

## **Man O'War Cove, Dorset**

Ordnance Survey SY 807 802

Next to the great beauty spot of Durdle Dor, the famous sea arch, Man O'War Cove offers sheltered snorkelling, but access is down a long steep path.

There is good snorkel diving to be had inside the cove which is protected from the open sea by a line of rocks across the bay, creating the effect of an almost enclosed sea pool. At the mouth it gets deeper where you can practice deeper surface dives. We tend to snorkel the shore side of the rocks, although on occasion if clam the seaward side can be interesting. More experienced parties can swim round from the Man O'War Cove to and through the Durdle Dor; only if the sea is clam. The direction (i.e. Man O'War to Durdle Dor or vice versa) will depend upon the tides.

If we take the boat we launch it at Kimmeridge, which is 5 miles to the east, so it takes a while to drive over, but we can carry some of the gear and save the climb back.

We park at the car park at the back of the Durdle Door Holiday camp site car park which overlooks the bay. We unload there and then prepare for a long hike down!

There is a path at the back of the car park which heads down to Durdle Dor . Man O'War is to the East of the Durdle Dor sea arch, so instead of following the tourists take the path to the left at the bottom of the cliff.

There are facilities including a mini supermarket, a chip shop and toilets at the Durdle Door Holiday resort. There is also often an ice cream van half way down the path from the campsite to the beach.

### **Directions from Surrey**

Follow M3 south towards Southampton. Join the M27 heading west, then leading to A31 past Ringwood to Bere Regis. From Bere Regis follow local signs to Wool, then take the B3071 to West Lulworth. Continue past "The Castle Inn" and the war memorial then taking the first right, continue past the church and up the hill, the entrance to Durdle Door Holiday park is on the brow of the hill, on the left. Drive right through the holiday park to a car park at the far end overlooking the sea.

For views of the cove see the following:

[http://www.panoramicearth.com/978/Lulworth/Durdle\\_Door\\_and\\_Man\\_o'War](http://www.panoramicearth.com/978/Lulworth/Durdle_Door_and_Man_o'War)

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/dorset/content/panoramas/durdle\\_360.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/dorset/content/panoramas/durdle_360.shtml)