



Making memories with family and friends

The South Downs National Park area offers plenty of budget friendly activities and attractions to keep the whole family busy, both indoors and out. Families can create a splash at the **Taro Leisure Centre** ⁵ in Petersfield with pools, a vortex and slides ideal for all ages, or by hiring a boat or going fishing at **Petersfield Heath Pond** ⁶.

For a breath of fresh air, follow the play trails through Alice Holt Forest, or thrill on the **Go Ape** ⁷ tree top adventure; or just get together for a barbeque at Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

Uncover the mysteries of the universe and discover science at **Intech Science Centre and Planetarium** ⁸ nr Winchester or visit **Jane Austen's House Museum** ⁹ and the many other Museums in the area. Learn about the natural world and the discoveries made by early explorers at **Birdworld** ¹⁰, **Marwell Zoo** ¹¹, and **Gilbert White's House, & Garden and the Oates Collection** ¹².

Foodie

After a hard day walking, cycling and exploring, the pubs and restaurants in the area offer visitors a warm welcome. Many of them are careful to source their fresh produce locally and serve regional beers, wines and juices.

Farm shops and independent food shops and delis in the market towns of Alton and Petersfield offer fantastic local meat, fish and vegetables alongside artisan breads, cheeses and preserves and are great for a break from a hectic schedule to pick up a delicious lunch.

Both Alton and Petersfield have regular Farmers' Markets. For more information and details of producers in the area, please visit www.hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk



- 1 Alice Holt Forest www.forestry.gov.uk/aliceholt
- 2 Queen Elizabeth Country Park www.hants.gov.uk/qecp
- 3 Staunton Park www.hants.gov.uk/staunton
- 4 Mid-Hants Railway Watercress Line www.watercressline.co.uk
- 5 Taro Leisure Centre www.dcleisurecentres.co.uk/centres/taro-leisure-centre
- 6 Petersfield Heath Pond www.visitpetersfield.com/what_to_do
- 7 Go Ape www.goape.co.uk/days-out/alice-holt
- 8 Intech Science Centre and Planetarium www.intech-uk.com
- 9 Jane Austen's House Museum www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk
- 10 Birdworld www.birdworld.co.uk
- 11 Marwell Zoo www.marwell.org.uk
- 12 Gilbert White's House & Garden and The Oates Collection www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk



Enjoy the Outdoors

in the
South Downs National Park
Hampshire Area





7



Walking and cycling in the South Downs

Walking and cycling are the most popular reasons for visiting the South Downs National Park. In the Hampshire part of the National Park, there are several routes to choose from. The South Downs Way starts in Winchester and stretches 100 miles to Eastbourne. There are many shorter, more manageable routes, including the Shipwrights Way, a new long-distance path linking villages and towns in East Hampshire, from Bentley, through **Alice Holt Forest** ① and **Queen Elizabeth Country Park** ② and ultimately to Portsmouth. It can be used by walkers and cyclists, and, in many places, horse-riders, families with small children in pushchairs and those with impaired mobility and wheelchair users.

Other routes include the Staunton Way, from Petersfield through Queen Elizabeth Country Park to Staunton Country Park near the picturesque village of Rowlands Castle; Hangers Way which explores the wooded Hanger Hills between Alton and Petersfield and St Swithun's Way which passes through Alton.

Hidden pleasures to explore include the Deadwater Valley walk in Bordon and the recently cleared Buriton Chalk Pits on the Hangers Way. There are splendid views to be enjoyed from Butser Hill, Old Winchester Hill and the top of the Zig-zag path in Selborne.

The Electric Bicycle Network offers ebikes for hire throughout the National Park, details at www.electricbicyclenetwork.com

Details of routes can be found at www.easthants.gov.uk/walking

Festivals and events

Music, food, gardening, steam trains, literature, art...whatever your interests, you will find fun and interesting events throughout the area.

Highlights include the Petersfield Spring and Summer Festivals, Staunton Festival at **Staunton Park** ③, the Food Festival at Queen Elizabeth Country Park, the Jane Austen Regency Week in Alton, the Watercress Festival in Alresford, the Hat Fair in Winchester and the Autumn Steam Spectacular on the **Mid-Hants Railway Watercress Line** ④. For details of all these events and many, many more have a look at www.easthants.gov.uk/tourism

Back to nature - protecting our landscape

After a week in the city, few things are more enjoyable than getting back to nature with family and friends.

The South Downs National Park is a living, working landscape, shaped by thousands of years of human history. Local tourism businesses share a sense of responsibility towards conserving this landscape. Many show their green credentials by membership of the Green Tourism Business Scheme, or take part in East Hampshire's Green Leaf scheme.

As well as hotels and B&Bs, there are self-catering cottages, or you can stay on a farm or go glamping with every comfort. Contact the Tourist Information Centre or visit the website www.easthants.gov.uk/tourism for details.

Nestled between the Cathedral cities of Winchester and Chichester, the South Downs in Hampshire (part of Britain's newest National Park) covers an area rich in opportunities to explore. Its undulating landscape takes in inspirational countryside abounding with wildlife, distinctive market towns and picture-perfect villages. Whether you're visiting the region for just a few days or a longer holiday, we have picked out a few of the interesting experiences you can enjoy and take part in.

Uncover more of the thought-provoking, entertaining and stimulating activities which are waiting to be enjoyed on our website www.easthants.gov.uk/tourism



2



3



6

East Hampshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

For details of how to get here and where to stay, contact the Tourist Information Centre, telephone 01730 268829 or email tourism@easthants.gov.uk