


Test Valley Visitor ²⁰²⁰ Guide



Come and stay, explore and enjoy our story of this part of Hampshire

www.VisitTestValley.co.uk

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Welcome to the Test Valley

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If you've discovered Test Valley then you've uncovered a quintessential corner of England. An idyllic escape to the countryside, Test Valley offers a harmonious retreat that will leave your heart-warmed and mind-rejuvenated. This beautiful part of the country is home to the market towns of Andover, Stockbridge and Romsey, each with a unique identity and all offering a warm Test Valley welcome. Hampshire's longest river, the River Test, with its gin-clear waters, meanders through the heart of the district making it the perfect spot for riverside ambles. Here you can be at

Explore Test Valley, and find yourself

one with nature, alongside the world-renowned mecca for dry fly fishing.

So whether you are here for the day, a short break, or longer, this guide captures the best places to visit to make the most of your time. Explore this little piece of hidden England; take in lively market towns; visit the area's magnificent gardens and marvel at its history from ancient hill-forts to Edwardian country houses. Walk through breathtaking landscapes; taste delicious local produce and relish the serenity of the River Test...discover this destination that does wonders for the mind, body and soul!

Where to find out more

The award-winning Visitor Information Centre in Romsey and eight tourist information points across the borough offer a wide range of promotional guides to help you enjoy your stay in Test Valley and plan fantastic days out.

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

The Visitor Information Centre,
13 Church Street, Romsey,
SO51 8BT Tel: 01794 512987

Email: romseyvic@testvalley.gov.uk
Facebook: [Romsey Visitor Information Centre](https://www.facebook.com/RomseyVIC)
Twitter: [@moreRomsey](https://twitter.com/moreRomsey)

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Visitor Information Services
the Beautiful South

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE
2017 - 2018



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To find out more about advertising in the guide contact: dgleave@testvalley.gov.uk

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

Facebook: [@Visit-Test-Valley](https://www.facebook.com/Visit-Test-Valley) Instagram: [@visit_test_valley](https://www.instagram.com/visit_test_valley) Twitter: [@VisitTestValley](https://twitter.com/VisitTestValley)

Easy to visit, perfect for exploring...

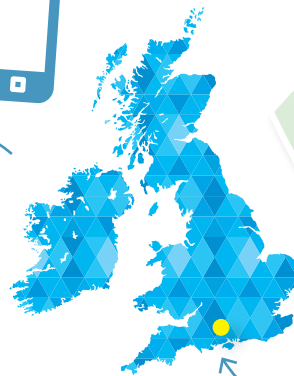
Test Valley is "West Hampshire" and its three main towns of Andover, Romsey and Stockbridge are easily accessible. Andover lies on the A303 which stretches from North Hampshire to Devon and is on the main London Waterloo to Exeter railway line. The historic market town of Romsey is only a short distance from the M27 and M3 and is on the main Portsmouth to Cardiff railway line with connections via Southampton to London Waterloo and Bournemouth. Nestled between the historic cities of Winchester and Salisbury and the New Forest National Park, it's the perfect location to base yourself for exploration.



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/visitorsguide



We are here!



Visit the beautiful Test Valley area with hourly South Western Railways or Great Western Railways train services to Romsey, Mottisfont and Dunbridge, Dean, Grateley or Andover Stations.

In summer, a Sunday rail - bus service operates between these stations, recreating most of the old

Sprat and Winkle rail line closed in 1967. The bus will link up with major local tourism attractions including Romsey

Abbey, Mottisfont Abbey, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Houghton Lodge and Gardens, Stockbridge, Danebury Hill Fort, The Army Flying Museum, The Hawk Conservancy and much more!

For information visit
www.threeriversrail.com
www.facebook.com/threeriversrail
or www.twitter.com/threeriversrail



Alternatively, contact info@threeriversrail.com or call **07900 103296** for more details about visiting the Test Valley area by train.

Events Calendar

A Portrait of the National Trust: 125 Stories for 125 Years

All year | Mottisfont

Easter Family Trail 28th March - 20th April

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

Hoppy Easter 4th - 19th April

Paultons Park
www.paultonspark.co.uk

Sky Hunters at Sunset 25th April, 30th May, 18th July and 8th August

Hawk Conservancy Trust

A Fest, 3rd May

Andover Town Centre

Tornado Springs – Official Opening Date 19th May

Paultons Park
www.paultonspark.co.uk

CONCERTS SUMMER SUNDAYS

Romsey War Memorial Park
Bandstand at 2.30pm
Lunchtime Concerts in
Romsey Abbey most
Tuesdays from 1.10pm
www.RomseyAbbey.org.uk

Rose season

June | Mottisfont

Thruxton Historic 6th & 7th June

Thruxton Motorsport Centre

Romsey Festival of Youth Music 20th June to 3rd July

www.rfoym.org.uk

A Flight at the Movies 27th June

Hawk Conservancy Trust

British Trucks Race Meeting 27th & 28th June

Thruxton Motorsport Centre

Romsey Festival 4th to 19th July

www.RomseyFestival.org

Romsey Test Rotary Mayor's Picnic 5th July

Romsey War Memorial Park
www.rotaryclubofromsey
test.org.uk

Romsey Art Trail 5th July

Beggar's Fair 11th July

Romsey Town Centre

Gardens Open Evening 14th July 6.30 – 9pm

Paultons Park
www.paultonspark.co.uk

Michael Morpurgo: A Lifetime in Stories, 18th July – 6th September

Mottisfont

Romsey Summer Carnival Parade 19 July

Stockbridge Open Gardens 25th & 26th July 2pm – 5pm

Stockbridge High Street

DemFest at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens 26th July

Trout n About 2nd August

Stockbridge High Street
www.stockbridgebusiness.
co.uk/event/trout-n-about



Bennetts British Superbike Championship 7th - 9th August

Thruxton Motorsport Centre

Andover Festival of Motoring 30th August & 27th September

Andover High Street

Romsey Food Festival & Farmers Market 6th September

Romsey town Centre

The Romsey Show 12th September

Broadlands Estate, Romsey

Rotary Romsey Test "Walk the Test Way" 27th September

www.walkthetestway.org.uk

Storytelling Festival 5th to 10th October

Happy Halloween 15th October to 2nd November

Paultons Park
www.paultonspark.co.uk

Remembrance Day Parade 8th November



Christmas Lights Switch On, 20th November

Andover

Christmas Light Switch On & Winter Carnival Parade 21st November

Romsey

Christmas at Paultons 21st November – 23rd December 2020

Paultons Park
www.paultonspark.co.uk/
christmas

Small Business Saturday and Stockbridge Christmas 5th December

Stockbridge High Street

Christmas Carols and Owls by Moonlight 18th & 19th December

Hawk Conservancy Trust

Christmas Hampshire Farmers Market 20th December

Romsey

Carols in Romsey Market Place Monday 21st December

Market Days in Test Valley Hampshire Farmers' Markets

Don't miss!

🏠 French Market in Romsey:

29 March, 29 November

🏠 French Market in Andover:

24 April, 10 July

🏠 Antiques, Collectables & Decorative Arts Fair: 17 May, 18 October

🏠 Andover's Artisan Markets:

15 March, 19 April, 17 May, 21 June,
19 July, 16 August, 20 September, 18
October, 15 November, 20 December.

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

📱 @Visit-Test-Valley 📷 @visit_test_valley 📺 @VisitTestValley

Connect yourself 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. This year unveils the area's links to the Mayflower as it celebrates 400 years since it set sail from Southampton. Test Valley also enjoys iconic links to a fascinating literary history that can be discovered throughout the district. Your visit will bring you closer to an abundance of historic architecture, as Test Valley boasts more Iron Age hill forts than anywhere else in Hampshire and 6 watermills in Andover that date back to the Domesday Book....step back in time and discover it for yourself.

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. Pick up a copy of **Literary Test Valley** for your guide to places and attractions that helped create the words we all know and love.

Transport yourself back through time with a visit to one of Romsey's oldest buildings - **King John's House** and **Heritage and Visitor Centre**. Uncover 750 years of history in just one day. Explore the exhibitions and fascinating artefacts from around the Romsey area - from a fossilised Mammoth tooth to

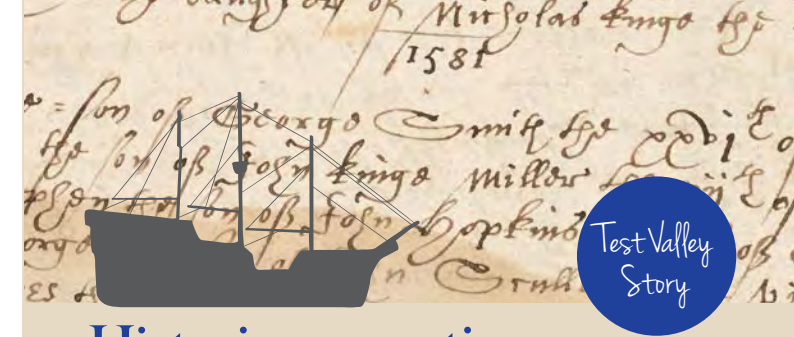
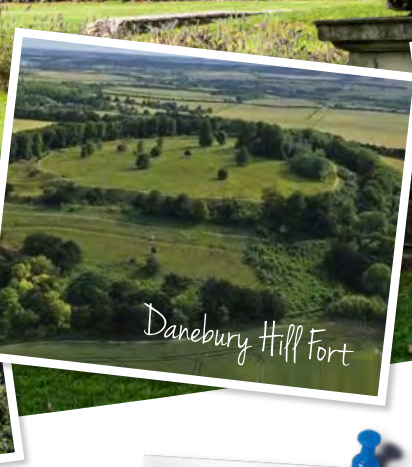
medieval graffiti! There's monthly talks and a busy events programme to be enjoyed by all the family,

If you are searching for Norman architecture, **Romsey Abbey** is one of the finest examples in southern England. Today, it's an active parish church and venue for many music events and organ recitals, so perhaps catch a concert while you are here.

Andover Museum and **Museum of the Iron Age** uncover the town's fascinating past and the events and tales that put it on the map. It tells the story of Weyhill Fair where Hardy's "Mayor of Casterbridge" sold his wife, as well as the scandal of the Andover Workhouse. It unveils what life was like for those who farmed, fought and died at **Danebury Hill Fort**, built 2,500 years ago. The view from the top is simply magnificent - a picture-perfect snapshot of the beautiful surrounding countryside.

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. In addition to its famous rose garden, it now hosts exhibitions all year round, which help to bring Mottisfont to life.





Historic connections:

On 15 August 1620, **The Mayflower** set off from Southampton with 102 Pilgrims on board. **Bound for the New World**, The Mayflower and Speedwell left together in what would be a voyage of discovery leading to the founding of New England. Recent **historic findings** have discovered that a Minister's Clerk on board the ship was **Stephen Hopkins from Upper Clatford**, near Andover.

Stephen Hopkins was baptised in All Saints' Church, Upper Clatford, on 30 April 1581. He served as a Minister's Clerk on board the Sea Venture in 1609 and was shipwrecked when it sunk off Bermuda. It is believed that an account of the shipwreck was later passed to Shakespeare and formed part of his inspiration for *The Tempest*. A few years later Stephen returned to Hursley, near Winchester. In 1620 the opportunity to start a new life in America was presented and Stephen left for America again, this time with his family onboard the Mayflower.

Since this historical connection was made in 2009, a few of the many thousands of his descendants have made a pilgrimage back to Upper Clatford.

Top reasons to #VisitTestValley

- Attractions for all the family to enjoy.
- Historic accommodation, country manor houses hotels and unique rural retreats.
- Stunning countryside walks.
- A haven for foodies and lots of local producers.
- Fascinating history and heritage.

Share your adventures and photos of Test Valley #VisitTestValley

River Anton in Clatford



Celebrating Mayflower connections throughout 2020

4 May Upper Clatford May Fayre in the theme of the Mayflower.

6 May 7.30 pm The UK premiere of *Stephano*, The true story of Shakespeare's shipwreck. Upper Clatford Village Hall.

6 & 7 June 11 am-5 pm Stephen Hopkins and the Mayflower: A flower festival to mark the 400th anniversary. All Saints' Church, Upper Clatford.

13 Aug 12 noon A visit to Upper Clatford by a group of descendants of Stephen Hopkins.



HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL TRUST

ANDOVER MUSEUM

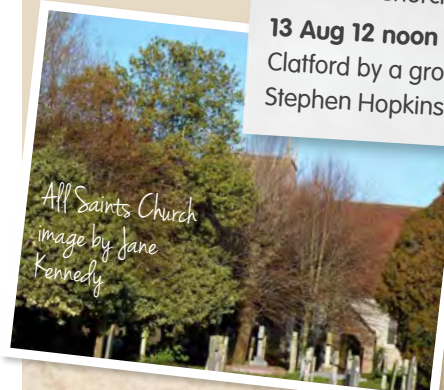
AND MUSEUM OF THE IRON AGE



Admission FREE

Hampshire County Council Winchester City Council

www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk



1620 - 2020

Mayflower 400

Connect yourself with the past...

The region's history doesn't end at ground level as the newly-refurbished **Army Flying Museum** in Middle Wallop celebrates the lives of the British Army's soldiers in the air. Walk around the aviation hangers adorned with artefacts, trophies, simulators and aircraft.

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. A visit to the Whitchurch Silk Mill promises a delightful day out. Take in the history that's etched in the mill and indulge in stunning silk products produced at the mill and available to buy in the shop. Sit and enjoy lunch and refreshments at the tea room, and if you're lucky you may even spot a kingfisher thrashing past you on the peaceful banks of the River Test.

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. There are many stunning churches to be explored in Test Valley, with incredible architecture, intriguing histories and fascinating links with famous characters. Look out for the **Parish Churches of Test Valley leaflet** for more information.



WHITCHURCH
SILK MILL
HERITAGE OF WEAVING



A gem of industrial heritage, Whitchurch Silk Mill is a **Grade Two star listed watermill on the banks of the River Test** and a working museum using original Victorian machinery to produce spectacular silks. During the Mill's history it has woven ribbons, serge, linings in 22 colours for Burberry, silk for insulating cables during World War Two, and black ottoman and satin for legal gowns. Today the Mill produces silk for items sold in the gift shop.

The unique story of the Mill is brought to life through **hands-on displays**, interpretative panels, views of the waterwheel and machinery, and stories from the Mill's warpers, winders and weavers. A **special**

exhibitions gallery and a programme of events and activities ensure there is always something new to see and do. Please see the Mill's website for details.

Visit us to discover how silk is made, from the cocoon to couture, and also enjoy our **Riverside Café** for a morning coffee and cake, a light lunch or a cream tea. A lift allows accessibility to all floors. Gift Aid your admission and receive free entry to the Mill for a year.

OPENING TIMES:

Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, from 10.30am to 5pm.

LOCATION: between Newbury and Winchester, and easily accessible from the M3, M4, A303 and A34.

WINNER
RIBA SOUTH
AWARD
2019

For more information, call 01256 892065
WHITCHURCHSILKMILL.ORG.UK



A visit to Romsey Signal Box

Romsey Signal Box is the centre of a unique working museum

in Romsey, open to the public twice a month. 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 the Signal Box 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 whole landscaped site in Brick Lane is easily accessible from Winchester Road, the town centre, the railway station and the old canal towpath.

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



Visit Romsey Abbey to Wonder, Discover & Experience

Home to a thriving community of worshippers and supporters
 Dating from c907, the largest parish church in Hampshire
 Accessible, located in Romsey town centre
 Abbey Stewards on duty to welcome you
 Come to worship or visit and explore
 Interesting heritage with historical artefacts
 Weekly Tour programme offered April to October
 A varied programme of concerts, recitals and events

Open daily with free entry. Donations welcome.



www.romseyabbey.org.uk

Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Parish Office, SO51 8EP, 01794 513125

parishoffice@romseyabbey.org.uk



Discover a Slice of Romsey's Hidden History

See our web site for seasonal opening hours
 Admission: Adult £5 Student £4 Child £1



We offer family tickets, guided tours and group bookings



Visit us and discover mysterious architectural clues to the origins and use of this fascinating and enigmatic medieval building and adjoining Tudor Cottage. See the rare animal bone floor and 14th-Century graffiti etched on the medieval walls. King John's House is set in a secluded, period-style garden, which creates an attractive backdrop to the delightful Miss Moody's Tudor Tea Room, offering home-made lunches and traditional afternoon teas

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



@kingjohnshouse | Follow us for our regular programme of talks and events. Managed by King John's House and Tudor Cottage Trust Ltd, an independent charitable Trust supported by Test Valley Borough Council. All proceeds go towards the preservation of this important historic property

Discover Life in a Rural Setting

There is so much life to be discovered in the Test Valley, from the delight in nature that resides in its lush green meadows to the inspiration you'll feel as you explore the wonderful countryside. Discover life by the river through walks and trails, feel at one with nature, and reveal the hidden secrets of this picturesque location. Be prepared to let this rural way of life reinvigorate all of your senses!

Life by the Riverside

Test Valley is an outstandingly beautiful area and the idyllic setting for a riverside amble or picnic on the riverbank.

Famous for its gin-clear chalk streams which feed the Test, one of the most renowned fly-fishing rivers in the world.

Joining forces with the Test at Fullerton, just below Andover, is the River Anton, which flows through historic water meadows and the villages of Upper Clatford and Goodworth Clatford. Relax on the riverbank in the serenity of the crystal clear waters and catch a glimpse of the special wildlife that lives here. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the otters and water voles that call the River Anton home.

As you amble along the bankside footpaths you'll come across Rooksbury Mill in Andover. Once a fish farm and fly-fishing hot spot with a beautiful house and watermill, today it is a nature lover's idea of heaven with wonderful walks around the lakes and unspoiled views. In Romsey you can explore Fishlake Meadows, a wetland nature reserve boasting more than 170 species of birds as well as a vast array of insects, mammals and plants.

An anglers haven

The River Test is a 40-mile stretch of water with an extremely fertile environment for salmon, trout and grayling as well as 22 species of mayfly. It was on these banks that F. M. Halford invented modern-day dry fly fishing and the area is home to one of the most exclusive clubs you could ever hope to join.

Houghton Lodge estate has two beats on the River Test at Houghton where the season runs from 1st May – 15th October. There are quaint fishing huts to relax in with the opportunity to order fishing hampers, tuition and corporate fishing days. Fishing breaks can be arranged at The Apple Rooms at Houghton Lodge Gardens.

Houghton Fishing Club is the oldest private fishing club in Britain dating back to 1822 and has an exclusive and restricted membership of just 25. Now that's a testament to the quality catch you will find swimming here.

Visit www.fishingbreaks.co.uk for an insight into chalk stream fly-fishing on the River Test, with fishing guides, and tuition courses along with fishing holidays and short breaks. It also has details of two books by Simon Cooper: *Life of a Chalkstream* and *The Otters' Tale* which include the River Test.





The Test Way Long - Distance Trail

Imagine a place where time just hangs - where birds flit along a corridor of sparkling white and green and where you can wonder as red kites soar from one horizon to the next. Such a place is the glorious chalk escarpment called Inkpen Beacon which, improbable as it must seem, once used to be at the bottom of the sea! It also happens to be the start of the Test Way that leads gently for 44 miles (71km) to the Eling Tide Mill which has recently been fully restored, close by Southampton Water. Imagine as well, that under your feet and far below, are the massive chalk aquifers that have absorbed rain and snowmelt for millennia.

These aquifers slowly release their accumulated water like 'giant sponges' to create the springs that are the life force of the rare and iconic chalk streams flowing through the rolling chalk downland of the Test Valley. The first half of the Test Way keeps to the chalk downland which is typified by the undulating and pastoral landscape at Linkenholt and the distant views across the Bourne Valley between Hurstbourne Tarrant and St Mary Bourne.

At Fullerton - the halfway point - the Test Way joins the old track bed of the former Andover to Redbridge (near Southampton) railway affectionately known as the 'Sprat and Winkle' line. It shortly reaches the small town of Stockbridge where there is a wide choice of refreshment outlets that can satisfy the most discerning palate! The National Trust Mottisfont Abbey is also directly on the route as is the market town of Romsey.

Another special place and close to the finish at Eling Tide Mill, is the nationally important tidal Lower Test Nature Reserve, home to an infinite variety of wildlife.

Walking Hampshire's Test Way is £12.95 and is stocked at Waterstones in Andover, the Whitchurch Silk Mill, Broughton Crafts and the Bookmark both in Stockbridge, the Romsey Visitor Information Centre and the Eling Tide Mill.



Test Valley
Story

A four-legged adventure

If you love nothing more than sharing adventures with your dog, then you'll love the many 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.

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, Canada Common near Wellow, The Cromwell Arms, Romsey, The White Hart, Stockbridge, The Old Bell, Hatherden, The White Lion, Wherwell and The Wheatsheaf, Braishfield to name a few.



#DogsloveTestValley

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

Facebook: Romsey Visitor Information Centre

Twitter: @moreRomsey #visittestvalley



A walk through the seasons

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.

Spring

A walk amongst the wildlife

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.

Summer

The paw-fect summer walk

For a dog-friendly 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, which offers traditional pub food and a nice, chilled pint. It is ideal on a warm sunny day with the cool river water passing you by.

Autumn

A historical colour sensation

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.

Winter

The picture-perfect setting www.wherwell.net/walking

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.



Creating lasting memories

Test Valley has so much more to offer beyond its picturesque landscapes and rich history. It's a destination for creating lasting memories, putting smiles on faces, and bringing family and friends together. Experience great days out at wonderful attractions, learn and discover new things, and blow the cobwebs away on unique adventures!

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 new for 2020 - Tornado Springs, a new mid-west experience!

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 **cycling.visit-hampshire.co.uk/cycling**

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.



Army Flying Museum

Tucked away in Northwest Hampshire, the **Army Flying Museum** sits next to the busy Army Air Corps Airfield at Middle Wallop near Stockbridge.

The two large hangars house the journey of British soldiers in the air. From the pioneering days of balloons and kites in the late 1800s to the modern chapter of helicopter operations, more than 35 aircraft tell the story of army aviation. Imaginative displays with the clever use of interactive also give an insight in to the development of the British military.

For front row seats of these aircraft in action, look no further than the Museum's Apache Café. Overlooking the active airfield open daily with no need for museum admission, this is the spot to enjoy a bite to eat and watch the aircraft fly past. Good food, friendly staff and a great view make this a popular place to dine.

There is also a beautiful memorial, the only one in the country to list the names of over 5,000 soldiers who have died in service of British Army Flying. Its circular design is reminiscent of a tumulus, commonly found in Hampshire countryside and offers a quiet place to reflect on the bravery of army aviators past and present.

The museum reopened to the public in April 2019 following a £2.6 million Heritage Lottery funded refurbishment, bringing with it new displays, interactives and AV shows to enjoy.

The museum delivers easy access and affordability to visitors. Plus, if you Gift Aid your admission (UK tax payers only), you receive free admission in to the museum for an entire year.

The Army Flying Museum is open daily from 10am until 4.30pm and is easily accessible from the M3 and A303 on the A343 between Andover and Salisbury.

For more information, call 01264 781086 or visit the website www.armyflying.com

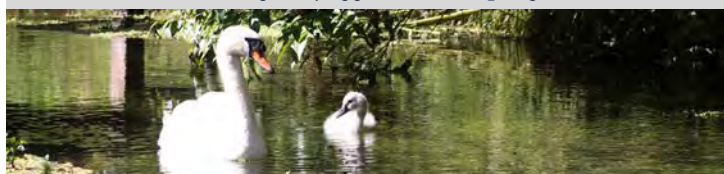


Visit

Houghton Lodge Gardens

Enjoy a visit to the gardens of the best surviving example of an 18th Century Cottage Orn  idyllically set above the tranquil waters of the River Test. Enchanting Walled Garden with chalk cob walls, peony walk & rose arbour. Explore 14 acres of picturesque countryside, riverside walks, charming Alpacas, topiary Dragon & Peacock Garden.

Open: 1st April - 30th Sept: 11am - 5pm Monday - Friday,
10am - 5pm Saturday/Sunday/Bank Holidays
 7.50 Adults,  3.50 Children, Under 3 FREE
House open by appointment to groups



www.houghtonlodge.co.uk

Near Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6LQ Tel: 01264 810502



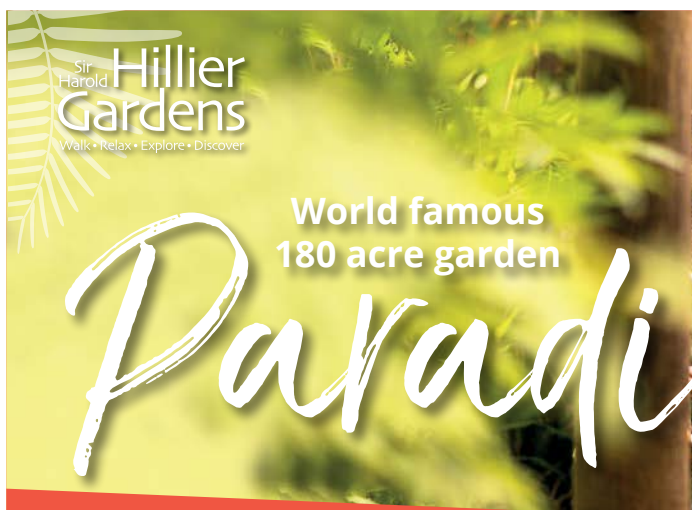
National Trust

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Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
Walk • Relax • Explore • Discover

World famous
180 acre garden

Paradise

One of the biggest Winter Gardens and longest double borders in Europe. Children's play areas inc Fantastic Tree House • Pond Pigs • Exhibitions • Restaurant & Tea Rooms • Free parking

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

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Hampshire
County Council



www.hants.gov.uk/hilliergardens

KIDS
UNDER 5
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Registered charity 274737



Beautiful gardens and hidden treasures

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

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.

Discover the **Sir Harold Hillier Gardens**, with its acclaimed water garden and collection of 42,000 plants from around the world, including 13 national plant collections and the largest winter garden in Europe. There are events throughout the year including, Art in the Garden, a sculpture exhibition running from May to October.

Go along to the glorious garden at **King John's House** to see many trees, shrubs and plants that would have been grown from medieval to Victorian times. From a medieval-style Herber, to well-stocked beds with flowers of the period, such as lavender, old roses and clematis, apple trees and a summer meadow. Follow the path which takes you to a fountain courtyard, then to the tearoom in the Victorian garden

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. Look out for Tom, Dick, Harry and Herbert the Alpacas!



King John's House



Mottisfont



Hillier Gardens



Houghton Lodge



Houghton Lodge

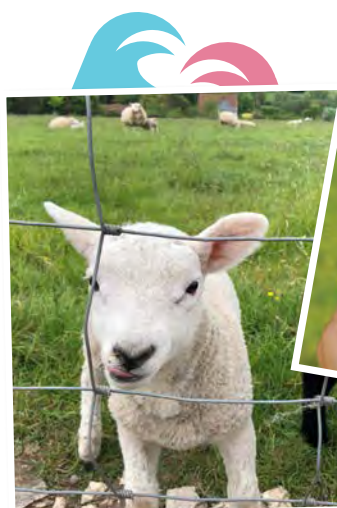


© Matt Pringle

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens & Arboretum

Something for those 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



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.

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TRAIL**

**HAWK
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01264 773 850 www.hawkconservancy.org**

@HawkConservancy

CHARITY NO: 1092349

Get the adrenaline pumping

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 or just enjoy spectating as the cars race past you.

In the trees of Harewood Forest, just off the A303 near Andover, is the UK's most exciting high ropes course. **The Treerunners** giant obstacle course can be found 30 feet up in the forest canopy and is perfect for kids, families and grown-ups alike for a heart-thumping adventure!

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. How about a bit of healthy family competition with **Andover's Riverside Bowl** or a fun swim at **Romsey Rapids Sports Complex**! 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!

Tee-time



Test Valley is home to a number of golf courses including Ampfield Golf and Country Club, which was founded in the early 1960s and was the original 18-hole, par three course in the country. Wellow Golf Club is set in more than 200 acres of picturesque parkland surrounding Embley Park, which was the former home of Florence Nightingale. At Paultons Golf Centre, you can choose to play on a nine or 18-hole course through rolling woodland plus a 24-bay floodlit driving range.

Indoor Bouldering & Climbing Centre



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- Corporate events
- Not just for kids
- Give it a go

t: 01794 590022

e: info@ggclimbing.com

www.ggclimbing.com



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Golden Gecko Climbing

Unit 34, Romsey Industrial Estate

Greatbridge Road

Romsey, SO51 0HR

Opening: Mon-Fri 10am-10pm Saturday 10am-8pm Sunday 12pm-8pm



“Family Time!”

Romsey Rapids Sports Complex has something for everyone

Rapids, Gym, Toning, Squash & Adventure Golf.

Buy your swim tickets in advance via the online Fast Track service!

Romsey Rapids Sports Complex
01794 835550

Visit website for full terms and conditions.

Test Valley
Borough Council

Managed by Places for People Leisure Ltd working in partnership with Test Valley Borough Council.

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!

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!



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RACE MEETINGS

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THRUXTON
MOTORSPORT CENTRE

Worzel Gummidge Returns to Hampshire



40 years ago, Southern Television brought scarecrow Worzel Gummidge to Hampshire, which provided the

backdrops for the classic ITV children's series. To mark this milestone, the original actors have revisited the show's locations to film Scatterbrook Days, a mini-episode continuing the story today.

Mike Berry and Jeremy Austin, who played father and son Mr Peters and John, return for the short film, which has been filmed in Braishfield, King's Somborne and Stockbridge. Mr Peters and John visit Scatterbrook village decades later, with John's young daughter in tow, on the hunt for a certain scarecrow... but will be still there?

Scatterbrook Days is a non-profit production made by Ten Acre Films and can be viewed on Youtube for free at youtu.be/8-3VxScv3hl



Walks around Hatherden
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Test Valley offers the perfect rural retreat for countryside lovers



Find out more about the Test Valley by following on:

 @Visit-Test-Valley
 @visit_test_valley
 @VisitTestValley

TEST VALLEY 2020 BOROUGH OF CULTURE

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.

The Test Valley Arts Foundation is an independent charity that supports arts and culture in the local communities. Since 1991 they have invested over £1million in the arts in Test Valley including funding a lead artist position who coordinates the Chapel Arts Community programme.

Test Valley **Arts**
Foundation



An artistic view

Iconic paintings and tales of the Iron Age are re-lived on the walls of the many galleries. **The Wykeham Gallery** in Stockbridge displays works of well-known British artists, and the gallery at **Mottisfont Abbey** is not to be missed. 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 an artist ever since. It exhibits a substantial collection of 20th-century pieces and hosts a series of changing exhibitions.

Watch the craftsmen at work at the **Fairground Craft and Design Centre** and visit the **Sheep Shed Gallery** at Weyhill where you can get hands-on or simply soak up the creativity with a coffee in the tearoom. **Chapel Arts Studios** in Andover delivers creative education through residencies, workshops and art projects.

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.

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.



THE FAIRGROUND CRAFT CENTRE

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FOR INDIVIDUAL UNIT INFORMATION AND OPENING HOURS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

WWW.FAIRGROUNDCRAFT.CO.UK

 : FAIRGROUND CRAFT CENTRE

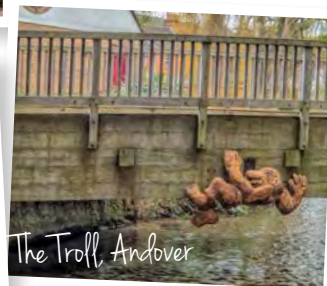
 : @FAIRGROUND_CRAFTERS



Sculpture and public art around the towns of the Test Valley

See more details here:
[www.testvalley.gov.uk/
communityandleisure/
artsandculture/publicart](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/artsandculture/publicart)

Image credits Angus Kirk on Flickr



Seasonal art exhibitions occur at Whitchurch Silk Mill.



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

WYKEHAM GALLERY



The Wykeham Gallery, located in Stockbridge is one of the country's leading contemporary art galleries exhibiting paintings of all media as well as an extensive selection of bronze sculptures, ceramics and glass. In 2017 we opened a Sculpture Garden at the rear of the Gallery. **High Street, Stockbridge, SO20 6HE**
Tel: 01264 810364 | enquiries@wykehamgallery.co.uk
www.wykehamgallery.co.uk

art, music, drama and more
a celebration of Romsey's rich history, culture and talents

 **ROMSEY FESTIVAL 2020**

4th to 19th July



MUSIC
and **ARTS,**
CRAFTS and
ENTERTAINMENT

events for all ages, young and old

www.romseyfestival.org

Celebrating creativity, emotion, innovation and expression in Test Valley.

Test Valley 2020 Borough of Culture is a year-long festival of events which celebrate the people, places, heritage and culture of the Test Valley. The festival aims to make the Borough's rich variety of cultural events and activities easy to find, encouraging people to engage with the local arts scene and find inspiration everywhere!

The series of events promises exhibitions, workshops, performances, fetes and competitions, all over the Test Valley region.



A few highlights from the events calendar:

MARCH

Andover Music Club present Martin Roscoe. Internationally-renowned pianist Martin Roscoe will give a recital including works by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Debussy and Chopin at The Lights, Andover.
andovermusicclub.co.uk

APRIL

The LARA festival Romsey and Andover Libraries are collaborating to host the LARA festival, a week of literary and art events, workshops and courses for all ages including author and illustrator talks, exhibitions and demonstrations from local artists and hands-on workshops.

MAY

Stockbridge Cinema presents: 'Chalk' CHALK is a fly fishing film about the past present and future of the chalk streams of England. We meet the people who continue to fish and care for these rivers, while learning about the techniques involved. As well as visiting the famous rivers and beats, we also travel to some lesser-known rivers.
stockbridgecinema.org.uk

JULY

Wykeham Young Arts Project Artwork by competition winners from 4 local schools takes over the windows at Wykeham Galley, Stockbridge for two weeks. Exhibiting students' work in a commercial environment builds enthusiasm and encourages aspiration among young people.
wykehamgallery.co.uk

AUGUST

Hampshire Open Studios Look out for the Test Valley mini-trail featuring artists from Andover to Romsey, and all the villages in between!
hampshireopenstudios.org.uk

NOVEMBER

Test Valley 2020 Gala Nights Featuring a selection of music, theatre, comedy and dance from participants of Test Valley 2020 Borough of Culture. The gala events will also feature a reprise of the sell out play 'It Happened In Hampshire' a lighthearted snapshot of the history of Hampshire over the last 1000 years. Events take place at **The Lights, Andover on 10th November** and **The Plaza, Romsey on 12th November**.

For a full listing of events to watch, participate in, and enjoy.
Discover more events visit
www.testvalley2020.org

The stage is set

There's nothing quite like a live performance, whether it's theatre, comedy or dance. A visit to the theatre will stimulate your mind and your senses, giving you food for thought and satisfaction the of a few hours well spent. Test Valley has a selection of theatres that host a vibrant programme of shows and performances all year round.

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 Live Music.

The Lights 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.



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.

the **Lights**
andover

www.thelights.org.uk
Box Office: 01264 368368



Come to Romsey's precious art deco theatre for the pick of the crop in home grown and touring entertainment.

We have new productions and musicals every month intertwined with the best in tribute bands and stand up.

40 Winchester Road, Romsey SO51 8JA
01794 523054

To plan your night out at The Plaza,
visit www.plazatheatre.com



Music in Test Valley

Returning every three years, **Romsey Festival** will be back in July 2020 with a wide range of events for all ages. Started in 1984 the festival offers a variety of art, music, drama and more, promising something for everyone. This year's festival includes a large variety of concerts, displays, exhibitions, all of which encourages new talent.

On the 11 July 2020, Romsey welcomes back its annual **Beggars Fair**. Enjoying its 28th year, the event will once again take over the town of Romsey, filling the streets with live music, dance and entertainment. Expect to see, hear and enjoy over 90 acts spread over 20+ venues and all for Free!

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



Pour, sip, and unwind

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.

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. And 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.

If it’s gin that tickles your tastebuds, then a visit to

Bombay Sapphire Distillery at Laverstoke Mill will share 1000 years of its history. Walk through 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!



The Andover Tap

2 Winchester Street, Andover SP10 2EA

Local and regional Real and Craft Ales.

Craft Gins from the best small distillers.

Light bites, Teas, Coffees and snacks.

All served in a welcoming friendly environment.

Wednesday to Saturday midday till 10.30pm

Sunday midday till 6.00pm.

Tel: 07866 555 243 Facebook: @TapAndover

Danebury Vineyards

Danebury Vineyards is one of Hampshire older vineyards, producing premium sparkling and still dry white wines from their single vineyard on the chalk slopes near Stockbridge.

Please visit their website for information on their ticketed open days and where to purchase their wine www.danebury.com

Danebury Vineyards, Nether Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6JX,
Tel: 01264 781 851 www.danebury.com Twitter/Instagram: @daneburyfizz

Test Valley Gin

Handcrafted, herb infused gin made in the heart of the Test Valley. We also make bespoke gin and have a beautiful Tasting Room available for private bookings. Pop by and say hello!



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*Purest chalk streams in England,
offering crystal clear waters
that make its riverbanks perfect
for distilling, and its hillsides
perfect for growing*



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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.

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Visit your local vineyards and winery for a tour, and a tasting of our award winning English sparkling wine.

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SP11 7JX



Tel: 01264 860440
www.blackchalkwine.co.uk
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Email: sales@blackchalkwine.co.uk



Three stunning venues in the heart of Hampshire,
all owned by the Upham Group...



The Peat Spade Inn sits in a picture postcard
setting in the beautiful village of Longstock

www.peatspadeinn.co.uk
Longstock, SO20 6DR



At the heart of charming Amport village, set alongside
chocolate box cottages, beautiful country gardens and
rolling hills, is The Hawk Inn.

www.hawkinnamport.co.uk
Amport, SP11 8AE



Just minutes away from the historical town of Winchester
sits our stylish village inn, it's the perfect venue for a leisurely
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www.runninghorseinn.co.uk
Littleton, SO22 6QS

Upham Group
Stakes Farm, Cross Lane, Upham, SO32 1FL
Tel: 01489 861383 | Email: info@uphampub.co.uk

Fill up on taste sensations



If you have an appetite for locally grown, mouth-watering food, fine wine 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. With a huge variety of pubs, cafes and restaurants serving food from a host of local producers, you'll be sure to be left feeling satisfyingly full.

Cosy country pubs

There's no better place to sample such local delights than in one of the many quaint country pubs dotted around the area.

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. Upham Pub Group selects their pubs based on their character and charm, 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. And if you're looking for an award-winning pub, The Three Tuns in Romsey is the Winner of Hampshire Life's Pub of the Year 2017. This Grade II listed building 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 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 on the London Road just east of Stockbridge.

Purbani in Romsey pulls out all the spices with an impressive authentic Indian and Bangladeshi menu. For a fresh vibrant setting, Rosebourne at Weyhill near Andover offers dining with a difference in its restaurant, with a delicious seasonal menu and afternoon tea which showcases 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 and biscuits, and hot and cold seasonal dishes are served daily.

Miss Moody's Tudor Tea Room in Romsey gives visitors the chance to enjoy the old-fashioned pleasure of traditional bone-china teacups as well as the delights of homemade cakes, scones, and light lunches. Newly opened in Romsey, Josie's family-run cafe serves up homely food and the finest coffee, all freshly prepared with passion every morning.

For something a little different, the **Apache Café** at the **Army Flying Museum** is a great spot to enjoy a bite to eat and watch the aircraft fly past. Overlooking the operational airfield, it's open daily with no need for museum admission.

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.

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, and Andover Artisan Market running on the third Sunday of each month.

Look out for Hampshire Fare produce! Hampshire Fare is one of the country's leading food groups representing over 300 local businesses.

Visit www.hampshirefare.co.uk or pick up Hampshire Fare's free annual produce guide to find local food and drink. Hampshire Fare also organises the award-winning Hampshire Food Festival which runs throughout July and celebrates the county's produce through farm walks, vineyard and brewery tours, cookery demonstrations, tastings, workshops and more.



THE OLD HOUSE AT HOME

"A hidden gem in the centre of Romsey"

Dating in part from the 17th Century, The Old House At Home combines period features with a relaxed atmosphere, excellent food and an extensive range of wines and real ales.

Just 2 minutes walk from the town centre, Romsey's only thatched roof pub retains its old world charm and is popular with locals and visitors alike. Friendly atmosphere, good food, well recommended.

Bespoke events . Celebrations . Birthdays . Baby showers . Funeral receptions

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www.theoldhouseathomeromsey.co.uk

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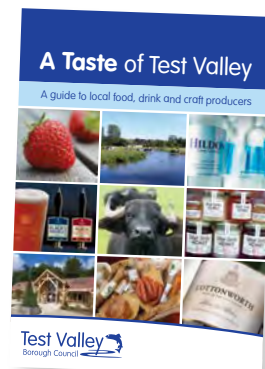
Hours of business:

5.30pm - Midnight . Everyday including ALL holidays

11 Bell Street, Romsey, Hants, SO51 8GY
Tel: 01794 522107 or 01794 524173

www.purbani.co.uk

Information on all the top producers and where to buy locally produced food is available in the A Taste of Test Valley leaflet, which can be found at Tourist Information Points and Romsey Visitor Information Centre.





THE CROWN INN UPTON



Nestled in the idyllic countryside setting of Upton, The Crown Inn is a traditional country pub that offers a heart-warming atmosphere alongside a modern restaurant feel. With ample parking and patchwork-green surroundings, it's the perfect spot to relax and unwind after exploring Test Valley.

In the summer months enjoy the outdoor seating with its rural backdrop as you sip a refreshing pint of local ale and cosy-up inside in the beautifully decorated interior during those cold winter months with a glass of fine local wine.

Head chef-patron Dave Watts creates culinary magic from the finest local produce, linking you directly to the small scale artisanal producers. Having trained under Raymond Blanc and proudly awarded a Michelin Bib Gourmand for 2020, Dave and his team will serve up delicious, freshly prepared delights with a clean, rustic charm.

The seasonal menus promise dishes packed full of flavour, from butter-poached Scottish langoustine to mouth-watering braised venison, and a dedicated Sunday lunch menu to leave you feeling gorgeously satisfied.







Whatever the occasion, The Crown Inn welcomes you. From a romantic anniversary meal to a large celebratory group, the friendly team will cater to your needs. It's also the perfect place to stumble upon after a long country walk or invigorating bike ride, a real hidden gem in the English countryside. With dogs welcome your four-legged friend can also enjoy a visit!

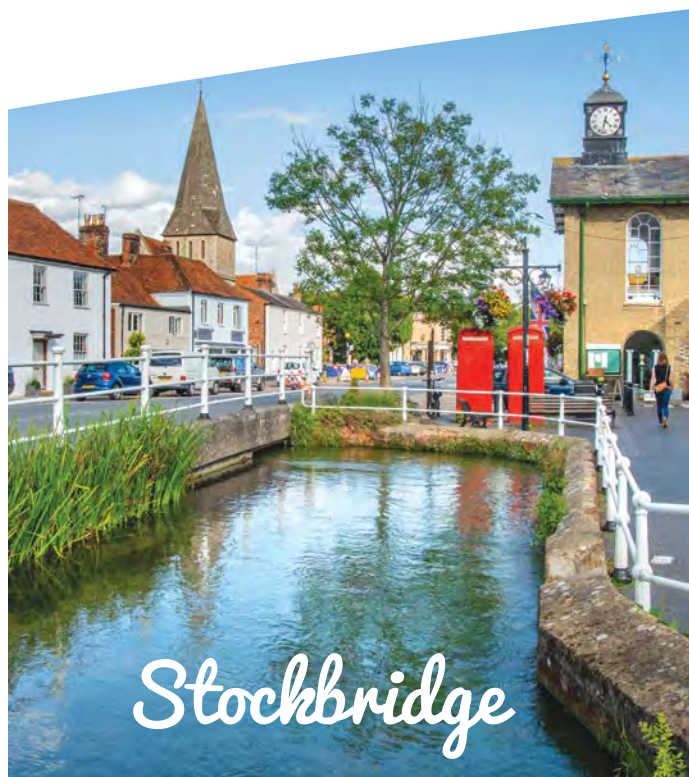
Open Wednesday to Sunday for lunch and dinner, this peaceful setting is the perfect spot to meet and enjoy those precious moments with friends and family. A welcoming atmosphere from all the team make The Crown Inn a must-visit venue on your Test Valley bucket list.

CONTACT US...

The Crown Inn, Upton, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 0JS
Call: 01264 736044 Email: bookings@crownupton.co.uk
www.crownupton.co.uk

 @thecrownupton  @thecrowninupton
 @InnUpton  Michelin BibGourmand 2020

Towns of the Test Valley



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 where 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. The latest addition is the transformation of **The Vine Inn** into a hub of new independents including **Vine Pianos**, a seamstress, hairdresser, bridal wear and **Wine Utopia**. 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 every 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.



As well as being mentioned as far back as the Domesday Book, 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 Star and Garter Hotel.

Modern day Andover has a compact and bustling town centre, with a very pleasant pedestrian environment boasting more than 200 retailers, from high street favourites to an array of specialist independent shops.

The town has a fantastic street scene with more than 30 pubs, restaurants, cafés 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 hosteleries 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 close to 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 the brand new **Andover Leisure Centre**, **The Lights Theatre**, **Chantry Centre** shopping mall and **The Museum of the Iron Age**.



St Mary's, Andover

A blue heritage plaque on 12 High Street, Andover marks the site of The Old Copper Kettle where Reg Presley, singer and songwriter of the 1960s Andover Rock band, The Troggs, played. They went on to record hits over 40 years and the nearby Pizza Express is well worth a visit, as lots of Troggs memorabilia can be seen there.



Explore the historic streets of Romsey with the Heritage Trail. Pick up a copy from the Romsey Visitor Information Centre. This building also houses the Moody Museum and King John's House and makes it the perfect place to begin the trail.



Find out more about the Test Valley by following on:

@Visit-Test-Valley
 @visit_test_valley
 @VisitTestValley

Test Valley Visitor Guide 2020



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

Romsey Market is an example of the town's impressive heritage. Enjoy wandering among the stalls on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Visit on the first Sunday of the month and you will 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 Heritage Centre**, which is a Tudor cottage in a former Victorian gun shop with a wonderful tea room in a cottage 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, which has been serving the town for many years.

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 or share a pot of tea for two in a family run tea room.



For nature lovers, **Fishlake Meadows** nature reserve on the outskirts of the town is well worth a visit. A spectacular 59 hectare wetland habitat, it is home to more than 170 bird species – a birder's paradise!

cpt
coach
friendly
status



towns, cities & villages



Romsey was awarded the first coach friendly town status in Hampshire!

A photograph of a man and a woman sitting on a wooden bench in front of a red brick house. The man is wearing a blue jacket and the woman is wearing a patterned jacket. They are both holding drinks. The house has a white door and a window with a white frame. There are plants and flowers in pots around the house. The text 'Staying in Test Valley' is overlaid on the image in a large, white, serif font. A large white arrow points from the text towards the right side of the image.

Staying in Test Valley

Base yourself amongst it all

and butcher. Andover has a compact and bustling town centre, with a very pleasant pedestrian environment boasting more than 200 retailers, from high street favourites to an array of specialist independent shops and boutiques. The ancient town of Romsey offers a wealth of independent boutiques and high street brands, as well as a fantastic selection of eateries.

B&Bs offer that homely feel as well as a delicious breakfast on the table each morning. Snuggle up in a cosy 17th-century cottage, book a charming 16th century listed farmhouse or relax in tranquil Georgian houses - the B&Bs in Test Valley have their own piece of history on the doorstep and provide great value for money.



 WIFI
 TV














Barns, farms and luxury

If you love to stay somewhere with a bit of character and to step out of your door into a unique setting, then you'll love some of the newest additions to Test Valley's accommodation offering. The spacious holiday lets at Gambledown Farm offer relaxing spaces amongst the peaceful farm setting, ideal for groups. You can also put yourself amongst nature with their African style safari tents, complete with stunning views across Test Valley. The Apple Rooms at Houghton Lodge and Gardens provide boutique en-suite bedrooms right next to one of Hampshire's most beautiful, privately owned historic houses, Houghton Lodge. Ideal for romantic getaways and rural retreats.

The Palmerston Rooms B&B

3-5 Palmerston Street,
Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8GF
Tel: 01794 840105

Email: info@thepalmerstonrooms.com

www.thepalmerstonrooms.com

4 Double, 1 Family, 1 Single, 2 Twin

Single from: £85 pppn

Double/Twin from: £95 ppp

(prices inclusive of breakfast)



Situated in the heart of Romsey Town Centre, The Palmerston Rooms is a beautiful Grade 2 listed town house. Newly re-furnished to the highest standard, offering 7 en-suite letting rooms. Within an easy walk of train & bus stations. You will always be sure of a warm and friendly welcome from Graham & Kay.



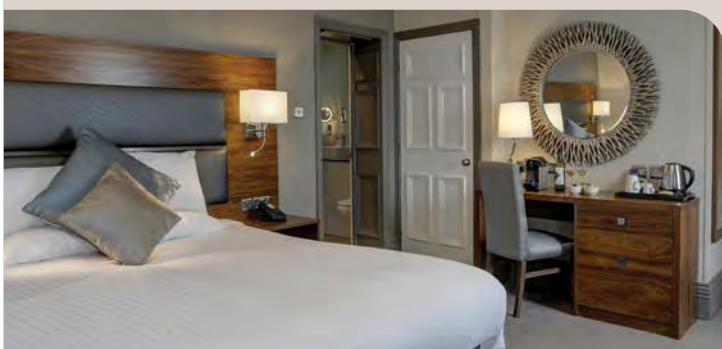
Best Western Chilworth Manor Hotel

Best Western Chilworth Manor Hotel sits in the ideal location, close to Hampshire's top attractions and has excellent transport links, including Southampton Airport and cruise terminal. Set in 12 acres of beautiful gardens with a fantastic choice of bedrooms and leisure facilities, Best Western Chilworth Manor Hotel is the perfect place for leisure and business guests visiting Test Valley, Southampton and the surrounding area.

Best Western Chilworth Manor,
Chilworth, Southampton SO16 7PT
Tel: 023 8076 7333
Email: reception@chilworth-manor.co.uk
www.chilworth-manor.co.uk

97 bedrooms - includes 4 Suites

Rates are seasonal, advance purchase discounted rates available



Prices

Prices are correct at time of going to press, but it is essential to check when making a reservation. Quoted hotel and bed and breakfast prices are per room, per night including breakfast, unless otherwise stated. Prices for self-catering establishments and holiday parks are per unit per week. Short breaks may be available; please call to enquire. All prices include VAT but prices may be subject to change. Some establishments accept Euros and this is indicated by the € symbol.

Ratings You Can Trust



VisitBritain and the AA assess hotels and guest accommodation (including B&Bs) to the same criteria and award one to five stars. The star ratings reflect the overall quality of the experience. For serviced accommodation (hotels and guest accommodation) there are two separate schemes.

The following descriptions of what to expect apply to all types of accommodation. Use the ratings as a general guide.

★ = Simple, practical, no frills.

★★ = Well presented and well run.

★★★ = Good level of quality and comfort.

★★★★ = Excellent standard throughout.

★★★★★ = Exceptional with a degree of luxury.



VisitBritain Gold and Silver Awards

Places that go the extra mile to make your stay a special one will be awarded a high star rating, and hotels and guest accommodation may achieve a Gold or Silver award.



AA Yellow Stars (for guest accommodation only)

These are awarded for the highest quality within each star level for all aspects of guest accommodation.



Walking and Cycling Friendly

These accommodation establishments are designated walking and cycling friendly. This means they provide services especially for walkers and cyclists such as packed lunches, a drying area for wet clothes, a safe place to store bikes and boots and local route information.

Keys to Symbols

B&B Bed & Breakfast

H Hotel

SC Self Catering

Non accommodation

- Car park
- Wheelchair access/facilities
- Guided tours available
- Café
- Gift shop
- Licensed
- Children's indoor play area
- Restaurant service
- Baby changing facilities
- Outdoor play area
- Accommodation
- Credit cards accepted
- Bar meal
- Vegetarian dishes

Accommodation

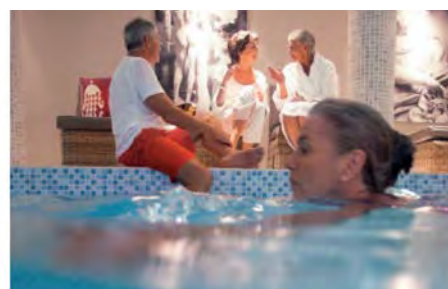
- No smoking establishment
- Swimming pool on site/nearby
- Credit cards accepted
- Ground floor bedrooms
- TV in room
- Central heating throughout
- Off street parking

- Licensed
- Children welcome (min age)
- Tea/coffee making facilities
- Lounge for residents
- Access for disabled
- Garden
- Games room
- Pets welcome
- WIFI Internet or WIFI
- Railway station within five miles
- Dishwasher
- Clothes washing facilities
- Linen and towels provided or for hire
- Microwave
- Cot available for hire
- Café or restaurant
- Electrical hook-up
- Chemical toilet disposal
- Washing and ironing facilities
- Shop or mobile shop
- Hot showers
- Car parking beside tent/caravan/unit
- Children's play area
- Euros accepted

THIS MAY LOOK LIKE A BOUTIQUE HOTEL...



...BUT IT'S ACTUALLY LUXURY RETIREMENT LIVING
AT AUDLEY STANBRIDGE EARLS.



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Vouchers for your visit in 2020



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Station Walks Guide
**50% off quoting
promotional code
"Guide 20"**

Includes 37 self-guided walks from railway stations throughout south Hampshire, Salisbury and the Test Valley area.

One discount per voucher. Valid only on orders made through 07900 103296 or info@threeriversrail.com. No cash alternative. Valid until 31 December 2020.

**Andover
Museum**

**Buy one hot drink get a
second FREE***

*One free drink per voucher. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. No cash alternative. Please bring this voucher and present at the ticket desk at the attraction. Photocopies will not be accepted. Valid until 31 December 2020.

**Sir Harold
Hillier Gardens**

**Buy one get
one HALF price***

*on Gift Aid price admissions only. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Not to be used for special events where an extra charge may apply. No cash alternative. Please bring this voucher and present at the ticket desk at the attraction. Photocopies will not be accepted. Valid until 31 December 2020.

Mottisfont

**Two adults entry for
the price of one***

*One free entry adult when accompanied by another paying adult. Not to be used for groups or in conjunction with any other offer. Please bring this voucher and present at the ticket desk at the attraction. Photocopies will not be accepted. Valid until 31 December 2020.

**Army Flying
Museum**

One child goes free*

*One child free (aged 5-16) when accompanied by a full paying adult. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Not to be used for special events where an extra charge may be applied. No cash alternative. Please bring this voucher and present at the ticket desk at the attraction. Photocopies will not be accepted. Valid until 1 November 2020.

**Whitchurch
Silk Mill**

**Two adults entry for
the price of one***

*One free entry adult when accompanied by another adult paying full price. Not to be used for groups or in conjunction with any other offer. No cash alternative. Please bring this voucher and present at the ticket desk at the attraction. Photocopies will not be accepted. Valid until 31 December 2020.

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