

What do I need to collect fossils?

Fossil hunting is a great outdoor hobby, so your choice of clothing and good strong boots should reflect this

Sharp eyes! Fossil collecting is all about looking carefully



Your rucksack should contain:

- Newspaper and small freezer bags to protect your fossils
- A waterproof marker pen to write on the bags, to remind you of the contents and where and when found
- A camera to record big fossils

Remember, big spectacular fossils are best left for everyone to enjoy

Hammers and chisels are NOT essential - plenty of fossils can be found without them

If you do choose to use a hammer, a geological hammer is best. Always wear eye protection and keep hammering to a minimum



Very few rocks are actually worth breaking

Where to go fossil collecting

The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site covers 95 miles of coast and beaches but not all of these beaches are good places to find fossils. Rules about fossil collecting vary along the coast, so please take note of and respect local signs.

Lyme Regis and Charmouth are world famous for fossil collecting and you have a good chance of finding fossils loose on the beaches in this area. It is recommended you seek local expert advice.

The staff at Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre or Lyme Regis Museum can advise you or take you on a guided walk. A point in the right direction can save time and avoid disappointment.

www.charmouth.org

Tel: 01297 560772

www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk

Tel: 01297 443370

If you find a special or rare fossil from the West Dorset Coast, please register it at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. They will simply take details for a database and you can keep the fossil.

A full version of the Fossil Collectors' Code of Conduct for the West Dorset Coast is available at www.charmouth.org

Where to find out more

Visit museums and visitor centres on the Jurassic Coast



Your local library

www.jurassiccoast.com

Visit your local museum



Do not dig in the cliffs or rocky ledges

JURASSIC COAST

Fossil Collecting and Beach Safety

A guide to enjoyable, safe and responsible collecting



JURASSICCOAST
DORSET AND EAST DEVON
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The best place to find fossils is on the beach

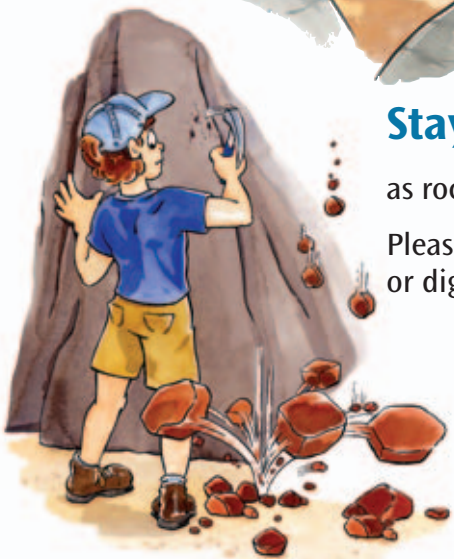
Look for fossils trapped between boulders and among pebbles on the beach.



Stay away from the cliffs,

as rockfalls can happen at any time.

Please do not hammer or dig in the cliffs.



Always go collecting on a falling tide

Beware of large waves, especially during rough weather.

Mudflows are dangerous

Stay well away or you could lose more than just your wellies!

Always tell someone where you are going and how long you will be

Finally, good luck and enjoy your fossil collecting



Keep away from the cliff edge

