

FREE GUIDE

TEST VALLEY VISITOR GUIDE



Stay, explore and enjoy this lovely part of Hampshire
www.visittestvalley.co.uk

 @VisitTestValley  @visit_test_valley  @VisitTestValley



THE TEA ROOM

KING JOHN'S HOUSE

Welcome to the Test Valley

Test Valley is a quintessential corner of England, an idyllic rural escape with wide open spaces for a breath of fresh air. Discover chocolate-box villages, great days out, mouth-watering local produce, and long walks in the great outdoors. You'll leave here with your heart-warmed, body refreshed, and mind rejuvenated.

With miles of picturesque walks, and perfect picnic spots, it's the staycation destination for those looking to enjoy a break away amongst natural beauty. This beautiful countryside is also home to the market towns of Andover, Stockbridge and Romsey, each with a unique identity and all offering a warm Test Valley welcome.

The famous River Test with its gin-clear waters, meanders through the heart of the district making it the perfect spot for riverside ambles, being at one with nature, and a world-renowned mecca for dry fly fishing.

Walk through breathtaking landscapes, taste delicious local produce and relish in the serenity of the River Test. Visit the area's magnificent gardens and marvel at its history from ancient hill-forts to Edwardian country houses.


Whether you are here for the day, a short break, or longer, this visitor guide captures the best places to visit to make the most of your time. Find fun for the family, romance as a couple, and memory-making moments.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

The award-winning Visitor Information Centre in Romsey and eight tourist information points across the borough offer further information to help you enjoy your stay in Test Valley.

VIC staff will be pleased to help you plan your visit and provide advice. Please telephone or call in for current information:

13 Church Street, Romsey SO51 8BT
01794 512987 | romseyvic@testvalley.gov.uk

 @moreTestValley

 @RomseyinbeautifulTestValley

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Front cover photograph Longstock, Stockbridge.

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www.VisitTestValley.co.uk to find out more and plan your visit. Connect with us...

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The perfect staycation

Staying in the UK for your holiday hasn't always been a choice over the past two years, but as more and more people realise what wonderful destinations we have right here on our doorstep, it's no wonder the UK staycation looks set to stay. What we have learned is it's good to get your stay booked early so you don't miss out, and be prepared to be amazed at what you didn't realise was right here.

With a destination as stunning and abundant as Test Valley, it offers the perfect location for days out, weekend breaks, and longer visits. You'll find something to please everyone, from young explorers to maturer tastes. For those visiting from bustling cities and leading busy lives, you'll find the perfect place to unwind, relax, and recharge. This rural setting is where life slows down and you can enjoy a gentler pace to your day.

Test Valley's ample outdoor spaces and natural beauty means there is plenty to enjoy out in the fresh air, exploring the great outdoors and avoiding crowded spaces. Walking, horse riding and cycling are fantastic ways to get out and about, stretching those legs and enjoying some quality time with loved ones. With the Test Way offering 44-miles of riverside pathways you'll certainly not fall short of places to explore, and if you have a four-legged friend in tow they are going to love joining you on a Test Valley adventure.

As well as the peaceful villages that are scattered throughout this countryside, you'll find some of the best pubs and restaurants in the county, serving fresh, mouthwatering, local produce. The Mayfly in Stockbridge sits right next to the River Test where you can enjoy good food and a refreshing drink alongside the picturesque river. The Three Tuns is

just 5-minutes walk from Romsey's Market Square, offering outdoor seating for those warm summer months. If you're looking for an authentic country inn, The Peat Spade is in the picture postcard setting of Longstock village.

Test Valley is also home to many wonderful attractions so you can enjoy days out, including Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Houghton Lodge Gardens, and Romsey Abbey to name a few. Meaning there is plenty to do and something for the whole family to enjoy. Find a wealth of history in the area and the fascinating past that has shaped the region, from Iron Age forts, to military history, and industrial heritage, it's a destination of discovery. You'll leave Test Valley feeling like you've treated both mind and body to a wonderful break from day to day life.



The Apple Rooms at Houghton Lodge Gardens

Near Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6LQ

A collection of six individually designed boutique ensuite studio rooms.

Ideal for staycations and rural retreats to discover the Test Valley.

Situated on the Houghton Lodge Estate with access to the stunning gardens and walks along the River Test. Dogs welcome. Adults only.

To book www.theapplerooms.co.uk

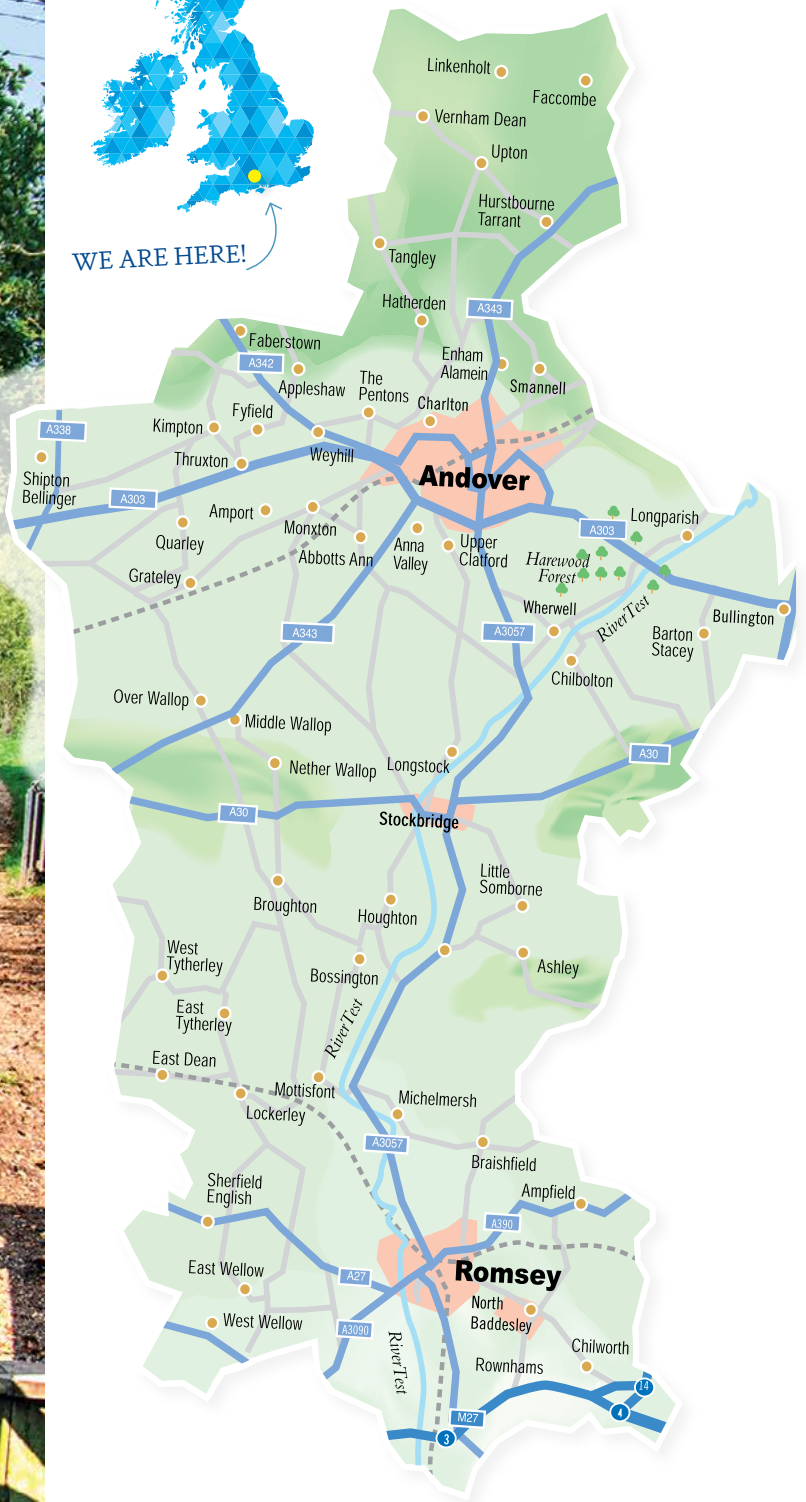
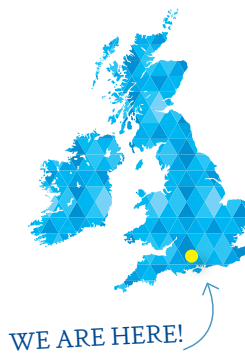




TOP TIP!

With staycations increasing in popularity and some attractions operating ticketing systems, we recommend you book early to avoid disappointment.

Of course, you'll need accommodation for your stay and you won't be short of choice! From campsites, B&Bs, and self-catering accommodation, to romantic country house hotels, stylish boutiques, and modern hotels. Stay within the local villages or amongst the rural countryside, with plenty of choice to suit all needs and budgets. There's even dog-friendly accommodation so the whole family can enjoy a holiday in Test Valley. With so much choice you'll be sure to find the perfect place to rest your head.



Get the Visitor Guide on your tablet or mobile

If you would like to download a copy of the Visitor Guide to use on your mobile or tablet, you can find it at:

www.testvalley.gov.uk/visitorguide

Events calendar



APRIL

It's a Fair Cop! Throughout April
Andover Museum
[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/
event/its-fair-cop](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/its-fair-cop)

Opening of the Farmyard Flyer
1st April - Paultons Park
www.paultonspark.co.uk

Easter Trail 1st - 24th April
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
[www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/
hilliergardens](http://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens)

Hoppy Easter 8th - 26th April
Paultons Park
www.paultonspark.co.uk

Easter Egg Hunts 9th - 24th April
Mottisfont
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events

Broadlands House Open
14th - 17th April Broadlands
www.broadlandsestates.co.uk

Romsey Chamber Music Festival
21st - 24th April Abbey United
Reformed Church
www.romseychambermusic.com

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party
22nd April Kimbridge Barn
www.idealcollection.co.uk/events

Classic Sports Car Club Race Meeting
23rd - 24th April Thruxton Circuit
www.thruxtonracing.co.uk

MAY

Gurkha Day 14th May
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
[www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/
hilliergardens](http://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens)

Romsey Antique Collectables &
Decorative Arts Fair 15th May
Romsey Town Centre - various
locations

1940's Week 28th May - 5th June
Milestones Museum
[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/
event/milestones-1940s-week](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/milestones-1940s-week)

Loved by Royalty Photo Exhibition
28th - 29th May, Abbey United
Reformed Church
[www.romseytc.org.uk/the-queens-
platinum-jubilee](http://www.romseytc.org.uk/the-queens-platinum-jubilee)

Kwik Fit British Touring Car
Championship 28th - 29th May
Thruxton Circuit
www.thruxtonracing.co.uk

JUNE

Street Party on The Hundred
2nd June The Hundred, Romsey
[www.romseytc.org.uk/the-queens-
platinum-jubilee](http://www.romseytc.org.uk/the-queens-platinum-jubilee)

Events, Trails and Activities
2nd - 5th June Sir Harold Hillier
Gardens
[www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/
hilliergardens/whatson](http://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens/whatson)

LTVAS Royalty in Romsey Exhibition
2nd - 5th June Romsey Town Hall

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street
Festival 3rd June
Andover Town Centre

Royal Train visits to Romsey -
Photographs on display
5th June Romsey Signal Box

Jubilee Thanksgiving Service
4th June Romsey Abbey

Dogstival 4th - 5th June
Broadlands
www.dogstival.co.uk

Thruxton Historic
11th - 12th June Thruxton Circuit
www.thruxtonracing.co.uk

Giggles in the Gardens
18th June Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
[www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/
hilliergardens](http://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens)

Mid-Summer Evening Garden Tour
23rd June Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
[www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/
hilliergardens](http://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens)

Starlight Legends Festival
24th - 25th June Broadlands
www.broadlandsestates.co.uk

JULY

Wallop Wheels and Wings
2nd July Army Flying Museum
www.armyflying.com

Mayors Picnic
3rd July Romsey

Summer Soul Spectacular
8th - 9th July
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
[www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/
hilliergardens](http://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens)

Beggars Fair 9th July
Romsey Town - various locations
www.beggarsfair.org.uk

British Trucks Race Meeting
9th - 10th July Thruxton Circuit
www.thruxtonracing.co.uk

Rio Comes to Romsey Mardi Gras
Carnival 11th - 16th July
Romsey Town Centre
www.facebook.com/romseycarnival

Andover Carnival
17th July Vigo Recreation Ground
www.andovercarnival.org

Vineyards of Hampshire Fizz Fest
24th July Black Chalk Vineyard
www.vineyardsofhampshire.co.uk



www.VisitTestValley.co.uk to find out more and plan your visit. Connect with us...
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AUGUST

Trout 'n About Festival
7th August
Stockbridge High Street

Bennetts British Superbike
Championship 12th - 14th August
Thrupton Circuit
www.thruptonracing.co.uk

Broadlands House Open
13th - 25th August & 29th August
Broadlands
www.broadlandsestates.co.uk

Family Summer's End – Picnic
Concert 27th August
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/
hilliergardens

Kwik Fit British Touring Car
Championship 27th - 28th August
Thrupton Circuit
www.thruptonracing.co.uk

SEPTEMBER

Summer Screens
8th - 10th September
Houghton Lodge Gardens
www.summerscreens.co.uk

The Romsey Show
10th September
The Crosfield Hall
www.romseyshow.co.uk

Last Night of the Proms – Picnic
Concert
10th September
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/
hilliergardens

Silk Mill Food Festival
10th September
Whitchurch Silk Mill
www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

Cobbles & Cogs
10th - 11th September
Milestones Museum
www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/
cobbles-and-cogs

Sky Hunters at Sunset
17th September
The Hawk Conservancy Trust
www.hawk-conservancy.org

OCTOBER

The Garden Show at Broadlands
30th September - 2nd October
Broadlands
www.broadlandsestates.co.uk

Happy Halloween
13th - 31st October Paultons Park
www.paultonspark.co.uk

Romsey Antique Collectables &
Decorative Arts Fair 16th October
Romsey Town Centre - various
locations

Owl-O-Ween 28th October
The Hawk Conservancy Trust
www.hawk-conservancy.org

NOVEMBER

Romsey Show Winter Fayre
18th November Crosfield Hall

Christmas Market
24th - 25th November
The Hawk Conservancy Trust
www.hawk-conservancy.org

Romsey Carnival Winter Procession
26th November Romsey Town Centre
www.facebook.com/romseycarnival

DECEMBER

A Celebration of Christmas
3rd - 23rd December
Paultons Park
www.paultonspark.co.uk

Whitchurch Christmas Market
3rd - 4th December
Whitchurch Silk Mill
www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

Christmas Carols and Owls by
Moonlight
19th - 20th December
The Hawk Conservancy Trust
www.hawk-conservancy.org

Father Christmas Flying Visit
22nd December
The Hawk Conservancy Trust
www.hawk-conservancy.org

Local Markets

Romsey Market - every
Tuesday, Friday and Saturday
Romsey Makers Market -
every Sunday
Romsey Farmers Market -
the first Sunday of each month

Andover Market - every
Thursday and Saturday

Stockbridge Makers Market
- Taking place on April 16th,
May 21st, June 11th, July 9th &
16th, August 13th, September
10th, October 28th, November
12th, December 10th & 11th



Check opening times and
book ahead of your visit.

* Events subject to change and details correct and available at time of printing.



ANDOVER MUSEUM

AND MUSEUM OF THE IRON AGE



hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/andover-museum

Hampshire Cultural Trust, a registered charity (no. 1158583) and company (no. 08986225) in England and Wales

Admission FREE



A Journey Through Time

Open: Monday – Saturday for timed ticket entry: Daily Guided Tours

Admission: Adult £5, Under 16: £2, Under fives are FREE

Visit our website for details and entry times and www.ticketsource.co.uk for bookings



@KingJohnsHouse

www.kingjohnshouse.org.uk



When you visit the delightful King John's House you can find architectural clues to the origins and use of an enigmatic and fascinating medieval building with its adjoining Tudor Cottage. On our daily guided tour you can hear stories of the people who lived and worked in and around the buildings as they slowly descended from high status to the very poorest of Romsey's housing. See a rare animal bone floor and 14th-Century graffiti etched at dagger point into original decorated medieval plaster. Discover connections with Royalty and Religion and explore the Museum telling the story of the Moody family, once owners of the House and Cottage. King John's House is set in a secluded period-style garden, creating an attractive backdrop to the delightful Miss Moody's Tudor Tea Room serving home-made lunches, cake and traditional afternoon teas.



King John's House, Church Street, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8BT | 01794 512200 | www.kingjohnshouse.org.uk

Managed by King John's House and Tudor Cottage Trust Ltd, an independent charitable Trust kindly supported by Test Valley Borough Council. All proceeds go towards the upkeep and preservation of this important Grade I historic property. Registered Charity Number 276961 Company Number 1441318

Connecting with the past

Test Valley's long and fascinating heritage attracts visitors from far and wide, it is a destination steeped in captivating stories of times gone by. Test Valley also enjoys iconic links to a vast literary history that can be discovered throughout the district.

From Thomas the Tank Engine™ to James Bond, Test Valley's rich history includes an abundance of relationships to famous characters and settings from some of the most well-known books of all time. Immerse yourself in surroundings that have inspired several lifetimes of literary genius and walk the pages of novels, children's books, and cartoons.

Your visit will bring you closer to an abundance of historic architecture. Romsey Abbey is one of the finest examples of Norman architecture in southern England, and the county boasts more Iron Age hill forts than anywhere else in Hampshire, including Danebury Iron Age Hill Fort. There are also 6 watermills in Andover that date back to the Domesday Book.

Discover 750 years of history at King John's House and Museum, and Andover Museum uncovers the town's fascinating past and the events and tales that put it on the map.

Discover stories of creativity and conflict, love and loss at Mottisfont Abbey house and gardens. Now a National Trust property, this former medieval priory became the place for artists to come and relax to create spectacular works of art.

Whitchurch Silk Mill is part of Test Valley's industrial heritage, a working museum still using original Victorian machinery, including a number of power looms. The region's history doesn't end at ground level as the Army Flying Museum in Middle Wallop celebrates the lives of the British Army's soldiers in the air.

And your historic journey wouldn't be complete without visiting the final resting place of Florence Nightingale. The small church of St Margaret's in East Wellow, established in 1215 - the year of Magna Carta - is the perfect shrine to the memory of The Lady with the Lamp.



**Café
Museum
Shop**

Open all year
Tues to Sun
10.30am to
5.00pm

whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk





ARMY FLYING MUSEUM

Immerse yourself in the fascinating story of British Army flying by visiting one of Test Valley's hidden gems. The Army Flying Museum sits adjacent to the Army Air Corps Airfield at Middle Wallop, near Stockbridge. Pay once and receive free entry for a year.

Two large hangars house the impressive journey of British soldiers in the air from the pioneering days of balloons and kites to the Glider Pilot Regiments dropping at Arnhem, right through to modern helicopter operations. Often likened to the Tardis, there is a volume of artefacts, medals and over thirty five fixed wing and rotary aircraft on show. Imaginative displays with a clever use of interactives and video provide for fascinating

insight into the history of British Army flying.



Observe the dignified memorial to more than 5,000 that have died in the service of British Army

flying from early pioneers to modern Army Air Corps.

The newest 'Explore the Apache' interactive display offers visitors the chance to find out everything about this iconic aircraft through films, images, and audio recordings. For front row seats of these, and other aircraft, in action, look no further than the Museum's Apache Café.

The Army Flying Museum is open daily from 10am to 4.30pm (5.30pm July and August). The Museum is easily accessible from the M3 and A303 on the A343 between Salisbury and Andover. The Apache Café is also open daily from 9.00am to 4.00pm (5pm July and August) and Museum entry is not required to access the café.

www.armyflying.com

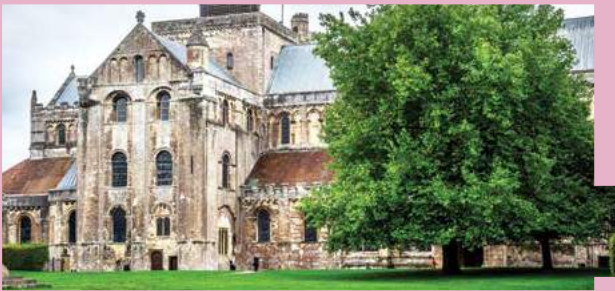


Aerial view of the River Test

Welcome to Romsey

The ancient market town of Romsey sits on the banks of the River Test. Florence Nightingale and the Reverend Wilbert Awdry, the creator of Thomas the Tank Engine, both lived in this timeless English market town. Pretty medieval streets surround the Abbey, which is one of the finest examples of Norman architecture in England.

Enjoy wandering among Romsey Market on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays - with stalls situated in the Cornmarket and Market Place. Visit the Romsey Makers Market every Sunday plus on the first Sunday of the month, you can enjoy one of Hampshire's busiest Farmers' Markets and the opportunity to buy top quality products grown or made in the local area.



Market Place is a reminder of days gone by with the statue of Lord Palmerston, former Foreign Secretary, Prime Minister in the 1800s, and famous for his "gun boat diplomacy". The Victorian town hall first opened its doors in 1866. In Church Street you'll find King John's House and Museum with medieval, Tudor and Victorian buildings, rich in history and surrounded by a beautiful period-style garden.

Within this historic town there is an excellent range of shops, from small independents to high street names, as well as the family owned department store, Bradbeers.

For information on the local independent shops visit www.shopappy.com/romsey.

ROMSEY SIGNAL BOX - A UNIQUE WORKING MUSEUM

Originally opened around 1870 and closed in 1982, the box was saved and moved down to its own dedicated site. The Signal Box has been restored to operational order with various signals connected to some of the levers, which you are encouraged to pull. See demonstrations of the Signal Box in operation, and, if you are an enthusiast, you can operate it to a full timetable as if doing it for real. The site also features many other working exhibits, a small museum, café and toilet facilities.

The Signal Box is open to the public from 11am to 4pm on the first Sunday (February-December) and third Saturday (January-November) of the month. The site is also open to the public on special dates (see website for more details). A small entrance fee is charged for adults. Enquiries: 01794 500523

www.romseysignalbox.org.uk



After all that shopping you'll no doubt need to stop for refreshments. There is an abundance of cafés, restaurants and pubs to choose from. Relax in a cosy country pub for some traditional pub grub, experience some of the finest food in Romsey's two AA Rosette brasseries or enjoy excellent food in a period setting. Sample seasonal delights from the deli. share a pot of tea for two in a family run tea room, or a slice of cake in a gallery café where you will not only find the perfect slice but also works of art by many local artists.

Magic family moments

The past couple of years have put restrictions on enjoying days out as a family, you must be ready to make up for some lost time! Test Valley is a destination for creating those lasting memories, putting smiles on faces, and bringing family and friends together. Whatever the weather you'll find something to please the youngest family member to the oldest.

Experience great days out at wonderful local attractions, learn and discover new things, and blow the cobwebs away on unique adventures! With attractions now being a dab hand at ensuring the right measures are in place to ensure a safe experience, you can get back to enjoying yourselves.



TOP TIP!

Some attractions may require you to book in advance, so make sure you book ahead to avoid disappointment.

FUN IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

If you're looking for some serious family fun, then Paultons Park is a great value family theme park with more than 70 wonderful rides and attractions. It is also home of Peppa Pig World, Lost Kingdom, Critter Creek, and Tornado Springs - a midwest experience.

Whether you are a novice rider or a galloping pro, the landscapes offer horse-riders many miles of bridleway through the tranquil scenery of Stockbridge Down, Chilbolton Common and Danebury Hill. There are many riding schools and stables offering superb equestrian facilities including five-star livery services, top-class tuition and horse trekking experiences perfect for those with a sense of adventure.

If you like to ride your bike then pedal your way around the stunning countryside and winding country roads. There are plenty of routes to choose from of varying length. So, whether it's a leisurely ride along the tranquil riverbank or an energetic ramble through Mottisfont on the Michelmersh Circular Walk, there's a route to suit. For routes and trails visit www.visit-hampshire.co.uk/cycling

Test Valley is also home to beautiful gardens that are great fun to explore and burn off some of that energy. Discover more about the gardens in Test Valley on page 14.

SOMETHING FOR UMBRELLA DAYS

If it's not quite the right weather to be spending the day outside then there's no need to worry. There are plenty of indoor attractions to keep you warm, dry and entertained! With special term time and school holiday activities at Andover Museum and Museum of the Iron Age, children will have fun tracing the history of Andover from prehistoric times to the present day, perfect for those inquisitive families.

The house at Mottisfont was originally founded as an Augustinian priory in 1201 and has a depth



of history to share. Discover extraordinary rooms and displays throughout that tell the story of this historic house. Once the rain has stopped you can enjoy it's beautiful surrounding gardens.

ANIMAL MAGIC

If the little ones want to get closer to animals, there is a world of fun at Finkley Down Farm. Activities run each day offering the chance to cuddle a rabbit, groom a pony, feed the goats or even get closer to reptiles. There are go-karts, mini ride-on tractors, sandpits and trampolines to burn off their energy and an indoor play barn for those inclement days. It's open all year round with a great diary of special events, so pack a picnic or choose to dine in the tearoom and enjoy the whole day here.

Another opportunity to get friendly with the animals is at Cholderton Charlie's Farm. Talk to the animals, feed them or just admire their unique characters. You can even adopt them! Appealing to all ages, there is a 500 foot long, 32-foot high treetop trail; tree house, zip-line and nest swing to let the kids go wild on.

If it's feathered friends you prefer, prepare yourselves for a truly unique day out at The Hawk Conservancy Trust. The award-winning visitor attraction offers a full day out for all ages with magnificent flying displays set to music.



Mottisfont Nr Romsey

Beautiful gardens

As well as its breathtaking natural beauty, Test Valley outstanding gardens which are all unique, and well worth a visit.

Whether you are a keen, green-fingered gardener, someone who admires and enjoys the beauty of blooms, or are perhaps simply looking for somewhere stunning to walk – the gardens are waiting to be discovered, no matter the season. They offer plenty of wide open spaces, minimal crowds, and wholesome fresh air.

Take a picnic and enjoy lunch in the great outdoors amongst the gorgeous settings, the perfect mix of playing and relaxing. If you don't have time to make a picnic most of the gardens also have delicious cafes.

Visit the famous walled rose garden at National Trust property, Mottisfont Abbey, which includes more than 500 varieties of stunning roses. The picturesque grounds have much to excite visitors all year round, along with a jam-packed programme of events and exhibitions.

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens offers 180 acres of open space and 42,000 plants from around the world. The award winning gardens specialises in horticulture, conservation, education and recreation. If you're visiting with children, they'll love climbing the tree house, crossing the wobbly bridge, and weaving through the bamboo tunnels.

The history of the site of King John's House's gardens can be traced back to the late 1530s where it has been transformed into a series of beautiful gardens by a group of dedicated volunteers to provide a welcoming oasis in the middle of Romsey. Pre-18th-Century plants flourish in the main garden, along with a Victorian terrace and a fountain courtyard.

Houghton Lodge Gardens near Stockbridge is a hidden gem and is recognised as one of the finest gardens in Hampshire. Enjoy the Walled Garden with stunning peony walk and rose arbour, themed herb garden and ancient orchard of fruit trees.



National Trust

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Photography © National Trust Images/James Dobson.

**An inspiring day out
made at Mottisfont**

Visit Mottisfont to discover seasonal gardens, an exciting arts programme, and family activities in school holidays.

Mottisfont, nr Romsey
nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont

For everyone, for ever






Houghton Lodge Gardens

Nr STOCKBRIDGE, HAMPSHIRE, SO20 6LQ

Discover the gardens of the best surviving example of an 18th Century Cottage Orné set above the River Test.

Enchanting walled garden with chalk cob walls, peony walk & rose arbour. 14 acres of picturesque countryside, riverside walks, charming Alpacas, topiary Dragon & Peacock Garden. Honesty at Houghton Lodge Gardens tea room for light refreshments & homemade cakes.

New for 2022! The Oriental Garden which will be opened in 2023.



Open: 1st April - 30th Sept: 11am - 5pm Monday - Friday,
10am - 5pm Saturday/Sunday/Bank Holidays

To book www.houghtonlodge.co.uk



Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

Award-Winning
Gardens and Arboretum

Registered charity 274737

Home to over 600 Champion Trees and one of Europe's largest Winter Gardens.

- 14 National Plant Collections • Centenary Border, one of the longest double mixed border in the UK • pond and bog gardens
- children's play areas including tree house • events and exhibitions

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Jermyns Lane, Ampfield, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0QA
Open daily from 10am except Christmas Day and Boxing Day



Book online
KIDS UNDER 5 GO FREE!









Hampshire
County Council





hants.gov.uk/hilliergardens

Adrenaline fuelled leisure breaks

It's not all slow and steady in Test Valley. An idyllic place to relax but also the perfect spot for some fast-paced fun! You'll find a whole host of activities and attractions on offer to get the adrenaline pumping and leave you feeling alive!

Discover activities that will get the heart-racing of the bravest adults, to family adventures that will have you talking about your experiences for a long time to come!

If you're a bit of a thrill-seeker you will love the famous motor racing circuit at Thruxton – the fastest race track in the UK. With the latest supercars and racing cars, a driving experience at Thruxton is a unique and memorable day out for any petrol head. You could be driving your

dream car on the UK's fastest race circuit or just enjoy spectating as the cars race past you.

Prefer two-wheels? With so many cycle routes around Test Valley, it's a great way to get the heart pumping while exploring the area. Luckily there are also plenty of cafes and pub stops on route to help you replenish yourself!

If it's a family challenge you're looking for, head to Golden Gecko Climbing, where the term "climbing the walls" has a much more fun-filled meaning! This indoor climbing centre in Romsey offers indoor climbing challenges for those new to climbing and the more experienced.

THRUXTON CIRCUIT
THE FASTEST CIRCUIT IN THE UK

RACE MEETINGS

DRIVING EXPERIENCES

KARTING

4X4 OFF-ROAD

SKID PAN

THRUXTONRACING.CO.UK
THRUXTON CIRCUIT | ANDOVER | HAMPSHIRE | SP11 8PN | TEL: 01264 862222

THRUXTON CIRCUIT



Glo-Golf at Riverside Bowl

How about a bit of healthy family competition? Perfect your strike at Andover's Riverside Bowl or head to their Glo-Golf for a twist on mini golf and putt your way around the world from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Eiffel tower!

Dive to Romsey Rapids for a fun swim. After its million-pound makeover in 2019, do you dare to ride the rapids or the flume, and sail the high seas on its pirate ship? The family will certainly enjoy making a splash!

Of course, Paultons Park isn't all just gentle rides and Peppa Pig, it's full of heart-racing rides and rollercoasters. Tornado Springs was Paultons Park newest addition in 2021 and features 8 exciting rides, including Storm Chaser, a spinning rollercoaster that takes you 20 metres



off the ground before 'riding the storm', it's the only rollercoaster of it's kind in the UK so don't miss out while you're here.

You may not consider walking a high-adrenaline activity, but with 40-miles of riverside walks along the River Test you can certainly put those legs of yours to the test! Grab those walking boots, pack some drinks and snacks, and get ready for a great adventure on foot!

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Art and culture

Find your inspiration

A rich cultural hub, Test Valley will connect you to the arts through its many galleries, art venues, theatres, and cultural events. Whether you like to surround yourself with artistic beauty, get hands-on in a workshop, or have your senses enlightened by music and colour, you'll never struggle to find an outlet for the arts during your visit.

With such an epic landscape, natural beauty, and depth of history, it's no surprise Test Valley is an inspiring place for artists and art lovers. Whether you're looking for inspiration or simply love to surround yourself with culture, you've come to the right place! Iconic paintings and tales of the Iron Age are re-lived on the walls of the many galleries that can be found in Test Valley.

HISTORICAL ARTS AND CULTURE

Mottisfont Abbey inspired a 1930s dream of creativity, where artists would come to relax and create works of art and it has been a place of inspiration to many artists ever since. It exhibits a substantial collection of 20th-century pieces and hosts a series of changing exhibitions.

A wonderful reminder of one of the oldest crafts is presented at Whitchurch Silk Mill. The oldest working silk mill in the UK, it continues to weave silk using 19th century machinery and highlights Test Valley's industrial heritage. Their Riverside Cafe offers scenic views alongside their seasonal menu, a perfect spot to relax amongst the cultural surroundings.

DISCOVER LOCAL ARTISTS

The Wykeham Gallery in Stockbridge displays works of well-known British and international artists, it's also a great place to discover young and emerging artists. Their extensive range of sculptures, ceramics, bronzes and glass can be found throughout their studio and gallery garden.

Watch the craftsmen at work at the Fairground Craft and Design Centre at Weyhill and discover a community that includes a papercraft shop, sustainable products shop, florist, furniture makers, yarn, fabric, and more! You'll also find plenty of opportunities to get creative with their regular workshops and classes. A wonderful place where you can get hands-on or simply soak up the creativity with a coffee in the tearoom.

BROUGHTON CRAFTS

A long-established craft and gift shop crammed with a huge variety of wonderful goodies.



Ceramics, glass, toys, jewellery, bathroom treats, cards, mugs, wooden birds, silk flowers and much more... High Street, Stockbridge

Tel: 01264 810 513

www.broughtoncrafts.co.uk

Romsey and Stockbridge's **Maker Markets** provide an opportunity to shop local, with handmade creations and local crafts from soap to homeware, jewellery to clothing and everything in-between!

Chapel Arts Studios in Andover delivers creative education through residencies, workshops and art projects. Their regular programme of events aims to bring art to the community, with pop-up shops, art exhibitions and workshops - make sure you check out what's on!

Project Workshops is a vibrant centre for visual arts in Quarley, just outside Andover. It's home to a community of artists who create unique and stunning art, from ceramics and glass to sculpture and furniture.

The Test Valley Tales podcast is a series of folk tales, written and told by Amanda Kane Smith, each set in real locations around the Test Valley, including Mottisfont, Danebury Ring, Amport Woods and Stockbridge.

From dragons and magical fish to enchanted trees and spectral horses, Test Valley Tales brings the stories and legends of this beautiful borough to life. With 10 story locations to choose from to visit, you can immerse yourself in the stories as you enjoy the wonderful walks and picturesque places Test Valley has to offer.

Suitable for ages 7 to 107, each episode features one of the tales, a few facts and an interview about the story themes.

To listen, search for 'Test Valley Tales' on your preferred listening platform or visit: www.merry-go-roundstorytelling.co.uk/testvalleytales where you will also find related walks, crafts and links.



TOP TIP!



Go Exploring Through the Magic of Storytelling with the Test Valley Tales Podcast

A Test Valley encore

There's nothing quite like a live performance, whether it's theatre, comedy or dance, especially after we've had to miss out on them on and off over the past couple of years. Test Valley offers a host of wonderful ways to enjoy live entertainment, and we welcome the return to the stage.

Test Valley has a selection of theatres that host a vibrant programme of shows and performances all year round.

The Lights in Andover is a cultural hub of activity offering a full professional programme of music, theatre, comedy and dance together with an arts-related education and training programme, community group performances, exhibitions and gigs, there is also a stylish cafe area and wine bar for you to enjoy.

If you enjoy amateur theatre, then you'll love the Plaza Theatre in Romsey. An art deco venue with bucketfuls of character, the Plaza offers Pantomime, Musicals, Comedy, Drama, Dance, Youth productions and tribute bands and live music.



MUSIC IN TEST VALLEY

You just can't beat live music and Test Valley plays host to lots of musical events over the year, so you can listen, dance, and enjoy some great entertainment during your visit.

Romsey Chamber Music Festival will be playing 'Fairytale and Fantasy' at United Reformed Church from 21st - 24th April.

Broadlands Estate in Romsey welcomes several large music events throughout the year. In 2022 you can relive old classics with the Legends Festival, held at Broadlands 24-25 June. The popular Park Proms also returns to the estate on the 26-27 August and is an unmissable experience featuring world-class artists.

There's also Romsey's summer music festival, Beggars Fair which takes place on Saturday 9 July.

In another picturesque setting, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens hosts the Summer Soul Spectacular on 8th - 9th July and the



@Stonepig 2022

Family Summer's End Picnic Concert on 27th August. An open-air classical concert, Last Night of the Proms on 10th September features all the usual Last Night favourites including Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia and Jerusalem - Perfect for a champagne picnic!

You'll also find live music in many of the local pubs and venues. The Cromwell Arms and Kimbridge Barn in Romsey have regular live entertainment, and The White Hart and The Rockhouse in Andover are popular choices to enjoy an evening watching a live band.

COLOURFUL CARNIVALS

For sights and sounds on street level, Rio Comes to Romsey Mardi Gras Carnival during 11th - 16th July, Andover Carnival takes place on 17th July and Romsey's Winter Carnival celebrated on 26th November.

the Lights andover



The Lights Theatre, Andover has a 249 seat professionally fitted auditorium, with a separate Arena space for live music.

It offers a packed programme of professional shows – top comedy, drama, dance and music as well as a café-bar.

www.thelights.org.uk

Box Office: 01264 368368

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Toast to the Test



©Danebury Vineyard

Test Valley is renowned for producing delightful tipples, from full-bodied wines to the finest gin, and award-winning ales. Its sheltered slopes make it a haven for growing the “holy trinity” of Chardonnay, Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir to make English sparkling wine, and the River Test is one of the purest chalk streams in England, offering crystal clear waters that make its riverbanks perfect for distilling.

FROM THE LOCAL VINE

If you have a nose for fine wine, love to sample the fresh botanicals of a delightful gin, or want to discover the flavour of the local brew, you’ve come to the right place!

Danebury Vineyard near Stockbridge, named after one of the most famous Iron Age hill forts in the country, covers seven acres of sheltered south-facing fields on chalk and flint soil and produces another award-winning sparkling and still white wine.

In Andover, Black Chalk Valley Vineyard uses oak barrels and time on lees to provide their wine with depth and complexity. The result is a fruit driven, perfectly balanced, crisp English sparkling wine.

If you prefer a glass of rosé on a hot summer’s day, Somborne Valley Vineyard is for you. Lying on the Hoplands Estate outside Kings Somborne, it has become renowned for its rich, creamy sparkling and delicate still rosé.

You may recognise The Leckford Estate as it’s owned by the John Lewis Partnership. It produces 57 tonnes of grapes from its 17,000 vines - enough to fill 37,000 bottles! The estate includes a farm shop, café and plant nursery, which you can explore.



Don't miss the annual Vineyards of Hampshire Fizz Fest on 24th July at Black Chalk, with special guest, TV Wine Expert, best-selling author & Hampshire resident, Helen McGinn.

Sample over twenty different sparkling and still wines, plus live entertainment, masterclasses and food stalls.

GIN, BEER, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

If it's gin that tickles your taste buds, then a visit to Bombay Sapphire Distillery at Laverstoke Mill will share 1000 years of its history. Walkthrough its famous Glasshouses and awaken your senses with the showcase of botanicals. The River Test Distillery producers of Mayfly Gin, crafts 'True River Spirit', and is a must-try for any gin lover. In Andover, you'll find Test Valley Gin, where you can enjoy a relaxed experience in their tasting room.

For those who prefer something with a bit more bite, you'll love the biscuit hues of the hops at Flack Manor Brewery in Romsey with their distinctive



rich golden summer ales, full flavour classic bitters and smooth ruby-coloured beers. While you're enjoying the taste of local, sample ales from Betteridge's Brewery that lies just north of Andover.

In the heart of Andover, you'll find The Andover Tap. A micro-bar where you can enjoy real and craft ales, local gins and a selection of wines. If you're feeling a bit peckish then their local pork pies, quiche, snacks and nibbles, washed down with tea and locally roasted coffee will really hit the spot!

Test Valley really does have something to suit all tastes, with many establishments offering charming venues and a warm welcome.



DANEbury VINEYARDS

Distinctly English Wine

One of Hampshire's older vineyards, producing premium sparkling and still dry white wines from their single vineyard on the chalk slopes near Stockbridge.

Information on ticketed open days and where to purchase wine www.danebury.com

Danebury Vineyards, Nether Wallop, nr Stockbridge SO20 6JX | 01264 781851

  @daneburyfizz



BOMBAY SAPHIRE Distillery

Based at Laverstoke Mill in rural Hampshire, just 15 miles from Winchester and 60 miles from London, the Bombay Sapphire Distillery is in a conservation area with over 1000 years of history.

Showcasing the care, skill and artistry behind every drop of Bombay Sapphire, the distillery is open 7 days a week and offers a range of gin tours and cocktail masterclasses.

Book online at www.bombaysapphire.com/distillery/

Bombay Sapphire Distillery, London Road, Whitchurch, Hampshire RG28 7NR





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TROUT 'N ABOUT!

YOUR TEST VALLEY SHOPPING LIST

You won't be able to visit Test Valley without a full shopping list of must-try fresh local produce. Whether you buy to take away or enjoy it in one of the many eateries, get ready to treat your tastebuds!

Shopping is made easy with Hampshire Farmers' Markets in Romsey on the first Sunday of every month.

Hampshire Fare has been championing local produce to consumers and trade businesses for over 30 years. Visit www.hampshirefare.co.uk or pick up their free annual produce guide to find local food and drink ideas.

Hampshire Fare also organises the biggest Food Festival in the country, the Hampshire Food Festival. Encompassing BBQ, markets, pop-ups, shows, tastings, trails and tours across the county in July. In 2022 they will be celebrating the 20th Hampshire Food Festival!

The much loved Trout 'n About food and craft event returns to Stockbridge High Street on Sunday 7th August showcasing the very best of artisan food.





THE FOUR HORSESHOES

The Four Horseshoes is a premium pub, bar and restaurant centrally located between Southampton and Romsey, situated in the Hampshire village of Nursling. The Four Horseshoes have some delightful garden spaces where you can sit outside, plus for Summer we have our BBQ hut called 'The Grill' where you can order everything from burgers to grilled chicken to enjoy in the sunshine.

OPENING HOURS

11.00 - 23.00 Monday - Saturday
11.00 - 21.00 Sunday

FIND US
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OFF JUNCTION 3
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Please come and visit us to enjoy our two garden areas, pub and separate restaurant, with ample car parking space available.

Tel: 023 8017 4355 www.thefourhorseshoes.co.uk



OPENING LATE SPRING 2022

Experience our premium bar restaurant with twelve luxurious new en-suite bedrooms, an inviting sunroom and beautiful outdoor spaces to explore being only a pebbles throw away from the River Test.

Our food and drink offering will embrace the very best of the Test Valley, with locally made real ales, wines and spirits and delicious regional dishes made by our specialist chefs.

The Duke on The Test, Greatbridge Rd,
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thedukeonthetest.co.uk
01794 377500

Taste the Test

Whitchurch Silk Mill

If you have an appetite for locally grown, mouth-watering food, fine wines and cask ales, you're going to enjoy a taste sensation in Test Valley. From honey to chilli oils, watercress to water buffalo, pasture-raised beef and artisan cakes – there's plenty on offer for tasting, not forgetting trout from the famous chalk streams of the River Test.

COSY COUNTRY PUBS

Dating back to the 17th Century the Old House at Home in Romsey offers a cosy setting amongst its period features, with a selection of fine wines and real ales to complement the excellent food.

The Peat Spade in Longstock part of the Upham Pub Group boasts a passion for food and a genuine desire to work with local and regional family-firm suppliers to source the very best and freshest produce. The Greyhound on the Test in Stockbridge is a lovingly-restored 15th-century inn that not only serves the very best of the locally produced wines and ales but it has also received a medley of awards.

The Mayfly in Fullerton offers unspoilt views over the world-famous River Test and boasts an extensive wine list of almost 30 different varieties. The Three Tuns in Romsey is a Grade II listed building that offers an abundance of character and charm. Feel cosy amongst the traditional cottage setting at The Crown Inn at Upton while enjoying its modern touches.

DELIGHTFUL DINING

Test Valley has a number of restaurants providing the finest cuisine and tastes from all over the world. La Parisienne restaurant in Romsey is run by fully trained professional French chefs and staff, serving authentic French dishes. Clos du Marquis is an award-winning French restaurant found on Stockbridge High Street.

Purbani in Romsey pulls out all the spices with an impressive authentic Indian and Bangladeshi menu. For a fresh vibrant setting, the Rosebourne in Andover offers dining with a difference in their restaurant, with a delicious seasonal menu, afternoon tea, that showcase their proud connection with local produce.

MAKE TIME FOR TEA...AND CAKE!

If a tearoom or café is more your cup of tea, Honesty at Houghton Lodge Garden serves a range of pastries, cakes, tarts, biscuits and hot and cold seasonal dishes are served daily.

Miss Moody's Tudor Tea Room in Romsey gives visitors a quintessentially English experience, in the garden or the historic cottage, with traditional bone-china teapots and teacups and the delights of cream teas, homemade cakes and light lunches. Josie's in Romsey is a family-run cafe serving up homely food and the finest coffee, all freshly prepared. Nestled amongst the beautiful waterways of Hampshire's River Test is Kimbridge Barn, a relaxed café and tea room serving delightful homegrown produce.

For something a little different, The Apache Café at the Army Flying Museum is a unique spot with excellent views across the active Army Air Corps airfield, which is adjacent to the museum, you can enjoy a bite to eat whilst watching the helicopters.

If you're looking for a bite that's vegetarian or vegan you've got plenty of choices. That Little Tea Shop in Romsey has a large vegan breakfast and lunch menu, which includes a full breakfast and vegan cheese. Chalkhill Blue in Andover offers a full vegan menu with starter, main, and dessert options.



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KIMBRIDGE BARN

Just outside Romsey

Relaxed café, tea room and courtyard nestled amongst the beautiful waterways of the River Test, serving the very best of homegrown produce.

Open every day from 9am – 5pm serving breakfast, brunch, lunch and afternoon tea.

Dogs and cyclists very welcome.

Kimbridge Barn
TEA ROOMS CAFE EVENTS

01794 339444

IDEALCOLLECTION.CO.UK/VENUES/KIMBRIDGE-BARN



Chilbolton Cow Common

Wide open spaces

The beauty of having such wonderful landscapes means that Test Valley offers the perfect rural retreat for countryside lovers. Whether you are a serious Rambler or a seasonal ambler - there are open spaces to explore and enjoy.

Walking is the ideal way to take in Test Valley's beautiful villages. With chalk downs and wooded hills of the North Wessex Downs as their backdrop, the countryside is connected by hundreds of miles of public rights of way. Each walk takes on a new identity depending on the season, from the new spring flowers to autumnal colours. Rest assured there will be stunning views and sites to see whatever time of year you are enjoying a Test Valley amble.

RECOMMENDED WALKS!

Starting at The Lights theatre in Andover, this circular walk follows footpaths to the stunning setting of Anton Lakes Local Nature Reserve - the source of the River Anton. Ideal for those with a love of flora and fauna, its natural beauty is simply breathtaking - water meadows, cattle-grazed grass chalkland and fields of watercress.

In spring watch out for new life and vibrant colours.

Ladies Walk offers great views across Andover. The path forms part of the pre-Roman track known as the Mark Way where 121 trees were planted to commemorate the wedding of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales - who later became King Edward VII - to Princess Alexandra of Denmark in 1863. Of the original trees, horse chestnut, beech, oak and sycamore still remain and bring stunning autumn colours in the fall.

Wherwell near Stockbridge has to be one of the most attractive villages in Test Valley, with a large number of thatched properties. This easy, four-mile walk reveals a village which was once renowned for its Abbey, relics of which can still be seen alongside the present Victorian Church. Make sure you take your camera, it really is a picture-perfect village, with a wintery backdrop it's a Christmas card waiting to happen. Look out for the child and dog-friendly White Lion pub built in 1611.

For more details on local walking routes: www.VisitTestValley.co.uk



A FOUR-LEGGED ADVENTURE

If you love nothing more than sharing adventures with your dog, then you'll love the abundance of dog-friendly places to visit in Test Valley. From long walks to cosy country pubs, don't let your best friend miss any of the fun!

You'll both love visiting dog-friendly Houghton Lodge Gardens near Stockbridge and exploring the stunning grounds, and Mottisfont is another dog-friendly attraction that welcomes your four-legged friend on a short lead around the gardens as well as a six-mile walking route around the estate.

Just a 15-minute walk (or 3-minute drive) from Mottisfont visitor car park lies Spearywell Wood. This is a National Trust owned woodland on the Mottisfont estate. You and your pup can enjoy a lead-free walk around the 1.5-mile circular walk, marked out with concrete markers.

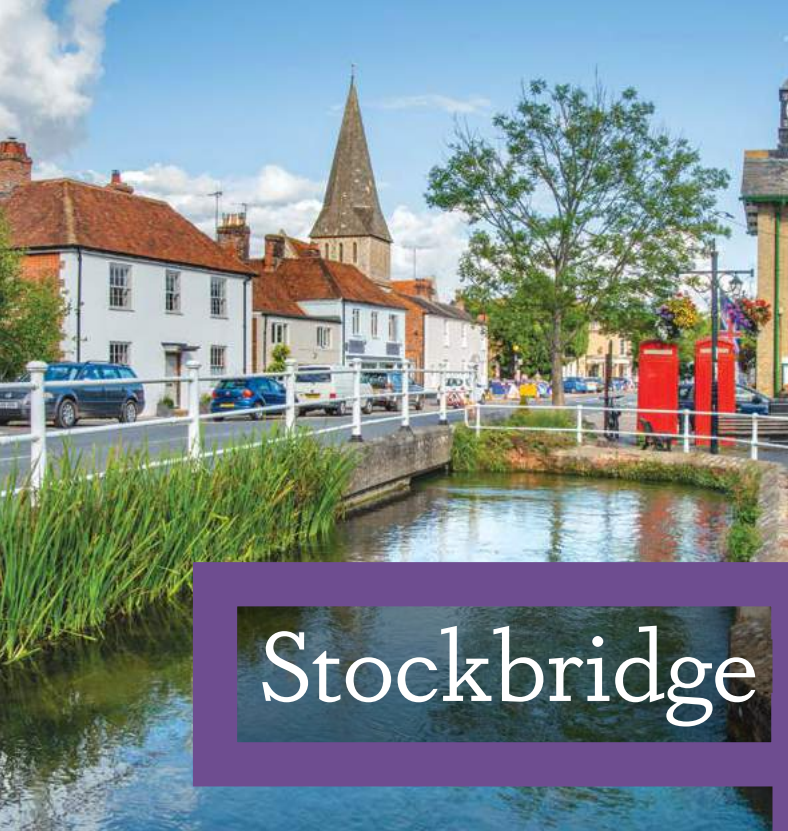
Walking with your dog is the ideal way to take in Test Valley's beautiful villages. With chalk downs and wooded hills of the North Wessex Downs as their backdrop, the countryside is connected by hundreds of miles of public rights of way. Each walk takes on a new identity

depending on the season, from the new spring flowers to autumnal colours. Rest assured there will be stunning views, sites to see, and plenty for your dog to sniff whatever time of year you are enjoying a Test Valley amble.

When it comes to eating out in the Test Valley you'll find most will offer your furry friend a warm welcome. The Rockingham Arms and The Cromwell Arms in Romsey, The White Hart in Stockbridge, The Old Bell in Andover, The White Lion Wherwell and The Wheatsheaf Braishfield to name a few.

For a fabulous dog-friendly walking route, why not try the Test Way at King's Somborne. The former railway line runs alongside open farmland, through the river valley. A warm welcome awaits you all - the dog included - at the thatched Crown Inn in Stockbridge, which offers traditional pub food and a nice, chilled pint. Ideal on a warm sunny day with the cool river water passing you by.

Share your picture of you and your pooch exploring Test Valley on social media using **#DogsloveTestValley**



Stockbridge



& Andover

Lying at the heart of Test Valley, Stockbridge's picturesque Georgian High Street reflects its early role on a drovers' road where it was common to see flocks of sheep or herds of cattle being driven through the town en route from Wales. Look for the Drovers House and you can still spot a sign in Welsh.

Today, Stockbridge High Street offers a wide variety of shops from an art gallery, interior design studio and boutiques to specialist food shops, including a fishmonger, greengrocer and butcher.

Tearooms, pubs and hotels offer local fare to suit every taste. Stockbridge's link with the River Test, and in particular the brown trout, is celebrated at the Trout 'n About festival, which takes place in August. Voted Britain's Best Foodie Street, local produce is all part of the visitor experience, be it beer from nearby Hurstbourne Tarrant, trout from the River Test or buffalo burgers from Broughton Down.

Andover owes much of its character to its prominence as an important 18th century coaching town, with many of the buildings maintaining their charming style and features from this period. Most notable among these are

the imposing Grade II listed Georgian Guildhall and the Star and Garter Hotel.

Modern day Andover has a compact and bustling town centre, with a very pleasant pedestrian environment boasting more than 250 retailers, from high street favourites to an array of specialist independent shops and boutiques.

The town has a fantastic street scene with more than 30 pubs, restaurants, café's and coffee shops, some of which sit alongside the tranquil River Anton as it weaves through the town centre. The range of boutique coffee shops, appetizing restaurants, traditional hostelrys and tempting eateries make it the ideal place to relax and meet with friends.

With a twice-weekly market, a monthly Artisan Market, regular events, annual carnival and many other activities, Andover has a real buzz throughout the year.

Conveniently located off the A303, the town has great road links to the M3 and M4 motorways and a direct fast rail link to central London. The town centre is also served by more than 2,000 car parking spaces and plays host to Andover Leisure Centre, The Lights Theatre, Chantry Centre shopping mall and The Museum of the Iron Age.



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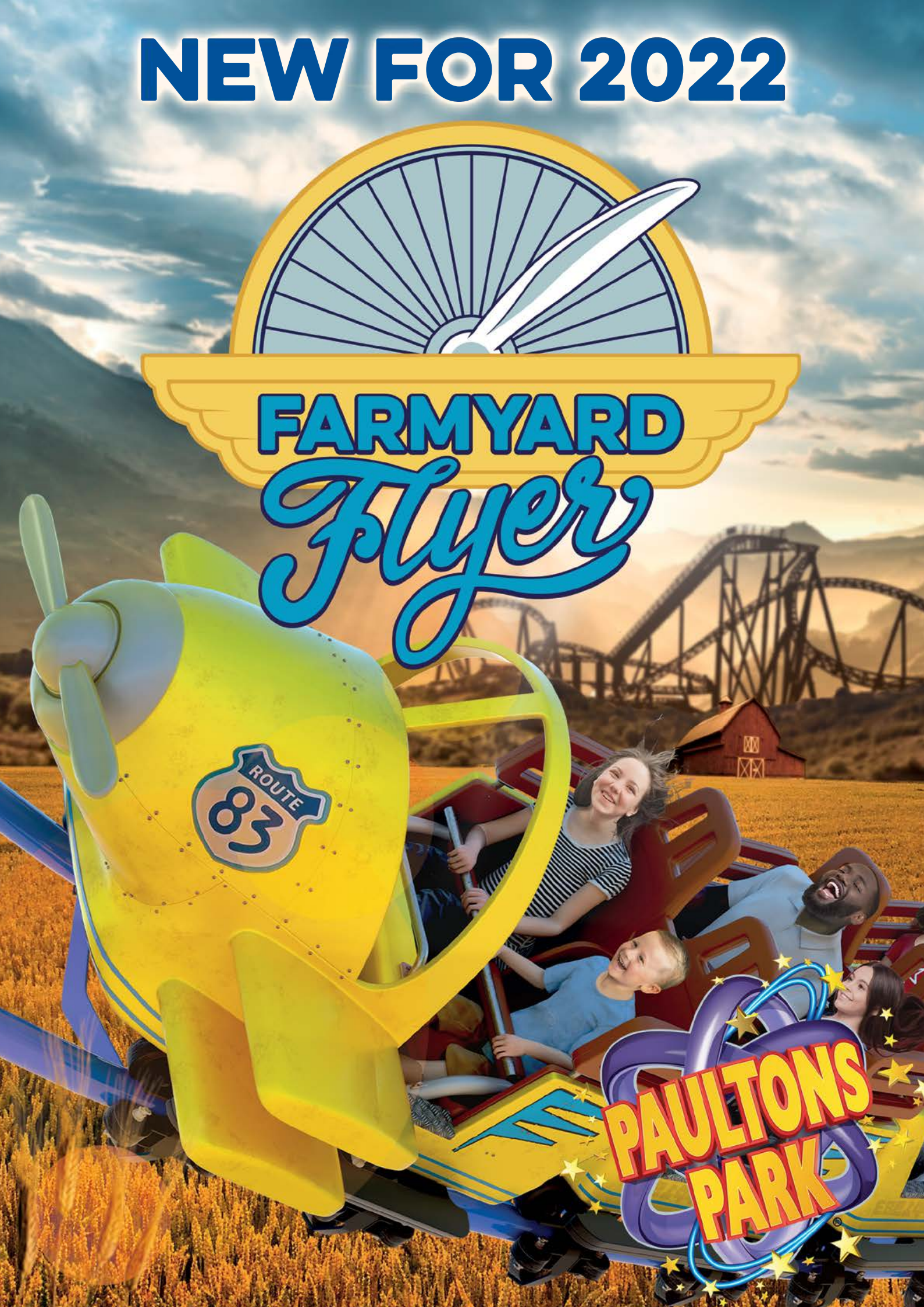
This family-owned retirement village, with an Elizabethan, Grade I listed Manor house at its heart, is underpinned by a sense of community, like-minded people, a wealth of amenities and hotel-inspired facilities, coupled with easy access to 27 acres of open spaces in which to relax. Lifestyle and wellbeing are at the heart of the Grove Place offering and 24-hour care is available should you need it. An enriching environment for you and peace of mind for your family.

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For further details please call **Wendy Griffith** on **T. 02381 244 275** or **E. wgriffith@groveplacevillage.co.uk**.

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