



South Downs Way 4 : Amberley to Cocking walk

Follows the South Downs Way along the ridge of the South Downs. Good views in the morning, a forested trail in the afternoon (travel by bus).

Length 18.6 km (11.6 mi). With 449/352m ascent/descent.

Toughness 6 out of 10

Maps OS Explorer OL8 (Chichester) and OL10 (Arundel).

You'll need an OS Map, or a guidebook to the SDW with maps

Features This is a ridge walk along the South Downs Way (SDW) along a good, easy to follow path. There are fine views in the morning. The afternoon is forested, so even though you're on top of the ridge, it's like walking along a forested trail. There are better views in winter (weather permitting).

At Cocking there is a (regular) bus service to Chichester. Or stay overnight, and continue along the SDW towards Petersfield.

There are pubs off route, but in close distance, off the South Downs, in Duncton, Graffham and Heyshott. The pub in Cocking is currently (01/18) shut. There is though, a tearoom at Moonlight Cottage B&B on the A road.

If you walk in the other direction, there is a nice pub in Amberley to finish in.

Walk Options Divert north to Midhurst

Cocking has good bus connections, but the train journey from Chichester is longer and more expensive. As an alternative, Midhurst, a pretty village with plenty of amenities, is just 5 km north of Cocking and has a direct bus connection to Pulborough, which is on the same train line as Amberley, but one stop closer to London.

South Downs Way This walk is one of 9 stages of the South Downs Way - a 109 mile national long distance path - that traverses the South Downs National Park in South East England.

Cocking **Bus Travel from Cocking**

There is a bus stop where the SDW meets the main road, or you can walk 1km north to Cocking village where there is the Bluebell restaurant-pub to wait for the bus.

- For people on the Petersfield-Cocking walk on Mon-Sat only : take the #60 north to Midhurst (half-hourly), then change to the #70 to Haslemere (hourly). This costs £4.90 ("transfer ticket") [Dec-17] and works quite well: Cocking: xx:40 until 18.40 to Midhurst, 10 min connection to #70 (at xx:00 to 19.05) to Haslemere. You'll save the price on the cheaper Petersfield train ticket. **Check connection times online beforehand.**
- On Sunday, or on the Amberley walk, take Stagecoach bus # 60 south to Chichester (about £4, takes 25 mins, Mon-Sat: every 30 mins till late, Sun: hourly till 6:45pm). Buy a return to Chichester, make sure it is valid by either route. The entrance to the Chichester bus station is opposite and to the left of Chichester train station. Buses leave from behind it.

The 'change buses in Midhurst' trick does not work on the Amberley-Cocking walk. On Mon-Sat only, you could take the #60 north to Midhurst, then change to the #1 to Pulborough (see below). However, it costs an exorbitant £8 ("Dayrider Gold")

Theses bus details were correct in Dec-17, **but are very likely to change - check before you travel** using:

- [Traveline Southeast](#)
- [Stagecoach South](#) : Stagecoach buses have family tickets, but no group tickets. A day ticket is £8

Taxi: "Paddy Cars. £20 to Haslemere for up to 7 people. t: 01730 263263 | 01730 262279. Folks can relax in the Bluebell Inn while waiting - journey time about 25 mins". **You need to book in advance on sunny summer weekends.**

Places to Stay

2-Day Walk : Petersfield to Cocking to Amberley via the SDW

This makes a great 2 day walk. Buy a period return to Chichester (where the 2 rail routes converge, or 2 singles). Cocking is a hamlet with a pub-restaurant. Midhurst, to the north is a small town.

- [Moonlight Cottage B&B](#)
- Downsfold B&B
- Bluebell Hotel (restaurant-pub)

Midhurst

Travel from Midhurst Updated Mar-17

There are 4 bus routes to choose from.

- Catch a bus to/from a station, preferably on the same rail line you arrived from. If not possible, buy a more expensive ticket to Chichester, which is valid on both rail lines.
- Bus times change frequently. Check before you travel. Especially the time of the last bus!
 - [Traveline Southeast](#) - online timetable
 - [Stagecoach South](#) - NB: Stagecoach buses have family tickets, but no group tickets. A day ticket is £8.20/£8.50. This might make sense if you are travelling from (say) Brighton.
- Stagecoach have a £2.50 Evening fare after 7pm

Waterloo line to Haslemere / Petersfield

- North to Haslemere (Mon-Sat, not Sun)
 - Take Stagecoach bus #70 north to Haslemere.
 - Mon-Sat: hourly at xx:58 until 7.03pm. £5.20 (04/18). Takes 20 mins.
- West to Petersfield (Mon-Sat, not Sun, early last bus)
 - Take Emsworth bus #91 / #92 west to Petersfield.
 - Mon-Sat: every 60 mins at xx:58 to 3:58, then 5:30pm. Takes 30 - 45 mins.

Victoria line to Pulborough / Amberley / Arundel

- East to Pulborough (daily)
 - Take Stagecoach bus #1 east to Pulborough.
 - Mon-Sat: approx hourly till 6.43pm. Sun: 2 hourly till 6.28pm. Takes 30 mins.

Both lines (a more expensive ticket to Chichester, valid for all the above stations)

- South to Chichester (daily, till late Mon-Sat)
 - Take Stagecoach #60 south to Chichester.
 - Mon-Sat: every 30 mins till late, **Sun: hourly till 6:30pm**. Takes 25 mins,
 - About £4. **You will need a train ticket to Chichester.**
 - Chichester's trains aren't evenly spaced, if you miss one you may have a long wait.
 - The bus station is opposite the train station. Buses leave from behind it.

Midhurst Taxi

BJ's Private Hire (01730 716327 or 07732 590806). Uber is about £25 for Midhurst to Haslemere.

Help Us!

After the walk, we would love to get your [feedback](#)

Photos

Upload your photos to the [SWC Group on Flickr](#), and [videos to Youtube](#). This walk's tags are:



By Car

Start BN18 9LT **Finish** Hillbarn Lane, Cocking, West Sussex

Map Walk This walk **requires** an OS map and a compass or GPS for navigation. You can print out OS maps using the link above.

Help National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Travelline SE (bus times): 0871 200 2233 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234

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Walk Directions

Starting in Amberley, follow the SDW to Cocking (clearly waymarked on the ground, and marked on the OS map).

In Cocking, there is a bus stop actually on the SDW, or divert north to the village to the pub

Alternative Endings/Starts to/from Midhurst, either from/to Cocking or via Heyshott are shown on the route map.

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