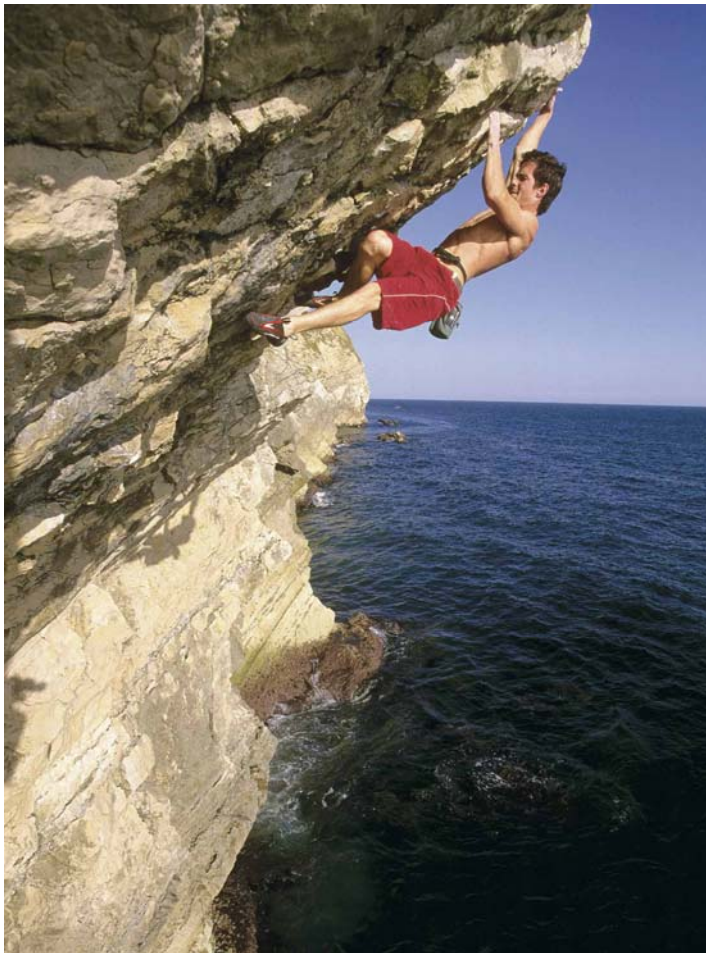


Lulworth Cove...

is in a great location on the south coast of England next the great sea-arch of Durdle Door but it has had something of a chequered history. Developed initially as a sport climbing venue, the routes at Lulworth were truly spectacular despite being relatively short. Once the 'nu-skool' sub-sport of deep water soling (DWS) was borne, Lulworth had a second birth. Sadly, problems ensued with access as the landowners didn't want climbing on their estate. Lulworth went into 'hibernation'. Officially this remains the case, "the descriptions are included (here) for completeness", so records *Deep Water*, the new guide from Mike Robertson. Lulworth 'presents' as an inland cove with a spit of land jutting into the sea; the climbing is hidden from view on the sea-ward face of said spit. Tourists' on the shingle beach have little or no idea what lies beyond. They soak up the rays and slurp their ice-creams in a world apart from the 'do or fly' climbing action just yards away. Lulworth is class; small but beautiful...



Featured Routes(s): Gates of Greyskull (F7b+) is reckoned to be one of the very best routes of its grade - anywhere. Even amongst the classic lines of Lulworth's twin caves, Gates is a 'must-do' if you climb at that level. The sea-level approach around the headland is long, though easy, and leaves you gaping up at the impressive

headwall of the West Cave. Once you commit, Gates soon imposes itself none more so than on the final section of the roof.

Tips: A positive approach is needed; crank it up and keep it high! Look for the heel-hooks and egyptians on-route and milk them all for what they are worth.

Clips: A standard DWS kit-bag is all you'll need, i.e. spare clothes, boots and chalk-bag.

'Must Do's': Mark of the Beast (F7c) is the #1 DWS in the area, but as it's pretty high expect plenty of air-time if you fluff the DWS.

Alternatives: Horny Lil' Devil (F7a) is

everyone's favourite DWS; it's steep and strenuous but the holds are good, the splash-down low and the water deep. Animal Magnetism (F7a+) is another well-popular DWS just left of Gates.

Rest Days: Assuming it's the height of summer, it's a toss-up between sun-bathing and eating ice-cream!

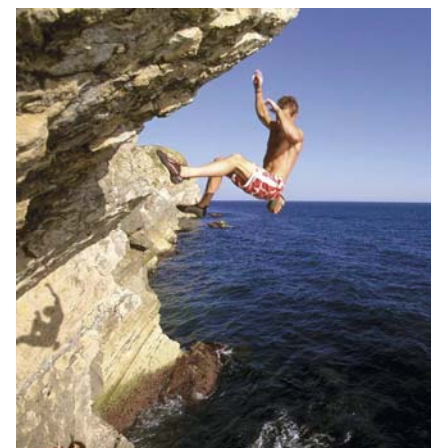
Essential Beta

How to get there: Once in Wool, a small town, some 12 miles east of Dorchester, follow the B3071 to the car-park in West Lulworth by the Cove Centre.

When to Visit: Lulworth is best considered as a 'summer-through autumn' venue. Avoid still, humid conditions when the crag may well be greasy especially in the height of summer when the sun is high in the sky and doesn't get into the caves.

Where to Stay/Shop: Campsites and B&B's are numerous in the Swanage and Weymouth.

Which Guide: *Dorset* and *Deep Water* (both Rockfax) are the most recent guides to Lulworth Cove, though the Climbers Club have a definitive guide in preparation.



Photos:

Main: Adrian Baxter on Gates of Greyskull (F7b+). Secondary: Charlie Woodburn 'taking the air' off Gates...