



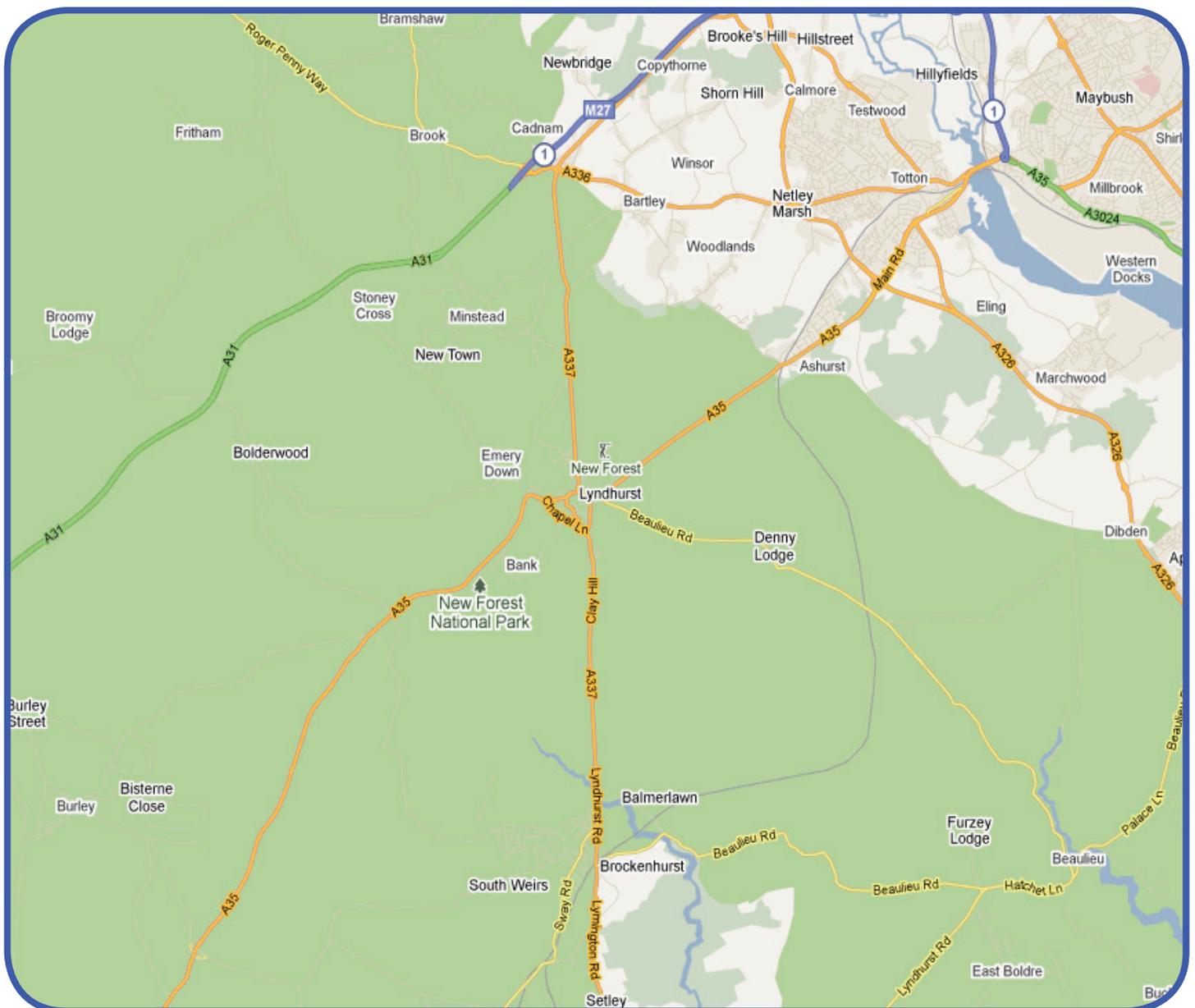
# DESTINATION GUIDE

## NEW FOREST

*In a nutshell...*

The "New Forest" is an English medieval deer hunting area created in 1079 by William the Conqueror. It is still largely in the possession of the Crown. It has recently become a National Park.

New Forest and the National Park occupies a unique landscape of ancient woodland, heather-covered heath, wide lawns, boggy mires, gentle farmland, coastal salt marsh and mudflats and picturesque villages. It is one of the last places in the south-east of England to offer a sense of wildness and tranquillity. As the largest remaining area of lowland heath in Europe, New Forest National Park has the flavour of a landscape that was once much more extensive. Like other National Parks, it is one of 'Britain's breathing spaces'. Today, the National Park it is a wonderful area to explore by walking, cycling and on horseback. It is especially rich in wildlife and visitors can enjoy a host of sights that make a trip special, including ancient oaks, wild flowers, fungi, deer, reptiles, birds of prey and dragonflies.





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### The Essentials

#### Beaulieu Abbey

The Monastic Life Exhibition is an illustration of the day to day life of the Cisterian Monks, who founded the Abbey in 1204. While many of the original buildings have been destroyed, much of the original beauty and interest remains. The former Monk's Refectory is now the local Parish Church whilst The Domus, which houses the exhibition, is home to beautiful wall hangings created by Belinda, Lady Montagu, which depict the story of the Abbey since its foundation. New Forest, Beaulieu, SO42 7ZN, Tel: 01590 612345

#### Rockbourne Roman Villa

Rockbourne is near Fordingbridge in a picturesque and peaceful part of Hampshire close to the New Forest. The Roman villa once stood in the centre of a large farming estate, and is the largest known villa in the area. Its history spans the period from the Iron Age to the 5th century AD. Walk around the remains of the villa, and visit the site museum which displays many of the fascinating objects found during excavations, showing what life was like for the Roman Britons who lived here over 1,600 years ago. Rockbourne, Hampshire SP6 3PG, Tel: 01725 518 541

#### Hurst Castle

Hurst Castle is situated at the seaward end of the shingle spit that extends 1.5 miles from Milford-On-Sea. The end of the spit, only three-quarters of a mile from the Isle of Wight, and the views from the top of the centre keep are spectacular. Since the castle has been opened to the public many more exhibits and exhibitions have been installed. These include the Garrison Theatre, the Trinity House lighthouse exhibition and the Association of Lighthouse Keepers' display room. Keyhaven, Lyminster, SO41 0TR

#### National Motor Museum, Beaulieu

In the heart of New Forest, Beaulieu is a magical place, combining the charm of an ancient Abbey, the grace of a classical stately home, the celebrated National Motor Museum and the hugely popular James Bond Exhibition which are all included in the excitement of a modern visitor attraction. Ride on the high level Monorail or climb aboard the replica 1912 open top London bus for a fun way to see Beaulieu's sights. New Forest, Beaulieu, SO42 7ZN, Tel: 01590 612345

#### Beaulieu Gardens

The gardens of Beaulieu are associated with the ancestral home of the Montagu family Palace House. Over hundred years, the original grounds of Beaulieu Abbey were developed into a charming mixture of formal and informal styled gardens. The name Beaulieu means: "beautiful place" and we believe that the gardens, from the Wilderness Garden, to the Victorians' Garden through to the Ornamental Vegetable Garden, Mill Pond Walk and other areas of interests, certainly all live up to the name. New Forest, Beaulieu, SO42 7ZN

### The Highlights

#### New Forest Tour

There has never been a better way to see the real New Forest, what's more you can do it car free! Enjoy wonderful coast and forest scenery from 20 feet up, hop on and off where you want and even take your bike with you. The open top bus tour and free cycle trailer connects to the forest's off road cycle and walks network as well as many other attractions and places of interest. The tour calls at Lyndhurst, the capital of the New Forest, Brockenhurst, connecting to the rail network, Lyminster, with its ferry to the Isle of Wight, Exbury, with its beautiful gardens and steam train and the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. Lyminster Visitor Information Centre, Tel: 01590 689000

#### Ringwood Brewery Tour

Brewing is a craft that has changed little over the centuries - the beauty of the traditional brewhouse at Ringwood is that the whole process is visible and easy to follow so you'll come away after the tour with a clear idea of how ale is produced. Visitors can taste the different malted barleys and have a rub and sniff of the hops. They can also see the copper where the malt extract is boiled and the fermentations bubbling away in the Tun Room. 138 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3AP, Tel: 01425 471177

#### Liberty's Owl Raptor & Reptile Centre

Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Reptile Centre is named after Liberty, the centre's resident Alaskan Bald Eagle, one of the many birds of prey that we have on display at the Centre, which is located just outside Ringwood near the natural beauty of Hampshire's New Forest National Park, and close to the splendor of Dorset's World Heritage "Jurassic" Coast. At Liberty's you will find a large collection of Birds Of Prey, including Owls, Hawks, Falcons and Vultures, as well as a collection of Reptiles and other creepy crawlies in our Reptile House. Crow Lane, Crow, Ringwood, BH24 3EA

#### New Forest Centre

Set in the heart of the National Park in Lyndhurst, you'll find a fascinating Museum, Visitor Information Centre, Gift Shop, Library, Exhibition Gallery and friendly staff to answer all your questions about the New Forest and how to best enjoy it. The Museum is packed full of information and fun activities. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Beaulieu Road Pony Sales and step back in time into our traditional Cob Cottage. Don't miss the new Family Fun Tree in the heart of the Museum. You can learn how to detect animals in the Pooh Corner game, listen to the sounds of wild and commoner owned animals, marvel at gigantic creepy crawlies and indulge in some good old fashioned bark rubbing. You can even share your thoughts of what the Forest means to you by adding to our paper leaf mulch! High Street, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY



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### The spare time..

#### **Buckler's Hard**

On the banks of the Beaulieu River, in the heart of the New Forest, you will find the peaceful haven of Buckler's Hard, the unique and picturesque village where warships for Nelson's navy were built. Visit the historic cottage displays recreating 18th century life, take a delightful riverside walk or enjoy a cruise on the tranquil Beaulieu River. Gift shop and Captain's Cabin Cafe  
New Forest, Beaulieu, SO42 7XB, Tel: 01590 616203  
Owslebury, Winchester, SO21 1JH

#### **Marwell Zoological Park**

A visit to Marwell Wildlife is a chance to get close to the wonders of the natural world – and play a big part in helping to save them. From ring-tailed coatis to red-eyed tree frogs, laughing kookaburra to frilled lizards, giraffe-nosed catfishes to bat-eared foxes – our 140-acre park is home to over 250 exotic and endangered species, in beautiful, landscaped surroundings.

#### **Furzey Gardens**

Set in the heart of The New Forest at Minstead in Hampshire this delightful, informal garden was established in 1922 and is renowned for its all year round beauty. The peaceful 10 acre woodland gardens include a lake, tea rooms, play area, bee and thatching display, cobb cottage, alpacas and plant sales.  
School Lane, Minstead, Near Lyndhurst, SO43 7GL

#### **Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum**

The Museum is situated around wonderful farmland in a courtyard complex and houses over 350 rare and classic motorcycles, many being the only remaining examples in the world, displayed in four galleries.  
Bashley, Cross Road, New Milton, BH25 5SZ

### I need help!

**Lyndhurst Visitor Information Centre,**  
Main Car Park,  
Lyndhurst,  
SO43 7NY,  
Tel: 023 8028 2269

**Lymington Visitor Information Centre**  
New Street,  
Lymington,  
SO41 9BH,  
Tel: 01590 689000

**Hospital (A&E)**  
Fordingbridge Hospital  
Bartons Road,  
Fordingbridge,  
Hampshire,  
Tel: 01425 652 255

**Southampton General Hospital**  
Tremona Road,  
Southampton,  
Hants  
Tel: 023 8077 7222

**Highcliffe Police Station,**  
409 Lymington Road,  
Highcliffe,  
Christchurch,  
Dorset,  
Tel: 01202 222 222

### Brief History

The area now known as the "New Forest" was once dense woodland. During the Bronze Age trees were cleared and heathland began to form. Stones heated by fire were dropped into water in earth pits in order to boil the water for cooking. Several of these "boiling mounds" can still be seen in the forest, including one at Cockley hill. By the Iron Age agriculture had developed the landscape which now included fields, banks and ditches. An Iron Age fort can be found at Castle Hill near Burley. In the first century AD the Romans arrived and by 300AD the New Forest had become host to a thriving Roman pottery industry. Pottery from the forest was used all over southern England. The examples seen here are exhibits at the New Forest Museum in Lyndhurst.

By the 5th century the Romans had left Britain. They would later be replaced by the Saxons. Over the next few centuries they founded 3 kingdoms, one of which was Wessex and included the New Forest area. When William invaded England in 1066 he wasted no time seizing land as he embarked on a programme of castle building. Winchester remained the royal capital or William, who was fond of hunting deer, and decided to create a specific area nearby for this sport. In 1079 some 150 square miles of land was declared a royal hunting ground. To accommodate this, settlements and villages were destroyed to path the way, It is estimated some 36 churches were demolished during the creation of King William's New Forest.

In more recent times, the forest has experienced considerable deforestation, most noticeably during the 17th century when its wood was used for ship-building, the Royal Navy built many galleons from New Forest Timber.



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### Top quality grub!

#### About the "Hi-Life Diners Club"

If you love eating out why not save money while you do it? Established for over 20 years, the Hi-Life Dining Card is the UK's No.1 dining promotion with over 2000 restaurants around the UK. In short, this card allows you to buy 2 meals for the price of 1, amongst other special discounts, at a huge range of restaurants associated with this offer, from Michelin listed establishment's right through to popular family favourites.

Just look for the  badge next to participating restaurants.

#### Royal Jaipur

The Royal Jaipur offers a relaxed, friendly and comfortable atmosphere, where you can experience exquisite Indian Cuisine. The bar stocks a variety of Indian drinks and fine wines to cater for every taste. Jaipur is passionate about food, so with great love and devotion they prepare the finest ingredients to create authentic Indian dishes with exceptional flavour.

Indian cuisine  
72 High Street, Lyndhurst

#### Le Blaireau

Nestled in the heart of the New Forest inside the Careys Manor Hotel, Le Blaireau is a bijou French restaurant with lots of charm that attracts romantic mini-breakers and steak-frites-loving locals alike. Le Blaireau's al fresco terrace is a popular spot during summer, and the restaurant also boasts a private Parisian street themed dining room.

French cuisine  
Careys Manor, Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, SO42 7RH

#### Brookleys Bistro & Wine Bar,

Serving high quality cuisine in the New Forest area, Brookleys Bistro in the centre of Brockenhurst village and has always been a popular meeting place to simply catch up with friends over a coffee, or a meal, or to celebrate special occasions.

English, French, European cuisine  
58 Brookley Road, Village Centre, Brockenhurst, SO42 7RA

#### Zen Garden

Lemongrass, chilli, kaffir lime and ginger are all wonderfully exotic ingredients which make Thai cuisine so unique.

Tantalise your taste buds with the exciting and mouth-watering fragrances of delicious Thai dishes served in the unique surroundings of the Zen Garden Restaurant.

Lyndhurst Rd, Brockenhurst SO42 7RH, Tel: 01590 624467

#### Prezzo



Prezzo provides great quality Italian food in a friendly and relaxed environment. They use the finest seasonal products available, many of which are imported directly from Italy. The menu includes a wide variety of antipasti, pizza, pasta, risotto, grilled meats, fresh salads as well as frequently changing specials.

27-29 Market Place, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 1AN

### Getting around

#### Walking

The New Forest has an excellent network of footpaths, rides and forest roads which can be used by walkers and hikers well away from any motor traffic. You are free to wander where you wish in much of the forest area. Be aware that the distances involved are not insignificant, and the conditions underfoot can be very variable. Walking boots and decent walking clothing are advised if you're a serious walker.

#### Cycling

The New Forest offers over 200km waymarked cycle routes, much of it off road and traffic free. The station at Brockenhurst allows you to bring your bikes and get straight out into the forest or if you don't have bikes with you pop in to one of the many cycle hire centers. With a good network of gravel rides and forest roads open to cyclists and walkers, but not to cars, cycling is a really good way to see the New Forest. Because of its popularity, there is a good selection of cycle hire outfits, which can supply adult and children's bikes, trailers, etc. Forest Leisure Cycling, Burley, [www.forestleisurecycling.co.uk](http://www.forestleisurecycling.co.uk), Tel: 01425 403584.

#### Bus

The New Forest Tour Bus is operated by Bluestar, and supported by the National Park Authority and New Forest District Council. It is a great way to see the National Park; it can carry bicycles and links to some attractive circular routes. It also offers discounted entry to some attractions. It is an hourly service running from May to September, and takes in Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Beaulieu.

#### Car

The road network within the New Forest is fairly limited in its extent, although all the major villages are served. The roads are quite narrow and can get busy. As most roads are unfenced, drivers need to be constantly aware of the possibility of encountering animals on the road, especially at night. For this reason, the forest is subject to a blanket 40mph speed limit.



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