

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

From rolling hills to bustling market towns, the South Downs National Park's landscapes cover 1,600km² of breathtaking views, hidden gems and quintessentially English scenery. A rich tapestry of wildlife, landscapes, tranquillity and visitor attractions, weave together a story of people and place in harmony.

For your guide to everything there is to see and do in the National Park visit southdowns.gov.uk/discovery-map

Keep up to date with the latest news and events from the South Downs National Park. southdowns.gov.uk/newsletter



YOUR COUNTRYSIDE CODE: RESPECT. PROTECT. ENJOY.

Respect other people

- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Keep to the paths unless on Open Access Land



Protect the natural environment

- Take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

NEARBY LONG DISTANCE ROUTES

Lipchis Way

Discovered by a group of ramblers in the 1980s, the New Lipchis Way connects Liphook and Chichester Harbour over a 39-mile (62km) path. This diverse route crosses all manner of geologies, spanning greensand ridges, river valleys, heathlands, high chalk downland and coastal plains. With this range of habitats you will be able to experience an amazing diversity of both flora and fauna along the way.

Monarch's Way

This mighty 615-mile path from Worcester to Shoreham-on-Sea is based on the route taken by King Charles II during his escape after defeat in the final battle of the Civil War in 1651.

West Sussex Literary Trail

Running from Horsham to Chichester, this historic route takes you across West Sussex through Bury Village. The scenic walk is lined with woodland and is 55 miles (88km) long. Interesting points along the way include Bury House, the home of novelist and playwright John Galsworthy and Field Place, where Percy Bysshe Shelley was born.



© Andy Reeves



CENTURION WAY CHICHESTER TO SINGLETON



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POINTS OF INTEREST

★ Midhurst Railway

The line opened in 1881 to improve access to London, including three tunnels and eight stations – the most notable being Singleton due to its proximity to Goodwood Racecourse. The railway's decline started with the withdrawal of passenger services in 1935 and the line north of Lavant was closed completely in 1957. However, the section between Lavant and Chichester was used for the transportation of sugar beet and gravel until 1991. The last of the tracks were finally removed in 1993.

★ Brandy Hole Copse

Heading south on the Centurion Way, into the city of Chichester, you will cross Brandy Hole Copse. The Copse is a 6.5-hectare area of managed woodland mainly comprised of sweet chestnut and boasts three small ponds with viewing platforms. The area was made a Local Nature Reserve in 2001 to help protect and enhance its diverse flora and fauna, which include a sea of bluebells every spring and wildlife such as rare species of bats.

★ West Dean

West Dean village includes a village store and tearooms, church, pub and the 6,400 acre West Dean Estate – owned by the Edward James Foundation, a registered educational charity set up in 1964, which runs West Dean College and Gardens. The estate is made up of both arable and pastoral farmland; timber is also grown commercially on the estate. Many of the cottages that sit on the estate are Grade II listed.

The estate supports a wide variety of flora and fauna, including many varieties of orchids, lichens and colonies of wild daffodils. The estate's wild mammal population includes dormice and five species of bat.

★ Weald & Downland Living Museum

Showcasing traditional buildings in a rural landscape, this outdoor museum tells the story of the men, women and children who lived and worked in the buildings over a 600-year period.

The museum runs a regular programme of domestic and craft demonstrations, including cookery in the Tudor kitchen and flour milling in the working water mill.

There are leafy walks, a lakeside café with picnic benches next to a pond teeming with birds.

wealddown.co.uk



Accessibility

To view accessible routes and activities in the National Park please scan here.



Take the lead

For a safe and fun visit with your dog please remember to keep them on a lead around livestock and wildlife. Always bag and bin your dog poo – any public bin will do!

Getting here

By bus: The No 60 bus runs every 30 minutes between Chichester and Midhurst. Visit traveline.info to plan your journey.

By car: Please note that there is no public parking along the route. Please use public transport wherever possible.

By rail: The nearest railway station is Chichester, visit nationalrail.co.uk.

Contact

South Downs National Park Authority: 01730 814810

 /SDNPA  southdownsnp

Special thanks to:
The National Trust for granting permissive access over the Drover's Estate.

The Edward James Foundation for granting permissive access over the land from Mid Lavant to West Dean.

SOUTH DOWNS.GOV.UK

Details correct at time of print. Please be aware that routes are shared with other users (vehicles, pedestrians, dogs, horses etc.) and users of this route do so at their own risk. We do not accept any responsibility for loss, damage or injury, however caused, arising directly or indirectly from use of this leaflet. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013.



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Common blue butterflies can be spotted on the route © Nigel Symington



West Dean Stores and Tea Rooms

