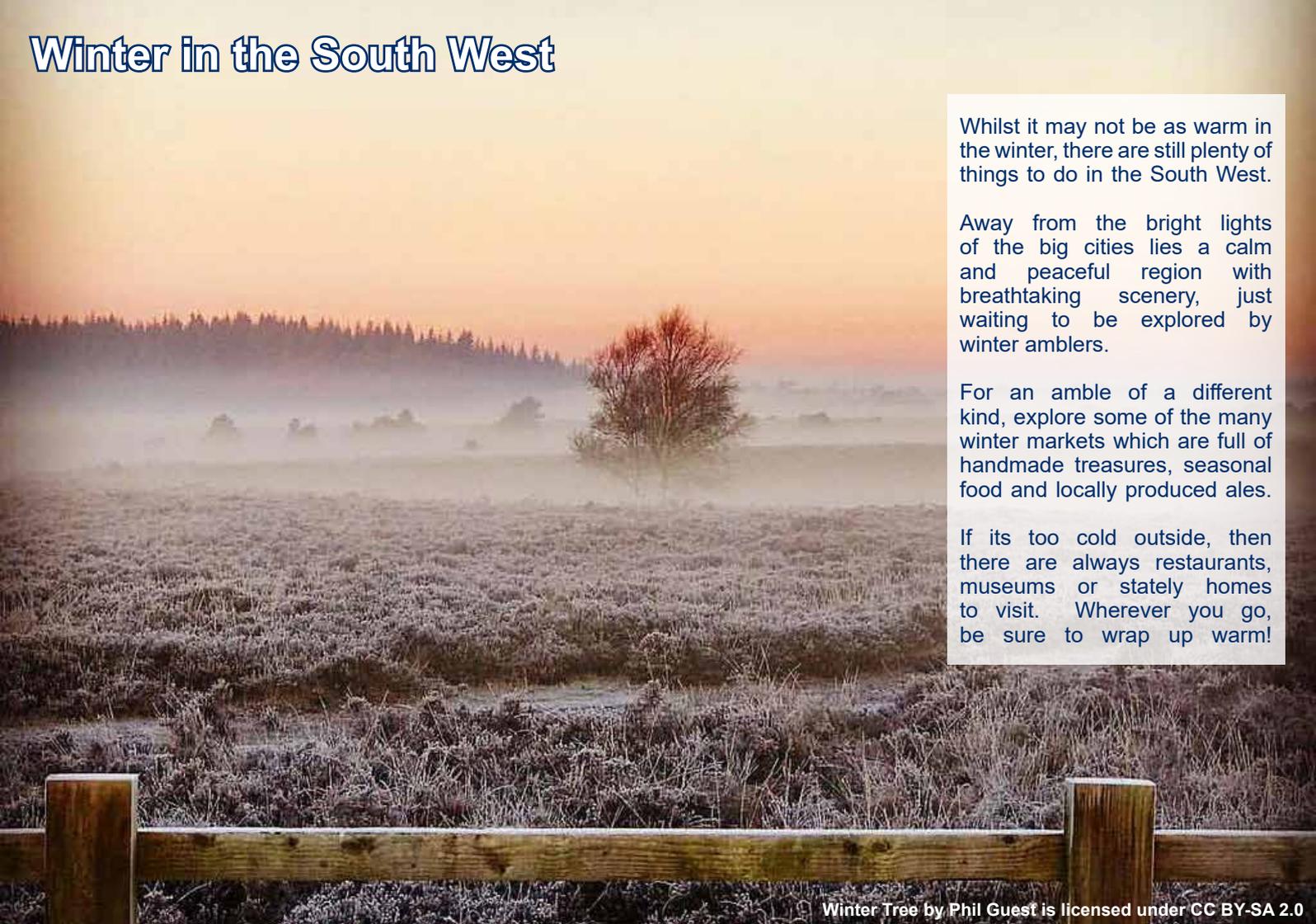


The Dorset landscape provides the perfect setting for all manner of outdoor pursuits; with vast woodland wildernesses, mile upon mile of rolling countryside and some of the most dramatic coastline to be found anywhere. The county has an abundance of walks to enjoy, whether it's a coastal expedition tracing millions of year of history, or a countryside trail taking in Dorset's rich cultural heritage, it's all here for you to explore.

One of the best ways to see the Jurassic Coast is by sea with options ranging from high speed RIBs and guided coasteering adventures to paddle boarding and canoeing.

Whatever your activity we're sure you won't find a better backdrop.

# Winter in the South West

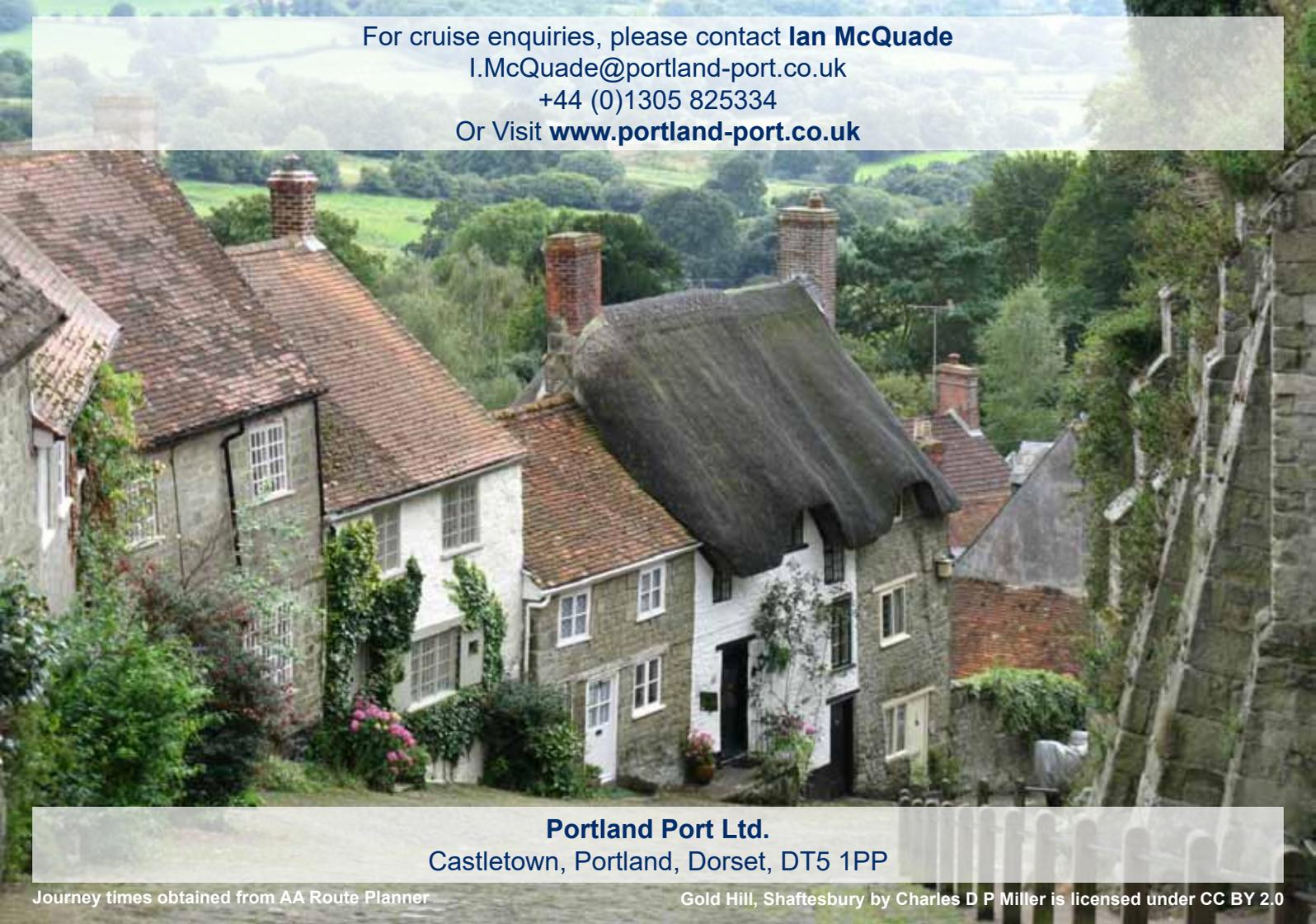


Whilst it may not be as warm in the winter, there are still plenty of things to do in the South West.

Away from the bright lights of the big cities lies a calm and peaceful region with breathtaking scenery, just waiting to be explored by winter amblers.

For an amble of a different kind, explore some of the many winter markets which are full of handmade treasures, seasonal food and locally produced ales.

If its too cold outside, then there are always restaurants, museums or stately homes to visit. Wherever you go, be sure to wrap up warm!



For cruise enquiries, please contact **Ian McQuade**

[I.McQuade@portland-port.co.uk](mailto:I.McQuade@portland-port.co.uk)

+44 (0)1305 825334

Or Visit [www.portland-port.co.uk](http://www.portland-port.co.uk)

**Portland Port Ltd.**

Castletown, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1PP