

Walking Route: East Grinstead High Street Circular

Ancient Market Town, Forest Way, Farm, Reservoir, Historic Houses & Woodland



A circular walk providing an opportunity to walk from East Grinstead town centre out to the Sussex countryside. The walk starts at the historic High Street containing one of the longest continuous runs of 14th century timber-framed buildings in England. Within that row is Sackville House – a house that you can book to stay at with The Landmark Trust. St Swithun's Church, rebuilt in the 18th century, towers over the High Street buildings. Pass Sackville College, the sandstone almshouse built in 1609 where the Christmas carol 'Good King Wenceslas' was written. The walk continues on the Forest Way and into the heart of Kingscote Valley countryside passing through Busses Farm (organic beef farm and Yoghurt Rooms 'glamping'), Weir Wood Reservoir, and Standen woods. At Busses Farm there is a fantastic view of East Grinstead town with St Swithun's church standing high. There is an opportunity to rest at the Old Dunnings Mill pub before heading back to town.

Refuel:

Dorset Arms

Dogs welcome.

Along with plenty of options along the High Street including cafes and restaurants.

Old Dunnings Mill

Dogs welcome.

The Ship Inn

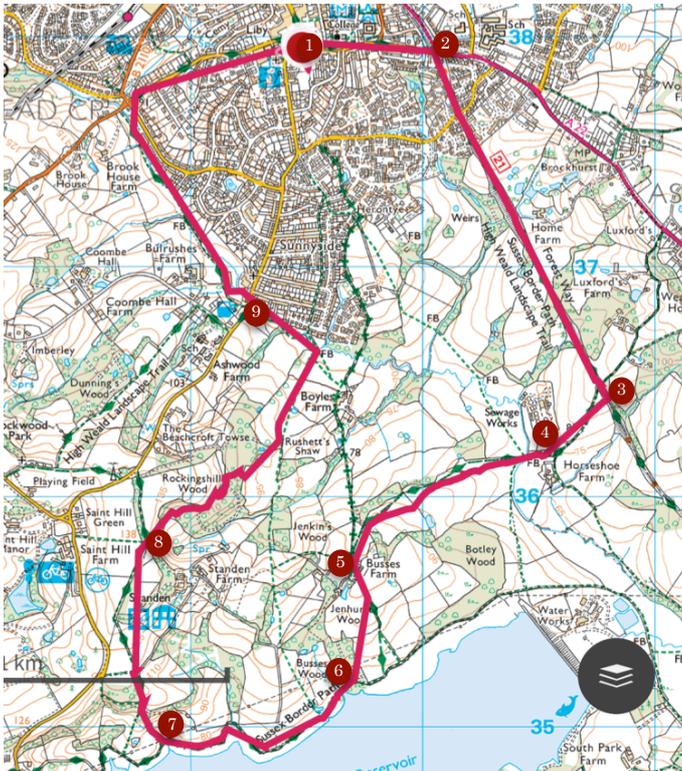
Dogs welcome.

Weir Wood Reservoir

Millennium Picnic Site

Distance: 10km (6 miles) | **Duration:** 2.5 - 3 hours
Terrain: relatively flat but has a few steep sections
Dog friendly: yes, off lead most of the walk
OS Explorer Map: 135
Car parks: Church Lane or West Street
Train: East Grinstead station
Bus stop: High Street (Metrobus & Southdown)





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1. Start on the High Street on the side with the war memorial. Pass Middle Row, the Dorset Arms on your right, and Sackville College on your left. Continue straight on until you reach the roundabout for the A22.

2. Turn right on the footpath signposted Forest Way. It merges with a path joining from the left. When you reach a road (Herontye Drive) cross the road and continue on the path.

3. When you reach the bridge (one mile from joining Forest Way) look for the public footpath sign on your right. [2.2km] There is a steep bank up immediately past the bridge. Walk on for about 100m and take the safer path by the footpath signposted Sussex Border Path – it veers up and right. Put dogs on lead. At the top you reach a lane. Head left on the lane.

4. At Horseshoe Farm, take the footpath to the right signposted West Sussex Border Path immediately after the sign for Horseshoe Cottage. Cross a stream over a foot bridge. Go through a metal gate and enter a field. Continue straight up the field, ignoring a gate on your right heading to another field. Keep going up through the fields until you reach Busses Farm. Exit the field via the wooden gate in the far right corner. Look to your right along Harwoods Lane for a view of East Grinstead town with St Swithun's church standing high.

5. Turn left into the farm at the lake. Keep dogs on a lead through the farm. You will see a blue public bridleway sign, a house on your left and a barn in front of you. Veer right past the barn and Yoghurt Rooms sign. You will see a further blue bridleway sign directing you round left. Veer left past the cow sheds. Go through the metal gate straight ahead by the signpost. Continue on the footpath and control dogs if sheep or cows are in the fields to your right. The path veers left, ignore the bridleway sign on your right at the gate. [4km]

6. When you reach the reservoir, turn right on the footpath. Pass the Millennium Picnic Site on your left. Continue on the path around the reservoir. Ignore a path on your right. Cross over a stile. Continue around the edge of a field. You will see a pylon on your right. Continue on the path straight ahead. Go through a metal gate. [5.25km]

7. Turn right at the public footpath sign in a field just past the gate. Walk up the field. Go through the metal gate in front of you and into the woods. Take the right path up through the woods. Enter a field. There is a gate to a footpath on your right (take this path if you want to visit Standen and rejoin at 8). Continue up the field. Look right for a view of Standen House. At the top of the field, go through a kissing gate and follow the footpath veering right. Look left for a view of Saint Hill Manor. You then reach the road that runs to Standen.

8. Cross the road and enter National Trust Rockinghill Wood. Walk down the steps and continue straight on the woodland path, passing a field and path on your right and bench and information sign on your left. When the path forks left or right, take the right fork. Continue straight on the path which includes a boardwalk section, ignoring a right and then left path. Follow the path as it veers right after the Standen bench. You then reach a stile into a field signposted East Grinstead. Go over the stile and cross the first field, turning left before you reach the second field. [7.2km] Walk along the edge of the field towards a gate. Go through the gate and into another field. Continue straight across the field and go through a small gate into another field. Cross the field. Look straight ahead for a view of East Grinstead and St Swithun's Church. Go through a gate into woods with a stream. Turn left and continue on the path. You reach Sunnyside Recreational Park, continue through the small park.

9. Reach Dunning's Road. The Old Dunning's Mill is in front of you. Find the footpath behind the pub at the rear of the car park. Follow the footpath right and continue. Go through a metal gate and continue. Once past a duck pond, keep right, exit the field through the gate on your right signposted footpath. Follow the footpath left and come out onto Turners Hill Road by the roundabout. Cross the roundabout and walk up West Street back to East Grinstead town centre. Or if heading to the train station turn left at the roundabout and walk up Brooklands Way.

