

The Stables Local Guide

Welcome to The Stables

We hope the following information allows you to make the most of your stay with us. We have too many addresses in our little black book to list everything so if you have any specific desires, do ask as we may have something up our sleeve. Any questions, drop us a line via the Airbnb app and we'll do what we can to help you. Happy exploring!

Places to eat

From traditional country pubs to innovative cafes and coffee shops and restaurants, there's something for everyone in the area.

Tyler's Ground, Blackboys

Open Thursday – Saturday, 9am-4pm

A fabulous spot for a really good coffee (Dan the barista is obsessive about the quality), delicious homemade cakes and lunch. Around a 30-minute walk from the farm via footpaths and country lanes, the ethos of Tyler's Ground is all about locally-sourced, seasonal produce. Most of the vegetables are grown on site. A fabulous address in a slightly innocuous location. Well worth a visit.

The Hurstwood, High Hurstwood

Open Wednesday – Sunday plus Bank Holiday Monday

Imaginative and expertly executed by husband and wife team Martin and Lenka, this is a pub with the focus on great dining. It's definitely a step up from your usual pubs. Cosy in the winter thanks to roaring first and an opulent décor. In the summer, dine alfresco in the pretty garden. Great wine list.

The Blackboys Inn, Blackboys

No food Monday and Tuesday

This 14th century coaching inn offers an eclectic menu, with a focus on seasonal ingredients. The pub is owned by Lewes-based brewery Harveys so it's a great place to sample these great local ales. Go local by ordering a "mother-in-law", half Harvey's Old and half Harvey's Bitter. This is a pleasant walk from the farm (via Hollow Lane) or a short drive.

The Star Inn, Waldon

Open Wednesday to Sunday

A great country pub with real curb appeal in a beautiful local village. Food served lunchtimes Wednesday to Sunday and evenings Wednesday to Saturday. Solid pub grub. Good wine list and decent selection of beers on tap including Harvey's. We're slightly biased about this pub as we're good friends with the owners, Simon and Nicole, so do tell them you're staying with us!

Erawan, Lewes

Open Tuesday to Saturday for lunch and dinner, plus Monday lunchtime

A tiny restaurant with a refreshingly simple décor serving fresh and delicious Thai food. Takeaways available. Due to the size of the restaurant, advance booking is essential. No licence to sell alcohol but you can bring your own and fortunately there's a great little wine bar next door – [Symposium Wine Emporium](#) - to pick up the tipples of your choice – or to have a cheeky aperitif before you dine.

The Ram Inn, Firle

Open every day

A great cosy country pub decorated with sumptuous dark colours – a great place to hunker down in the winter. In the summer, there's a fabulous garden and outside terrace. A modern European menu, well-executed and a great location for a post lunch stomp.

Squisito, Lewes

Open for breakfast and lunch Wednesday to Sunday, and for dinner Thursday to Sunday

A café during the day, and now open evenings Thursday to Saturday, Squisito serves high quality Italian food - delicious hand-made pasta and seasonal hearty Italian dishes. Evenings are about relaxed and casual dining, including a chef's menu, showcasing the very best of Squisito, chosen by the chefs that day. Paired with a concise and interesting wine list.

Places to drink

If it's a tipple you're after, a raft of recent taproom openings is giving the good old fashioned country pub a run for its money.

The Gun Brewery Taproom, Chiddingfold

Open Thursday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday

Tucked away in a beautiful rural setting, this taproom is a gem of industrial loveliness in the Sussex countryside. Inside, the taproom overlooks the huge tanks of beer. Outside, it's all about the spectacular views of A fine selection of beers and ales on offer (other drinks are available!) All of the Gun's beers are gluten free. Open Thursday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays.

Abyss Brewery Taproom, Lewes

Open Thursday - Sunday

Owned by the people who run the Pelham Arms in Lewes, this tap room is tucked away. Great attention to detail on the design. Great selection of ales and lagers plus cocktails and non-alcoholic options. Sit by the huge vats of beer inside or enjoy the outside area with its Oktoberfest beer tables and benches. Permanent food truck onsite selling burgers and tacos plus sides.

Rathfinny Wine Estate

This is one of the largest vineyards locally boasting 230 acres under vine and just a few minutes' drive from Alfriston. Enjoy a glass (or a bottle!) at the Hut (a shepherd's hut bar) and grab a deckchair to enjoy magnificent views over the vines and Cuckmere Haven. Walk ins only. A fabulous spot on a nice day. Collect a free walking map from the Cellar Door shop to explore the vineyard trail. The estate also has two restaurants on site - advance booking recommended.

Things to do, places to visit

Alfriston

Set against the magnificent backdrop of the South Downs National Park, this beautiful and historic village is a must see in the area. Visit the National Trust's first ever property – the Alfriston Clergy House – acquired in 1896, a timber-framed Mediaeval building with a delightful cottage garden. There are some fabulous shops and cafes to while away the time. Have lunch or a pitstop at the Star Inn - the pub, restaurant and hotel owned by Alex Polizzi, aka the Hotel Inspector. Rathfinny (see places to drink) is a 5-minute drive away.

Lewes

This attractive market town is around 15 minutes' drive from The Stables. Lewes is a great place for mooching, particularly if you're a fan of antiques. A good selection of independent shops, restaurants and cafés. The town is steeped in history – to get your fix visit Anne of Cleves House or Lewes Castle. Parking can be problematic. If you don't mind the walk – and it's not that far – there's cheap and plentiful parking at County Hall on Saturdays.

Brighton

A good half an hour drive from The Stables, you can also get a direct train to Brighton from Lewes (which also saves on the pain and expense of parking in Brighton.) We are quite familiar with the city as we used to live there so ask us if you are after specific recommendations. To soak up the Brighton vibe, wander around the North Laine for independent shopping and food. [The Royal Pavillion & Gardens](#) is worth a visit. If you have fish and chips al fresco, watch out for the pesky seagulls! The [Brighton Festival](#) and [Brighton Fringe](#) in May offer an array of events, concerts, performances and exhibitions – there really is something for everyone.

South Downs National Park

England's newest National Park, designated in 2010, the South Downs National Park covers an area of over 600 square miles stretching from Winchester in the west to Eastbourne in the east. It was in the Sussex village of Felpham that William Blake wrote the lines to Jerusalem that celebrate 'England's pleasant pastures' and 'mountains green'.

As one of 'Britain's Breathing Spaces', the South Downs is nature's playground for those who love to hike, cycle, run, picnic and relax amongst the rolling green pastures, ancient woodlands, river valleys and dramatic coastline of the National Park. Check out the Long Man of Wilmington carved into the hillside, the unspoilt Cuckmere estuary and stunning vantage points along the South Downs Way.

[Glyndebourne](#)

Nestled in the beautiful Sussex countryside around 15 minutes' drive from The Stables, Glyndebourne is where opera buffs get their fix. The Glyndebourne Festival runs from May to September. Dress up in your finest (evening dress and black tie) and picnic in the gardens before a performance or in the entr'acte. Outside of the festival there are other performances throughout the year, and a less formal dress code. Check the [website](#) for the latest programme of events.

[Charleston](#)

The modernist home and studio of the painters Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant, Charleston was a gathering point for some of the 20th century's most radical artists, writers and thinkers known collectively as the Bloomsbury group. Today, Charleston presents a year-round programme of exhibitions, events and festivals at the property in Firle, around 20 minutes' drive from The Stables. Charleston opened a gallery in [Lewes](#) last year.

National Trust

Batemans

Bateman's is a 17th-century house located in Burwash, and the home of Rudyard Kipling from 1902 until his death in 1936. The house was built in 1634 and is Grade 1 listed. Kipling's widow Caroline bequeathed the house to the National Trust on her death in 1939.

Sheffield Park & Garden

A beautiful Grade I listed landscaped garden surrounded by parkland and woodland, with influences of 'Capability' Brown and Humphry Repton. Four lakes form the heart of the garden, with paths circulating through the glades and wooded areas surrounding them. The Sheffield Park estate dates back several centuries and over its lifetime has had many uses including a deer park and WWII camp. Today it is now grazed with livestock and home to a natural woodland play trail in Ringwood Toll.

Blackcap

Blackcap occupies 623 acres along the ridge of the South Downs, just west of Lewes. This stunning hilltop area offers fine views over The Weald to the north and across to the coast. In summer take scented walks across the wild flowering marjoram, which grows in abundance over the hillside. Ashcombe bottom is a short walk to the south, known locally as Bracky Bottom, because of the bracken growing in the coombe. The whole area is steeped in history with burial mounds, battle grounds and ancient trackways.

Monk's House

Nestled in the heart of rural Sussex, Monk's House is a tranquil 17th-century weatherboarded cottage inhabited by Leonard and the novelist Virginia Woolf from 1919 until Leonard's death in 1969. Get to know Leonard and Virginia Woolf and the wider Bloomsbury Group by visiting Monk's House. Full of their favourite things, the house appears as if they just stepped out for a walk. The Woolfs bought Monk's House for the 'shape and fertility and wildness of the garden'. Today, the lovely cottage garden contains a mix of flowers, vegetables, orchards, lawns and ponds.

Standen House and Garden

James and Margaret Beale chose an idyllic location with views across the Sussex countryside for their rural retreat. Designed by Philip Webb, the house is one of the finest examples of Arts and Crafts workmanship, with Morris & Co. interiors creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The house is dressed for a weekend stay in 1925, so you can imagine you are a guest of the family. A major restoration of the 12-acre hillside garden showcases year-round seasonal highlights and an award-winning plant collection. On the wider estate, footpaths lead out into the woodlands, Ashdown Forest and wider High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Amenities

Supermarkets and farm shops

The nearest decent sized supermarkets – Waitrose and Tesco - are in Uckfield, around 10 minutes' drive away. For a convenience store that's open 7am-10pm 7 days a week, there's a Co op on the way to Uckfield, located next to the Highlands Inn pub.

[Stavertons](#) nursery at Halland has a small farm shop section selling bread, milk, butter, cheese plus some fruit and veg. They also sell Cook ready prepared frozen meals. A new café at the nursery is due to open in September 2024.

Taxis

It can be difficult to get a taxi so pre-booking is essential.

DB Taxis (Dave) 07807 228612

AJ Taxis (Bryan) 07834 394359

R&R Taxis 01825 765322

A-Z Lewes Taxis 07834 394359.

GM Taxis (office across the road from Lewes station) 01273 477567

Doctor

[Buxted and East Hoathly Medical Centres.](#)

[The Meades Surgery](#), Uckfield.

Pharmacies

Boots in Uckfield has a pharmacy as does Tesco in Uckfield

Petrol stations

Shell, Cross in Hand

Apple Green, Uckfield

Cashpoints

Tesco, Uckfield

Santander, Uckfield

BP garage, Cross-in-Hand

Co-op, Uckfield

Co-op, Heathfield

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