

Stay a little longer...

Suggested Itineraries



Hampshire & the New Forest

With its rich blend of naval and cruising traditions, centuries of history and stunning natural environment, Hampshire is a county of intriguing contrasts.

Follow the trail of Alfred the Great, ride through William the Conqueror's royal hunting grounds or explore Henry VIII's favourite warship. Relax among the iconic cars of the National Motor Museum or stroll through glorious Exbury Gardens, part of the Rothschild Estate.

Day 1: Winchester & Southampton

Two famous cities with very different pasts, one the ancient capital of Wessex and home to one of Europe's largest cathedrals and the other, the UK's international cruise capital.

AM - Take the M25/M3 to **Winchester** (1 hour) Seat of Alfred the Great, Winchester is also famed for its **Cathedral**. Highlights: **Jane Austen's** tomb and 12th century **illuminated Bible**. Also visit the medieval **Great Hall**, famed for **King Arthur's Round Table**.

PM - Drive to **Southampton** (15 minutes, M3/M27). Modern day cruise capital and famous departure port of the fateful **Titanic** sailing. 2012 marks the opening of the new **Sea City Museum**, celebrating Southampton's rich maritime heritage. Take a guided walk to discover the city's poignant Titanic links.



Winchester Cathedral and grounds

Day 2: The New Forest

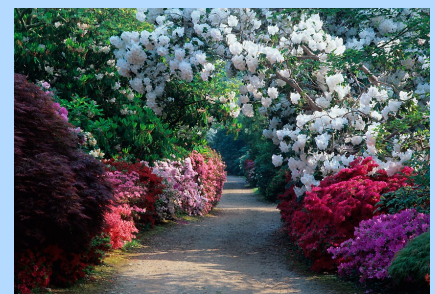
You can't mention the New Forest without conjuring up images of its famous New Forest ponies, stunning countryside and wildlife. As well as offering the very best of England with 300 square miles of idyllic woods and open moorland, the New Forest has charming towns and villages and it's little known hidden gem of 43 miles of wonderful coastline to explore.

AM - Take a leisurely stroll or cycle through the New Forest National Park or visit the **National Motor Museum, Beaulieu**, home to over 250 world famous motors as well as the Cistercian **Beaulieu Abbey** and **Palace House** and gardens.



Jaguar XKR Roadster at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu

PM - A short drive through the New Forest brings you to **Exbury Gardens**, whose **Rothschild Collection** of rhododendrons and azaleas is world-famous. The gardens are full of interest and colour in every season and can be explored on foot or via Exbury's Steam Railway. A must-see for garden lovers.



Rhododendrons at Exbury Gardens

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Day 3: Portsmouth

Portsmouth, the waterfront city, has miles of sea views and centuries of history. Portsmouth is an island city, totally surrounded by water, with more than 800 years of naval history. The city's world renowned Historic Dockyard is a must-see, featuring The Mary Rose Museum, HMS Victory and HMS Warrior 1860.

AM - Travel along the M27 to **Portsmouth** (45 minutes). Explore the city's rich maritime and naval history at **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard**, home of Nelson's flagship **HMS Victory** and the **Mary Rose Museum**.

PM - Enjoy designer shopping at nearby **Gunwharf Quays** and ascend the **Spinnaker Tower**, a 170 metre tall visitor attraction providing breathtaking views over the South Coast.

Alternatively, visit **Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum** and take a guided Dickens walk around the city or explore Britain's military history at the **Royal Marines Museum** and **D-Day Museum**.

Return to London Gatwick (A3, 90 minutes)

Gunwharf Quays and war ships



Extend your stay

- Enjoy a **New Forest** cream tea at **Brockenhurst**, **Bucklers Hard** or **Burley**.
- Aside from its cruising heritage, Southampton's **West Quay** shopping centre and **Mayflower Theatre** provide plenty of daytime and evening entertainment.
- Follow Portsmouth Millenium Walkway to **Southsea Common** for a close up view of some of the waterfront's historic landmarks. Lunch in Old Portsmouth
- Strategically positioned atop Portsdown Hill, **Fort Nelson** dates back to the 1890s. Displays trace the development of artillery from pre-gunpowder siege machines to modern-day super guns .
- Head to Alton for the 17th century **Jane Austen's House Museum** where the author wrote many of her best-loved novels
- Visit Romsey for the **Sir Harold Hillier Gardens**, with stunning plant collection and pinetum
- Wander the bijou shopping streets of **Southsea** to bag an antique bargain or stroll along the miles of seafront along **Southsea Common**, finishing up at **Clarence Pier** amusement park.



Horse riding in the New Forest

Further Information

Where to stay:

www.visitsoutheastengland.com/accommodation
www.visit-southampton.co.uk/where-to-stay
www.visitwinchester.co.uk/where-to-stay
www.thenewforest.co.uk/where-to-stay
www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/where-to-stay

Useful websites:

www.aroundgatwick.com
www.visitsoutheastengland.com
www.visit-hampshire.co.uk
www.visitwinchester.co.uk
www.visitportsmouth.co.uk
www.visit-southampton.co.uk
www.beaulieu.co.uk
www.exbury.co.uk

Contact:

international@tourismse.com