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Sussex bluebell walks

Catch bluebells from early April to late May. Here are some of the best walks in Sussex with ideas for pubs and more nearby

Bluebells are generally showing off from early or mid-April to the end of May, hanging out in old woodland and on bracken-covered hills. We have several top spots to catch them in the county, below are some of the best bluebell walks in Sussex. Just check the blue stars are out before you visit.



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routes wheelchair accessible. In its 47th year, it is open from Thurs 11 April every day 10.00 to 17.00 until Sun 9 May. The website gives you 'status updates' of how the flowers are doing. 23 charities are involved providing refreshments. There's also the opportunity to watch cows being milked from a viewing gallery at Parkwood Farm in the afternoons.

In the area: Stay at elegant antique-filled B&B [Old Whyly](#) in East Hoathly. Fine dine at pretty [Wingrove House](#) in Alfriston or the [Tasting Room](#) at lofty Rathfinny Estate near the same village. [Drusillas](#) is nearby for family fun.

[Abbots Wood](#), between Hailsham and Polegate, East Sussex

In the same area as Arlington Bluebell Walk, this ancient woodland is named because it was once overseen by the Abbott at Battle Abbey.

[Cass Sculpture Foundation](#), Goodwood, West Sussex

As if you needed an extra reason to visit this wonderful outdoor art gallery, which reopens for 2019 on 31 March, bluebells can be seen in the woodland here around the exhibits.

In the area: Team your trip with lunch very nearby at Goodwood's quirky and locally supplied [Farmer, Butcher, Chef](#) restaurant, particularly if you're a meat lover.

[Bateman's](#), Burwash, East Sussex

Kipling's former home, now a National Trust property, is surrounded by Sussex Weald Woodland where you can hunt for the carpets of blue. There's a guided [Iron Pits and Wildflowers](#) walk on Fri 26 April incorporating the history of the area.

In the area: You could eat at characterful [The Bell at Ticehurst](#), which also has quirky rooms for staying over, or, treat yourself to fine dining at [The Curlew](#) nearby. For lingering and self catering in the Weald see [The Lodges at New House Farm](#) which also have woodland on their doorstep.

[Angmering Woods](#), West Sussex

The woodland surrounding Angmering Park Estate, between Worthing and Arundel, dates back to the Norman Conquest and has one of the best bluebell displays in West Sussex. You may also spot highland cattle.

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Kingly Vale, West Sussex

One of the earliest yew woodlands in Western Europe, Kingly Vale near Chichester has some fantastic ancient twisted trees that look like they belong in *Lord of the Rings* – in fact they're among the oldest living things in England. There are also bluebell carpets here in Spring – follow the network of walking paths in the nature reserve.

In the area: The Goodwood Estate (see above) and Muddy award-winning [The Earl of March](#) are among good places to eat nearby and the seafood focused [Crab & Lobster](#) at Siddlesham is under half an hour. With children? Combine with the vintage attractions of outdoorsy [Amberley Museum](#) or [Arundel WWT](#) wetland centre.

Bluebell Railway, East Sussex

You don't even need to walk for this one. You can catch sight of the blue carpets that gave the vintage railway its name as you travel between Sheffield Park Station and East Grinstead. Various services are available from a standard ticket to ride, to lunch aboard the [Sussex Belle](#) on 24 April.

In the area: [Great British Wine Tours](#) has vineyard tours which include [Bluebell](#)

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This is one of the best places on the site to see bluebells but you'll also catch them in the gardens and on other walks. There are [guided bluebell walks](#) on 23 and 30 April.

In the area: For a double dose of flower power, combine with the nearby Bluebell Railway above. Characterful foodie pub [The Cat Inn](#) is not far away at West Hoathly, you can also stay over in smart rooms here.



© NationalTrust, photo by Hugh Mothersole

[Nymans](#), Handcross, near Haywards Heath, West Sussex

Another National Trust property. The woodland and the wild garden at Nymans are carpeted with bluebells. In the gardens around the historic house you can also see the magnificent magnolias. There's an [art workshop](#) in the bluebell woods on Thurs 25 April.

In the area: Nymans is within 20 mins of The Cat Inn – see above, and the [Snowdrop Inn](#) at Lindfield.

[Denmans Garden](#), Fontwell, West Sussex

This compact four acre contemporary country garden was designed by John Brookes MBE, who was influential in popularising the concept of the 'outdoor room'. Bluebells are among the blooms you'll see there this spring.

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Denmans Graden

Standen Estate, East Grinstead, East Sussex

Around 20 of the 100 acres of the original Standen Estate should be bluebell-tastic this spring with Rockinghill and Hollybush woods carpeted. Purple orchids usually bloom in Hollybush to add to the magic and you may also catch the tulips flowering around the house and gardens. You can walk from Standen to the Bluebell Railway at Kingscote Station. The Standen House itself is an Arts and Crafts family home with interiors by Morris & Co.

In the area: The Dorset Arms, at Withyham, where the menu features organic meat supplied by its own estate, is within 20 minutes and on the edge of Ashdown Forest for further exploration. It also has a cottage for weekendng.

Ebernoe Common, Near Petworth, West Sussex

This varied ancient wooded area, now a Sussex Wildlife Trust nature reserve, incorporates ponds, streams, meadows and reclaimed arable land. Besides bluebells you may see wild orchids, purple emperor butterflies and ponies that help to keep the grass grazed. The common is about five miles north of Petworth and there's a car park at Ebernoe Church. The Mens nature reserve (note, no apostrophe – women are welcome!) is another bluebell spot near Petworth.

In the area: Gastropub with rooms The Halfway Bridge is nearby, right on the A272.

Brede High Woods, Battle, East Sussex

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[Bell at Ticehurst](#) and self catering [The Lodges at New House Farm](#) are also nearby.



BOOK AHEAD!

Bluebell Trail Run, Angmering, April 2020

Forget tiptoeing through the tulips, how about running through bluebells? The annual Bluebell Trail run takes in beautiful scenery, with 10km or 10 mile options to try. The start and finish is at The Fox Pub, Patching where, for 2019, there's a BBQ and children's play area and free kids' face painting. It sold out in early January for this year so keep an eye out for the 2020 event ticket launch if you're up for it.

facebook.com/events

For more suggestions see sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk. This is by no means a definitive list so if you have your own favourite bluebell spot please share.

by Debbie Ward

Find more ideas here

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[Reply](#)
Julie Barker April 1, 2019

Heaven Farm, Furners Green near Uckfield has a lovely woodland walk which is renowned for its bluebells. It has a tearoom which is especially good to visit on a sunny day, with chickens running around the outside tables! It is also dog-friendly inside and out. Julie


[Reply](#)
debbieward April 1, 2019

Good to know, thanks Julie! x


[Reply](#)
Alice Rendle May 1, 2019

Brilliant to get this info. By the way, if you are in the Angmering Wood area then check out the new Brewhouse Project at Crossbush – freshly roasted coffee, freshly crafted beer, toasties, cakes and pizza (on selected days) – dog friendly, child friendly – in a lovely, innovatively designed space. instagram page is great – thebrewhouseprojectaarundel


[Reply](#)
debbieward May 1, 2019

Thanks for the reminder Alice, last passed just before it opened, will pop in next time.


[Reply](#)

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Your email address	* REQUIRED



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