

# NEW FOREST HOTELS

## **Into the Wild: New Forest Wildlife Safari Experience**

The New Forest, often described as the UK's "zoo without fences," offers a unique, immersive wildlife experience. Visitors have the chance to encounter free-roaming ponies, cattle, deer, and an abundance of other wildlife in their natural habitat. Whether you're an eco-conscious traveller, a family seeking adventure, or an adventure-seeker drawn to the natural world, New Forest Hotels serves as the perfect base for exploring this living, breathing ecosystem.

At New Forest Hotels, we invite guests to experience the magic of the New Forest firsthand with our Wildlife Safari Experiences. But while the allure of the forest's iconic animals is undeniable, this campaign isn't just about offering a safari-style adventure—it's about connecting visitors with the land and people who live alongside these animals, cultivating a deeper understanding of the unique biodiversity, conservation efforts, and traditions that make the New Forest one of the most remarkable places in the UK.

## **The Wild Beauty of the New Forest**

One of the main draws of the New Forest is its biodiversity. Visitors have the opportunity to observe the New Forest's "Big 5" in the wild—ponies, pigs, deer, donkeys, and cows. These animals, living freely across the heathland, offer a rare glimpse of British wildlife thriving in its natural environment. But it's not just the famous residents that make the New Forest a wildlife haven. Look carefully and you may spot badgers, rabbits, otters, birds of prey, and rare insects. The New Forest's vast heathlands and ancient woodlands are a living tapestry, constantly changing with the seasons, offering something new to witness each time you visit.

At New Forest Hotels, we pride ourselves on providing an exceptional base for this wildlife adventure. Our eco-conscious hotels offer comfort and sustainability, making it easy to unwind after a day exploring the forest. Whether you stay at Bartley Lodge, Forest Lodge, Burley Manor, or Beaulieu Hotel, our accommodations allow you to experience the forest's beauty in a comfortable, responsible way, with easy access to the best wildlife watching locations.

## **Engaging with Locals: The Voices of the New Forest**

To truly appreciate the New Forest's wildlife, it's important to hear the stories of the people who live alongside it. From commoners maintaining ancient traditions to

conservationists working to preserve the forest's delicate balance, these local voices offer invaluable insights into what makes this place so special.

Ann Sevier, a 13th-generation New Forest commoner, speaks passionately about the traditions of commoning and the deep connection she has with the land. "They've probably been doing that since the last ice age. It's just a question of knowing the land," Ann says, referring to the seasonal movements of the free-roaming ponies and cattle. Her words reflect the deep respect for the New Forest's ancient ways, and she believes visitors should appreciate that the beauty of the landscape is shaped by the livestock grazing the heathlands.

For Lyndsey Stride, another commoner, the connection to the land is not just about tradition but also about fostering a sense of wonder in the younger generation. "We teach our kids to observe and understand the animals. It's a wonderful way of life," she shares. This family-driven connection to the New Forest landscape is a reminder that the region isn't just a place to visit—it's a place to understand and respect.

Gale Gould, a local ecologist and commoner, adds to this sentiment, noting that commoning is not only about managing livestock but about maintaining the landscape itself. "It's not just about biodiversity; it's human heritage that's being preserved here," Gould explains. The New Forest's wild animals are integral to the ecosystem, and the land's sustainability is maintained through the traditions of local people who live and work here.

### **Educational Experiences: More Than Just a Safari**

While the opportunity to see wildlife is undoubtedly one of the main attractions, New Forest Hotels goes beyond the typical safari experience by offering guests a rich educational element. Our Wildlife Safari Experiences are designed to be immersive, with guided safaris led by knowledgeable local guides who share their expertise about the forest's ecology, conservation efforts, and the vital role the animals play in maintaining the balance of this unique environment.

For those who prefer to explore independently, unguided safaris offer guests the freedom to discover the wildlife at their own pace. With maps, wildlife-spotting tips, and information about responsible tourism practices, our safari booklets guide visitors in exploring the forest while ensuring they respect the animals and the land.

One of the key aspects of our educational approach is fostering connections between our guests and the local community. Whether it's meeting the landowners who care for the animals or learning from conservationists like Ian Barker, who works to protect the rare species of the New Forest, these interactions give visitors a more profound understanding of the ecosystem. Barker, who works with the New Forest National Park Authority, encourages guests to slow down and take time to observe the smaller creatures, such as the rare green tiger beetle or the nightjar bird, which require patience to find.

## **Eco-Friendly Tourism: Sustainability at the Heart of Your Visit**

At New Forest Hotels, we believe in creating experiences that are not only enjoyable but also sustainable. We are committed to eco-friendly tourism practices that minimize environmental impact and promote the preservation of the forest's natural beauty. Our hotels have been designed with sustainability in mind, using locally sourced materials, reducing waste, and supporting conservation projects in the New Forest.

Our safari experiences are aligned with these values, ensuring that all activities respect the natural habitats of the wildlife. We encourage guests to follow responsible tourism practices, such as sticking to designated paths to protect the environment, avoiding disturbances to animals, and being mindful of the ecosystem's fragility.

## **Connecting with the Forest: A Journey of Discovery**

The New Forest Wildlife Safari Experience is more than just a trip—it's a chance to immerse yourself in one of the UK's most ecologically rich areas while learning about conservation, heritage, and the animals that call this place home. Whether you're exploring the forest on a guided safari, encountering wild ponies, or simply relaxing at our eco-friendly hotels, there's a deeper connection to be made between visitors and this extraordinary landscape.

At New Forest Hotels, we are proud to serve as your gateway to the New Forest, offering a base where comfort and sustainability meet adventure and education. Come join us, and let the voices of the New Forest guide you through this living, breathing landscape—where wild animals roam free, and the land tells a story that's centuries in the making.