Enjoy your New Forest adventure

Includes:
- Events guide
- Maps
- Places to explore
- Walking & cycling

WIN a luxury stay in a Forest Holidays cabin

The New Forest Essential Guide is brought to you by the Forestry Commission and the New Forest National Park Authority.
Bolderwood

Fit for a King

The Forestry Commission information cabin located at Bolderwood is the perfect place to start your New Forest adventures.

Identifying fallow deer:
- Antlers shaped like the paws of a foal with a series of small points called ‘spurs’
- Black hooves
- Fawn

Larger than other forest deer species

New Forest

- Height: 75-90cm
- Weight: 35-60kg
- Age: 10-15 years

Fallow

- Height: 60-80cm
- Weight: 40-60kg
- Age: 8-12 years

Wild Play ideas

Mini crafty raft
Collect different natural materials and see which one floats! Will you be strong enough to hold it together or will it come apart? Or use a box for a safe boat! Floaty tips: make sure you access shallower gradual streams from gentle slopes (dark water is deep). Use natural materials and never play by water alone.

Sanding:
Sanding is the opposite of hide and seek because there is one hider and the rest of the group are seekers. However more and more hiders are discovered the chain gets longer. As time goes on someone else joins in the search for the hider.

Chain hide and seek
This game is a very similar to traditional hide and seek on the beach, but one seeker and everyone else hides. The twist is that when the seekers find someone, they join the seeker to form a chain. As more and more hiders are discovered the chain increases in size and often very long!

Unique leaffall activity:
Falling leaves
This fun activity will help you to discover the hidden leaves that fall during the autumn season. Once you find a leaf, you can write down the date and location of its fall.

New Forest dog walk

Bolderwood

Tourists looking for a fresh perspective:
For even more great play areas in the forest, see the map on the centre pages.

Blackwater

Check your children, dog and yourself for ticks when you get back – they can lead to Lyme Disease.


dx Image 594x880 to 1726x1182

Spend the night amongst the trees

Camping in the Forest offers:
- 100 campsites in idyllic locations
- Access to a Forestry Commission information cabin
- Access to a variety of natural spaces such as beaches, woodland, wildflower meadows and grassy areas waiting to be explored.

Whether it is den building, balancing on logs or tracing animal tracks, the options for playing and exploring in the New Forest are endless.

However the number of children playing in wild spaces has more than halved in a generation with only 10% playing in natural spaces with woods, hedgerows and banks.

So the National Park Authority with the New Forest National Park is best known for its picnics, ponies and sightings of deer enjoyed by visitors.

Find out more at newforestnpa.gov.uk

Moores Valley is an award winning 1,000-acre Country Park and Local Nature Reserve, offering something for everyone.

While you’re visiting the New Forest, why not make a visit to nearby Moors Valley Country Park or try out the tree-to-tree crossing at Go Ape?

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Explore waymarked footpaths and cycle routes, fun activities for all the family, wildlife watching and play structures. And, new for this summer is the ‘Play Trail’ with its huge wooden play areas. Children will love the adventure play areas, whilst the ‘Play Trail’ is a totally unique way to tackle the trails and explore the forest on two wheels.

Try out the tree-to-tree crossing at Go Ape?

A place of ancient history, fascinating wildlife and stunning beauty.

Welcome to the New Forest

William the Conqueror set aside the forest for hunting more than 950 years ago as his ‘New Forest’ or ‘New Forest’ and since then, generations of deer, ponies and cattle have shaped the landscape. William would probably never have recognised much of the forest as the same place he hustled wild deer and boar ecosystems.

The landscape of the New Forest National Park is beautiful, rare and fragile. It is a mosaic of ancient and ornamental woodland, open heathland, heaved, heath, valley mires and grassland. Children will love the adventure play areas, whilst the ‘Play Trail’ is a totally unique way to tackle the trails and explore the forest on two wheels.

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Special offer!

Save 10% off Blackwood Forest with Forest Holidays

Escape to a luxury self-catering woodland cabin away from it all this year with Forest Holidays, hidden in the 1,000-acre beach forest of Blackwood Forest. Families of all ages will love to explore the forest on two wheels. There are ten campsites in the New Forest National Park, each with its own characteristics and facilities.

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The Verderers’ Hall, home to the ancient Verderers’ Court stands at the top of Lyndhurst High Street in the centre of the New Forest. The Hall is an active court and plays an important role in the commoning community, so it’s the ideal place to tell the New Forest story.

A closer look

Quarry tiles, timber features and paintwork have been restored. We are also improving access, security and information about the history of the Court to allow increased future access for visitors.

Check here for opening times: forestry.gov.uk/newforestevents

Architects of the forest

The New Forest National Park covers 219 square miles. About one-third of this is known as the Open Forest – the woodland, heath, boggy areas and grassland where commoners’ animals graze.

Commoners

There are about 700 commoners who own the animals – each commoner owns or rents land to which rights of Common are attached, including the right to graze stock on the Open Forest. This has been a way of life in the New Forest since medieval times. Commoning is continued by many today as a traditional way of life, even though it no longer provides a living.

Did you know?

Each pony brand is one area, which we call a turn. Have a look at the map of the forest (and frequently of the forest). Thought to be of Tudor date. Dogs small enough to pass through were considered harmless to deer in the forest, larger dogs were not. On the walls are the mounted heads of deer – reminders of the New Forest’s original role as a royal hunting ground. The story of how a displayed below its head found, the story it is included in the New Forest Act Act 1877.

Slow down!

You may meet animals on or near the road, so please drive slowly and carefully.

Animal emergency hotline cards give you the numbers to call if you see sick, injured or distressed animals. Cards are available from garages or Local Information Points across the New Forest. To report a crime contact the New Forest National Park Authority of enquiries:newforestnpa.gov.uk

 Ponies, donkeys, cattle, pigs & sheep

For their safety and your own please keep the animals alone. Although friendly and used to being handled by local people, they are unpredictable and best treated as wild. Please don’t feed or pet them, there is plenty of natural food and it’s best that they don’t come to rely on human attention. They may approach for they can bite and kick, especially ponies with foals.

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HOP ON THE BEACH BUS

Come on board the Beach Bus and head down to the National Park’s lesser-known coastline and picturesque countryside. Follow the most of the coast and head to Lymington or Lyndhurst. The Beach Bus runs from Mythe Ferry to the coastal marina town of Yarmouth, stopping at popular attractions such as Branksea Castle, Beaulieu National Motor Museum and Brockenhurst National Motor Museum. Your ticket gives you full freedom to travel between these points both ways. You can even buy your Beach Bus ticket at Mythe Ferry in Southampton and so access all the trips on the bus. You can hop on and off the Beach Bus bus as many times as you choose.

TIPS FROM THE TRAVEL CONCERGEE

It’s a festival in the making and there are many ways to make the most of your visit to the New Forest National Park this bank holiday weekend. The friendly Travel Concierge team are on duty at Brockenhurst railway station and the New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst, and will welcome you to your pedal powered mode of transport with all the information, maps and free experiences and the best places to visit.

WHERE TO STAY

For great deals and online discounts visit newforesttravel.info or follow @NewForestTravel

A DATE WITH NATURE

Food that hits the Marque

If you are looking for genuine New Forest food, drink and crafts then keep an eye out for the New Forest Marque as you shop and eat locally.

1 April to 3 September

The New Forest is home to all six cold-blooded UK native reptile species including the rare smooth snake and all are available to see at the New Forest Reptile Centre, near Lyndhurst. While walking around the special专爱 these birds from egg hatching to watching them fly their first flight. We chat to our friendly volunteers who are happy to answer your wildlife questions. Follow us on @newforestmarque for news and offers. Find out more and watch the nest-cam live at: newforestmarque.co.uk/datetimetable

WALKING

HEATHLAND TO THE HEART OF THE FOREST

Walking routes

This autumn join local experts for 100 of the New Forest’s best walks at the fifth annual walking festival!

New Forest Walking Festival 2017

This autumn join local experts for 100 of the New Forest’s best walks at the fifth annual walking festival. Nearly 2,000 people attended last year’s launch event, offering behind-the-scenes access and experiences of the walking festival held in conjunction with the New Forest National Park Authority. The launch event was a complete sellout and we are already guaranteed to offer the widest and most interesting range of walks yet again. entry will be a mixture of family and car-free discounts for many walks. The festival is suitable for all abilities and interests. Booking is essential. Browse and download routes now at newforesttrails.gov.uk/walking

One-stop-shop for New Forest walks and bike rides

Explore the woods, heathland and coast of the New Forest National Park on 50 easy to follow routes.

The online New Forest routes finder allows you to search by distance, location or category. Once you have found the route for you just follow the directions on your smartphone for free. The online New Forest routes finder will even tell you the length of the walks, their difficulty, whether they are suitable for dogs and horses on foot, whether there are footpath permission and whether there is a pub or café nearby.

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HINTS AND TIPS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS SPECIAL AREA...

**Barbecues & fire**
To reduce the risk of damaging wildfires, Blackwater and Wilverley Disposable BBQs are welcome at Bolderwood, is available.

**Picnics**
There are plenty of opportunities to picnic in the beautiful surroundings of the New Forest. Whether you prefer a beach picnic under majestic trees at Blackwater or picnics on the open grassy lawns of Whitefield Mouth, your surroundings will be first class. Take care not to bring New Forest ponies and other animals though - for extra security, we have fenced picnic areas at Inskirton and Whitefield Inn. All of these sites have toilets and parking and some have BBQ facilities (see map and key).

**Fungi**
Are you looking for fungi in the New Forest, you sure to see something if you visit the New Forest Fungi Centre. Open from Easter until the end of September. See page 6. This site also includes a waymarked walking trail and woodland picnic area. The New Forest Fungi Centre offers the chance to see these normally secretive animals in the wild and answer questions from experts here to feed and they can often be seen at very close quarters during the summer months.

**Perfect for paddling**
Beaches are popular at Calshot, Millcdn-on-Sea and Barton-on-Sea as these are among the Marine Conservation Society’s recommended beaches 2016. All three have a Silver Water Quality Award and are featured in the Good Beach Guide, which can be viewed online at goodbeachguide.co.uk. Only beaches which achieve the highest standard for clean bathing water are recommended in the guide. The beach at Lepe Country Park in the New Forest, managed by Hampshire County Council, is also a recommended beach. Here you can arrange Ranger-led activities and events throughout the year. Lepe boasts fine pebbled sands and sunning views across the Solent and the Isle of Wight. Wildflower meadows and history. Do-Day remains can be explored.

**Driving**
The speed limit on unsurfaced roads greatly reduces the risk of accidents involving animals. Slow down and gesture to cyclists, horse riders and other animals to allow them to be especially careful at night.

**Finding out more**
There are lots of places to learn more about the New Forest. Why not start at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst. Here in the heart of the New Forest, you’ll find a fascinating museum, gift shop and gallery newforestcentre.org.uk. There are lots of places to learn more about the New Forest. Why not start at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst. Here in the heart of the New Forest, you’ll find a fascinating museum, gift shop and gallery newforestcentre.org.uk.

**Local Information Points**
Local shops, businesses and Leisure throughout the New Forest with friendly staff and information points stocked with maps, leaflets and publications.

**With Friends**
For a map of all Forest Commission car parks, scan the QR code or visit forestrypark.com/#keymap

**Key to map**
- Information
- Local information
- Car parks
- Tourist information centre
- Key
- Maps
- Toilets
- New Forest
- New Forest girl
- New Forest girl

**Unidentified objects**
Areas of the New Forest were used to test bombs in World War I and II. Unidentified objects might be dangerous and should be reported immediately. On the New Forest some of the main roads are closed to traffic at certain times, please allow extra time for your journey.

**Litter**
Your food and litter could harm the ponies and donkeys. Please take your litter home if it does not fit.
**Cycling**

Cycling is allowed only on the waymarked trails and other designated routes, where approaching people and animals, please cycle at a very slow pace slowly and with care. Please keep to the signed routes and never ride more than two abreast. Keep to the cycle paths, take care while crossing roads and never ride more than two abreast. Keep to the cycle paths, take care while crossing roads and never ride more than two abreast.

We’ve got the trails, are you ready to ride?

Explore the National Park on two wheels, with more than 100 miles of waymarked family-friendly cycle routes, much of it off the public highway and traffic-free. For more adventurous, mountain bike trails and skills areas are offered in our forests and woodlands in neighbouring Dorset. There are plenty of places to hire bikes before and during your stay.

**Adventures Cycling**

For more adventurous cyclists, there are purpose-built mountain bike skills circuits at Moors Valley Country Park and Ringwood. Here you will find a network of forest road graded trails, as well as blue graded single track. A cycle map is available from the visitor centre onsite.

**Cut out & keep**

**New Forest What’s on 2017**

**Exhibitions in the New Forest Gallery**

New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY

**Cycling**

Grab a cycle trail map and code before heading out on your adventure. It shows both off-road and road-based cycle networks across the National Park, plus details of bike tracks. Available to buy at outlets across the National Park, include National Park Information Points and Visitor Information Centre see map on centre pages.

For National Park Authority events, please book using details included at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/newforests/events.

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For For National Park Centre-led events, please book using details included with listings at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/newforests/events.

**Horse riding**

The New Forest National Park is a wonderful place to go horse riding. There are mature woods, shady streams, dappled glades and beautiful open heathland - what better way to see the landscape than from the back of a horse?

You can walk quickly through magnificent oak woods, past tall beech, or glide across the heathland enjoying the views and the wild open country. Horse-riders who have open access permits to the woodland have open access on the forest, which is well furnished with suitable tracks.

When leaving Forestry Commission land, remember to stay on the tracks provided. On private land, riders must keep to the paths. Eighty of Fifty. Tracks are shown on Ordnance Survey maps, and are usually indicated by wooden posts and blue arrow placards.

The network is easily accessible from railway stations at Ashurst, Brockenhurst and Lymington and links the main New Forest villages. Visit www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/routes for all the best trails. For more information, please contact your nearest Forestry Commission Ranger.

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Love the forest

If you are looking to do your bit to ensure the New Forest stays special then why not contribute to the Love the Forest visitor gift scheme?

The charity - which raises funds to support the protection and improvement of the unique New Forest landscape and way of life - is supported by many local businesses and their customers. You can show your support by donating directly or by adding a small donation to your bill when you stay at one of our participating businesses.

Find out more about the valuable work of Love the Forest, the businesses that support it and how you can help at newforesttrust.org/love-the-forest

Wishing you all Pure Island Happiness. Endless ways to find it. One way to get there.

*Call this number cost £3 per minute plus your service provider's access charge.

Isle of Wight

Escape to the Isle of Wight with Red Funnel and discover Pure Island Happiness. Enjoy everything from stunning scenery to rich heritage, relaxation and delicious local produce. Perfect for a day trip from the New Forest, or for a longer stay. So leave the mainland behind and lead to happiness with Red Funnel Ferries.

redfunnel.co.uk 0844 844 9988
To advertise in the 2018 edition of the New Forest Essential Guide, please call Brian Seeney (Media 3) on 023 9235 1920 or email brian.seeney@media3.co.uk
The New Forest may seem like a wild place if you travel through it and don’t take a closer look. But like most of our cherished woodlands and forests, they are managed.

This long history of management for fuel and other forest products has created the diverse habitats that you see today, and where wildlife thrives. Today, the Crown lands of the New Forest (nearly half of the National Park area) are managed and maintained by the Forestry Commission.