

# NEW FOREST HOTELS

## Exploring the New Forest on an Electric Bike: Your Ultimate Guide

The New Forest is one of the UK's most beautiful natural playgrounds, with its stunning landscapes, wildlife, and winding trails. What better way to explore this picturesque region than on an electric bike? Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or a first-time rider, e-bikes offer a fantastic way to enjoy the great outdoors, providing both ease and excitement. Here's everything you need to know about hiring, riding, and exploring the New Forest on an electric bike.

### Why Choose an Electric Bike?

Electric bikes (e-bikes) provide an effortless way to enjoy the New Forest's stunning beauty while giving you a little extra boost when tackling those hills or longer rides. The motor assistance means you can ride for longer, cover more ground, and still have the energy to explore all the charming villages, tranquil woodlands, and scenic views that the New Forest has to offer.

### Where to Hire an Electric Bike in the New Forest

If you're visiting the New Forest and want to experience the beauty of the area on two wheels, several places offer electric bike hire:

- 1. Forest Leisure Cycling (Brockenhurst)**  
A popular choice for bike hire in the heart of the New Forest. They offer a variety of e-bikes, from city bikes to off-road models, and are well-known for providing excellent customer service. They also offer guided tours, so you can make the most of your ride.
- 2. Cyclexperience (Lymington)**  
Situated near the Solent coast, Cyclexperience offers a range of electric bikes for hire. Whether you're looking to explore coastal paths or venture into the forest, their fleet of e-bikes is perfect for tackling the New Forest's varying terrain.
- 3. New Forest Bike Hire (Hampshire)**  
With locations throughout the New Forest, New Forest Bike Hire offers both standard and electric bike options. They also provide accessories such as helmets, locks, and baskets, making your journey that much more convenient.

## **Do's and Don'ts of Riding an Electric Bike in the New Forest**

To make the most of your e-bike experience and ensure you stay safe, here are some do's and don'ts to keep in mind:

### **Do's**

- Plan your route: There are countless trails to explore in the New Forest, from easy routes to more challenging off-road paths. Make sure to choose a route that suits your fitness level and bike capabilities.
- Keep an eye on the battery: Most e-bikes have a range of 25 to 50 miles, depending on the terrain and how much you use the motor assistance. Plan accordingly and ensure you charge your bike fully before setting off.
- Wear appropriate gear: Make sure you're comfortable and safe by wearing a helmet, sturdy shoes, and weather-appropriate clothing. If you plan to cycle through muddy or rough terrain, make sure you have the right attire.
- Take breaks and hydrate: Cycling, even with motor assistance, can still be a workout. Take regular breaks to enjoy the scenery and stay hydrated, especially on warmer days.
- Respect the wildlife: The New Forest is famous for its wildlife, including ponies, deer, and birds. Always be cautious when approaching animals, and slow down to avoid startling them.

### **Don'ts**

- Don't ride too fast: Although the motor assistance gives you an extra boost, always ride at a safe and comfortable speed, especially on unfamiliar paths or around pedestrians and animals.
- Don't forget the rules of the road: While the New Forest is known for its beautiful, peaceful tracks, there are still roads and cycle paths to follow. Always respect road signs and local cycling laws.
- Don't overestimate your bike's range: Be mindful of your bike's battery life, and plan your route so that you don't run out of power. Make sure to map out charging stations or bike hire shops in case you need assistance.
- Don't forget to lock your bike: New Forest is an excellent place to explore, but remember to keep your e-bike locked when you stop. Use a sturdy lock and be mindful of where you leave your bike.
- Don't ignore the weather: While cycling is great in the New Forest, bad weather can make it challenging. Avoid riding in heavy rain or storms, as this could make the terrain slippery and dangerous.

## **What to Expect When Exploring the New Forest on an Electric Bike**

The New Forest is a cyclist's dream, with over 100 miles of tracks, trails, and cycle paths to discover. Some of the best routes for e-bikes include:

- The Solent Way – A scenic coastal path with views of the sea and the Solent. Perfect for those who want a mix of coast and countryside, with plenty of stops along the way.
- The Lymington to Brockenhurst Route – A picturesque route that takes you through villages, woodland, and heathland. Easy to navigate and great for a leisurely ride.
- The Forest Trails – For more adventurous riders, the off-road trails through dense woodlands and open heathland offer a thrilling experience. E-bikes make this terrain much easier to navigate, giving you the opportunity to explore more remote areas of the forest.

## **Charging Your Electric Bike**

Charging is an essential part of planning your electric bike adventure. Some bike hire shops may offer charging facilities, but it's always a good idea to check in advance. Alternatively, some popular cafés and visitor centres in the New Forest provide charging points for cyclists. Be sure to keep your bike's battery topped up before you set off on a long ride.