



National
Trust

Discover Box Hill



Box Hill Hike

A demanding eight mile circular walk. The ground is rough in places and includes steep slopes, slippery paths and many steps.

What to look out for

The Donkey Green and Viewpoint

Box Hill has been welcoming visitors for hundreds of years. Victorian and Edwardian Londoners were encouraged to leave town to take the air and admire the views for their health and wellbeing. Box Hill still welcomes people for these things today. In the past, children enjoyed donkey rides, giving the Donkey Green its name.

The viewpoint commemorates Leopold Salomons. He gave the original 93ha (230 acres) of Box Hill to the National Trust in 1914 to ensure it would be preserved for the nation, 'forever, for everyone.'

The view from Lodge Hill

The view from Lodge Hill easily rivals the viewpoint. The slope directly below is Lodge Hill, the slope in front of you is the Burford Spur; the Zig Zag valleys are in between. These slopes are home to some of our rare chalk downland species. Behind the Spur you can see the town of Dorking and Denbies Vineyard.

The Tower or Broadwood's Folly

The Tower was built by Thomas Broadwood, a member of the family that manufactured quality pianos, including royal commissions. Built around 1815 it stands above Juniper Hall, their family home.

The tree now growing through the tower is an evergreen Holm Oak. This non-native species wasn't planted in the tower, but probably grew from a seed dropped in by a passing bird.

Mickleham village

This charming little village dates from Saxon times, when Mickleham meant large homestead or hemmed-in land. The picturesque church has been largely remodelled, first by the Normans and then the Victorians. If you know what you are looking for, you can still find bits of the older tenth century church.

Mickleham Gallops was used to exercise the horses that ran at nearby Epsom races. The horses would have been stabled at what is now the Running Horses Pub.

For more information call 01306 885502

Stane Street

The Roman Road 'Stane Street' was built in the first century, linking Regnum (now called Chichester) and Londinium (London). These were very important cities in Roman England and this road would have carried lots of military and civilian traffic.

Headley Heath

Headley Heath is an unusual mosaic of different habitats, including acidic heathland, alkaline chalk downland and mixed woodland. It is one of the few places where alkaline or chalk-loving plants (like Beech trees and Cowslips) and acidic or chalk-hating plants (like Gorse and Heather) can be found growing together. The mix of acid and alkaline geology leads to a great diversity of plants and insects, which creates a rich ecosystem.

Headley Heath is 'commonland' and has been important to local villagers (or 'commoners') for hundreds of years. In the past commoners would have had rights to graze their animals and collect natural materials from the Heath. Some rights have curious old names, for example, panage is the right to turn out pigs, estovers is the right to collect wood, and turbury is the right to cut peat turf. Today Headley has just one commoner left, who has the right to turn out geese. The area is now grazed by our Belted Galloway cattle.

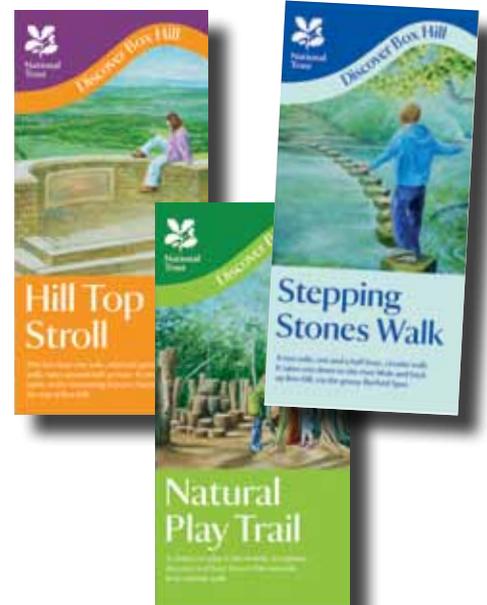
During the Second World War, Headley Heath was used as an Army training ground. Evidence of their presence can still be seen in the landscape.

Nature Conservation

Most of the land you walk over on this hike is made up of very special habitats. They were first influenced by prehistoric man clearing the slopes for his grazing animals. They have been largely grazed ever since. This has developed into a rich habitat that has become dependent on grazing animals for its survival. Headley Heath and Box Hill are designated as European Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Self guided trails

If you've enjoyed this walk, pick up or download one of our other self guided trails. Or try one of our themed downloadable walks from our web pages www.nationaltrust.org.uk/box-hill



Discover Box Hill

To discover more about Box Hill, explore the Discovery Zone, or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/box-hill

Part funded by The Friends of Box Hill – assisting in the conservation of the natural beauty of Box Hill and promoting the education of the public regarding Box Hill and its ecology.

The Friends of Box Hill 

Part funded by The Surrey Hills LEADER Grant – a rural grant scheme for farmers, foresters, rural businesses, rural enterprises and rural communities in Surrey.



www.nationaltrust.org.uk/box-hill

The Box Hill Hike

This demanding circular hike is eight miles. It should take around four hours but allow extra time for rest stops and lunch. Your route is marked by wooden posts and bronzes with the walker illustration shown on the front of this leaflet. It is strenuous; climbing steep hills and dropping down into deep valleys. The ground is rough in places and includes steep slopes, slippery paths and many steps. Please don't start this walk without suitable clothing, footwear and provisions.

1 From the Box Hill walks start point, cross the road and walk straight across the car park. Head to the woods on the left of the Donkey Green (directly opposite the view). Take the left fork at the edge of the woods. Continue through the woods along this track. Eventually you'll reach Lodge Hill and a view opens up on your left.

2 Continue to the tower, Broadwood's Folly, and take the path on your right. When the path clearly forks, take the right fork. Follow the path as it turns to the left and heads downhill. Walk down the steps to the track at the valley bottom. Turn left onto the track and continue along it to Whitehill car park.

3 Cross the car park and road. Climb the steps up to Mickleham Downs. Continue as the track curves to the right, and then to the left. As the path forks, head left. Go straight across the cross roads, heading steeply downhill. At the T-junction, turn left and continue downhill. Cross the stile and continue along this surfaced path. The churchyard is on your right. At this point you can explore Mickleham Church and village, or stop for a rest at the Running Horses Pub. When you are ready, return to the churchyard to continue your walk.

4 Go through the waymarked double gate and cross the churchyard. Follow the track with the wooden fence on your left. Cross the road and take the path straight in front of you. At the corner of the field, turn right. Carry on; you'll see the park on your right. Follow the surfaced path; passing St Michael's School on your right. At the T-junction (with the white wall in front of you) turn right, heading uphill.

5 Immediately after the pub, climb up the steps. Go straight across the cross roads and continue steeply uphill. At the fork, take the right hand path. Go straight across the old Roman road of Stane Street.

6 You'll emerge onto a grassy open area, Mickleham Gallops. Continue on the path and turn left onto the gallops, passing the information board. When you come to the end of the grassy track continue on the chalky path past the information board. Take the right hand turn off the main path, heading downhill. It is steep as it descends into the valley below.

7 At the bottom of the valley, cross the road. Take the track to the left of the cottage, heading uphill. Continue straight up. You'll see an old wall to your right. Continue straight on, ignoring gate 27 on your left. Enter Headley Heath through gate 26 and follow the track. Turn left at the T-junction, continue along this track.

Climb up the steps on your right, just before the cross-roads. Follow this grassy track uphill. The track forks at the big trees, take the left fork and continue along the wide grassy track.

8 At the five-way cross roads, take the second exit on your right. Carry straight on at the next cross roads. You'll emerge onto a cross roads, continue straight on, heading downhill. The track dips into the valley, then curves uphill. Ignore the path joining on your left. The path forks, take the left and follow the track to the gate. Go through gate 23 onto the surfaced road and turn left. Almost immediately the road forks, take the right hand fork (Headley Heath Approach). Continue to the main road.

9 Cross Box Hill Road and take the footpath in front of you. Continue as the path takes you downhill, ignoring paths on your left to Brockham Lime Works. Turn right up the set of steps with a hand rail. At the top of the steps take the left fork. Continue along this path. Cross the stile into Dukes Meadow and follow the track (Brodiess Drive) along the bottom of the meadow.

10 Pass through the gate and continue along the track. The path takes a left just before the metal gate; follow it between the hedge and fence. Turn left at the cross roads of surfaced roads. Almost immediately, take the path on your right, heading uphill. At the fork; take the left and go through the gate. Just through the gate, the path forks again, take the right heading uphill. Pass through the gate and continue up the path. On your right is a grassy path, follow it straight up the hill. As the path curves to the left, you start to see the stone viewpoint. Head up to it. A surfaced track runs above the viewpoint. Follow it uphill to return to the Box Hill centre.

The BOX Hill Hike

