

Further info

The New Forest Tour

0845 0727 093 (Mon-Fri 0830-1700) facebook.com/newforesttour

Don't forget, your ticket for The New Forest Tour entitles you to 20% off admission prices of various attractions. See guide book for more details.

Beach Bus thebeachbus.info

Beaulieu 1 SO42 7ZN 01590 612345

Fawley

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Buckler's Hard 2 01590 616203

Lepe Country Park 3 Exbury, Southampton, SO45 1AD 023 8089 9108

New Forest Centre 4 Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY 023 8028 3444



6 Point of Interest

New Forest Tour

Map Key

Attraction

🚳 Cycle Hire

Rail Station

Park Authority

Avenue Road Lymington SO41 9ZG

01590 646600 enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk

newforestnpa.gov.uk





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A day out in the New Forest

Explore the colourful military history of the New Forest

> Lyndurst to Lepe

MAP INSIDE

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Explore the colourful military history of the New Forest

Lyndhurst to Lepe

The New Forest is renowned for its abundance of natural beauty, wonderful walking routes, scenic cycle paths and quaint villages and towns, but it also played a huge role in wartime history and has resulted in a rich cultural heritage. It's one of the main reasons why visitors are attracted to the area.

Honour the heroes and heroines of the First and Second World Wars and imagine the sights, smells and noise as you wander on this commemorative war trail through the National Park.

Overview

Morning

Step into the colourful tapestry

Set the scene for your journey in Lyndhurst, the 'unofficial capital' of the New Forest and head down the high street and enjoy in the breath-taking views from Bolton's Bench under the giant yew tree. The bench actually commemorates the 18th century New Forest Master Keeper the Duke of Bolton.

Look east from the bench and you will see the open forest heathlands stretching over White Moor.

A stark contrast to what it is now, during the First World War it was a training ground with trenches for soldiers on route to the frontline. During the war, no one was allowed beyond this hill as in the distance was a firing range where First World War troops were trained in hand grenades and land mines. Dogs were also trained here. If you would like to explore the military history of the forest further, why not visit the Second World War exhibit at the nearby New Forest Centre?



Ride the New Forest Tour to Brockenhurst

From Lyndhurst the best way to get around the other memorials is aboard the green route of the New Forest Tour so step on board the open top bus as you head south to beautiful Brockenhurst. During both the First and Second World Wars wounded soldiers were brought to Brockenhurst to be treated in the temporary hospitals set up by local residents who owned some of the larger properties in the village. And, during Second World War, Balmer Lawn Hotel was used by Generals Montgomery and Eisenhower for meetings as they planned the D-Day invasion.

There were 12 airfields in the area that were used in the war, some of which can still be seen today. The most poignant one is in Holmsley, which, like most airfields in the forest, would have seen a diverse array of aircraft and squadrons during its years of operation. On the remains of the airfield is a large memorial dedicated to all the servicemen and women (from home and abroad); pause for a moment to remember them.

Afternoon

Beaulieu's military role

From Brockenhurst, hop back on the green route with Beaulieu as your next stop and uncover the covert role it played during Second World War in the Secret Army in Beaulieu Motor Museum Exhibition. Hear the stories of the British and overseas members who completed their secret training at the Beaulieu 'Finishing School' and discover how a scenic and serene Hampshire village became the base for sabotage and subversion. Beaulieu is also home to one of the last remaining airfields. Distinctive in its 'A' shaped design, it has the original runway concrete and tarmac still remaining.

Leaving the heart of Beaulieu behind you, head along the Beaulieu River on a 2-mile walk to Buckler's Hard, which played a big part in the build up to the D-Day landings. Not only did it become the base for many thousands of Army and Navy personnel, but also a repair facility for the Navy. From here, hop on the Beach Bus to Lepe (during the school summer holidays).

A wartime trail wouldn't be complete without visiting Lepe where the remains of the defences can be seen at the eastern end of the beach and the important role it played during the Second World War.

It's been an emotional and yet heart-warming exploration of days gone by so head back to Lyndhurst on the green route. Rest assured, there is a piece of history to be uncovered in every inch of the New Forest National Park so be sure to come back soon and discover yet more of what makes the New Forest so enchanting and captivating.

