interesting places to go & things to do by train

Guildford
Godalming
Haslemere
Petersfield
Havant
Portsmouth & Southsea
Portsmouth Harbour

also including
Farncombe, Milford, Witley, Liphook, Liss, Rowlands Castle, Bedhampton, Cosham & Hilsea

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Witley

Witley is a quaint village, nestled in beautiful countryside and steeped in history. It offers a peaceful retreat with its charming surroundings, rich natural habitats, and easy access to outdoor adventures.

Witley Common

Visit this haven for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts, offering the chance to hear nightingales and the eerie calls of nightjars. During the right season, it transforms into a fungi-lover's paradise, with a fascinating array of species to discover.

nationaltrust.org.uk

Godalming

Stop by this historic market town on the scenic River Wey, with its independent shops and the iconic pink Pepperpot, once the Old Town Hall.

In 1881, Godalming became the world's first town with a public electricity supply, powered by a waterwheel.

In 2006, the station was briefly renamed 'Shere' during filming for Hollywood blockbuster The Holiday. Don't miss a trip to Church Street - featured in the film!

Godalming Museum

Learn all about the local history, enjoy a stroll around the Gertrude Jekyll-inspired walled garden and uncover connections with the Titanic and Sir Winston Churchill.

godalmingmuseum.co.uk

Winkworth Arboretum

Take a short bus ride to this colourful collection of shrubs and trees, cafe, lake, trails for children to follow, the Holly Walk and a steep hillside walk.

Compass Travel 42
from Godalming High Street

nationaltrust.org.uk

Milford

This picturesque village is known for its charming atmosphere boasting a vibrant community, a mix of independent shops and beautiful natural surroundings, making it a delightful destination.

Milford Common

Once part of Witley Camp, where thousands of Canadian troops trained during both World Wars, Milford Common is now home to a striking memorial. This is a place to honour those who served and sacrificed, offering a peaceful place for remembrance and reflection on the enduring ties between Canada and the UK.

nationaltrust.org.uk

Witley & Milford stations are the gateway to Surrey Hills National Landscape

surreyhills.org

Farncombe

With its peaceful atmosphere and surrounded by lush landscapes, Farncombe is an ideal spot for nature lovers and those seeking a quiet retreat.

Hire a boat

Uncover the charm of the River Wey with Farncombe Boat House. You can hire a narrowboat or rowing boat and enjoy a peaceful escape through scenic countryside - no experience needed, just a love for adventure.

farncombeboats.co.uk

Tree Trail

Follow the Farncombe Tree Trail by Godalming Town Council to see how many different trees you can identify.

godalming-tc.gov.uk

Guildford

Here's Guildford, a town surrounded on not one, not two but three sides by the Surrey Hills National Landscape. Not only that, it boasts a castle, cathedral, many churches, theatres and a museum.

Shopping? Paradise. There's a large selection of indies and all the chain stores you know and love. There's also a regular farmers market.

Guildford Museum

Guildford Museum, located near Guildford Castle Grounds, showcases the area's history from prehistoric times to the present. Housed in historic buildings, including parts of the 13th-century castle gateway, it features archaeology, textiles, and exhibits on figures like Lewis Carroll.

Originally established in 1898 with the Surrey Archaeological Society's collections, it offers engaging displays and changing exhibitions that highlight Guildford's rich heritage.

see map

surreymuseums.org.uk

River walks and boat rides

Meander along the tranquil riverside, soaking up the soothing sights and sounds of nature, or embark on a leisurely boat trip to immerse yourself in the peaceful rhythm of the water.

see map

visitsurrey.com

Yvonne Arnaud Theatre

This charming hub of culture and creativity is renowned for its vibrant programme of plays, musicals, and comedy, it offers something for everyone. Its riverside setting adds a touch of magic, making it a perfect destination for theatre lovers.

see map

yvonne-arnaud.co.uk

Guildford Lido

Take a dip in the Guildford Lido. Whether you're swimming laps or simply soaking up the sunshine, it's the perfect spot to unwind on a warm day. Don't forget to pack a picnic for a truly idyllic outing!

freedom-leisure.co.uk/centres/guildford-lido

Walking tours

Explore the city by joining one of the free walking tours led by a local town guide. What better way to discover this city?

guildfordwalks.org.uk

The Hills to Harbour line is an important rail link between the Surrey town of Guildford and the coastal City of Portsmouth in Hampshire.

It's steeped in fascinating history and even played a vital role during World War II, transporting troops and supplies to the coast, connecting key military installations.

Today, the route continues to be a vital link with trains running up to every 30 minutes by South Western Railway and connections to other regional trains at Havant, Fratton and Guildford.

In this handy guide you'll be able to find out more about this amazing line and find some amazing things to do along it.

How can you help?

- Join our stakeholder or voluntary groups.
- Help with or sponsor improvements to a station.
- Provide or help to look after flowers and planters at stations.
- Assist with passenger surveys, events, art projects and promotions.
- Improve access to or from stations via bus, cycle, walking or car-sharing initiatives.
- Keep stations free of litter and rubbish.
- Organise or lead guided walks or cycle rides from stations.
- Help 'keep an eye' on stations in the evening or at weekends.
- Report any damage or anti-social behaviour.

and much more...

contact us for further information

lucy@hampshirecommunityrail.co.uk

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Godalming Town Council – Supporting Our Community
East Hampshire District Council
Surrey County Council

Portsmouth & Southsea
Portsmouth Harbour

Fall in love again and again with Britain's iconic, and only, island city. There's so much going on for everyone, day and night - many buses run 24/7 here.

Shopping? it has everything you can expect and need from the high street favourites, a gigantic outlet mall and who could overlook Southsea's stunning independents?

This city has been the home of the Royal Navy for centuries and has plenty of stories to tell - here are just a few things you can see and do.

Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery

Explore Portsmouth's heritage at this dynamic museum. Highlights include The Story of Portsmouth, featuring recreated historical rooms, and A Study in Sherlock, with interactive exhibits and a Stephen Fry-narrated mystery.

Enjoy art collections and rotating exhibitions for all interests.

see map

portsmouthmuseum.co.uk

Entertainment central

Portsmouth's entertainment scene shines at venues like the iconic Guildhall, featuring top comedy, live music and performances. The historic Kings Theatre in Southsea offers

captivating plays, musicals and dance. For more culture, visit the New Theatre Royal for drama, comedy, and live shows.

see map

portsmouthguildhall.org.uk
kingsportsmouth.co.uk
newtheatreroyal.com

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Step into maritime history at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, home to iconic ships and engaging exhibits. Explore HMS Victory, Admiral Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar, and HMS Warrior, Britain's first iron-hulled warship. Discover the fascinating remains of the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's warship, brought to life through an award-winning museum. The dockyard also features interactive exhibits, the National Museum of the Royal Navy, and thrilling harbour tours, making it a must-visit destination for history enthusiasts and families alike.

see map

historicdockyard.co.uk

Blue Reef Aquarium

Experience fascinating marine life, from colourful tropical fish and seahorses to graceful rays and sharks. The aquarium's immersive displays, including a walk-through tunnel, bring you face-to-face with the wonders of the ocean, making it a perfect day out for families and animal lovers.

see map

bluereefaquarium.co.uk

The D-Day Story

Discover the bravery and strategy behind the 1944 Allied landings at The D-Day Story, the UK's only museum dedicated to this historic event. Personal accounts, interactive displays, and original artefacts bring the operation to life.

Highlights include the Overlord Embroidery, a 272-foot masterpiece, plus landing craft and military vehicles. Engaging for all ages, the museum offers an unforgettable glimpse into a pivotal moment in world history.

see map

theddaystory.com

Gunwharf Quays and Spinnaker Tower

Gunwharf Quays is a shopper's paradise, boasting over 90 premium outlet stores offering top brands at fantastic prices. Alongside shopping, enjoy a wide range of dining options and waterfront entertainment.

Towering above is the Spinnaker Tower, a 170-metre landmark offering breathtaking panoramic views across Portsmouth Harbour, the Solent, and even as far as the Isle of Wight.

From its viewing platforms, you can marvel at the sight of Gosport across the water and the bustling marina below. Perfect for a day of retail therapy and unforgettable sights!

see map

gunwharf-quays.com
spinnakertower.co.uk

Fratton

Conveniently located near the home of Portsmouth Football Club, it's a popular stop for football fans on match days. The station also provides easy access to local shops, restaurants, and the surrounding community, as well as frequent buses to Southsea & Clarence Pier.

Fratton Park

Since 1899, Fratton Park has been the home of Portsmouth Football Club. Some people may think it's an outdated stadium, however it is beloved by Portsmouth fans and players alike.

Brazilian legend Ronaldinho, a World Cup winner with Brazil and Champions League champion with Barcelona, has played in some of the most iconic stadiums around the globe. Yet, he once declared Fratton Park as having one of the "best atmospheres in the world."

One of the most famous games at Fratton Park occurred in 2005 when Portsmouth faced their fierce rivals Southampton in a dramatic South Coast derby. The match ended in a thrilling 4-1 victory for Portsmouth.

portsmouthfc.co.uk

Hilsea

This station originally opened in 1941 to serve the factories involved in war work in this northern suburb of Portsmouth.

Hilsea Lines ramparts

Just a 15 minute walk from the station is this popular area with woodland, meadows and lakes to enjoy.

bit.ly/4iU5okW

head to the Isle of Wight

It's so easy to get to the island from Portsmouth on foot or by bike.

Take the FastCat from Portsmouth Harbour or the hovercraft from Southsea Hoverport, which is accessible on foot or via the Hoverbus from Portsmouth Harbour.

wightlink.co.uk
hovertravel.co.uk

Cosham

Originally a Saxon settlement, Cosham now forms the mainly residential outer edge of the Portsmouth area, close to Portsdown Hill and the fringes of the harbour.

The Queen Alexandra Hospital is nearby.

Portsdown Hill Viewpoint

For fresh air and fantastic views, take the 35 minute walk from the station and you'll find the viewpoint, home to rare chalkland wildlife.

see map

Bedhampton

Bedhampton is a residential suburb, boasting many listed and historic buildings including the distinctive former Gospel Hall. The author of Jane's Fighting Ships, Fred T. Jane, lived in the village.

Havant

Explore this thriving market town, with its fine Georgian buildings and narrow weaving footpaths called 'Twittens'.

Consider taking a walk along one of the gorgeous coastal paths nearby or visit the market on Tuesday or Saturday.

Hayling Island

Take the bus to enjoy Hayling's unspoilt beaches, have a great time at Funland Amusement Park and enjoy some of the very best fish and chips around.

Visit the Hayling Island Station Theatre for local Amateur Dramatic Society performances in the old railway station.

Stagecoach 30 or 31 from Havant bus station

or see map

funland.info
stationtheatre.co.uk

Spring Arts & Heritage Centre

This is a lively cultural venue offering performances, art exhibitions, workshops and community events. It also celebrates the town's history with heritage displays, making it a popular spot for both locals and visitors.

thespring.co.uk

Rowlands Castle

A typical English country village, Rowlands Castle boasts a beautiful green, a great café nearby and is an ideal starting point for a walk into the South Downs!

St. Hubert's Church

Built in 1053, this beautiful church, located to the north of Rowlands Castle at Idsworth, near Finchdean is grade I listed and boasts paintings from as early as 1300.

bit.ly/4j1GFLK

Stansted Park & House

It's 2 miles from the station but well worth the walk. Pick up local produce at the farm shop, wander around the garden centre, enjoy dining in the elegant Pavilion Tea Room, visit the Edwardian House (pictured above!), let off steam with a trip on the light railway or get lost and found in a maze.

see map

stanstedpark.co.uk

Petersfield

Petersfield is one of the main gateways into the South Downs National Park, an attractive town with a range of independent shops and a market on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Visit the hub on the station forecourt next to the bus stops. If you arrive when the Free Shop is open you can help yourself to the surplus fresh products on offer, including fruit, vegetables and bread.

Once home to Sir Alec Guinness and H.G. Wells, the town now offers tourist information at the town hall.

Petersfield Heath & Pond

The heath is a 20 minute walk through the centre of Petersfield. Boats are available to hire during the summer months.

Enjoy snacks and ice creams at the Plump Duck café next to the playground.

see map

petersfield-tc.gov.uk/the-heath

Petersfield Museum & Gallery

The museum & gallery showcases local history and South Downs art in a restored courthouse, hosting exhibitions, events, and workshops.

petersfieldmuseum.co.uk

Petersfield Open Air Pool

Soak up some sun at the open air pool, inaugurated in 1962 and restored in 2020. The pool is even heated in peak season.

petersfieldpool.org

Liss

Liss is a charming village known for its picturesque countryside. It offers a peaceful escape with ample walking and cycling routes.

The Longmoor Military Railway used to join at Liss. After its closure it became a film set for Young Winston and the Great St. Trinian's Train Robbery films.

Liphook

Once home to author Flora Thompson, this picturesque village lies on the edge of the South Downs National Park, offering stunning natural beauty and a rich sense of community.

Known for its historical charm, Liphook is home to several heritage buildings, including the Anchor Inn, which dates back to the 15th century.

Hollycombe Steam in the Country

Here's a unique heritage attraction showcasing the golden age of steam, including steam-powered fairground rides, a narrow-gauge railway and traditional farm equipment, offering a glimpse into Victorian and Edwardian engineering.

see map

hollycombesteam.co.uk

Haslemere

Haslemere is a great base for walkers and off-road cyclists to explore the Surrey Hills National Landscape and the South Downs National Park.

Visit the hub on the station forecourt next to the main entrance. Local volunteers will share their knowledge of the best places to visit. If it's closed, an outdoor display provides lots of information about the town and surrounding area.

Haslemere Educational Museum

Set in the beautiful historic grounds lovingly cared for by volunteers, the museum houses collections of natural history, human history and geology.

haslemeremuseum.co.uk

Blue Plaque Trail

Follow this trail by the Haslemere Society to hunt out famous local people who lived here such as famed novelist and poet, George Elliot.

haslemeresociety.org/blue-plaques

Swan Barn Farm

With its quiet meadows and ancient woodland, from the station it's just a 10-15 minute walk to get there.

nationaltrust.org.uk