

SOUTHERN ROUTE

The route you have chosen to take to day is from Haslemere, up to Blackdown, returning to Haslemere via a different route. The overall distance is 7 miles

Part of your route today is on the Sussex Border path; so look out for these along the way.



and this



- Depending on where you parked, head for the High Street. Go to the South end of the High Street towards the Town Hall and turn left onto the Petworth Road



- After about 100 yards turn right onto the first footpath you find. Climb quite steeply, cross a road (Hill Road I believe) and the path soon levels out and passes by the edge of Haslemere Rec.
- At the next road, (Scotlands Lane) do a left and then an immediate right onto a path that drops quite steeply downhill to a series of lakes by Stedlands Farm. Take the track signposted to Valewood House
- . Soon pass the delightful 'Valewood **Farm** House' on your left, (GR905316).



- In another 150 yards take the first track on the Left (no obvious sign), gently uphill on clear track to gate. Pass through the gate and immediately turn Right to follow the well trodden path steeply up the grass field to a field gate at the top. I lied. You have very briefly Left the Sussex Border path; you regain it at the top of the field. Pass through gate and continue on trodden path across centre of field, with excellent views to the South West behind you, to gate into woodland, (GR909313).

- After a slight climb on track, go through gate and continue to follow the Sussex Border path, by bearing Right, initially in woodland and then it climbs onto heath land, as you have reached Blackdown. In about a mile you will be at a junction of five paths, with a grassy triangle in the middle. Turn Right; you should be at GR 918302. You now leave the Border path
- Follow this with hopefully glorious views to your right. Go past a bench, with attendant bronze plaque, identifying the places you can/might see. Continue on this hard sandy path, which climbs gently and turns more rocky. Follow the wooden sign to the Temple of the Winds, (GR 920292) and the curved bench.

***“You came and looked and loved the view
long known and loved by me,
green Sussex fading into blue
with one grey glimpse of sea.”*** Lord Tennyson (who lived down his lane)

- They say the South of England is overcrowded, (which of course it is); but that doesn't quite resonate with this view. Try counting the houses you can see.
- Retrace your steps for a few yards but now bear right, onto a bridle way heading North. Ignore a fork to the left and walk through a Beech hanger. Just after a bridleway merges from the left, take a 90 degree left at 920303, onto a path, for just a very few yards. Then left back onto the Sussex Border path and about a minute later you are back at the complex junction with the grassy triangle. You should be at GR 918302 again.
- You need to turn right onto a track which descends this mini valley. In about a mile you will have gone through “Boarden Door Bottom” and have passed through “Black Dog Copse”, (no, I don't make this up). You emerge by a house on your right and go right onto Chase Lane.
- As it quickly curves left, take the footpath to the right (GR914312) and climb past the boundary of a house to your left. Soon the path crosses the bottom of the gardens of three properties to your right. At the last one turn right up their drive, (it is the unsigned footpath), arriving at Tennyson's Lane.
- Turn Left and then shortly Right. Very soon take the path at 10 o'clock, descending Haste Hill. Turn Right onto the lane and follow it for a couple of hundred yards to the main Haslemere:Petworth road; the B2131. GR 914325. Turn Left onto the road and immediately Right onto a footpath.

- Descend, kinking left and right on the path. Descend, kinking Left and Right on the path. Continue straight ahead through two gates that are close together You now enter Witley Copse and Mariners Rewe; No, honestly you do, (see the National Trust sign). **Do not** go straight ahead on the circular route that it mentions; but turn Left, thence passing over a footbridge like this:



- Cross some fields and you will encounter “Speckled Wood” to your left; an eco building erected in 2012 and where young National Trust volunteers stay. Turn onto the main drive and after a few minutes, after a pond on the Left, leave it on the Right, going into an open field. Follow the path as it climbs slightly towards Haslemere High Street
- Through a kissing gate and then on past benches to Haslemere’s well. It is somewhat surprisingly still in use today; well, I saw a frog in it. Join the High Street:



- **THANK YOU & WELL DONE**