

Introduction

The Staunton Way is a 8.5 to 20.5 mile long-distance walking route passing through some of the most uninhabited places in Hampshire. It will take you from Queen Elizabeth Country Park, near Petersfield at its northern tip, high onto the South Downs and down to Staunton Country Park on the fringes of Havant. You can walk the whole route or make a series of shorter walks by using the two connecting paths shown on the map.

The Way is named after Sir George Staunton, an MP for Portsmouth in the early 19th century who created a country estate, which now forms the country park that bears his name. The path has been divided into six sections, each offering a good day out. Choose between quiet villages or country parks, downland picnics or cosy pubs, steep hills with exhilarating views or manicured gardens and Victorian glasshouses.

Queen Elizabeth Country Park is a naturalist's paradise with 38 species of butterfly and 12 species of wild orchid. The downland is rich in wild flowers such as wild thyme, rock-rose, bee orchids and squinancywort, and a wealth of insect life including burnet moths, marbled whites and small skipper butterflies.



Marbled White butterfly

There are two very different country parks to explore, one at each end of the Way. There is Queen Elizabeth Country Park with its acres of quiet woodland and over 20 miles of trails for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. Or the beautifully restored, landscaped park and pleasure gardens of Sir George Staunton complete with a lake, mysterious follies, original glasshouses and walled garden.



Staunton Country Park

History

The Staunton Way has many historically important and interesting buildings and places to visit along the route. The area is rich in Roman remains, with evidence of potteries, cremation sites, settlements and field systems. Contour lynchets- accumulations of soil at the downslope field edge created by prolonged ploughing - are also visible. This area has been greatly valued from as far back as the Stone Age with the Mesolithic sites perhaps as much as 4000 years older than the Roman sites.

The path skirts around the edge of Stansted Forest, a mixture of woods and small grassy paddocks still retaining the character of the medieval hunting forest. In 1194, Richard the Lionheart hunted at Stansted while waiting for his ships to load at Portsmouth.

Stansted Park is one of the South's most beautiful stately homes, a real 'upstairs downstairs' experience showing the social history of an English country house in its Edwardian heyday.

The little church of St Hubert at Idsworth is a curiosity which once belonged to the old manor house. When the London-to-Portsmouth railway line was built in the 19th century, the owner abandoned the site and built a new mansion on higher ground to the west. Part of its former stables is converted into a cottage, and a great double avenue of lime trees climbs the hillside to nowhere.



St Hubert's Church

Local fare

Hampshire boasts a wide range of fine local products such as watercress, trout, beef and lamb, wine, cheeses, handmade chocolates and many more. For a guide to producers, call 01962 845999 or visit www.hampshirefare.co.uk on the web.



Butser Hill

How to follow the Staunton Way

Staunton Way

Havant 5 miles

The route stretches between Queen Elizabeth Country Park, near Petersfield and Staunton Country Park, Havant in Hampshire.



The route is well sign posted with the logo of a roe deer on a green arrow.

Maps

This leaflet does not provide navigation details. The route is shown on the following Ordnance Survey maps:-



Explorer map at 1:25,000 scale
120 Chichester



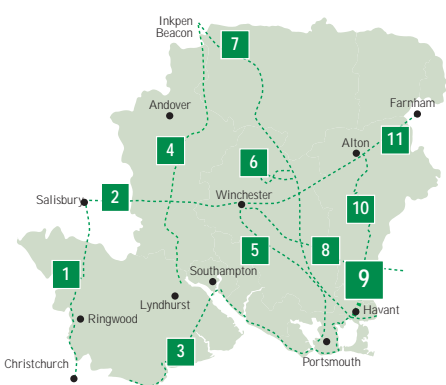
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The route is indicated on these maps with a green diamond and the name of the route (Staunton Way).



Further information and a detailed route description is available on the web: www.hants.gov.uk/walking/staunton

Other long-distance walks



- 1 Avon Valley Path
- 2 Clarendon Way
- 3 Solent Way
- 4 Test Way
- 5 Hampshire Millennium Pilgrims' Trail
- 6 Oxdrove Way
- 7 Wayfarer's Walk
- 8 South Downs Way National Trail
- 9 Staunton Way
- 10 Hangers Way
- 11 St Swithun's Way

Further information

Publications

For information about the other ten long-distance walks or for leaflets about the following, tel: (01962) 870500, or visit your local Hampshire County Council Information Centre or Tourist Information Centre.

Long-distance walks
Finding Your Way
Guided Walks
Discover Hampshire
Accessible Countryside in Hampshire
Defence of the Realm

Trail guides and event programmes are available from Queen Elizabeth and Staunton Country Parks

Useful websites

www.hants.gov.uk/walking
www.hants.gov.uk/countryside
www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/qecp
www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/staunton
www.visit-hampshire.org.uk
www.traveline.org.uk
www.metoffice.co.uk

Useful contacts

Hampshire County Council
Information Centre Winchester 01962 870500
Met Office (weather information) 0870 900 0100
The Traveline 0870 608 2608

Tourist Information Centres (TICs)

Petersfield 01730 268829
www.visit-easthampshire.org.uk
Havant 023 9248 0024
www.visit-oystercost.co.uk

Recreation & Heritage Department
Hampshire County Council, Mottisfont Court,
High Street, Winchester Hampshire SO23 8ZF.

Available in alternative formats
01962 870500

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walking in Hampshire

Staunton Way

A 8.5 to 20.5 mile long-distance walk from Queen Elizabeth Country Park to Staunton Country Park



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Hampshire
County Council

Following the Staunton Way

A combination of routes has been developed for you to choose from. You can start or finish from either Queen Elizabeth Country Park or Staunton Country Park. There are two connecting links (indicated in blue) one at Chalton and one at Finchdean which allow you to choose from a number of shorter circular routes.

Queen Elizabeth Country Park to Finchdean

Distance 5 miles (8km)

Time 2-3 hours

The Staunton Way can be started at its northern tip in Queen Elizabeth Country Park. This is the largest of Hampshire's parks and sits at the foot of Butser Hill, the highest point of the chalky South Downs. Starting at the Visitor Centre, the Way enters the quiet calm of the woodland where there is the site of a Roman farmstead, designated in 2002 as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Continue along Newbarn Hanger (a steep-sided, wooded hill) and out into the open space of the Downs. Gently descend south to the village of Chalton which has been occupied as far back as the Iron Age. From here you can cross over to the eastern side of the Way. A short walk off-route west from the village brings you to Butser Ancient Farm, an experimental archaeology project and to Windmill Hill.

The path then climbs up to a tumulus (an Iron Age burial mound) at the top of Chalton Down. Walk along the ridge at Idsworth Down, where there are nine Bronze Age burial mounds, and down to the tiny village of Finchdean. From here you can cross over to the eastern side of the Way.

Accommodation Petersfield TIC	01730 268829
Refreshments	
QECP Café	023 9259 6345
The Red Lion, Chalton	023 9259 2246
The George, Finchdean	023 9241 2257
Places of Interest	
Queen Elizabeth Country Park (QECP)	023 9259 5040
Butser Ancient Farm, Gravel Hill	023 9259 8838
Public Transport: QECP (bus shelters on A3 road)	
Stagecoach 38	0845 121 0170

Finchdean to Rowlands Castle

Distance 1.5 miles (2.5km)

Time 30 minutes

Continuing out of the village, the path climbs steeply south to Wellsworth Lane, once an ancient green lane, where a Roman building and cremation burial site have been found.

Walk across the golf course and around the edge of the village of Rowland's Castle. In the 1700s, this delightful village was reputed to have been overrun with highwaymen, smugglers, poachers and thieves, and The Castle Inn was said to have been the headquarters of a notorious gang of smugglers.

Accommodation Havant TIC	023 9248 0024
Refreshments	
The Robin Hood, Rowlands Castle	023 9241 2268
The Castle Inn, Rowlands Castle	023 9241 2494
Places of Interest	
Stansted Park	023 9241 2265
Public Transport: Rowlands Castle	
Emsworth & District 27, 300	01243 378337
South West Trains	08457 484950

Rowlands Castle to Staunton Country Park

Distance 2 miles (3km)

Time 1 hour

The Way passes the entrance to Havant Thicket, once part of the ancient Forest of Bere. During World War II, this wood was used as an army assembly point before the invasion of Europe. The wood was bulging with troops, equipment, vehicles and tanks, and there was even a tank-repair workshop on the village green. Here, King George VI addressed the troops before the D-Day landings, and the King's Stone commemorates the occasion.

At the edge of the thicket you can see the private lodge that once stood at the north gate to the Staunton estate. Look for the date marked out in bricks in the lodge wall.

You can stop here at Staunton Country Park to discover a rainforest, visit the animals at the ornamental farm, puzzle your way through a maze or have some refreshments.

Accommodation Havant TIC	023 9248 0024
Refreshments	
Staunton Country Park tearooms	023 9245 3405
Harvester R.C.	023 9241 3761
Places of Interest	
Staunton Country Park	023 9245 3405
Public Transport: Staunton Country Park	
Stagecoach 21	0845 121 0170
Emsworth & District 27	01243 378837



Staunton Country Park to Chalton

Distance 6 miles (10km)
Time 3-4 hours

From the country park, the Way brushes the outskirts of Havant before turning northwards up Prospect Lane, a short section of Roman road. The path returns to Rowland's Castle and past the village green. Here there was a 12th century motte-and-bailey castle, but all that remains today are two grass-covered masses of wall about 10 feet thick. Continue on under the railway line and cross the Monarch's Way again (a short walk east on this Way will bring you to the beautiful Stansted Park), before heading back out onto the quiet Downs and briefly into West Sussex.

The undulating path skirts round Stansted Forest and drops down to the curious sight of the 12th century church of St Hubert, sitting alone and abandoned in a field. The village and the manor house that it belonged to are long gone but you can still see the walled kitchen gardens of the manor house, and the church is famous for its 14th century wall-paintings. From the bench in the churchyard you can also distinguish the remains of a Roman field system.

A little further on and the route runs parallel to Chalton village from where you can cross over to the western side of the Way.

See QECP to Finchdean for details of accommodation etc. No public transport at Chalton.

Chalton to Ditcham Park

Distance 1 mile (2km) Time 3/4 hour

From Chalton, the Way climbs high onto the tranquil and lonely downs to Ditcham Park School. From this point there are stunning views over southern Hampshire, and you may even glimpse in the distance the shimmer of the Solent and beyond, the Isle of Wight.

See QECP to Finchdean for details of accommodation etc. No public transport at Ditcham Park.

Ditcham Park to Queen Elizabeth Country Park

Distance 3.5 miles (5.5km) Time 1-2 hours

The route passes Ditcham Park School and continues across the downs with several steep, strenuous ascents and descents. Your reward is to drop down into the peaceful woodland of Queen Elizabeth Country Park and the welcoming refreshments available at the Visitor Centre.

See QECP to Finchdean for details of accommodation etc.

