Discover...

We invite you to follow this fascinating tour of about one mile around the pretty streets of our delightful old town and gain some insight into how the community sprung up in the 8th century.

Marvel at the Medieval, Saxon and Tudor architecture, and learn a little history of some of the fascinating people who were born, lived, married and died, here. Over the centuries Steyning's prosperity and importance waxed and waned as local and national events made their mark on the town.

We hope you enjoy your time in Steyning, one of the most charming towns in Sussex.

Start Point

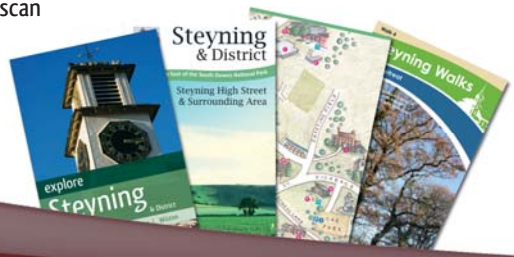
Fletchers Croft Car Park. Free long stay parking is available.

Refreshments & Facilities

Do visit one of our cafes, pubs or restaurants in the town which offer a diverse variety of food and beverages to suit your appetite.
Public toilets are also available on the High Street.

More info...

Visit the website or scan the code for more on Steyning...



www.steyningsouthdowns.com/visit

Find...

By car
Steyning lies just north of the A27, close to the A24. Free car-parking is available at all of the town and village car parks.

By train
The nearest station is 5 miles away at Shoreham-by-Sea with trains to Brighton, London and Portsmouth. Please see www.nationalrail.co.uk

By bus
Buses run from Brighton via Shoreham-by-Sea and via Upper Beeding and Bramber to Steyning. Visit www.traveline.org.uk for times

By foot or by bike
You can reach Steyning easily from either the South Downs Way, Monarch's Way or the Downs Link Path
Visit www.nationaltrail.co.uk/southdowns/ for more information.

Further Information

Visit the website or drop into the Visitor Information Point at:
Steyning Post Office, 44 High St, Steyning, BN44 3NA
For further information on the wider area visit:

www.southdowns.gov.uk
www.enjoysussex.info
www.horshamvisitor.co.uk
www.visitsussex.org

Steyning & District Community Partnership

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www.steyningsouthdowns.com/visit

Discover the...

Steyning Town Trail

A history & heritage walk of about one mile

www.steyningsouthdowns.com/visit

History in Steyning...

8th century - An inlet of the River Adur on the northern side of the town enabled the development of a port; perfect for trading wool, salt from the estuary and other natural assets, such as timber. A small wooden church is built by St Cuthman to serve the farming community.

9th century – An important market centre in Royal ownership under King Alfred. King Ethelwulf is buried here in 858.

1030 - Steyning has its own mint

1047 - Granted by Edward the Confessor to the Norman Abbey of Fécamp

1086 - Domesday Book records a town of 123 houses. It is one of the larger towns in southern England with a population of around 500.

11th Century - The Abbey of Fécamp builds a large stone church.

13th century - Severe storms off the Sussex coast, together with silting and land reclamation of the estuary, hasten the demise of the port.

1348 - The Black Death reduces population and is a serious blow to the town's fortunes.

15th century - Crown repossesses Steyning from Fécamp Abbey and the manor passes to the new Abbey of Syon in Middlesex.

1534 - After the dissolution of the monasteries, ownership of the manor passes into the hands of a succession of landed gentry.

1614 – The Grammar School founded by William Holland.

Early 19th century – a poor era for Steyning when amongst other events its lucrative coaching trade declines. Coaches are now travelling to the coast by more direct routes and by-passing the town.The Grammar School had almost fallen into disuse, with an average of just two pupils for the next decade or so. Lack of repairs and maintenance to the building added to the problems

1832 - The Great Reform Act swept away rotten boroughs including Steyning and Bramber. Steyning's 560 years of sending two members to parliament comes to an end.

1840's - The Grammar School is flourishing under new headmaster George Airey.

1861 - The railway comes to Steyning.

1866 - Town Hall built.

1890 - Steyning Market moved from the High Street to its site near the railway station.

1921 - Steyning streets first lit by electricity.

1966 - The railway closes amid a chorus of protests.

1974 - 1000 years of Steyning history comes to an end when the market closes after its last 80 years at Market Field.

1984 - The former railway track is transformed into the Downs Link footpath and bridleway, linking the North and South Downs National Trails, and passes through Steyning near its junction with the South Downs Way.

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Places to visit...

Why not visit our Museum, just a step away in Church Street, and find out a little more about the history that caught your imagination?

Steyning Museum,
Church Street
Tel: 01903 813333 for opening hours
Scan the code for details or visit:
www.steyningmuseum.org.uk

There's plenty more history in the local area, so why not visit the delightful nearby villages of Bramber and Beeding?

St Nicholas Church, Bramber
The oldest Norman church in Sussex, once the chapel of Bramber Castle.
Open Daily

St Botolphs Church
Dating from 950 AD and containing many Saxon features.
Open Daily

St Peter's Church, Upper Beeding
Dating from 1307 and once part of the Benedictine Sele Priory.
Open Daily

Bramber Castle Ruins
The remains of a Norman castle on the banks of the River Adur.
Open 31 May to 28 March.

St.Mary's House, Bramber
15th Century timber framed house with magnificent gardens.
Open 01/05 to 30/09 Thursday, Sunday and BH Mondays, 2-6pm

Discover the... Steyning Town Trail

1 Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman

The story is that St Cuthman journeyed to Steyning in the early 8th century, pushing his mother in a barrow. When the supporting rope broke, he took it as a sign to stop, and built a small wooden church. Construction of the church we see now was begun in the 12th century. Look up to the church eaves outside the west end of the nave and see "The only Silent Woman in Steyning" holding her tongue. Near the NW entrance to the churchyard is the grave of William Cowerson, a smuggler, who was shot and killed by an Excise Officer in 1832.

2 Chantry Green

In front of Chantry Green House, John Launder of Godstone, Surrey, one of 280 martyrs who died in Queen Mary's reign, was burnt at the stake here in 1555.

Opposite, on the other side of Church Street, the only WWII bomb to fall on Steyning hit Malthouse Cottages. Two people were killed and people vividly remember that feathers from the beds blew into trees growing on the Green.

5 Springwells Hotel

This part of the High Street was always known as Singwells and one of Steyning's two public wells is here, known in 1498 as Sewyngwell, maybe named after "the shingled well" or perhaps the water used to "sing its way along" as it crossed the road. Now it's partly underground, ending up at the probable site of the old harbour north of the church.

6 Stone House

One of the oldest houses in Steyning. In 1476 it is said that it was called "Clothehalle", but is now the "Prison House of the Abbess of Syon". It continued to be known as the Prison House for many centuries.

7 The Post Office

This building, dating from c.1340, contains a Green Man carved in the scrolled dais beam. He has oak leaves coming from his eyes and vine leaves from his mouth. Thought to act as protective device for buildings and their occupants, these foliate heads may also be linked with tree worship and the power thought to be contained in the skulls of enemies killed in battle.

The Post Office is also where you'll find the Tourist Information point.

8 Market House

The clock in the centre of the town stands out above the High Street and replaced a rather smaller tower and clock in 1848. This may have been

3 Brotherhood Hall

Used continuously as a school since 1584. The central brick porch was added in 1614 when William Holland (a wealthy mercer born in Steyning and thrice mayor of Chichester) founded the Grammar School. On the left hand side, the school offices were once the Brewers Arms pub.

4 Orwell Cottage

An L shaped timber-framed building partly dating from between 1450 and 1500 whose main wing is a medieval hall house. In the early 20th century, Steyning's own newspaper, The Steyning Observer, was published here.

Look out for ...

103 High Street
Spot the false teeth in the High Street flint wall!

Herodsfoot, Jarvis Lane
Partly weather boarded building thought to be the last remaining survival of construction material of Steyning's Napoleonic Barracks 1804-19; and to have housed the Officers.

Kings Barn Lane
The by-pass follows much of the line of Steyning's defunct railway. It can be best seen from the bridge in Kings Barn Lane.

Osborne House, Church Street
Formerly the District Registrar's office, where Charles Parnell and Kitty O'Shea were married in 1891.

Penfold House
The Duke of Norfolk's agent, solicitor Charles Marshall, lived here in the early 19th century.

inherited from the original market house which had been in the middle of the street near the post office until it was pulled down and the present building put up in 1772. As with any market house it had a 'cage' to keep offenders overnight and a room often used for lumber. Ours also housed the fire engine. A hundred years ago it was horse drawn and if the horses were available, which was not always the case, it took them only 10 minutes to get the fire engine on the road.

9 Old Workhouse Cottages

Purchased in 1729 by the Vestry for £100. It was the town workhouse until the Steyning Riot took place in 1835; this ensued when dissatisfied inmates were informed that children would stay in Steyning, the able-bodied would go to Henfield and the aged to Shoreham. When able-bodied Benjamin Hayler was told that he and his family would be separated, he and others refused to go. An irate crowd threw stones and chased the magistrates, and "the military then came up"to quell the riot.