



FREE GUIDE

Visit Test Valley

in Hampshire

Historic. Scenic. Tranquil.



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www.visittestvalley.org

Test Valley 
Borough Council



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

Welcome to the Test Valley

Test Valley is a quintessential corner of England, an idyllic rural escape with charm, allure and natural beauty everywhere you go. So, prepare to get your heart stolen, your body refreshed and your mind rejuvenated!

Chocolate-box villages, fun days out, fresh local produce, and walks in the great outdoors offer unbeatable adventure, discovery and peace. It's the staycation destination in the countryside, with many joyful things to do at attractions for all ages. Plus, it's home to the market towns of Andover, Stockbridge and Romsey, each with a unique identity offering a warm Test Valley welcome.

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

Visit the area's magnificent gardens and marvel at its history from ancient hill forts to Edwardian country houses. You're sure to have a truly restorative break, taking in stunning scenery, tasting delicious local produce and relishing the serenity of the River Test.

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

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

The award-winning Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in Romsey and eight tourist information points across the borough offers further information to help you enjoy your stay in Test Valley. VIC staff will help you plan your visit and provide advice. Please telephone or call in for current information. Address: 13 Church Street, Romsey, SO51 8BT. Call 01794 512987 or email romseyvic@testvalley.gov.uk. www.visittestvalley.org for information

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www.visittestvalley.org to find out more and plan your visit. Connect with us...

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Poppy field Nr Clatford

Scenic walking

Test Valley is fortunate not only to have the longest river in Hampshire, beautiful countryside and a host of charming villages, but also 500 miles of rights of way and fantastic open spaces to explore.

Whether you are a serious Rambler or a seasonal ambler, there are far-reaching views to explore and enjoy. With chalk downs and wooded hills of the North Wessex Downs, the countryside is connected by hundreds of miles of public rights of way. Each walk takes on a new identity through seasons, from new spring flowers to autumnal colours.

If you want to challenge yourself there are two long-distance walks, the Test Way that covers the length of Test Valley and the Clarendon Way that crosses Test Valley linking the two magnificent cities of Salisbury and Winchester.

A FOUR-LEGGED ADVENTURE

Sharing adventures with your dog is easy in Test Valley with many dog-friendly places! 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 welcomes your four-legged friend on a short lead around the gardens as well as a six-mile 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. Enjoy a lead-free walk around the 1.5-mile circular walk, marked out with concrete markers.



Your furry friend will receive a warm welcome at The Rockingham Arms and The Cromwell Arms in Romsey, The White Hart in Stockbridge, The Old Bell in Andover, The White Lion Wherwell and The Wheatsheaf Braishfield to name a few.

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



You'll find plenty of pet-friendly accommodation in Test Valley including the Hawk Inn, Peat Spade, and The White Hart in Stockbridge.

SHORTER SCENIC WALKS.

Braishfield Walk - A lovely 4.5 mile walk around the village of Braishfield.

Romsey Circular Walk - This 3.25 mile walk passes by the Redbridge and Andover canal, completed in 1794 and serving the Test Valley for 65 years.

King's Somborne Circular Walk - An attractive 3 mile walk from King's Somborne playing fields with stunning views and a walk along the old railway line, now the Test Way.

Abbotts Ann Circular Walk - This 4 mile walk follows tracks and paths around the Abbots Ann Estate, including an ancient drove probably used for taking sheep to Weyhill Fair.

Wildhern Circular Walk - A interesting 2.5 mile walk that follows field systems, woodland and passes derelict farm buildings.

Facombe Circular Walk - This 2.8 mile walk follows paths and tracks in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

WALKING THE TEST WAY

The Test Way offers 44 miles of riverside pathways, for epic Test Valley adventures with friends and four-legged friends alike.

From its dramatic start, high on the chalk downs at Inkpen, following much of the course of the River Test to Eling where its tidal waters flow into Southampton Water.

Divided into eight sections, the route passes through some of the most picturesque villages in Test Valley, strewn with listed buildings, historic churches and houses. There are many places such as Romsey, Stockbridge and Totton where you can stop along the way for refreshments, sample local crafts and foods or even stay for a night or two.

Part One: Inkpen to Hurstbourne Tarrant. 8 miles, approx time: 3-4 hours. From up the top of the hill by the Gibbet the views are gorgeous and you can see the bleak downs to the north and the lush plain to the south.

Part Two: Hurstbourne Tarrant to St Mary Bourne. 3 miles, approx time 1-2 hours. At St Mary Bourne look downstream for the huge nine-arch viaduct on the edge of the village which was constructed in the mid 19th century as the main rail line between Salisbury and London.

Part Three: St Mary Bourne to Longparish. 5.5 miles, approx time 2-3 hours. Walk around the beautiful eastern edge of Harewood Forest and see the many beautiful listed buildings, including the early 13th century church of St Nicholas when you arrive at Longparish.

Part Four: Longparish to West Down, Chilbolton. 5 miles, approx time 2 hours. See the scenic main street in Wherwell and the excellent views across the valley of the River Test in West Down.

Part Five: West Down, Chilbolton to Stockbridge. 3 miles, approx time 1-2 hours. In Stockbridge the main street rests on a chalk causeway built over the seven streams that make up the River Test. Take a break to feed the huge trout or explore the many antiques and crafts shops, galleries, pubs and cafés.

Part Six: Stockbridge to Mottisfont. 5 miles, approx time 2 hours. Soak up the past and visit some magnificent buildings such as the famous Mottisfont Abbey with its eight centuries of history.

Part Seven: Mottisfont to Romsey. 5 miles, approx time 2 hours. Visit the medieval market town of Romsey and see the spectacular 10th Century Romsey Abbey.

Part Eight: Romsey to Eling. 9 miles, 3-4 hours. Pass through a wonderful nature reserve of reed beds and saltmarshes that are alive with rare birds and plants and see the Grade II* listed Eling Tide Mill, one of only a handful of working tide mills left in the UK.

Please ensure you follow the Countryside Code.

Download the full trail at www.visittestvalley.org/walking-the-test-way with details on which sections are accessible for cycling. For details on where to stop for refreshments, where to stay, public transport and where to park visit www.visittestvalley.org/walking

Discover tranquility

Test Valley; where life slows down and stress melts away. Let this tranquil heaven be your ticket to days out, weekend breaks, and longer visits with a gentle pace of life.

And the best part? You'll find something to please everyone, from young explorers to maturer tastes. For those visiting from bustling cities with busy lives, an abundance of natural beauty around every corner makes it easy to unwind, relax, and recharge.

If you love being active, Test Valley has ample outdoor spaces and many walking, horse riding and cycling opportunities! Treasure the quality time you spend with your loved ones as you soak up all the sights and enjoy the mental space to

focus on your fitness away from the hustle of daily life.

A unique way to experience the great outdoors is to try your hand at fly fishing. As the fly-fishing capital of the UK, there's plenty of opportunities to catch brown trout, salmon and grayling in its pristine, sparkling waters. So, what are you waiting for? Go and get invigorated by the exquisite nature and expansive countryside of Test Valley

Love peaceful, villages with character and charm? Test Valley has plenty scattered through the rolling chalk hills of its luscious countryside. Not to mention, you'll discover some of the best pubs and restaurants in the county, renowned for fresh, local produce.



48 hours in Test Valley



Test Valley in Hampshire is home to many wonderful attractions, including:

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

Mottisfont

Houghton Lodge Gardens

King John's House

Hawk Conservancy Trust

Paultons Park

Andover Museum

You can spend days unraveling the wealth of history that has shaped the region. From Iron Age forts, to military history, and industrial heritage, it's a destination of discovery.

Or, if you're looking for somewhere to spend the day unwinding from a fast pace, there are many spots with dreamy scenery to lie back, read, have a picnic or grab a leisurely pub lunch!

Whatever your interests, you'll leave Test Valley feeling like you've treated mind, body and spirit to a wonderful break from day to day life.

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.visittestvalley.org



Hampshire IS HERE





Magic family moments

Creating lasting memories is priceless. With many wonderful local attractions, you can experience thrilling days out, learn and discover new things, and embark on unique adventures!

THRILL SEEKERS

You'll find thrilling rides and rollercoasters at Paultons Park. Tornado Springs features 8 exciting rides, including Storm Chaser, a spinning rollercoaster that takes you 20 metres off the ground, the only rollercoaster of its kind in the UK!



Paultons Park

INQUISTIVE INDOOR FUN

Curious families will enjoy Andover Museum and Museum of the Iron Age, children will have fun tracing the history of Andover from prehistoric times to the present day. Plus, there are special term time and school holiday activities! Head to the Army Flying Museum to discover the story of British Army Flying with hands on exhibits.

The house at Mottisfont was originally founded as an Augustinian priory in 1201 and has a depth of history to share. Discover extraordinary rooms and displays when walking through the story of this historic house. When the rain stops, wander around its surrounding gardens.



Army Flying Museum

ANIMAL MAGIC

If the little ones love 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. Open all year round with a great diary of special events, you can 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.



Witness the brilliant birds at some of the most spectacular flying displays in the UK at the Hawk Conservancy Trust. Experience the amazement of seeing an eagle soar majestically in the open sky or an owl skimming silently over the top of your head in the daily world-class flying displays.

There's plenty of family fun to be had whilst discovering Test Valley's gardens, see page 20 for more details.

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Tripadvisor

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on Trip Advisor

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www.hawk-conservancy.org

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1092349



Find your inspiration

Epic scenery, vibrant nature and intriguing history; inspiration surrounds you here!

Test Valley will connect you to the arts through its many galleries, art venues, theatres, and cultural events, with tales of the Iron Age re-lived on the walls of the many galleries.

HISTORICAL ARTS AND CULTURE

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

One of the oldest crafts is presented at Whitchurch Silk Mill, the oldest working silk mill in the UK that continues to weave silk using 19th century machinery. Their Riverside Cafe offers a seasonal menu to take in scenic views amongst cultural surroundings.

DISCOVER LOCAL ARTISTS

The Wykeham Gallery in Stockbridge displays works of well-known British and international artists, as well as being a place to discover young and emerging artists. You'll find a range of sculptures, ceramics, bronzes and glass throughout their studio and gallery garden.

Watch the craftsmen at work at the Fairground Craft and Design Centre at Weyhill and discover a community that includes a papercraft shop, sustainable products shop, florist, furniture makers, yarn, fabric, and more! Get creative with their regular workshops and classes and grab a coffee in the tearoom after.

Chapel Arts Studios in Andover delivers creative education through residencies, workshops and art projects. Their regular events aim to bring art to the community, with pop-up shops, art exhibitions and workshops.

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 art, from ceramics and glass to sculpture and furniture.

In Romsey, Forest & Cove offer a creative space to discover handmade treasures as well as a variety of classes by local artists and makers.



Chapel Arts Studios



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



Chapel Arts Studios



Whitchurch Silk Mill



Mottisfont

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. Visit the Sculpture Garden at the rear of the gallery to browse items in the environment.

High Street, Stockbridge, SO20 6HE
01264 810364 | enquiries@wykehamgallery.co.uk
www.wykehamgallery.co.uk



Set the stage

There's nothing quite like a live performance, whether it's theatre, comedy or dance. Test Valley has many options for enjoying live entertainment, with a selection of theatres that host a vibrant programme of shows and performances all year round.

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. Plus, you can relax in a stylish cafe area and wine bar!

Love amateur theatre and anything art deco? 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.

MUSIC IN TEST VALLEY

You just can't beat live music and Test Valley plays host to lots of musical events over the year.

Broadlands Estate in Romsey plays host to several large music events throughout the year. In 2023 you can enjoy an incredible open air concert with Lionel Richie on 27th June, and see Gwen Stefani perform on 29th June!

The Romsey Festival first took place in 1984, and in 2023 it returns from the 1-16th July, bringing music and dance to Romsey. There's also Romsey's summer music festival, Beggars Fair which takes place on Saturday 8 July 2023.

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

the **Lights**
andover



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

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

www.thelights.org.uk

Box Office: 01264 368368



Lively busking

Live entertainment at its best!

plays • bands • comedy • panto • music • dance

www.plazatheatre.com

Plaza Theatre, Winchester Road, Romsey, SO51 8JA



Active experiences

It's not all slow and steady in Test Valley. Find fast-paced fun with attractions that make your heart race.

Why not take or hire a bike and pedal your way around the stunning countryside and winding country roads. With plenty of routes with different lengths, whether you fancy a leisurely ride along the riverbank or an energetic ramble. And why not replenish at the many cafes and pubs on route?

If you love camping or glamping, there are plenty of locations and experiences to choose from. Fancy staying in a unique converted narrow boat or tree house with a few luxuries provided, or prefer to camp out in the fresh air? For routes, trails and accommodation information visit, www.visittestvalley.org

Thrill seekers rejoice! The famous motor racing circuit at Thruxton is the fastest race track in the UK, offering unique driving experiences for petrol heads!

For an epic family challenge, head to Golden Gecko Climbing, an indoor climbing centre in Romsey for those new to climbing as well as the more experienced.

Clip 'n Climb at Andover Leisure Centre is an innovative indoor climbing concept. The colourful arena features 16 fun themed climbing walls towering over 20 feet high, each showcasing unique and

striking designs with different challenges!

How about a bit of healthy family competition at Andover's Riverside Bowl or a fun swim at Romsey Rapids Sports Complex? Do you dare to ride the rapids, the flume, and sail the high seas on its pirate ship? You can also make a splash at Andover Leisure Centre swimming pool with a splash zone and inflatable sessions on weekends and during school holidays.



**Indoor
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t: 01794 590022
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Unit 34, Romsey Industrial Estate
Greatbridge Road
Romsey, SO51 0HR

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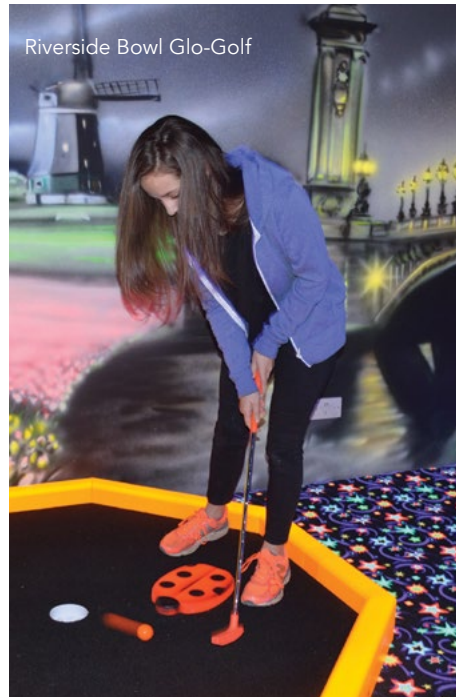
Opening: Mon-Fri 10am-10pm Saturday 10am-7pm Sunday 12pm-7pm

TEE-TIME

Ampfield Golf and Country Club, founded in the early 1960s, 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, the former home of Florence Nightingale. At Paultons Golf Centre, choose to play on a nine or 18-hole course through rolling woodland plus a 24-bay floodlit driving range.

Take a step back in time into Andover's Iron Age past and challenge friends and family to an unforgettable game of crazy golf at Adventure Golf at Charlton Lakeside - inspired by the town's very own history!

Whilst at Riverside Bowl in Andover, enjoy Glo-Golf with a twist. Putt your way around the world from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Eiffel Tower; the course, balls and walls glow.



Riverside Bowl Glo-Golf

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Connecting with the Historic past

Test Valley is a destination steeped in captivating stories of times gone by. Part of Test Valley's charm lies in its iconic links to a vast literary history that can be discovered throughout the district.

From Thomas the Tank Engine™ to James Bond, Test Valley has 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.

Experience historic architecture, such as Romsey Abbey, one of the finest examples of Norman architecture in southern England. The county boasts more Iron Age hill forts than anywhere else in Hampshire, including Danebury Iron Age Hill Fort, plus 6 watermills in Andover that date back to the Domesday Book.

Delve into 750 years of history in just one day at King John's House and Heritage Centre in Romsey. If you want to discover an intriguing market town, Andover

Museum uncovers the town's fascinating past and the events and tales that put it on the map.

Creativity and conflict, love and loss. Mottisfont Abbey house and gardens, now a National Trust property, is a former medieval priory where artists relaxed and created spectacular works of art.

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



Mottisfont Abbey

WALK BACK IN TIME

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.

Plus, Hurstbourne Tarrant Church has the oldest font from Saxon times and St Mary's Church in Abbot's Ann is home to the Virgin Crowns!

The Romsey Heritage Trail, the Andover Heritage Trail and Test Valley Literary Trail are also worth the exploration!

Today Romsey is a thriving market town, but it also has a fascinating history dating back to the 8th century that you can explore on its Heritage Trail. Back then, workers would smelt iron on the slope below the current Town Hall. The trail will take you through Church Place and Romsey Abbey, the Abbey Road, the walls to La Sagesse, Abbey Mead's, War Memorial Park, Sadler's Mill, Middlebridge Street and Bell Street.

The Andover Heritage Trail is great for exploring the town centre buildings and streets that have shaped the story of Andover. This will take you through the Town Mills, Bridge Street, London Street, High Street, Time Ring, Angel Inn, The Norman Arch, Chantry Street and Marlborough Street, St Mary's Church and Andover Museum.

And finally, the Test Valley Literary Trail will take you on a journey from north to south of the borough, taking you back through the centuries of literacy legacies through the colourful landscapes and country houses. Prepare to be inspired by the authors and characters of famous work, from Thomas the Tank Engine to the works of Agatha Christie, Geoffrey Chaucer and Jane Austen.

Spark your imagination in the curious footsteps of Test Valley's stories and people from the past.



King Johns House

PLAN A DAY OF EXPLORING

There is so much more to explore in Test Valley, you can walk or cycle in the footsteps of famous authors, take a tour of the picturesque villages taking in the historical architecture of the parish churches or head of down the path of the old Sprat and Winkle railway line.

- ROMSEY HERITAGE TRAIL
www.visittestvalley.org/romsey-heritage-trail
- ANDOVER HERITAGE TRAIL
www.visittestvalley.org/andover-heritage-trail
- TEST VALLEY LITERACY TRAIL
www.visittestvalley.org/literary-trail
- EXPLORE THE PARISH CHURCHES
www.visittestvalley.org/exploring-parish-churches



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

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

Observe the dignified memorial to more than 5,000 that have died in the service of British Army flying from early pioneers to modern Army Air Corps.

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

The Army Flying Museum is open daily from 9.00am to 4.00pm. The Museum is easily accessible from the M3 and A303 on the A343 between Salisbury and Andover. The Apache Café is also open daily from 9.00am to 3.30pm and Museum entry is not required to access the café.

www.armyflying.com



ROMSEY SIGNAL BOX - A UNIQUE WORKING MUSEUM

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

Open to the public from 11am to 4pm on the first Sunday (Feb-Dec) and third Saturday (Jan-Nov) of the month. See website for details of special openings).

A small entrance fee is charged for adults.

Enquiries: 01794 500523

www.romseysignalbox.org.uk





**ANDOVER
MUSEUM**
& MUSEUM OF THE IRON AGE

ANDOVER MUSEUM

AND MUSEUM OF THE IRON AGE



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**Hampshire
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**Winchester
City Council**

hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/andover-museum

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



A Journey Through Time

Moody Museum, Garden and Tea Room Open: Monday – Saturday 10am – 4pm

To visit the medieval House see website for daily guided tours or join on the day

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



@KingJohnsHouse

www.kingjohnshouse.org.uk



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



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

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



Mottisfont

Beautiful scenic gardens

As well as its breathtaking natural beauty, Test Valley includes four outstanding gardens, all with their own unique character and charm. The options are endless; meet with friends and family outside, explore, take a picnic, play, relax or while away the hours at the cafes! Find a haven as you leave the stress of the outside world behind.

Wide open spaces, minimal crowds and wholesome fresh air, the gardens are a place of discovery through all seasons. Are you a keen, green-fingered gardener? Or simply someone who admires and enjoys the beauty of blooms? Exploring the gardens is a tranquil treat for all the senses for everyone.

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

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. You'll find medieval-style Herber and well-stocked beds with flowers of the period, such as lavender, old roses and clematis, apple trees and a summer meadow.

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 the alpacas!

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

Award-Winning
Gardens and Arboretum

KIDS UNDER 5 GO FREE

Home to over 600 Champion Trees and one of the longest double mixed borders in the UK.

- 14 National Plant Collections
- Pond and bog gardens
- Children's play areas including tree house
- Events and exhibitions

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Jermyns Lane, Ampfield, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0QA

Open daily from 10am except Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Book online

Hampshire County Council

hants.gov.uk/hilliergardens



Houghton Lodge Gardens

Nr STOCKBRIDGE, HAMPSHIRE, SO20 6LQ

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

Enchanting walled garden with chalk cob walls, peony walk & rose arbour. 14 acres of picturesque countryside, riverside walks, charming Alpacas, topiary Dragon & Peacock Garden. New for 2023 The Oriental Garden with cherry orchard, acer walk, rose garden, stream, and beautiful Torii Arch, Moon Gate and Nikko Bridge.

Tea room for light refreshments & homemade cakes.



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



Accessibility at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens



Restored Garden King John's House



Get away for the weekend

Gambledown Farm

From campsites, B&Bs, and self-catering accommodation, to romantic country house hotels, stylish boutiques, and modern hotels, you won't be short of choice to find exactly what you're looking for to rest your head.

In the villages of Test Valley, you'll find cosy bed and breakfasts, self-catering cottages and traditional inns. With options to suit all needs and budgets, you'll find a warm and inviting atmosphere, with comfortable rooms and friendly hosts who are eager to help you make the most of your stay. Enjoy a hearty breakfast each morning before setting out to explore the surrounding countryside, or relax in the evening with a pint of local ale in front of a roaring fire.

If you prefer to stay in one of Test Valley's towns, you'll find a wider range of accommodation options. Several hotels and guesthouses offer comfortable rooms and all the amenities you need for a relaxing stay. Many of these options are located in the heart of town, making it easy to explore local attractions, shops, and restaurants.

For those looking to truly escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life, the countryside offers abundant beauty and scenery you'll be excited to wake up to. There are plenty of self-catering cottages and rural retreats nestled in the rolling hills and valleys of Test Valley. Wake up to the sound of birds singing outside your window, in your peaceful and private escape from the world, with everything you need for a comfortable stay.

No matter where you choose to stay in Test Valley, you're sure to enjoy a warm welcome and leave your break rejuvenated! So why not book your accommodation today and start planning your Test Valley adventure?



[f @Visit-Test-Valley](#) [@visit_test_valley](#) www.visittestvalley.org



The tranquil River Test

Test Valley is an idyllic setting for a riverside amble or picnic on the riverbank with its gin-clear chalk streams that 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, flowing 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, including the otters and water voles that call the River Anton home.

Along the bankside footpaths, you'll find 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 paradise for dreamy walks and unspoiled views. The largest of all fishing lakes is Fishlake Meadows in Romsey, featuring 60 hectares of water, meadows and bogs, and more than 170 bird species - a twitcher's delight!

The River Test is a 40-mile stretch of 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!

The area is home to one of the most exclusive clubs you could join, Houghton Fishing Club. This is the oldest private fishing club in Britain dating back to 1822, with an exclusive 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, tuition courses, fishing holidays and short breaks.



The River Test at Fullerton



Houghton Lodge



Lake fishing Longparish

Market Towns

EXPLORE THE ANCIENT MARKET TOWN OF ROMSEY

Florence Nightingale and the Reverend Wilbert Awdry, the creator of *Thomas the Tank Engine*, both lived in this timeless English market town on the banks of the River Test. Wander down pretty medieval streets surrounding the abbey, one of the finest examples of Norman architecture in England.

Romsey Market is open on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Visit on the first Sunday of the month and you can enjoy one of Hampshire's busiest Farmers' Markets and the opportunity to buy top quality products grown or made in the local area.

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

There is an abundance of cafés, restaurants and pubs to choose from. Relax in a cosy country pub for some traditional pub grub, experience some of the finest food in Romsey's two AA Rosette brasseries or enjoy excellent food in a period setting. Sample seasonal delights from the deli, share a pot of tea for two in a family-run tea room, or a slice of cake in a gallery café where you will not only find the perfect slice but also works of art by many local artists.

STOCKBRIDGE

Stockbridge lies in the heart of Test Valley and the River Test flows under the high street where you may see or even feed the famous trout. Stockbridge's link with the brown trout is celebrated at the Trout 'n About festival in August.

Stockbridge has inspired many poets due to its long and varied history. Wander through the picturesque town centre and follow the trail of 10 poems, set in stone, metal plaques and etched glass.

Shop in Stockbridge for its impressive Georgian High Street, which used to be a drovers' road where sheep and cattle were driven through the town en route from Wales. Look for the Drovers House to spot a sign



Romsey

Stockbridge

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. Voted Britain's Best Foodie Street, local produce is part of the visitor experience, be it beer from nearby Hurstbourne Tarrant, trout from the River Test or buffalo burgers from Broughton Down.

ANDOVER

Andover was an important 18th century coaching town, with buildings maintaining their charming style and features from this period. Most notable are the imposing Grade II listed Georgian Guildhall and the Star and Garter Hotel.

Modern day Andover has a bustling town centre, with a pleasant pedestrian environment of more than 250 retailers, from high street favourites to specialist independent shops and boutiques. More than 30 pubs, restaurants, cafés and coffee shops sit alongside the tranquil River Anton weaving through the town centre.

Think boutique coffee shops, appetising restaurants, traditional hosteleries and tempting eateries where you can relax with friends. With a twice-weekly market, a new monthly curated street market called Second Sundays that supports emerging & established independent producers, designers & makers regular events, annual carnival and other activities, Andover has a real buzz throughout the year. Conveniently located off the A303, the town has great road links to the M3 and M4 motorways and a direct fast rail link to central London. The town centre has more than 2,000 car parking spaces and plays host to Andover Leisure Centre, The Lights Theatre and The Museum of the Iron Age.



ROMSEY VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Located in one of Romsey's oldest thoroughfares, the Visitor Information Centre has a wide range of information to help you enjoy your stay in Test Valley.

Talk to the friendly staff and pick up literature:

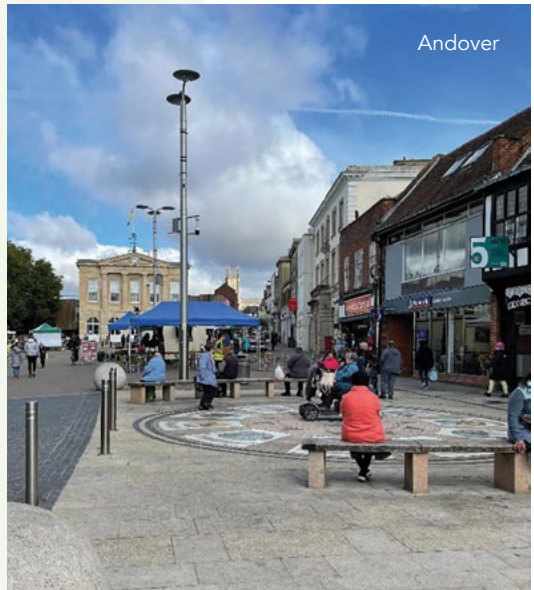
- *A taste of Test Valley* ● *Literary Test Valley*
- *Test Valley Vineyards* ● *Get out and Walk*
 - *Stockbridge Pocket Guide*
- *Andover Heritage Trail* ● *Romsey Heritage Trail*
- *Parish Churches of Test Valley*
 - *Sprat and Winkle Line.*



Location: 13 Church Street, Romsey, SO51 8BT

Tel: 01794 512987

Email: romseytic@testvalley.gov.uk





Taste of the Test

Test Valley will take you on a journey of taste sensation with locally grown food, fine wines and cask ales. From honey to chilli oils, watercress to water buffalo, pasture-raised beef to artisan cakes – there's plenty on offer for tasting, not forgetting trout from the famous chalk streams of the River Test.

COSY COUNTRY PUBS

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

The Peat Spade in Longstock, 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 has received a medley of awards and serves locally produced wines and ales.

The Mayfly in Fullerton offers unspoilt views over the world-famous River Test and boasts an extensive wine list of almost 30 different varieties.

The Four Horseshoes Pub and Restaurant in Nursling, is attached to an old working Forge, so character and charm make it the perfect destination for a memorable brunch, lunch, dinner, or a drink with friends!

The Duke on the Test in Romsey is a great place to meet, eat and sleep in beautiful surroundings! The 16th century inn creates dishes that honour the best of quality, flavour, and locally-sourced fare.

DELIGHTFUL DINING

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

For a fresh vibrant setting, the Mulberry & Thyme restaurant at Hillier Garden Centre, Weyhill offers dining with a difference. With a delicious seasonal menu, afternoon tea and the Rosebourne food hall showcasing their proud connection with local produce.



THE FOUR HORSESHOES

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

OPENING HOURS

11.30 – 22.30 Monday – Thursday
 11.30 – 23.00 Friday – Saturday
 11.30 – 21.00 Sunday

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

FIND US
 IN NURSLING
 OFF JUNCTION 3
 ON THE M27.



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



Socialise in our cosy bar with your four-legged friend or dine with us and indulge in our fabulous food and drink.

Come along and enjoy the perfect night's sleep in one of our twelve luxurious en-suite rooms.

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

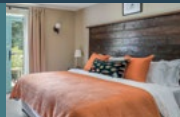
All just a pebble's throw from the River Test.



THE DUKE ON THE TEST, GREATBRIDGE RD, ROMSEY SO51 0HB

Tel: 01794 377500

hello@thedukeonthetest.co.uk
thedukeonthetest.co.uk



DREAMY VINEYARDS

Did you know Test Valley is home to 11 different vineyards, covering some 250 acres devoted to wine-growing? So, why not experience the beauty of the English countryside while savouring the finest wines of the region?

Embark on a scenic tour, learn about the winemaking process and of course, sample the wines! On the banks of the River Test, you'll find Black Chalk vineyards, which offers tours and tastings all year round. Here you'll find 30 acres of Hampshire chalk soil, providing the foundation for Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Meunier vines.

Be sure to visit some of the other standout vineyards, such as the award-winning Cottonworth, the picturesque Danebury and the family-run Hambledon.

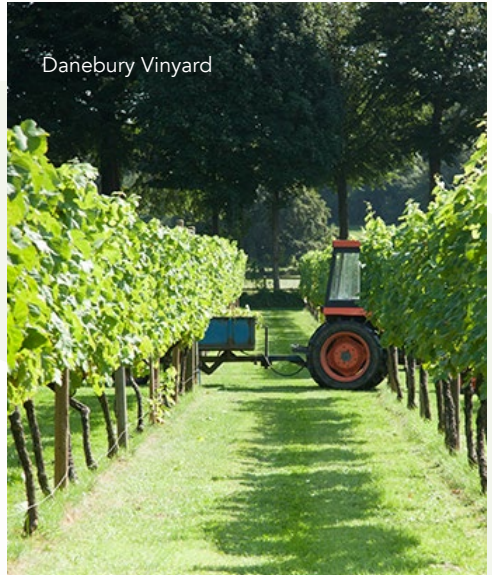
Head to the vineyard shops, local markets, or nearby restaurants or pubs to sample some of the region's most celebrated wines. Plus, you'll want to try Test Valley's critically acclaimed sparkling wines, which are fast becoming some of the most sought-after in the country.

MAKE TIME FOR TEA...AND CAKE!

If a tearoom or café is more your cup of tea, The Bloom Bloom tearoom at Houghton Lodge Gardens serves up a menu of treats during the garden's opening season.

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.

Danebury Vinyard



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

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

Miss Moody's Tudor Tea Room





Drinks at the Peat Spade



The Duke on the Test



DANEBURY VINEYARDS

Distinctly English Wine

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

Information on Afternoon Teas for groups, ticketed open days and where to purchase wine www.danebury.com




  @daneburyfizz

BOMBAY SAPPHIRE Distillery

Discover the Home of Bombay Sapphire
in Hampshire

Book your experience today:
bombaysapphire.com/distillery



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 @homeofbombay



Laverstoke Mill
Whitchurch | Hampshire | RG28 7NR

Events in the Test valley

APRIL

Hoppy Easter

1st - 16th April
Paultons Park
paultonspark.co.uk

Bee prepared for April Antics!

1st - 16th April
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens

British Bird Eggs Hunt

1st - 16th April
Andover Museum
hampshireculture.org.uk/whats-on/easter

Easter Egg Hunt at Mottisfont

1st - 16th April
Mottisfont
nationaltrust.org.uk/events

MAY

King's Coronation Street Party

6th May
Romsey
romseycarnival.co.uk

Summer Concert with Army Medical Services Band

20th May
Army Flying Museum
armyflying.com

JUNE

Kwik Fit British Touring Car Championship

3rd & 4th June
Thruxton Race Circuit
thruxtonracing.co.uk

Dogstival

3rd & 4th June
Broadlands
dogstival.co.uk

Bio Blitz

10th June
Hawk Conservancy Trust
hawk-conservancy.org

The Nostalgia Show

16th - 18th June
Broadlands
broadlandsestates.co.uk

Thruxton Historic

17th & 18th June
Thruxton Race Circuit
thruxtonracing.co.uk

An evening with Lionel Richie

27th June
Broadlands
broadlandsestates.co.uk

Gwen Stefani UK Summer Series

29th June
Broadlands
broadlandsestates.co.uk

JULY

Wallop Wheels and Wings

1st July
Army Flying Museum
armyflying.com

Nile Rodgers & CHIC

1st July
Broadlands
broadlandsestates.co.uk

Mayors Picnic

2nd July
Romsey

Romsey Festival

1st - 16th July
Romsey
romsefestival.org

Gala Picnic Concert

8th July
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens

Beggars Fair

8th July
Romsey
beggarsfair.org.uk

British Trucks Race Meeting

8th & 9th July
Thruxton Race Circuit
thruxtonracing.co.uk

Summer Procession

15th July
Romsey
www.romseycarnival.co.uk

Andover Carnival

16th July
Andover
www.andovercarnival.org

BARC Summer Festival Race Meeting

29th & 20th July
Thruxton Race Circuit
thruxtonracing.co.uk

AUGUST

Trout 'n About Festival
6th August
Stockbridge High Street
tna2022.co.uk

Friday Summer Soul
11th August
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens

Bennetts British Superbike Championship
11th - 13th August
Thruxton Race Circuit
thruxtonracing.co.uk

Saturday Summer Soul
12th August
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens

Family Music in the Gardens
26th August
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens

SEPTEMBER

The Romsey Show
9th September
Broadlands
broadlandsestates.co.uk

The Brick Event
23rd & 24th September
Army Flying Museum
armyflying.com

Food Festival
27th September
Whitchurch Silk Mill
whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

The Garden Show
29th September - 1st October
Broadlands
broadlandsestates.co.uk

OCTOBER

Halloween Spooktacular
14th - 30th October
Paultons Park
paultonspark.co.uk

NOVEMBER

Concert of Remembrance with the Middle Wallop and Andover Military Wives Choir
10th November
Army Flying Museum
armyflying.com

Christmas Fair
25th November
Army Flying Museum
armyflying.com

Winter Procession & Lantern Parade
25th November
Romsey
romseycarnival.co.uk

Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair and Model Show
26th November
Army Flying Museum
armyflying.com



DECEMBER

Santa's Flying Visit
2nd December
Army Flying Museum
armyflying.com

Christmas at Paultons
2nd - 23rd December (selected dates)
Paultons Park
paultonspark.co.uk

Christmas Concert with the Army Medical Services Band
10th December
Army Flying Museum
armyflying.com

Christmas Carols and Owls
18th & 19th December
Hawk Conservancy Trust.
hawk-conservancy.org



PAULTONS PARK

HOME OF

Peppa Pig World

BEST. DAY. EVER!

PAULTONSPARK.CO.UK

Ower, Romsey, New Forest, Hampshire, SO51 6AL

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