

A Tour of the Cobb and Lyme Regis

Though my research photos depict the modern Cobb and village of Lyme Regis, so much of their historic character remains that one can still experience the atmosphere and details of the Lyme that Jane Austen knew. I hope you enjoy this brief tour and preview of what awaits the Darcys—and you—in *The Deception at Lyme*.



The far end of the Cobb's southern arm, looking east toward Charmouth.



The Cobb and Cobb Hamlet, as seen from cliffside terrain undeveloped in Jane Austen's time (now Langmoor Gardens). The North Wall on the left side of the harbor was not yet built when Austen visited Lyme.



The quay and southern arm of the Cobb at low tide. Steps lead up from the harbor to the lower Cobb, where old warehouse buildings (now an aquarium) still occupy the quay. The infamous Granny's Teeth steps can be seen on the right, leading to the upper Cobb.



Steps on the southern arm. Though Granny's Teeth (see photo below) are often assumed to be the site of Louisa Musgrove's fall in Persuasion, the age, location, and condition of these steps further along the wall make them more likely the flight Austen described.



The treacherous Granny's Teeth steps jut out from the face of the upper Cobb wall, tempting the intrepid (or foolhardy).



The upper and lower Cobb at high tide, as seen from Granny's Teeth. The alcove on the right, a former ammunition storeroom, is still known as the Gin Shop for the hoist that once sat above it.



Lyme is built into the cliffs of England's Jurassic Coast, a stretch of unstable terrain prone to fossil-revealing landslips. Now a UNESCO World Heritage site, it has attracted scientists, fossil-hunters, and tourists since Austen's time.



The structure believed to have inspired Captain Harville's cottage in Persuasion has been transformed into a take-away café. This row of buildings is also the location of the fictional Sheet Anchor pub in The Deception at Lyme. The commemorative Jane Austen Garden is on the opposite side of the narrow lane, which leads to Cobb Square and the area once occupied by Lyme's shipyards.



The boardwalk (known simply as "the Walk" during the Regency period) connecting the hamlet to the village of Lyme a quarter-mile east is now the paved Marine Parade. A railing separates it from Cart Road, on which imported and exported goods were transported between the Cobb and the village.



View up Broad Street in Lyme. A bookshop now occupies the previous location of the Three Cups Inn. Though the inn burned down and was rebuilt up the street, readers can browse an eclectic range of titles in its original basement.



Farther up Broad Street stands The Royal Lion hotel. Austen knew it as simply The Lion; it earned its regal status later.