

South Downs Way Itinerary

- Thurs. 11th June** – Collect hire vehicles. Load van and drive down to the first camp to set up. Camp will be at **Washington Caravan and Camping Park, London Road, Washington, Pulborough RH20 4AJ** (As this is approximately half way along the route, this will be our camp for the whole time. It will mean slightly longer journey times at the beginning and at the end, but I think that would be preferable.
- Fri. 12th June** Group gather at Perrins Field for a 9.00am departure, aiming to arrive in Winchester around midday. There you will meet with David and myself and we will start the walk, walking from Winchester to Milbury's, a 17th Century pub and restaurant. Leaving Winchester, the route will take us across gently rolling Wiltshire countryside. The minibus will meet us at the pub and transport us to camp. **8 miles**
- Sat. 13th June** After breakfast, the minibus will return us to Milbury's from where we will continue our walk, bypassing Beacon Hill and the village of Exton. By the time we reach Old Winchester Hill, the scenery is a little more dramatic with steep sided valleys and far reaching viewpoints. It becomes clear, as we approach Hyden Cross, our finishing point for the day, that we are walking along the edge of an escarpment. **11 miles**
- Sun. 14th June** From Hyden Cross we enter an area of outstanding beauty, the Queen Elizabeth Country Park. Being a Sunday, we are likely to come across lots of other people enjoying the countryside. Continuing along the line of the northern escarpment, we look down on the village of Buriton, from where the track becomes uncomplicated. We finish at the car park at Two Beech Gate above the village of South Harting. (This is another relatively short day, which may allow us time to visit the Weald and Down Museum at Singleton. It is where the BBC2 programme "The Repair Shop" is filmed.) **9 miles**
- Mon. 15th June** We continue to follow the line of the northern escarpment and there are always good views to be had to the north. Again the route is very straight forward but the further east we travel the more wooded it becomes. We end the walk at Littleton Farm where the footpath crosses the A285. **12.7 miles**
- Tues. 16th June** From Littleton Farm the path sweeps round in a huge arc as it follows the northern edge of the South Downs, eventually dropping down to the River Arun at Amberley, before climbing again for more high level walking. We eventually descend

again, this time into Washington, where we will find our
minibus. **12.2 miles**

Wed. 17th June After breakfast the minibus will take us back to Washington where we will continue the walk. The walk will only be a short one, finishing just south east of Castle Town, which will allow you to have the afternoon free in Brighton, if you wish.
7.5 miles

Thurs. 18th June From near Castle Town we continue along the northern edge. Because we spend most of our time on the escarpment we avoid many of the steep up and downs associated with an escarpment, and we can always be assured of some far reaching views. We finish the day at the car park near Ditching Beacon, above Westmeston.
9 miles

Fri. 19th June Soon after setting out, we turn south across rolling downs, leaving the escarpment behind. We then pick up a north/south escarpment, which look down on larger settlements. We end the day descending into the River Ouse Valley and Southease.
12 miles

Sat. 20th June Crossing the River Ouse, we climb back up on to the downs. We should be able to see the sea to the south, signalling that we are getting ever closer to the finish. Descending to Alfriston and the Cuckmere River we head south to finish at Exceat.
10.2 miles

Sun. 21st June Our last day. Soon after leaving Exceat we come to the spectacular cliffs of this part of Sussex, including Beachy Head. The walk finishes on the outskirts of Eastbourne. We will probably make time for a celebratory cream tea(!) before heading back to camp. We will strike camp and make our way home, getting back to Upton in the early evening.
7.5 miles

Total distance 99.1 miles