

time
for us

48 hours in...

...Lewes

Surrounded by The South Downs National Park, and just seven miles from Brighton, lies Lewes; the county town of East Sussex. Although small in size, Lewes is exquisitely formed and packs a proverbial punch with outdoor-loving, foodie and culture-seeking folk. Depending on your viewpoint, Lewes is the birthplace of English democracy, a prime location for walking and cycling, a hotbed for art and creativity or home to the country's biggest bonfire celebration. Whichever one, there is no denying that Lewes is extraordinary.

Getting to Lewes by car

Lewes is easily accessible by car. Situated approximately 45 miles due south of London via the M23/A23, and approximately 7 miles east of Brighton along the A27 dual carriageway towards Eastbourne/A26.

Ample car parking is available in Lewes. Long stay car parks can be found on the outskirts of the town centre offering visitors the best choice and value for money, with short stay and on street parking available within the town centre.

Top 5 must see places

Lewes Castle
Ruins of William de Warenne's Norman castle with Barbican House museum. Stunning views from the castle keep.
www.sussexpast.co.uk

Priory of St Pancras
Following King Henry VIII's defamation of monasteries, Lewes Priory ruins recently restored and re-opened.
www.lewespriory.org.uk

Anne of Cleves House
Handsome Tudor townhouse gifted as a part of the divorce settlement with Henry VIII and open as a museum.
www.sussexpast.co.uk

Southover Grange Gardens
Beautiful, formal gardens open to the public and remarkable for some magnificent trees.
www.lewes.gov.uk/business/11757

The South Downs National Park
Newly designated, The South Downs National Park is over 1,600 km.sq.
www.southdowns.gov.uk

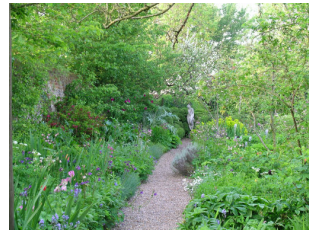
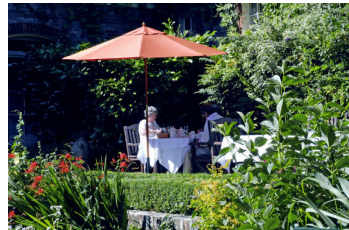
the Beautiful South

Day one

Lewes' Medieval streets, cobbled pavements and tiny twittens allow visitors a glimpse into the essence of bygone Lewes and lead the way to the 'Must See Places' – any will enrich a morning during your stay.

Lewes has an abundance of independent boutiques, specialist bookshops and antique retailers, intermingled with contemporary galleries. So, after a well-earned lunch to muse over your sight-seeing morning, take a gentle stroll around the centre of town to find inspiration for that take-home memento of your stay. If shopping isn't on your preferred agenda, why not take in an art exhibition – speak to Lewes TIC on the High Street for daily events. On select days, the aroma of malt and hops from Harvey's Brewery wafts over Cliff Bridge and the River Ouse, and entices visitors down to its fascinating brewery shop in the pedestrian precinct, at the lower end of the High Street. Special brewery tours can be arranged direct, www.harveys.org.uk.

Once you've settled on where you're going to dine in the evening, allow time for some entertainment in and around Lewes. Whether it's a comedy cabaret, lecture, folk band, cinema, a music recital or a local gig, there is something to keep all tastes amused and stimulated.



Day two

Lewes nestles in the South Downs National Park, offering visitors the ideal base from which to enjoy some of the finest walking, cycling and sight-seeing in the area. Explore the undulating chalk Downs and pretty villages such as Ditchling or Glynde, with their quintessentially English charm. Pop in for a Sussex cream tea or 'buy local' from one of the many farm shops around.

You don't have to go far on the extensive network of bridleways and paths before appreciating an immediate sense of freedom and well-being in and around Lewes. Iconic landmarks including the Seven Sisters & Seaford Head and Ditchling & Firl Beacons offer stunning views of the extraordinary coastlines, Sussex landscape and unique wildlife found in and around Lewes.

The surrounding area is also home to Charleston Farmhouse, the country retreat of the 'Bloomsbury Set' and annual literary festival, and the world renowned Glyndebourne Opera House.

Where to stay

The Shelleys Hotel
16th Century family run
country house.
www.the-shelleys.co.uk
01273 472361

Berkeley House B&B
Late Georgian Townhouse
from the 1820's.
www.berkeleyhouselewes.co.uk
01273 476057

The Dorset B&B
Great accommodation in the
heart of Lewes.
www.thedorsetlewes.com
01273 474823

Nightingales Self Catering
Serving delicious locally
sourced breakfast.
www.nightingalesbandb.co.uk
01273 475673

Pelham House Hotel
Architectural building, and
beautiful gardens.
www.pelhamhouse.com
01273 488600

Where to eat

The Blacksmiths Arms
Perfect for fresh fish and
seafood.
www.theblacksmithsarms-offham.co.uk
01273 472971

Bills Cafe & Restaurant
Freshly prepared dishes, all at
very good prices.
www.bills-website.co.uk
01273 476918

Pelham House Restaurant
Top class classic modern food.
www.pelhamhouse.com
01273 488 600

The Real Eating Co.
Seasonal favourite with a
modern British influence.
www.real-eating.co.uk
01273 402650

Newick Park Restaurant
Awarded 3 AA Rosette since
opening in 1996.
www.newickpark.co.uk
01825 723633