

# Bournemouth & Poole

GROUP. COACH. TRAVEL



[bournemouth.co.uk](http://bournemouth.co.uk)

COAST  
WITH THE  
MOST



[pooletourism.com](http://pooletourism.com)

# WELCOME TO

# *Bournemouth*

# *& Poole* the Coast with the Most!

Located on the beautiful South Coast of England, in the historic county of Dorset, close to the World Heritage Jurassic Coast, Bournemouth and Poole is ready to offer you a year-round group experience unlike any other.

Explore our beautiful towns including 10 miles of stunning award-winning beaches and Europe's largest natural harbour. Discover our scenic nature reserves, historic parks and gardens, attractions, activities and entertainment venues.

This guide contains a selection of group friendly accommodation, places to visit and things to see and do, itinerary ideas, coach parking facilities and much more...

### *Group & Coach Travel Trade Department*

Bournemouth & Poole Tourism can support you with itinerary and tour ideas, as well as images and copy for your brochures and websites and subscription to our trade newsletters.

☎ 01202 451741

@ tourism.marketing@bournemouth.gov.uk

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Disclaimer. Details correct at time of print. Please note details are subject to change and we advise you to check all details when finalising any arrangements. Bournemouth & Poole Tourism cannot accept responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes.



# EXPLORE

## Bournemouth

Come and stay with your group in Bournemouth where you can discover and explore beautiful beaches, stunning parks, gardens and nature reserves. Experience great dining, shopping, coastal villages and a host of attractions, activities and entertainment.

**Fantastic leisure attractions and activities:** From a beautiful historic house, to plenty of indoor and outdoor activities all year round, our coastline offers lots of exciting experiences for everyone in your group.

**Surround yourself with nature:** Home to scenic nature reserves and award-winning historic gardens, you will find a unique temperate microclimate with natural habitats. For wildlife lovers head to Hengistbury Head Nature Reserve and Stour Valley Nature Reserve.

**Historic Piers:** Come rain or shine, enjoy the indoor climbing and high wire centre, the UK's first pier-to-shore zip wire and family amusements at Bournemouth Pier or discover the free musical play trail and magnificent views at Boscombe Pier.

**Discover our coastline:** Hop on the land train and take in the stunning views. The land trains run along the promenade eastwards towards Boscombe and westwards towards Branksome Chine in Poole. Enjoy a bird's eye view from our cliff lifts (April to October) situated alongside the zig zag pathways at West Cliff and Fisherman's Walk, Southbourne.

**Hire a beach hut:** The perfect way to spend the day on the beach. Choose from traditional beach huts or funky beach pods. Available year-round, to book, go to [bournemouth.co.uk/beachhire](http://bournemouth.co.uk/beachhire)

**Dining with a view:** Along the coastline enjoy one of the inviting cafés or restaurants offering heart-warming breakfasts, great lunch stops, cream teas and delicious evening dining options.

**Festivals & Events:** Enjoy our year-round programme of festivals and events, providing entertainment and activities for all.

**For a warm welcome:** Head to Pier Approach on the seafront and visit the Tourist Information Centre, open seven days a week.

For more ideas and inspiration visit:  
[bournemouth.co.uk/lovegroups](http://bournemouth.co.uk/lovegroups)



# EXPLORE

## Poole

Home to Europe's largest natural harbour. With its eight unique islands and striking peninsula, the harbour is a haven for sailors, wildlife and watersports and is a gateway to the world heritage Jurassic Coast. From the world-famous Sandbanks beach to the bustling quayside, historic old town, stunning parks and gardens and top attractions, make sure Poole is on the itinerary for your next south coast adventure.

Poole's quayside is the perfect starting point, with drop off points for coaches and free coach parking nearby. Spend time taking in the stunning views and enjoy the bustle of super yachts, sailing boats and fishing boats on the water and in the Marina.

Ferries run regularly in season, from Harbour and Jurassic Coastal Cruises, to trips exploring Brownsea Island, just a short 20 minute boat trip away and further afield to Wareham or Swanage.

There are plenty of shops to browse, cafés and restaurants to visit on the water's edge, and if you need further inspiration, visit our friendly staff at the Tourist Information Centre, located in Poole Museum.

With free entry, Poole Museum is worth a visit with four floors of galleries and exhibitions to enjoy, also home to the world's best public display of Poole Pottery.

Take in the sights of Poole's historical old town, just a couple of minutes' walk from the quay. There are a number of trails and self-guided walks available, bringing the town's rich pirate and merchant history to life as you enjoy this area's beautiful architecture and selection of unique shops and independent restaurants.

For more ideas and inspiration visit:

[www.pooletourism.com/grouptravel](http://www.pooletourism.com/grouptravel)



**BOURNEMOUTH & POOLE FESTIVALS  
& EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS 2019**

# 2019

**at a glance**

## **BOURNEMOUTH**

### **Health-on-Line Bournemouth Bay Run**

April 7

[bournemouth.co.uk](http://bournemouth.co.uk)

This popular half marathon, 10k, 5k or 1k kids fun run all take place against the backdrop of Bournemouth's golden sand and sparkling seas. This year the theme is fairytales – come and find your happy ever after!

### **Bournemouth Friday Night Fireworks**

From late July – end of August (TBC)

[bournemouth.co.uk](http://bournemouth.co.uk)

Starting at 10pm from Bournemouth Pier, we know you'll love watching the skies light up! Check the website for confirmation of Friday dates.

### **Bournemouth Air Festival**

August 29 – September 1

[bournemouthair.co.uk](http://bournemouthair.co.uk)

The UK's biggest air festival is an unmissable event. In the air, on land and at sea and the entertainment doesn't stop when the sun goes down, there's also a great Night Air line up too.

### **Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival**

September 27 – 29

[artsbythesea.co.uk](http://artsbythesea.co.uk)

An annual festival of art, culture, people and place, don't miss this intriguing, exciting and unique carnivalesque celebration of art. From dance, performance, music to theatre, light installations and visual wonderment!

### **Christmas Tree Wonderland**

November 15 – January 2

[christmastreewonderland.co.uk](http://christmastreewonderland.co.uk)

View the spectacle of over 100 glittering trees including six incredible feature trees from around the world. Explore the Alpine Market and skate in the enchanting Victorian Lower Gardens.



Breitling Jet Team displaying at  
2018 Bournemouth Air Festival



## **POOLE QUAY**

**Dream Machines** sponsored by Dutton Gregory Solicitors  
Every Tuesday from April 2 – September 24  
[pooletourism.com](http://pooletourism.com)

Watch the “bikers” cruising into town as Poole Quay is closed off to all traffic and is taken over by a stream of shiny, gleaming, bikes!

### **Poole Harbour Boat Show**

June 7 – 9

[pooleharbourboatshow.co.uk](http://pooleharbourboatshow.co.uk)

Visit the South Coasts' biggest free to attend boat show - with live music, entertainment and fireworks. Don't miss demonstrations from RNLI, Border Force and Poole Harbour Commissioners.



### **Folk on the Quay, June 29**

[folkonthequay.co.uk](http://folkonthequay.co.uk)

Free folk music festival with outdoor music stages, a ceilidh, and over twenty teams of Morris dancers in the streets overlooking the Harbour.

### **Rockley's Summer Spectacular with Fireworks**

From July 25 – end of August

[pooletourism.com](http://pooletourism.com)

Family fun and entertainment followed by a fireworks finale at 10pm every Thursday during the summer.

### **Poole Goes Vintage, July 14**

[pooletourism.com](http://pooletourism.com)

Celebrate all things retro on the Quay. 1940s-60s music, fashion, memorabilia dance and more!

### **Quay for my Car**

Every Friday in July and August

[pooletourism.com](http://pooletourism.com)

A different theme of car is featured every week for enthusiasts and spectators alike!

Details are correct at the time of going to press. Please note all events are subject to change.

For a full listing of festivals and events in the area, please go to [bournemouth.co.uk/whats-on](http://bournemouth.co.uk/whats-on) & [pooletourism.com/whats-on](http://pooletourism.com/whats-on)

# THE *Great Outdoor*

## ITINERARY

Explore Bournemouth and Poole's Coast with the Most and enjoy the great outdoors

### *Morning Activity Options*

**Watersports Galore.** Enjoy 10 miles of stunning shoreline shared by Bournemouth and Poole. Choose from a host of watersports including paddleboarding, sailing, surfing, kayaking, jet skiing, wakeboarding, powerboating or even hire a private luxury charter for the day. Private tuition available at all levels and abilities. A list of providers can be found on [bournemouth.co.uk](http://bournemouth.co.uk) and [pooletourism.com](http://pooletourism.com)

**By boat and train.** Take a boat trip from Poole Quay to discover our coastline including bird watching harbour boat cruises, trips to Brownsea Island, a Wareham River cruise or a trip to Swanage. Combine a boat cruise and steam train ride in Swanage on a Sea Train Adventure. (see operators on p19)

**Bournemouth's Zip Challenge.** The world's first pier to shore zip wire. Climb the 60ft zip tower above the sea and zip-surf over the waves to the shore. (see p18)

### *Afternoon Activity Options*

**Beautiful Golf Courses.** Bournemouth and Poole is a great place to enjoy a round of golf with your family, friends or golf party. With 'pay to play' and season ticket options available, your group can enjoy a game of golf any time of the year.

**Cycling.** With miles of stunning coastline and seafront linking Bournemouth and Poole, plus heathland and countryside, the area is perfect for getting out on two wheels... and you can even hire bikes for the day.

**Stunning coastal walks.** The perfect way to get out in the open is on a stunning 10 mile coastal walk from Sandbanks in Poole to Hengistbury Head Nature Reserve. En route you can enjoy an ice cream or stop off at one of the many beachfront cafés and restaurants. If your legs need a rest hop on the \*land train to take in the stunning seafront scenery.

For more details and inspiration please visit: [bournemouth.co.uk/lovegroups](http://bournemouth.co.uk/lovegroups) and [pooletourism.com/grouptravel](http://pooletourism.com/grouptravel)

\*Land train runs daily April – October and weekends throughout the year all subject to weather conditions.



# Cultural Historical ITINERARY

A selection of Bournemouth & Poole's Cultural Delights combined with a fascinating history to be discovered...

## Morning Activity Options in Poole

**Poole Museum and Scaplens Court** (see p18). Situated in the Old Town, just off Poole Quay. The free entry museum tells the story of the historic maritime town. The museum is also home to over 150 pieces of world famous Poole Pottery. Poole Museum offers groups a free 'Meet & Greet' Service from the coach drop off point and can also offer a 'Welcome to Poole' package, for a small charge per person.

**Poole's RNLI Discovery Tours & College** (see p19). The RNLI have a fascinating 150-year history in Poole. Find out how their crews and lifeguards are trained with a behind the scenes 90-minute tour of the RNLI's world class Training Centre.

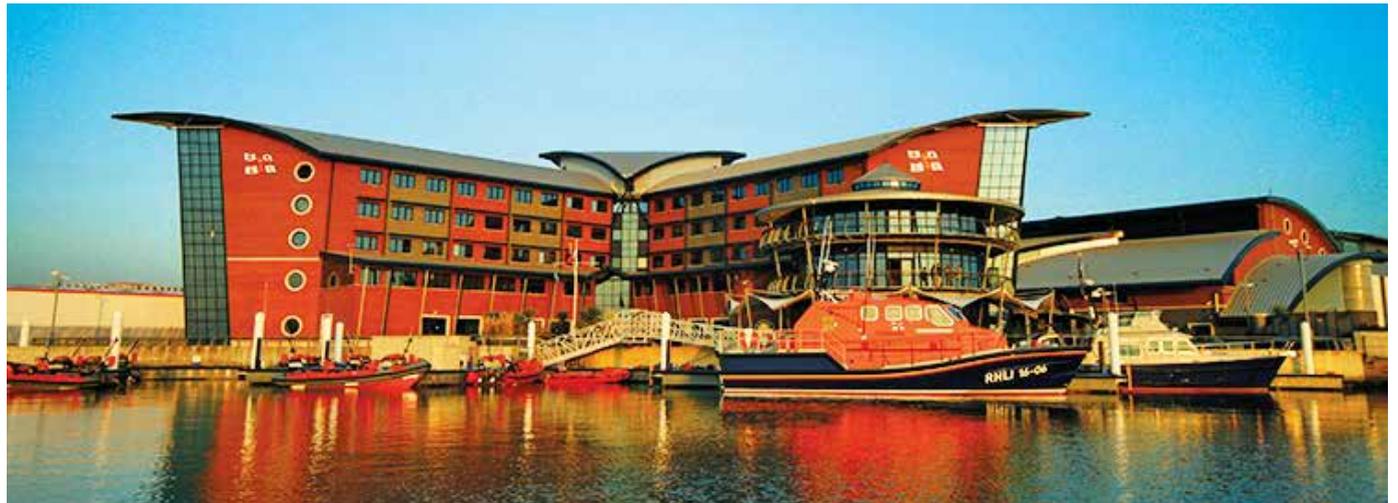
**Explore Poole's Historic Old Town.** A picturesque, bustling area featuring cobbled streets, historic buildings and independent shops. Pick up a Cockle Trail leaflet at Poole's Tourist Information Centre, located in Poole Museum. Follow the brass plaques in the pavement to retrace Poole's rich historical heritage.

## Afternoon Activity Options in Bournemouth

**Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum** (see p18). A hidden treasure, full of Victorian charm, it houses some of the most famous Pre-Raphaelite works as well as collections from around the world, gloriously displayed in its spectacular seaside setting with stunning views of the bay. Groups can enjoy a private viewing and tour of the house and grounds, with the opportunity for an afternoon tea.

**Explore Bournemouth** - Be inspired by our history and literary connections. Bournemouth boasts 34 blue plaques around the town commemorating the likes of JRR Tolkien, Robert Louis Stevenson, Lewis Tregonwell and Sir Percy Florence Shelley. Ideal for all history and literary fans. Bournemouth's most famous literary association is with Mary Shelley, author of Frankenstein. Mary Shelley is buried in St. Peter's graveyard.

For further details and inspiration visit:  
[bournemouth.co.uk/lovegroups](http://bournemouth.co.uk/lovegroups) and  
[pooletourism.com/grouptravel](http://pooletourism.com/grouptravel)



# Beautiful

## Gardens, Tree Trails & Nature Reserves

### *Bournemouth's Morning Activities*

Just a short stroll from the beach are Bournemouth's Grade II listed Victorian Gardens. Landscaped over 1.5 miles, take in the Lower, Central and Upper Gardens each with their own unique designs, landmarks and even a Tree Trail Walk. Hop on a land train or take a stroll along the promenade to Boscombe Chine and Boscombe Cliff Gardens, with their fantastic mix of flora, fauna and wildlife. Head towards Poole, to see the award-winning 1920's Alum Chine Tropical Gardens which overlooks the Bay.

### *Bournemouth's Afternoon Activities*

A visit to Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre and Nature Reserve is a must for walkers and nature lovers. A protected Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), it is also internationally important for both archaeology and geology. Green Flag awarded Stour Valley Nature Reserve, on the north-west edge of Bournemouth, includes a two mile stretch of riverside footpath, meadows and woodland.

### *Poole's Morning Activities*

Follow the level harbour footpath (15 – 20 minute walk) along the quayside with stunning views along the way, passing through Harbourside Park and into the oasis of Poole Park. The central lake is surrounded by a host of facilities and activities to enjoy.

### *Poole's Afternoon Activities*

Upton Country Park in Poole has over over 100 acres of parkland, shoreline and formal estate gardens – enjoy tea and cake, explore the art gallery or enjoy a packed programme of events all year round. Compton Acres is recognised as one of the most important ornamental gardens in England and acknowledged as one of the finest privately-owned gardens in the country.



©Jake Moore

# On our *Doorstep*

Bournemouth and Poole are lucky enough to have some fantastic neighbours that offer beautiful surroundings and great days out for your group.

To the East of Bournemouth and Poole is the idyllic market town of Christchurch. With a bustling high street, riverside walks, charming quay and the 11th century Priory, as well as a variety of attractions, activities, award-winning beaches and coastal nature reserves. Nearby villages include Highcliffe with its castle and Mudeford with its Quay, very popular for crab fishing and boat trips, here you can catch a boat ride to Hengistbury Head.

To the West enjoy the Isle of Purbeck, a peninsula with beautiful countryside and stunning clifftop paths - or visit the traditional Victorian seaside resorts of Swanage and Weymouth. Stretching across more than 95 miles, the Jurassic Coast is a World Heritage Site with iconic beauty spots including Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove, Dancing Ledge and Old Harry Rocks.

Heading inland, there are many charming towns and villages including Corfe Castle, Wimborne Minster, Wareham, Sherborne, Shaftesbury, Dorchester and Milton Abbas.

Set out on an adventure on foot or by bike in the New Forest, take a guided tour or even a horse ride! Be sure to keep an eye out for wildlife around the New Forest, including the famous New Forest ponies, deer and cattle that roam free in its ancient heaths and woodlands.

Our neighbouring counties of Wiltshire and Hampshire offer a wealth of places to explore, from charming market towns and pretty villages to areas of outstanding idyllic beauty. Salisbury, known as the “city in the countryside”, is famous for its timber-framed buildings and iconic early English gothic cathedral, which is home to the best-preserved copy of the Magna Carta.

Explore the picturesque Channel Island of Guernsey which is accessible for a day trip by ferry from Poole with Condor Ferries (see p19).



©Christchurch Borough Council



©New Forest District Council



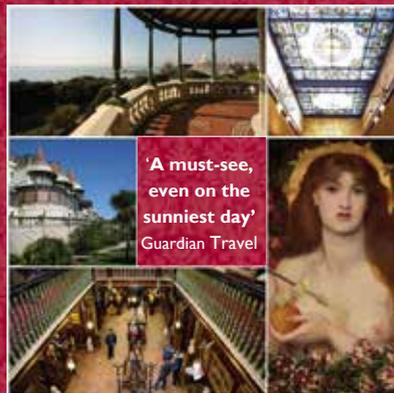
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\*terms and conditions apply

**poole**  
museum

free entry

Discover the Story of Poole - Harbour, Town and People...

Poole's rich history is revealed in Poole Museum's four floors of galleries. Displays range from archaeology to art, from pirates to potteries.

The Museum and temporary exhibitions are free of charge, and fully accessible.



www.poolemuseum.org.uk

4 High Street, Poole BH15 1BW 01202 262600

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Find out more at  
RNLI.org/CollegeTours, call 01202 336141  
or email tours@rnli.org.uk

Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736).  
Registered charity number 20003326 in the Republic of Ireland



# Entertainment & Dining Out

As day turns to night, Bournemouth and Poole have a fantastic array of entertainment – perfect for a great group night out!

Bournemouth International Centre (BIC - see p18) and the vintage Art Deco Pavilion Theatre both offer outstanding year-round performances and events – a stage for pantomimes, live music, comedians and touring West End shows. If you have a passion for dance, a visit to Pavilion Dance South West is a must and for film fans, check out the BH2 leisure complex, home to the state-of-the-art ten screen multi complex cinema. There is also a great choice of restaurants and activities on offer.

In Poole the award-winning Lighthouse – Poole’s Centre for the Arts, is the residence of the renowned Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) and Poole Stadium (see p20) is home to greyhound racing and the elite speedway team. Tower Park Leisure Complex has a variety of exciting activities, restaurants and Splashdown Water Park, which opens for evening sessions in season.

You’ll find a host of award-winning restaurants, cool cocktail bars and restaurant chains across the resort. Local farms and fisheries provide a variety of produce so it’s no surprise the seafood here is among the best in the country...especially the delicious fish and chips!

For a traditional experience, charming tearooms, local hotels and restaurants offer an afternoon tea or for the more adventurous, try many of the multicultural restaurants and cafés serving international cuisine - from Italian and Indian eateries to Lebanese, Mongolian, Mexican and Indonesian with a super choice of vegetarian and vegan restaurants too.

For further details visit [bournemouth.co.uk/food-and-drink](http://bournemouth.co.uk/food-and-drink) and [pooletourism.com/food-and-drink](http://pooletourism.com/food-and-drink)





# Bournemouth & Poole

*A great range of accommodation*

Bournemouth and Poole offer the perfect choice for a fantastic coastal break with a great range of accommodation choices from beautiful beach front hotels, national chains, family run hotels and guest accommodation to independent hotels, B&B's and great group self-catering options including the opportunities to stay in the great outdoors.

Whether it's a midweek break, weekend break or longer stay in any season, you will find that perfect package for every occasion. Many of our hotels welcome groups and coaches, offering coach parking on site, specialist breaks and tailored packages.

The accommodation on pages 25-26 offer group friendly accommodation. When contacting them please mention the Bournemouth & Poole Group and Coach Travel Guide.

If you require any more help please contact our Tourist Information Teams.

### Bournemouth Tourist Information Centre

- ☎ 01202 451781
- @ [info@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:info@bournemouth.gov.uk)
- 🌐 [bournemouth.co.uk/lovegroups](http://bournemouth.co.uk/lovegroups)

### Poole Tourist Information Centre

- ☎ 01202 262600
- @ [tourism@pooletourism.com](mailto:tourism@pooletourism.com)
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# Bournemouth & Poole

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# Shopping Delights

For designer labels or the latest high street must-haves, Bournemouth and Poole offer a unique experience.

With canopied Victorian arcades, a pedestrianised high street and mix of shopping areas, Bournemouth is home to a wide range of independent shops and boutiques, high street favourites and quality department stores. Town Centre shopping areas feed into the historic gardens and glorious beaches offering a relaxed experience.

The coastal villages of Boscombe, Southbourne and Westbourne are bursting with individuality, where you'll find retro chic, quirky shops and bustling cafés.

For unique gifts, Poole Quay and Lower High Street offer fabulous harbourside shopping and dining, with small independent shops and outlets including the original Lush cosmetics shop. From the Quay, take a short walk to the Dolphin Shopping Centre with popular brands including M&S, Primark, H&M and Next.

Whilst on Poole Quay visit unique and individual shopping experiences such as Quayside Emporium, Titan Leathercraft Giftshop & Workshop and Studio Poole, the largest Poole Pottery outlet in the world.

Bag a bargain at local Street Markets including Boscombe's Outdoor Street Market and Poole Market which both take place every Thursday and Saturday.

**Bournemouth's Christmas Tree Wonderland**  
November 15 - January 2

This spectacular event showcases a display of over 100 trees and illuminations alongside the Alpine Market where you can sample delicious food and purchase the perfect christmas gift.



# Getting Here

**By Bus & Coach.** Bournemouth Coach station is next to the train station, where there are plenty of taxis and local buses to take you to your chosen destination. Poole Bus station is located in the town centre at the back of The Dolphin Shopping Centre.

Visiting coaches please refer to page 28 – 31 for coach parking and drop off points for Bournemouth and Poole.

**By Train.** There is an excellent train service to and from various locations around the UK, as well as a fast service from London Waterloo in as little as 97 minutes.

With so many great travel options and its close proximity to London, our area is one of the most accessible destinations in the South West.

**By Air.** Bournemouth has an international airport located only seven miles out of the town centre which connect us with many destinations in the UK and Europe.

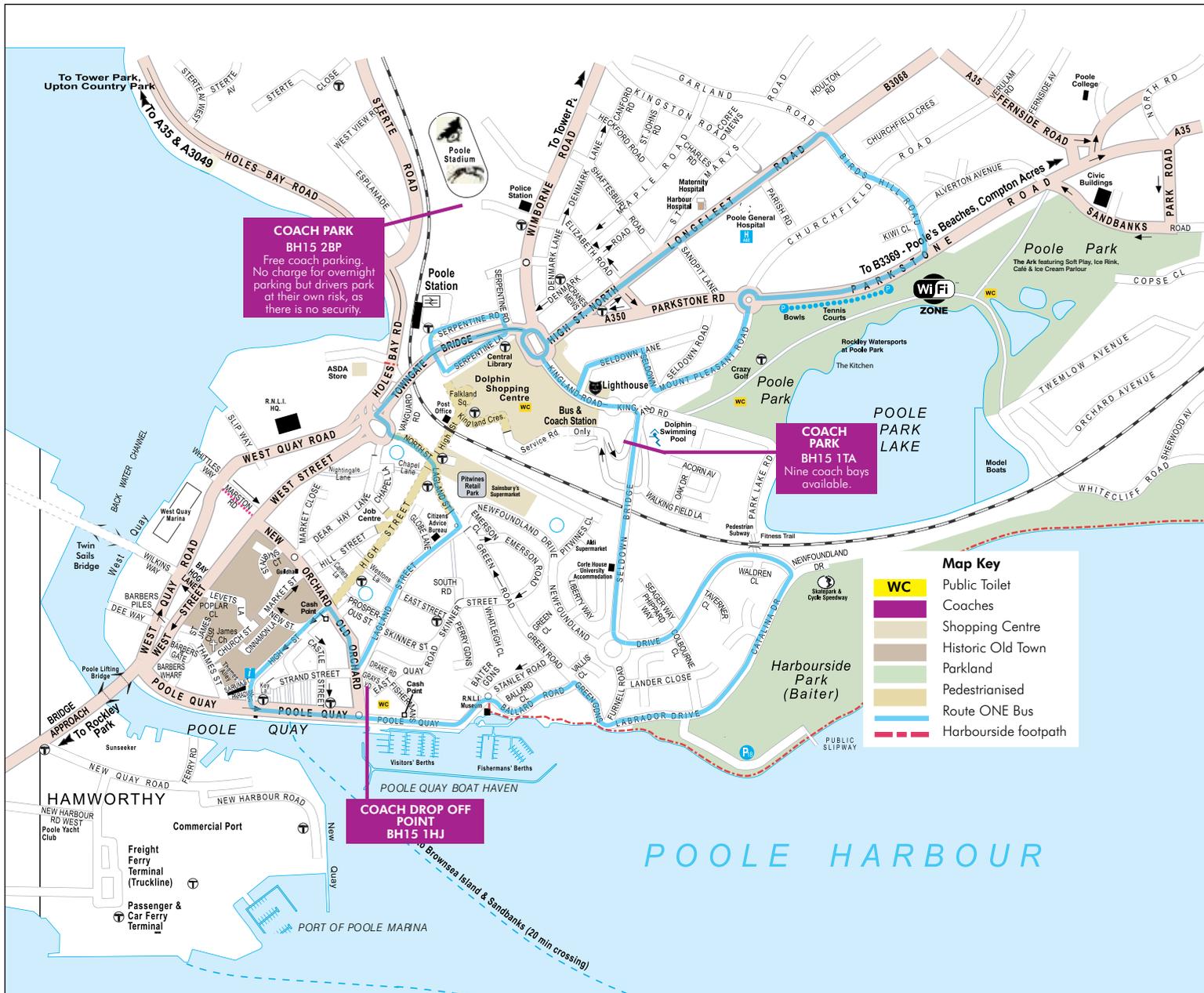
**By Ferry.** Arrive by ferry into our local ports of, Poole, Southampton and Portsmouth.

**Directions.** With good motorway and 'A' road links, arriving by car is simple. There are plenty of pay and display car parks along our ten miles of coastline.

Visit [gettingabout.co.uk](http://gettingabout.co.uk) for detailed travel information.

For more information visit: [www.bournemouth.co.uk](http://www.bournemouth.co.uk) and [www.pooletourism.com](http://www.pooletourism.com)

# Poole Coach Driver Information



## ROUTES4COACHES:

Leave M27 at J1, join A31 westbound towards Bournemouth. Join A338, follow signs to Bournemouth (A35). Pick up signs for Poole (A350) and then follow signs for Poole Quay.

## Coach Drop off Point Poole Quay, BH15 1HJ

(no waiting allowed at this point)  
Five drop off spaces located just off Poole Quay, perfect for a selection of activities, attractions, shops and restaurants.

## Coach Parking Main Coach Park – Poole Stadium, BH15 2BP

Free coach parking (25 spaces). No charge for overnight parking but drivers park at their own risk, as there is no security.

## Seldown Car & Coach Park – BH15 1TA

Free coach parking (9 coach bays available) at this town centre car park adjacent to Poole Bus Station. Access back to Poole Quay on Route One circular bus route (no Sunday service).

For all the latest information visit:

[pooltourism.com/grouptour](http://pooltourism.com/grouptour) or sign up for Coach and Group Travel information at: [pooltourism.com/newsdirect](http://pooltourism.com/newsdirect)

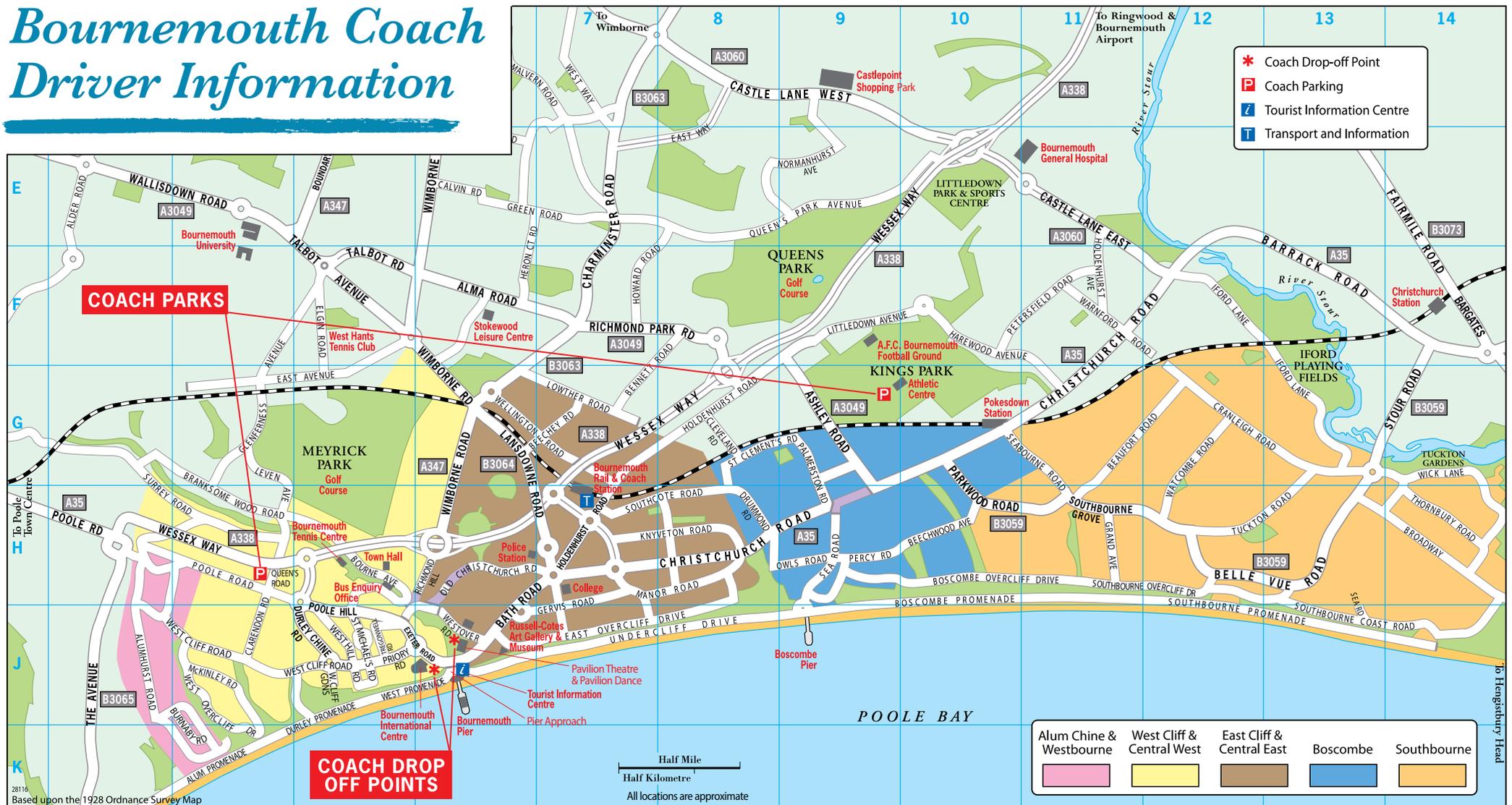
Poole has recently been awarded Coach Friendly Status



Highlights include:

- Free meet & greet service by Tourist Information Team (on request call 01202 262600)
- Free coach parking and two central sites (see above)
- Driver refreshments available at Quayside Emporium on Poole Quay ([quayside-emporium.com](http://quayside-emporium.com))
- New toilet drop facility at More Bus depot (BH15 1SN) - charges will apply.

# Bournemouth Coach Driver Information



## Coach Parking in Bournemouth



### Queens Road Car/Coach Park (BH2 6BE)

This is a small car/coach park situated just off the A338 Wessex Way, approximately 3/4 of a mile from the town centre. Nearest toilet 15 minutes' walk away. Close to bus routes to Bournemouth Town Centre.

### Kings Park Car/Coach Park (BH7 7AF)

Adjacent to AFC Bournemouth Football Ground, Vitality Stadium, Kings Park Drive, Boscombe. Approximately 2 miles from the town centre. Please refer to the tariff boards for current charges.

### Bournemouth Rail and Coach Station

Situated just off the A338 Wessex Way.

Off-street loading and unloading bays for up to three visiting coaches. Staffed daily, including weekends & public holidays, 8am – 5pm.

### Coach Drop Off Points (max stay 15min)

**Westover Road:** Outside the Pavilion Theatre. Less than five minutes' walk to shops, seafront and Pier. Nearest toilet facilities in Bournemouth Lower Gardens or Bournemouth Pier.

### Bournemouth International Centre (BIC)

The bus lay-by situated next to the BIC, Exeter Road, walk to shops, seafront and Pier. Toilet facilities next to the Pier.

**For all the latest information visit:**  
[bournemouth.co.uk/lovegroups](http://bournemouth.co.uk/lovegroups)

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[christmastreewonderland.co.uk](http://christmastreewonderland.co.uk)

