

Winter Walks in the English Countryside

January 20, 2017, Hampshire, England



Pull on your wellington boots (which you may borrow complimentary at [Four Seasons Hotel Hampshire!](#)) and snugly scarf for a countryside stroll this winter. Our Concierge shares a list of some of the best walking trails in Hampshire and the nearby area, with stunning landscapes to explore in the crisp winter air.

Frensham Ponds

Approximately 30 minutes drive from Four Seasons Hotel Hampshire

Covering more than 900 acres (365 hectares), [Frensham Ponds](#) were originally created in the 13th century to supply fish to the Bishop of Winchester and his court while visiting nearby Farnham Castle.

With many footpaths to explore, you can expect to come across a sanctuary for wildlife perfect for spotting rare birds such as nightjars, reptiles such as grass snakes and sand lizards, and mammals such as badgers, rabbits, roe deer and foxes. The heathland is flat and dry, ideal for families with young children. Dogs are also welcome.

Stockbridge Down

Approximately 30 minutes from Four Seasons Hotel Hampshire

Offering outstanding views out over Hampshire, [Stockbridge Down](#) in the Test Valley is famed for its rolling hills and tranquil beauty. The walking trail will take you to the Rosalind Hill memorial bench, looking towards spectacular views of Hampshire and parts of Wiltshire.



Make your way to Stockbridge to experience a traditional English village at the end of your walk, with pretty thatched houses, historic churches and country pubs.

Queen Elizabeth Country Park

Approximately 40 minutes drive from Four Seasons Hotel Hampshire

Situated on the South Downs National Park, near the village of Petersfield, [Queen Elizabeth Country Park](#) consists of 2,000 acres (800 hectares) of picturesque woodland and pasture. With various walking trails clearly marked on the ground, the park welcomes your four-legged friends and offers Nordic walking in groups. There are three permissive walking trails to choose from starting from 1.9 miles (3 kilometres) to 5 miles (2.7 kilometres). The visitor centre at Queen Elizabeth Country Park is open every day from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve

Approximately one hour from Four Seasons Hotel Hampshire

A national nature reserve near Chichester, covering more 350 acres (145 hectares) of woodland containing one of the most impressive yew forests in western Europe, including ancient trees that are among the oldest in Britain, at 2,000 years old. [Kingley Vale](#) is also one of the most important archaeological sites in the country, with chalk grassland and diverse remains of a Roman Temple, an Iron Age settlement site, Bronze Age round barrows and prehistoric flint mines. The main walk in Kingley Vale is around the woodland, up to the top of the hills. Wildlife is abundant, with more than 50 species of birds found in the grassland, as well as deer and smaller mammals.

If you'd rather not leave the Estate, and enjoy the beauty of [Dogmersfield Park](#) this winter, head down to Tundry pond, in the distance at the front of the Manor House. Spot our resident ducks on the way, squirrels, horses and cows – you may even spot some deer!

For more information about walking trails in Hampshire and beyond, please contact our Concierge team on 01252 853123.

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