Bridport – Dorset’s Market Town

Weekly Country Market
Bridport’s only covered market offering a wide range of produce including organic meat, fruit, vegetables, free-range eggs and plants. Open every Saturday from 9am to 12 noon at the WI Hall, North Street DT6 3JQ

Bridport Vintage Market
www.bridportantiquedes.co.uk/vintage-market
This fashionable Vintage Market takes place on the last Sunday of the month from 10am to 4pm during April to September in the Arts and Vintage Quarter of St Michael’s Trading Estate. Here you will find a wonderful selection of vintage and antique furniture, collectables, clothes and bric-a-brac. With its award winning artists and all things vintage, St Michael’s Trading Estate is always an exciting and interesting way to spend your time.

Bridport Antique & Book Fair
Takes place on the first Saturday of the month starting at 10am in St Mary’s Church Hall, South Street

West Bay Market
Wednesdays during July and August, an evening market takes place on the Fisherman’s Green. Dates will be publicised.

Bridport’s Historic Street Market
Every Saturday and Wednesday from 8am until late afternoon, along East, West and South Streets.
There has been a market in the town since Saxon times. When King Henry III granted a Charter in 1253, the market gradually moved to a position outside the Bull Hotel in East Street and to the site of the Town Hall (formerly the site of the Church of St Andrew). In 1593, the ‘market house and scole house’ stood in the middle of the junction of East, West and South Streets and was designed to house butcher shops. It became known locally as ‘The Shambles,’ as butchers used to slaughter animals as well as butcher meat. The Shambles was an area of fixed open stalls. When the Town Hall was completed in 1786 thirty seven butchers’ stalls were included on the ground floor.

Bridport Vinyl Saturday Record & CD Fair
An essential day for collectors of rock, pop, folk, blues and jazz records and CDs. Held once a month during February, May, August and November at the United Church in East Street from 10am to 4pm. For dates visit www.vinylsaturday.co.uk. Also, due to the renewed interest in vinyl, every Saturday throughout the year there are over 25 different local shops and market stalls where music fans can now find records.

Art & Craft Fair
This popular Fair runs monthly from March to December from 9am to 3pm in the Town Hall. Featuring a variety of handmade crafts including jewellery, paintings, glass-work and ceramics, it is the ideal place to see and buy beautiful and unique items of work from a variety of local artists, crafts people and artisans. For dates visit www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk

The Farmers’ Market
www.dorsetfarmersmarket.co.uk
The award winning Farmers’ Market is held on the second Saturday each month in the Arts Centre, South Street from 9am to 1pm. In recent years, it has been voted the best Farmers’ Market in Dorset. It often attracts over 30 producers including farmers, growers and bakers who all share a passion for home grown products.

Bridport Artisans Market
http://fb.com/bridportartisanmarket
Bridport has a rich vein of extremely talented Artisans making and creating high quality bespoke items that range from decorative arts, sculptures, clothing, jewellery, photography and even home baked bread and preserves. The market is generally held every 3rd Saturday of the month at Bridport Arts Centre from 9am to 2pm. Visit their facebook page for dates.

West Bay Car Boot
Billed as “One of the best car boots in Dorset” it is held in the West Bay Road Car Park every Sunday from March through to December (weather permitting) from 9am to 1pm. The income from the West Bay car boot sale is used by West Dorset District Council to provide funding for community projects in the Bridport area.
The centre of Bridport comes alive every Wednesday and Saturday when the flourishing market comes to town, attracting shoppers from miles around.

Throughout the year from 8am until late afternoon you will find a diverse range of stalls selling a wide assortment of goods and produce:

- **Local food** including ‘food-to-go’
- **Flowers and plants**
- **Clothing and jewellery**
- **Arts and craft**
- **Books and IT equipment**
- **Antiques and Bric-a-brac**
- **Furniture and lots more**...

If you enjoy browsing and shopping for antiques, jewellery and bygones – Saturday is a must!

Every Saturday alongside the usual market stalls lower South Street is lined with a large number of specialist traders with a magnificent selection of different wares, old and new, to interest all ages and tastes.

Most Saturdays you will find live entertainment taking place in Bucky Doo Square, the town band or other local musicians. Sit and listen to them play while you have a well earned rest and enjoy a coffee and a piece of homemade cake from one of the nearby cafes.

A visit to Bridport’s street market is not complete without a wander around the shops, the museum, the Town Hall or Art Centre and of course the popular Art and Vintage Quarter before a leisurely walk or drive to West Bay. Call into the Bridport TIC for information on Town Walks.

April 2015: **Bridport was ranked number one in The Times list of the top 15 Market Towns in Britain** …recognised for being one of the happiest places to live offering ‘the ideal blend of urban bustle and rural charm’.

“This really is an excellent market. The whole town buzzes...” JM, Redditch

“Bridport is a fine market town with a wide High Street and many interesting independent shops. The market is a mixture of the usual fruit, veg, plastic buckets plus various bric-a-brac stalls. It certainly enhances a visit to Bridport by going on a Market day (Wed or Sat).” MF, Emsworth

“...A trip to Bridport on market day is a good way of whiling away a few hours and there are many and varied places to stop for lunch or afternoon tea. There are a good selection of shops and not all are national chains which is a refreshing change. Once done here, drive a couple of miles along to West Bay for a walk along the beach and fish and chips, lovely!” SD, Essex

“Bridport is a real champion in keeping its market going sun or rain, summer or winter, twice a week without fail (Wednesdays and Saturdays). Long may it last. A goldmine for the collectors, a lifeline for the locals, never boring, always a draw. In a word - it is a local institution! Cannot be in the area without visiting it at least once!” WW

“Had great fun exploring the numerous stalls that were set up in the main roads in Bridport, well worth a look... Recommend you visit this gem of a traditional market if you are in the area.” BM, Bungay

Dorset’s Eventful Town

An impressive list of events are held throughout the year to suit all ages and tastes. The majority are organised by volunteers – another great advert for the town’s community spirit! Here are a few to whet your appetite...

**April:** From Page to Screen Film Festival
[www.frompagetoscreen.org.uk](http://www.frompagetoscreen.org.uk)

**May:** Rope Walk Fair
[www.ropewalkfair.co.uk](http://www.ropewalkfair.co.uk)

**May:** Love Your Market
[www.loveyourlocalmarket.org.uk](http://www.loveyourlocalmarket.org.uk)

**June:** Bridport Food Festival & RoundTable Beer Festival
[www.bridportfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.bridportfoodfestival.co.uk)
[www.bridportroundtable.co.uk](http://www.bridportroundtable.co.uk)

**July:** Jurassic Fields Music Festival
[www.jurassicfields.com](http://www.jurassicfields.com)

**July:** Charter Fair

**August:** Carnival & Torchlight Procession
[www.bridportcarnival.co.uk](http://www.bridportcarnival.co.uk)

**August:** Bridport Open Studio
[www.bridportopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.bridportopenstudios.co.uk)

**August:** Melplash Agriculture Show
[www.melplashshow.co.uk](http://www.melplashshow.co.uk)

**September:** Bridport Hat Festival
[www.bridporthatfestival.co.uk](http://www.bridporthatfestival.co.uk)

**September:** Eggardon Kite Festival
[www.bridportroundtable.co.uk](http://www.bridportroundtable.co.uk)

**October:** Apple Day
[www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk](http://www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk)

**October:** Bridport Open Book Festival
[www.bridportprize.org.uk](http://www.bridportprize.org.uk)

**November:** Bridport Literary Festival
[www.bridlit.com](http://www.bridlit.com)

**December:** Christmas Tree Festival
[www.2.wdl.co.uk/church/special_events.htm](http://www.2.wdl.co.uk/church/special_events.htm)

**December:** Christmas Cheer
[www.bridport-tc.gov.uk](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk)

For a full list of events visit [www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk](http://www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk) or pick up the Bridport Town Guide in the Tourist Information Centre.

There has been a market in Bridport since Saxon times. The fish stall celebrated its 125th anniversary at the market in 2015
Bridport and West Bay
Gateway to the Jurassic Coast

Bridport and West Bay (DT6) are situated in West Dorset on the South West coast of England within easy reach of the County Town of Dorchester, Lyme Regis, Chard, Yeovil and Weymouth.

The B3157 Jurassic Coast Road from Bridport to Weymouth is one of the most strikingly scenic coast roads in Britain. It is a full 18 miles and is the best way to see the World Heritage Jurassic Coast by car, bicycle or bus.

Timetables for buses and trains to the area can be found on www.dorsetforyou.com and current timetables can be picked up from Bridport Tourist Information Centre.

There is plenty of car parking in and around Bridport and West Bay (see inside for locations). A park and ride operates from West Bay to Bridport on Wednesdays and Saturdays in the Summer.

For information on accommodation visit
www.visit-dorset.com
www.dorsetsgoldencoast.co.uk
@BridportTourism @BridportTIC
www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk
www.bridport-tc.gov.uk

Every Wednesday and Saturday is market day in the vibrant town of Bridport…

…an eclectic range of outdoor market stalls line the three main streets mingling happily alongside the many independent retailers and eateries. Combined with the town’s unique artistic culture, specialist markets and events, it makes Bridport a special town to visit… rain or shine.

Bridport & West Bay
In addition to its market heritage, the town is famed for its rope and net making industry which dates back to the Middle Ages and is still carried on in the town today.

Situated in rural Dorset surrounded by breathtakingly beautiful coast and countryside, Bridport is an attractive and lively market town that thrives and prospers thanks to its rich heritage, community spirit and incredible variety of local businesses.

Half an hour’s walk from the town is West Bay, formerly Bridport Harbour and now an established seaside resort and fishing harbour. It is a gateway to the Jurassic Coast, England’s first natural World Heritage site, and is one of the most spectacular points from which to view and discover this magnificent coast line. The golden cliffs to the east lead on to Chesil Beach and Portland Bill, and to the West is the great sweep of Lyme Bay with views of Golden Cap, Lyme Regis, Beer Point and beyond.

The natural beauty and effortless charm of the area has attracted the attention of many TV and film producers looking for the perfect spot to set their scenes. The most recent is the TV drama “Broadchurch” which is filmed mainly around West Bay and where the cliffs, the sea and the beach all play key roles in the story. The writer of the drama who lived in Bridport, Chris Chibnall, describes Broadchurch as a ‘love letter to the scenery of the Jurassic Coast’.

But it is the real life of Bridport and West Bay that keeps drawing people back. Through festivals, carnivals and events the town celebrates its rich heritage, unique character and ongoing commitment to supporting local businesses – there is always something going on.

A totally unique destination offering something for everyone to enjoy…well worth a visit!