

## Tickets to ride

The **New Forest** is one of Britain's newest National Parks, but is in fact one of the oldest protected landscapes in Europe, a former Royal Hunting Forest, established by William the Conqueror in the 11th century as a reserve for the hunting of red deer. Ancient laws remain to protect what is still the largest area of unenclosed heath, pasture and woodland in the South of England; home to four species of deer and the famous New Forest Ponies.

The National Park includes fringe and coastal areas of this special landscape. The Park is a paradise for walking and strolling along many footpaths and through woods and across heath where there are ancient rights of access. Try cycling or riding a pony along the many trails to enjoy some of the most beautiful native woodlands and lowland heaths in the whole of England, rich with fascinating wildlife.



Lepe Country Park

© C Taylor / Mosaic

### Travel information

**Traveline** 0871 200 22 33, [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

**Transport Direct** [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info)

**National Rail Enquiries** 08457 48 49 50, [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

**New Forest Tour** [www.thenewforesttour.info](http://www.thenewforesttour.info)

**Hantsweb** - for timetables and maps of local public transport services: [www.hantsweb.gov.uk/transport](http://www.hantsweb.gov.uk/transport)

#### South West Trains

0845 6000 650, [www.southwesttrains.co.uk](http://www.southwesttrains.co.uk)

#### Cross Country Trains

08447 369 123, [www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk](http://www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk)

#### Main bus operators in and around the New Forest

Wilts & Dorset Limited 01983 827005, [www.wdbus.co.uk](http://www.wdbus.co.uk)

Bluestar Bus Company 023 8023 1950, [www.bluestarbus.co.uk](http://www.bluestarbus.co.uk)

### Visitor information

#### New Forest National Park Authority

[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk) 01590 646600

#### New Forest Tourism

[www.thenewforest.co.uk](http://www.thenewforest.co.uk) 023 8028 2269

#### Youth Hostels in the area

[www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk)  
Burley Hostel, Burley, New Forest 0845 371 9309 bus 176 (very infrequent) from Christchurch.

[www.mosaicnationalparks.org](http://www.mosaicnationalparks.org)

### Trains to Brockenhurst

Train tickets from London Waterloo to Brockenhurst return cost from £18.00 if bought in advance (buy advance Single tickets) on particular trains. From Southampton Central to Brockenhurst: Off peak day return £6.00.



New Forest Tour bus in Lymington

© Scenic Britain by Bus

**New Forest Tour** Bus Day Ticket - includes a free New Forest Tour Guide £9 adult, £4.50 child, £22.50 any five people. Up to four bicycles carried on the bus free of charge. Free travel to and from the New Forest if you buy your New Forest Tour ticket on connecting buses 56/56A from Southampton, X1/X2 from Bournemouth or 112 from Hythe.

**Wilts & Dorset Day Explorer** - unlimited travel for one day on all Wilts & Dorset (and Bluestar) buses to and within the New Forest - adults £7.50, child £4.50. Group Explorer: up to 5 people £14.

Cover photo: A New Forest foal in the heather

© Martin O'Neill / New Forest National Park Authority

This leaflet was created as part of Mosaic, a project led by the Campaign for National Parks that aims to build links between ethnic minority communities in a selection of 20 cities across England, and the National Parks. As such this leaflet is not intended as a comprehensive resource of public transport options from all cities to the National Parks; it focuses on a selection of towns and cities that are part of the Mosaic project. The leaflet also does not include an exhaustive list of all public transport options available within the National Park, but rather provides a selection of public transport options for places that are easy to visit.

#### Mosaic Funders



# Explore the New Forest National Park



Discover some of England's finest countryside from London and Southampton the greener way by bus and train

# Mosaic

Building links between Ethnic Communities & National Parks

# New Forest National Park



Walking the Solent Way at Keyhaven Marshes

There is so much to see and do in the New Forest National Park - walking, cycling, pony trekking, bird watching and sightseeing, with plenty of places to stay from campsites, a popular Youth Hostel, hotels, bed and breakfast and self catering.

The Green Leaf scheme ([www.thegreenforest.org](http://www.thegreenforest.org)) offers discounts to staying visitors to the New Forest who arrive without a car.

The New Forest is very well served by public transport. In barely an hour and a half from London Waterloo, or 13 minutes from Southampton Central, frequent electric South West Trains on the Bournemouth Line whisk you to **Brockenhurst** in the heart of the National Park. Some trains also call local stations in the New

Forest at **Ashurst** and **Sway** and a few at **Beaulieu Road**. From Brockenhurst trains also go along the little Lymington Branch to **Lymington** and Lymington Pier.

During the summer (25 Jun to 18 Sep) the popular open top **New Forest Tour** bus provides a regular circular sightseeing and visitor service through the park, operating in an anti-clockwise direction from Brockenhurst Station to Lymington, Beaulieu (for Motor Museum, Abbey and Palace), **Exbury** (Gardens and 12 inch gauge steam railway) and **Lyndhurst**. An additional tour route is being introduced for 2011.



Buckler's Hard

You can hire a bicycle at Brockenhurst Station to explore the Forest from Country Lanes 01590 622 627 or Cycle Experience 01590 623 407.

From Brockenhurst Station, Bluestar bus 6 runs daily, all year, across the New Forest to and from Lyndhurst, Lymington, Totton, and Southampton. At Lyndhurst you'll find the excellent New

Forest Centre with displays about the forest's history, wildlife and the National Park, plus a reference library and gift shop. Bicycle hire is available at Lyndhurst 023 8028 3349. Beaulieu can also be reached by bus all year using the 112 service between Lymington and **Hythe** (weekdays only). There is also a free bus (Bluestar CityLink) and ferry link ([www.hytheferry.co.uk](http://www.hytheferry.co.uk)) from Southampton Central via Town Quay to Hythe.

The south west of the National Park is also served by Wilts & Dorset routes X1/X2 between Bournemouth, Christchurch, **New Milton** and Lymington. Service 175/6 (very infrequent) links **Burley** (for YHA), Ringwood and Christchurch.



Beech Avenue at Puttles Bridge near Brockenhurst

If you're planning a walk, wear boots or strong trainers. Take rainwear, warm clothing, food and plenty of drink and a large scale map (Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL 22 recommended).