

Leave your car at home and enjoy the South Downs National Park by bus or train

Visit the astonishing places right on our doorstep, some are free and others help to support a more environmentally sustainable future by participating in **Discover More of the South Downs for Less 2-for-1**. On arrival, show a valid train or bus ticket for all members of your party and you'll get 2-for-1 entry (T&Cs apply). Check attractions' websites for opening hours, as some have limited/seasonal opening times.



Midhurst today is a thriving country market town – it's a role the town has filled for many centuries. You'll find evidence of that all around you in the mix of medieval, Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian architecture as well as signs of the town's historical social and political significance. Midhurst nestles at the centre of the South Downs National Park and makes the perfect base to get out and explore this beautiful landscape. You will find out Visitors centre at the North end of North Street, opposite Cowdray Ruins.



MIDHURST

SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK

THINGS TO DO IN MIDHURST



WOOLBEDING GARDENS

Woolbeding Gardens is a beautiful 20th-century masterpiece featuring colourful borders, a landscape garden and a collection of follies

Throughout the summer months, make some time to take a long stroll through the Pleasure Grounds. Mature oaks provide refreshing shade under which to reflect whilst gazing across the lake, or tuck into a picnic with friends and family on one of the many benches scattered temptingly around the grounds.

It is open every Thursday and Friday until 30 September 2016. You must pre-book your visit by calling 0844 249 1895 or via their website. There is a free minibus service which runs between Midhurst and Woolbeding Gardens. The starting point for this is The Grange at the south end of North Street.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/
woolbeding-gardens](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-gardens)

WOOLBEDING COMMON

Quietly tucked away in the tranquil Rother Valley, the National Trust managed Woolbeding Common is a huge estate with an extraordinary blend of habitats and offers both wide horizons and intimate secluded places to explore.

To the north are the wild and open greensand hills and commons. To the south take in glorious views from the parkland and wander along the River Rother with its steep-sided woods and pasture.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/
woolbeding-countryside/](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-countryside/)



BUSES TO MIDHURST

Stagecoach 60, Midhurst – Chichester – Bognor Regis. Weekdays & Saturdays half hourly, Sundays hourly.

stagecoachbus.com



TRAINS TO MIDHURST

Situated between Guildford and the south coast, Midhurst is just over an hour away from London – by train from Waterloo to Haslemere and then take the No. 70 bus.



For more information southdowns.gov.uk/moreforless

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[#sdnpamoreforless](https://www.instagram.com/sdnpamoreforless)



THINGS TO DO IN MIDHURST



FREE

SOUTH DOWNS CENTRE

As well as being a new home for the National Park Authority, the South Downs Centre in Midhurst is a community hub, an exhibition about the National Park and a green conference centre.

Based in the north wing of Capron House and the Memorial Hall in Midhurst, the South Downs Centre is helping to preserve two Grade II listed buildings and restore them to the highest possible level of sustainability. This has

been a complex undertaking as both buildings were in need of significant repair and upgrading. We are very pleased that we have been able to reach our ambitious target of a BREEAM accreditation of 'Excellent' at design stage and our goal that the South Downs Centre should become a beacon of sustainability in the National Park.

Designed to be a jumping off point for exploring the National Park, the exhibition introduces visitors to the South Downs' landscapes, geology, produce and heritage. There's a small interactive area where children can discover more about our wildlife and 'brass-rub' their own vision for the National Park.

The exhibition is open from 9am to 5pm on weekdays (throughout the year) and 10.30am to 2.30pm on Saturdays (April and September only).



WALKING AROUND MIDHURST

Town Trail

Discover an even older side to the town – starting on St Ann's Hill. First an Iron Age fort, then a centre of pagan worship, a Norman castle and finally a 12th century fortified house, this was the core around which modern Midhurst developed.

South Pond came next, built to supply fish to the castle on St Ann's Hill. Walk on from there and you'll find a delightful mix of medieval, Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian architecture, including more than 100 listed buildings. Leaflet available at Visitor Information points at The Grange and South Downs Centre.

WALKING NEAR MIDHURST

Midhurst is well positioned for exploring the magnificent chalk hills of the South Downs.

There is a signposted easy 3 mile walk through beautiful countryside of Woolbeding Parkland along the river Rother and back to Midhurst.

Or for the more adventurous you can enjoy breathtaking views by walking parts of the 100 mile long South Downs Way, which runs just a few miles south of Midhurst provides wonderful walking and mountain biking opportunities.

The South Downs Way is one of 15 National Trails in England and Wales and was the first bridleway National Trail in England. It is also the only National Trail to lie entirely within a National Park.

The South Downs Way offers inspiration and escape as we follow in their footsteps, whether ambling on an after-lunch stroll or rising to the challenge to walk, run or ride it over several days.

There's a bus stop above Cocking where the number 60 bus (Midhurst to Chichester) stops, generally twice an hour. Hourly on Sunday.

For more details about the South Downs Way, visit southdowns.gov.uk/south-downs-way

YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO VISIT...

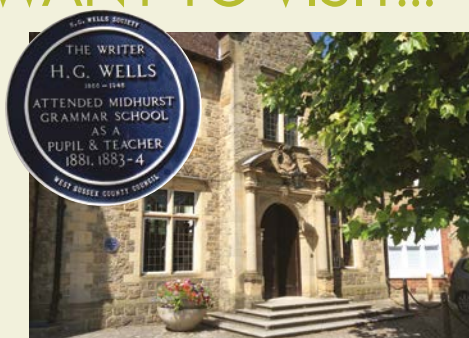
COWDRAY RUINS

Opposite the South Downs Centre you will see the magnificent ruins of Cowdray, a Historic Tudor House, set in the stunning landscape of Cowdray Park.

There are hand-held audio tour-guides (included in the entry price) to talk you round the building, setting the scene of the house's glory days by taking you back to Tudor times. The three versions of the tour: General, Specialist and Children's, ensure the narrative can be enjoyed by all.

Check website for opening day and times. Note: Entry will be full price as this attraction is NOT part of the 2for1 Discover More for Less offer.

cowdray.co.uk/historic-cowdray



LITERARY MIDHURST

Thanks to H.G. Wells, Anya Seton and Ruth Rendell, the walk around town can also lead you into different worlds – just imagine yourself as The Invisible Man, a Tudor heroine or even the great Inspector Wexford!

There is a blue plaque on the former Midhurst Grammar School, now Capron House dedicated to Midhurst's most famous literary resident. When his mother was a housekeeper at Uppark, H.G. Wells studied and later worked at the school. Download The Midhurst Society's HG Wells & Midhurst leaflet at midhurstsociety.org.uk/web/wellsleaflet.pdf

The town was also an influence on another world famous sci-fi author. John Wyndham, who studied at nearby Bedales School and visited the town often. There is a strong argument that Midhurst was the inspiration for the village at the heart of his classic novel, *The Midwich Cuckoos*.



THE MIDHURST MUSEUM

The Midhurst Museum in Knockhundred Market is possibly the smallest museum in the world. The Midhurst-related displays are changed monthly.

midhurstmuseum.co.uk

For more information southdowns.gov.uk/moreforless

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