

Nature and Photography Adventure Trail

as chosen by

The Girl Outdoors

Do you love nature and the great outdoors? Want to capture magnificent wildlife and beautiful landscapes on camera? If the answer is yes, then we have the perfect adventure walk for you! Award-winning travel and outdoors journalist and blogger Sian Lewis from Girl Outdoors has tried and tested our Nature and Photography Adventure route, following 9 easy points through beautiful New Forest landscapes.

From grassy paths to beautiful woodlands – it's perfect all season round; whether it's with the family, with your partner or going solo, this beautiful walk definitely has something for everyone!

Nature and Photography Adventure Trail

Length of walk: 5 miles

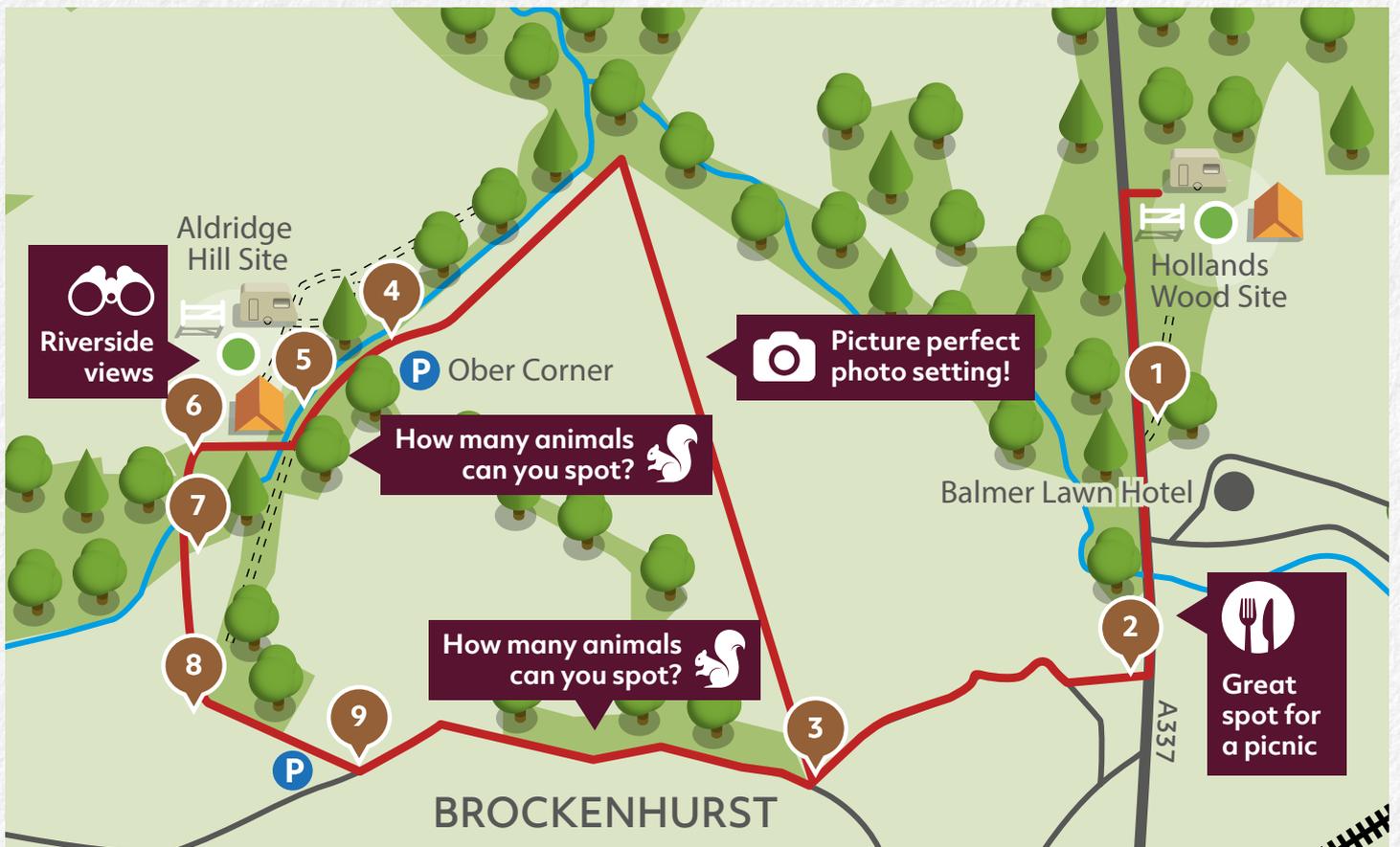
Sites accessible from: Hollands Wood or Aldridge Hill

Duration: 2-3 hours

Start/end points: Hollands Wood, SO42 7QH

Difficulty: This one's an easy one!

Facilities: Car park



Map your adventure



1 HOLLANDS WOOD

Head straight out of Hollands Wood campsite, turning left onto Lyndhurst Road/A337. Continue to walk straight and after a short distance you will see Balmer Lawn Hotel on your left. For those who may have skipped breakfast, we can recommend a delicious lunch or afternoon tea served on the beautiful front lawn, perfect on a sunny afternoon! (Plus enjoy 25% off for all Go New Forest card holders!) Continue past the bus stop, which has a left turn and allows you to cross the Lymington River. This is a great green space for a picnic or even a photo to capture the beginning of your nature and photography adventure!

2 MEERUT ROAD

Continue back along Lyndhurst Road and follow for roughly half a mile. On the right hand side is Meerut Road, turn down and follow this road for another half a mile. As you pass Martins Road, keep an eye out for the famous New Forest ponies roaming on the green!

3 GRAVEL TRACK

Just before you reach the end of Meerut Road, you will see a small gravel track on the right hand side. Turn down and follow for just under one mile. Here you can enjoy beautiful New Forest scenery and stop to capture some stunning photography! At the junction, turn left.

4 OBER CORNER CAR PARK

Continue along the gravel track for roughly half a mile until you reach Ober Corner Car Park. Here enjoy some fantastic views of the shaded woodland and the New Forest landscape at its best. Continue walking straight and you will pass Ober Water. This is a great place to stop and rest by the river under the dappled shade of the trees. If you're lucky, you could spot dragonflies and a variety of other river wildlife, including the kingfisher which nests in the river banks.

5 ALDRIDGE HILL CAMPSITE

After a short distance, you will see the entrance to Aldridge Hill campsite on your right hand side; turn into here and over Ober Water.

6 LEFT ONTO WOODLAND PATH

Follow the wide gravel track to Aldridge Hill cottage which overlooks Ober Heath, and follow the track as it bends left past the cottage onto a wide grassy track. Take your next left to join the woodland path by a small cast-iron tombstone. This is an old Victorian boundary marker for Aldridge Hill Enclosure which was first enclosed in 1775.

7 ALONGSIDE THE RIVER

Follow the woodland path straight ahead to meet Ober Water. Turn right and follow alongside the beautiful meandering river and past a wooden bridge on your left to join a waymarked footpath. Wooden posts (red band) mark the route through the pretty mixed woodland. Look for the low boundary banks which mark the edge of the Forest enclosure.

INTERESTING FACT! Valley Mires or bogs, are natural catchments of water in a valley bottom and have their own special communities of plants and insects. Starting at the woodland edge look for bog myrtle, a low growing evergreen shrub, with a distinctive resinous eucalyptus-like smell that can be used to repel insects. Further along the path look for the round-leaved sundew, a plant that feeds on insects using the red sticky hairs on its leaves to catch them.

8 CROSS THE BRIDGE

Turn left and have fun crossing the next wooden bridge over the river, leaving the woodland. Follow the gravel path across a short section of wet heath towards the grassy lawn ahead, enjoying the scenes as you do so.

9 BEECHERN WOOD CAR PARK

As the path bends, continue forward onto open grassland to Beechern Wood car park, which will be on the right hand side. As you come to the end of the road, you will join Rhinefield Road. Turn left and continue for just over half a mile, until you reach Meerut Road again. Follow your previous route home, (points 3, 2 and 1) back to Hollands Wood campsite!

If you fancy extending your adventure, why not pop into nearby Brockenhurst village, which has a variety of tasty eateries and shops to enjoy.



Did you enjoy this trail?
Share your photos with us!

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#mapmy
adventure

