

# The Jurassic Coast

The biodiversity of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage site is outstanding. This was true in the 185 million years of the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, just as it is today. We know about the wildlife of those times through the rich variety of fossils found here. The remains of hundreds of animals, dinosaurs, turtles, crocodiles, fish, mammals, bivalves, insects, algae and plants and many others have been found in the sedimentary rocks that form our coast.

Spring and early summer are the best times to go fossil hunting. Winter rain produces landslips depositing hundreds of tons of fresh rocks onto the beaches. The sea's action breaks down the rocks releasing the fossilised remains of animals. Fossils can be found in many places along the 95 miles of the World Heritage Site, but Lyme Regis and Charmouth are probably the best places to search. Please keep to the beaches and stay clear of the landslips – they are dangerous!

The Jurassic Coast Trust helps people understand and learn about the site's globally important geology. It produces publications (including one on Jurassic Coast wildlife – ring 01460 242780 to purchase a copy), provides schools with educational resources including replica fossils and pays for the preparation of spectacular fossil finds.

Jurassic Coast Trust members can enjoy expertly guided geology walks free! Find out more at [www.jurassiccoasttrust.org](http://www.jurassiccoasttrust.org).

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