

Bouldering in Portland, England

Written by YDE

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England - The South coast of England has a rich history of traditional climbing. Specifically, the region of Dorset is home to some famous areas, such as Swanage. Over the last decades a vibrant sport-climbing scene has also developed and the island of Portland has turned into a perfect destination for good weather, year round climbing. Recently, locals have also developed a couple of bouldering venues on the island, which provide upwards of 80 problems, covering a wide range of difficulties.

During my three years at university in Portsmouth, I had the opportunity visit Portland a number of times and experience the bouldering first-hand. Portland lies just South of Weymouth which can be accessed from the A35. The A354 is the main road that will take you onto the island. Portland is unique in that it is connected to the mainland through the narrow strip of Chesil Beach. The island has a unique history dating back many centuries, and was most recently a naval base for the Royal Navy. Part of the Jurassic Coast, a World Heritage Site combining parts of Dorset and Devon, Portland is home to many unique English flora and fauna, some of which can only be found here. Weymouth and Portland will also be hosting the sailing events for the 2012 Olympic Games.

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