

# 5-Night South Downs Discovery Tour

**Destinations:** South Downs & England

**Trip code:** AWHCR-5



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

---

Peaceful countryside, a backdrop of rolling chalk hills and beautiful gardens make the South Downs an enchanting area to explore. Discover the historic town of Arundel with its iconic castle, walk in Petworth Park to see its large herd of fallow deer and see the sights of Brighton. An exploration of picture-postcard Amberley delights with its quaint cottages and sleepy charm while in Midhurst you can see the shell of a once-grand Tudor mansion which succumbed to fire. There's also time to explore Chichester - a city founded in Roman times.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

---

- High-quality Full Board en-suite accommodation and excellent food in our country house
- The services of our knowledgeable HF Holidays' leader, ensuring you get the most from your holiday
- Full-day excursions with all transport on touring days in a good-quality, comfortable mini-coach

For 2022 departures, all admission costs are included on Discovery tours, including National Trust & English Heritage.

---

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

---

- Explore the Roman city of Chichester
- Discover the mighty Arundel Castle, founded in 1067
- See the large herds of deer in Petworth Park
- Visit the picturesque village of Bosham in Chichester Harbour
- Enjoy the floral displays of West Dean Gardens

---

## TRIP SUITABILITY

---

Our Discovery holidays give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the local area through **active sightseeing**.

On each Discovery day, you will be walking roughly 3-5 miles (5-8km) throughout the course of the day as you explore the venues and locations we visit. You'll also be hopping on and off the coach throughout - you should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Most of this walking will be at attractions but some may be across country tracks or footpaths so be sure to **bring sturdy shoes**. There will also be stairs to climb in the majority of the venues you visit, though other more accessible options may be available. At some venues, there may also be uneven surfaces, such as cobbles or rocky paths.

---

## ITINERARY

---

### Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards.

Enjoy a complimentary Afternoon Tea on arrival.

### Day 2: Petworth & Midhurst

Start with a gentle walk through Petworth Park, hopefully seeing some of the large herd of fallow deer which live here, before paying a visit to Petworth House (National Trust). After lunch we drive through pretty villages to Midhurst, forever associated with HG Wells; he attended Midhurst Grammar School firstly as a pupil and latterly as a teacher. He also briefly worked in the town's chemist shop and lived above a sweet shop in the town. The town featured under the name of 'Wimblehurst' in *The Invisible Man*. We shall walk through the historic centre to see some of its most characterful old buildings. Look out for ones whose woodwork is painted dark yellow, a shade known locally as 'Gold Cup'. This colour denotes properties which belong to the Cowdray Estate; the 1st Viscount Cowdray was connected with the Liberal Party - the party's colour is yellow. We'll also visit the atmospheric ruins of Cowdray House - a large Tudor mansion which was all but destroyed by fire in 1793. The kitchen tower is the only part of the mansion which stayed intact. Both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I stayed at Cowdray House during its heyday.

### Day 3: Amberley & Arundel

Enjoy a morning spent exploring the Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre, which is dedicated to the industrial heritage of the south east. The afternoon will be spent in Arundel, with time to visit spectacular Arundel Castle and The Collector Earl's garden.

### Day 4: Around Chichester

Our day starts with a visit to the pretty village of Bosham which overlooks one of the small inlets of Chichester harbour. A short distance away is the city of Chichester which was founded by the Romans. Its most obvious

feature is the 12th century gothic-style cathedral which we'll visit for a tour; its 61-foot spire can be seen for miles around. There are many historic buildings in the city and the remains of the city walls which were built in Roman times. The city's Roman heritage is one of the many features of the Novium Museum whose 500,000 exhibits include the remains of some Roman baths and the burial possessions of the 'Mystery Warrior' - an Iron Age man who was buried in Chichester. From Chichester we will travel to the nearby West Dean Gardens. These wonderful gardens date back to 1622 but much of what we see today was created in the 1800s. The gardens come complete with Victorian glasshouses, a 300-foot Edwardian pergola, a walled kitchen garden and a sunken garden.

## Day 5: Brighton

This morning we'll be heading off for a day in Brighton. We'll begin with a visit to the Royal Pavilion, remodelled in Indian style as a seaside palace for King George IV when he was Prince Regent, and then you'll have plenty of free time to explore. You might want to wander along the promenade of Brighton Beach, soak up some history at the Brighton Museum, or pop your head into the city's more unusual boutiques in North Laine.

## Day 6: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

## ACCOMMODATION

---

### Abingworth Hall

Tucked away in the village of Thakeham at the foot of the South Downs, Abingworth Hall has stood in one form or another since the 13th century. Gunned by fire, it was rebuilt in 1910 in its current distinctive style. As well as 27 en-suite rooms the house has all the ingredients you need for the perfect country house stay: three comfortable lounges with squishy sofas to kick back in, the largest of which opens onto an attractive conservatory and bar in which to dally, great food and super-comfy rooms to retire to. You're spoilt for choice when it comes to walking here; go for a lazy amble around the wildlife rich chalk Downlands to discover a colourful tapestry of historic villages, thatched cottages, pastoral landscapes and vibrant market towns. Highlights of your stay might include the Seven Sisters, the Glorious Goodwood estate, the Devil's Dyke and Chanctonbury Ring, as well as Arundel and the National Trust property at Petworth. Take your pick.

## Country House Accommodation

### Accommodation Info

### Need To Know

We appreciate that COVID-19 continues to impact the nations. The English, Scottish and Welsh governments are not always in sync, so measures in our country houses may vary between the nations. We thank all guests for adhering to the measures we have introduced to keep our guests, leaders and team members safe.

You can see our latest FAQs and guarantees at <https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/coronavirus-travel-advice>

### Ventilation, Physical Distancing Measures and Group Sizes around the Houses

We will keep our public areas well ventilated; for your comfort you might want to pack an extra layer to keep you comfortable.

With the relaxation of physical distancing, we will be allowing larger groups to dine and relax in the bar

together.

Hand sanitiser stations will be made available in frequently used public areas for guests and staff use. It is advisable to bring additional hand sanitiser for whilst you are out walking.

We always follow the latest regional government advice, but our one recommendation is don't forget your face mask! There is no requirement to wear a face covering in communal areas, but you may of course choose to. Some places throughout the UK may still require you to wear a mask even if the government legislation does not. With this in mind we suggest you bring a personal supply of face coverings for the duration of your stay.

### **Servicing Bedrooms:**

At this stage we are not reintroducing our daily room servicing. Extra tea, coffee, milk, towels and toiletries will be available on request from our team. Bins can be left outside your door for emptying.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms or Cases**

If a guest has symptoms of COVID-19 then they should inform the house team and immediately self-isolate to minimise any risk of transmission and make arrangements to request a COVID test. If a guest receives a positive test result, they should return home if they reasonably can. They should where possible use private transport but only drive themselves if they can do so safely. If a guest cannot reasonably return home, they should discuss their circumstances with the House Manager. Additional charges may be levied if a guest needs to self-isolate for longer than their planned holiday.

### **What can you do to help keep everyone safe?**

- Wear a face mask/covering where required and please bring plenty of face coverings for the duration of your stay
- Carry/use hand sanitiser
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water when possible
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough or sneeze
- Avoid passing round objects such as cameras & phones
- If you are displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, please do not travel to an HF Holidays House

## **Rooms**

*Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi*

Stay in one of the Hall's smartly presented rooms, which make use of every nook-and-cranny in the interesting architecture of this characterful house. With 27 bedrooms, Abingworth Hall has plenty of space and there's a range of Classic and Premium Rooms to choose from. Clean and bright, with accent colours to offset the simple palette, the rooms are airy and light. Premium Rooms might have a feature wall or strong print wallpaper as well as pretty tiles in the ensuite bathroom.

*All 'Classic' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Premium' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress and larger television – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-25 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.*

### **Check in:**

Check in opens at **4pm** for all guests. Guests will be unable to access any of the Country House facilities, including leaving luggage before 4pm.

We are delighted to invite you to enjoy a complimentary Afternoon Tea on arrival. Relax and meet your fellow guests and leaders.

### **Check out:**

Check out time: **10am**

Please note, you will need to settle your bill before departure and payment will only be possible by card. Gratuities and donations to the Pathway Fund can also be made by card.

## Facilities

*Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, extensive garden, outdoor swimming pool, multi-purpose activity room, three lounges, library and board games to borrow*

After a day strolling on the South Downs, come back to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Relax in the large gardens and sit by the pretty pond, turn your hand to croquet or practice on the putting green. Ease through a couple of lengths of the heated outdoor pool if you've still got energy to burn. Hole up in the light-filled conservatory with pretty views of the gardens or retire to the Drawing Room with its wood-panelled walls, log burner, library of books to browse and comfy seats to sink in to; there's a telescope for you to scour the night sky too. In the evening, take your seat in the bar or join fellow guests in the large ballroom for the evening activity.

## Welcome Information

A Welcome Information Pack providing details about the Country House and your holiday will be available in each bedroom. This personal pack of information will detail what to expect during your stay in the house, the menu for the duration of your stay, dinner & picnic lunch order forms and the guest registration form for completion.

Our houses are locked at night-time and accessible with a door code which is available in the Welcome Pack. However, we also recommend making a note of the Duty Manager number on arrival, in case of an emergency or getting locked out.

## Evenings

Join our team after dinner on Wednesday evenings to see if you've got the knowledge to triumph in the HF Big Pub Quiz! There will also be another evening of entertainment at the beginning of the week which will vary depending on the house you are visiting.

If there are leaders resident, they will be available to chat to guests about self-guided walks. You can borrow walking route notes and maps from our Discovery Point.

## Walks Talks – Guided Walking Information Briefings

Self-Guided guests are always welcome to join our Guided Walking briefings to hear about the local conditions.

Our leaders will deliver a Guided Walking Information Briefing on each arrival day before and after dinner followed by a group Walks Talk to let guests know about the following day's walks. Walks Talks are usually before and after dinner prior to each walking day. The information is repeated so you can join whichever time suits you.

If you are undecided which walk to do, our leaders will be available in the bar or lounge to answer any questions you might have. Our website contains up-to-date information about the walks for each holiday.

Before you leave for your walk your leader will run through a short safety briefing for the day.

Each day, the latest weather forecast will be displayed for all guests to check to ensure appropriate clothing is worn for the walks.

Please note, if you decide to do your own walks, or you are on a self-guided walking holiday, you must complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

## Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Food at Abingworth Hall is varied with a strong emphasis on the use of seasonal British produce. Our experienced chefs create each dish using only the freshest ingredients and, when in season, use home grown herbs and vegetables taken from our own gardens to give a true taste of the local area.

Along with many hospitality business across the UK we are presently experiencing disruption to our food and drink supply chain. Covid continues to limit the ability of suppliers to deliver and the war in Ukraine (along with several other global challenges) is impacting availability of many basic products. We are working hard to ensure that these challenges do not negatively impact your holiday but ask for your understanding should we need to make last minute changes to dishes or menus.

## Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or [view the accessibility information online for Abingworth Hall](#)

## TRAVEL DETAILS

---

Our address is: Abingworth Hall, Storrington Road, Thakeham, West Sussex, RH20 3EF  
Tel: [01798 813636](tel:01798813636)

### BY TRAIN:

The nearest railway station to Abingworth Hall is Pulborough. Please note that Pulborough station has a short platform, check the departure boards for which carriage to sit in. For train times and route planning by train visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or phone [03457 48 49 50](tel:03457484950).

### BY TAXI:

The 6-mile journey from Pulborough railway station takes approximately 15 minutes. Please try to avoid arriving at Pulborough station between 2.50pm and 3.20pm, as there may not be taxis available for your onward journey to Abingworth Hall due to school pick-ups. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, MJ Cars. The guide price for a 4-seat taxi is around £16 (2022 prices). 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

MJ Cars\*  
Tel: [+44 \(0\)1903 745414](tel:+4401903745414)  
Email: [mjcars@btconnect.com](mailto:mjcars@btconnect.com)

The return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Abingworth Hall Manager.

\*MJ Cars is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

### BY CAR:

**From the M25** take either the A24 or the M23 and then the A264 towards Horsham. At the Great Daux roundabout go south on the A24 towards Worthing. Go straight over 2 roundabouts and then at the traffic light cross roads turn right onto the A272 signposted to Billingshurst and Petersfield. After 3 miles turn left onto the B2139 (The Selsey Arms on left). After 3.5 miles pass the turning for Thakeham on the left. After half a mile, Abingworth Hall is on the left, directly after the national speed limit signs.

**From the M27** continue onto the A27 and around Chichester. At Fontwell Park roundabout take the first exit to continue on the A27 and at the next roundabout take the first exit on to the A29. After approx. 4 miles, at a roundabout, take the 2nd exit on to the B2139 to Storrington. At the mini roundabout in Storrington, take the

2nd exit onto the A283. Continue through Storrington and take the first exit at the mini roundabout by the Anchor Inn on to the B2139 towards Thakeham. Take the 2nd exit at the next mini roundabout and then take the 1st exit at next mini roundabout (by Steyning Grammar School). Continue down this road until you see 30mph signs. Abingworth Hall is just before these signs, on the right. Look out for the end of the driveway between two high stone walls.

## LOCAL AREA

---

Abingworth Hall is situated amidst gentle rolling farmland at the foot of the South Downs. The nearest facilities are in the village of Storrington, about two miles away. Here you'll find a small supermarket, post office, newsagent, pubs and a bank.

During your stay at Abingworth Hall you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest:

### Arundel

The quaint town of Arundel, about 30 minutes' drive away, is dominated by its castle, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk. During your visit you may enjoy a walk in [Arundel Castle's](#) extensive grounds, or beside the tranquil river Arun.

### Arundel Wetlands Centre

This 60-acre nature reserve is run by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and provides a protected habitat for a wide range of swans, geese, ducks and other wetland birds. A network of paths takes visitors to a number of viewing areas to enjoy watching the wildlife. [Arundel Wetlands Centre](#) is just outside Arundel town, about a 30-minute drive from Abingworth Hall.

### Bignor Roman Villa

[Bignor Roman Villa](#) was discovered in 1811 by a man ploughing a field. This Roman home clearly belonged to a family of some consequence and features many fine mosaic floors of intricate design. It is located just outside Pulborough, about 10 miles from Abingworth Hall.

### Pulborough Brooks Nature Reserve

Just 4 miles from Abingworth Hall, [Pulborough Brooks](#) is a large nature reserve in the Arun Valley managed by the RSPB. A network of nature trails take visitors into the reserve where there a range of habitats from ponds and ditches to woods and meadow. The site is an important place for over-wintering wildfowl and for nesting waders. The reserve can be reached either by road or on foot from Abingworth Hall.

### Uppark House

Completely restored after an extensive fire in 1989, this stately National Trust property has ornate rooms and lovely gardens with surrounding woodlands. [Uppark House and Garden](#) is around 50 minutes' drive from Abingworth.

### Brighton

The cosmopolitan seaside city of Brighton is about 40 minutes' drive from Abingworth Hall and has an excellent range of specialist shops, entertainment, and its famous pier. You may also enjoy a visit to the [Royal Pavilion](#), built in the early 19th century by George IV.

## Amberley Working Museum

Just 15 minutes' drive from Abingworth Hall, this large open-air museum tells the industrial story of the downs, complete with a steam railway, vintage buses and restored quarry machinery. [Amberley Museum](#) is just outside Amberley village which is also well worth a visit with its sleepy streets lined with thatched cottages and flower-filled gardens. The village is also home to a small [pottery](#).

## Parham House

Just 10 to 15 minutes' drive away, Elizabethan [Parham House](#) is surrounded by an extensive deer park. Some of our guided walks go through the deer park.

## Chichester

The historic cathedral city of Chichester, about 45 minutes' drive away, has plenty of interest. Visit the impressive [Chichester Cathedral](#) and take a walk which follows the old city walls.

## Fishbourne Roman Palace

Just a couple of miles outside Chichester lies [Fishbourne Roman Palace](#), the largest residential Roman building found in Britain. It was discovered in 1960; excavations revealed many superb mosaics.

## Petworth House

A large late 17th century mansion, now run by the National Trust with extensive grounds that were landscaped by 'Capability' Brown. The surrounding deer park is home to a large herd of fallow deer. [Petworth House](#) is around 30 minutes' drive from Abingworth.

## Weald & Downland Living Museum

Located on the Downs, near the village of Singleton, this excellent open-air museum contains many restored buildings that bring the history of Sussex to life. These include a working watermill and a re-creation of a typical downland village. The [Weald & Downland Living Museum](#) is also home to the popular BBC TV programme 'The Repair Shop'. The museum is around 45 minutes' drive from Abingworth.

## Bluebell Railway

[The Bluebell Railway](#) is one of Britain's premier heritage steam railways with an impressive collection of 50 locomotives, representing the Southern Railway and its predecessors. The line runs through rolling countryside from Sheffield Park to East Grinstead, about 40 minutes' drive from Abingworth.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

---

### Essential Information

To enjoy your holiday comfortably and safely, it's essential that your clothing and footwear is suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. Changeable weather is possible throughout the year, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities – hot, cold, wet or dry.

All of our Discovery tours involve active sightseeing and you should therefore be prepared for walking between the sights and wear flat, comfortable shoes. In the evening most guests wear casual clothing. You will probably find a small rucksack or cross-body bag useful for carrying spare clothing, a camera and drinks (at least 1 litre) during the day.



Please note: For 2022 departures, all admission costs are included on Discovery tours, including National Trust & English Heritage.

## HOW TO BOOK

---

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm, Saturday: 9am – 1pm, Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

### PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

### NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

### BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

### MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the [Manage My Booking](#) function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

### YOUR FINAL BALANCE

Your final balance payment is due 6 weeks before departure if you are staying in an HF Holidays UK country house, 8 weeks before departure if you are travelling on one of our holidays in Europe and 10 weeks before departure if you are on a Guided Trail staying in one of our partner hotels or are travelling on a Worldwide holiday. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on [01702 427 236](tel:01702427236) or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

### PEACE OF MIND

**ATOL:**

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

**MEMBER OF ABTOT:**

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

**TRIP NOTE VALIDITY**

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

**PRICE GUARANTEE**

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

**Document produced:** 01-07-2022

