

# ELLIE'S COUNTRY WALKS



THE ELEPHANT  
HOTEL

## CHIHUAHUA STROLL

Distance - 3 miles

Duration - 1.5 hours

Difficulty - Easy

This nice 3 mile circular walk around the Berkshire village of Pangbourne includes waterside stretches along the River Thames and the River Pangbourne.

- Start the walk from Pangbourne train station and then head east along the Thames Path to Pangbourne Meadow. It's a delightful spot which is great for picnics and also hosts the annual Village fete in June.
- After passing along the pretty meadow the route turns south, following a footpath along the Sul Brook towards Sulham Woods.
- You can take a short detour south and visit the attractive woods which contain a series of waymarked trails. This walk heads west to meet up with the River Pangbourne where you can follow a path along the river back to the village.
- To extend your walking in the area you could continue east along the Thames towards Purley on Thames and visit Mapledurham House. The estate is a lovely place for a stroll and includes a 15th century watermill. Around here you can also pick up the long distance Chiltern Way which runs through the area.

## JACK RUSSELL WALK

Distance - 5.5 miles

Duration - 3 hours

Difficulty - Easy

- Start the walk from Pangbourne train station and then head east along the Thames Path to Pangbourne Meadow. It's a delightful spot which is great for picnics and also hosts the annual Village fete in June.
- Continue along the pretty meadow past the Sul Brook and continue along the River Thames.
- After enjoying this stretch of river you will come across the Mapledurham Lock. At the lock, take Mapledurham Drive and enter into the village of Purley on Thames.
- Turn right onto Purley Village Road and continue past the school. Here there will be a footpath that connects to a bridleway going along the railway line.
- Take the footpath to the right when you come across Sul Brook. You will end up back at the River Thames. Turn left and retrace your steps to the beginning of the trail.

## SPANIEL WAY

Website: [Basildon Park](#)

Distance - 10 miles

Duration - 6 hours

Difficulty - Moderate

This route offers spectacular seasonal colour, with spring bluebells, summer buttercups, and fall foliage, and the environment has been meticulously maintained to provide, tranquil trails and picnic spaces. Winter walks are essential. This location provides free parking for all guests. Dogs must be kept on leashes at all times.

- From The Elephant Hotel turn right and then right again to make your way onto Pangbourne Hill Road.
- On your right there will be a footpath that crosses over to Shooters Hill. You can either continue left up Shooters Hill or cross over and turn left along the Thames River Path.
- If taking the road, continue until you see the turn in for Basildon Park on your left.
- If taking the river path, continue on until you meet a small road that will take you to St. Bartholomews Church. Turn, right and make your way to the main road. Here you will turn left and go down the hill until you turn in for Basildon Park on your right.
- There are 4 different waymarked trails through the 400 acres of parkland and woodland that surround the 18th century mansion house. The walk also takes you through the beautiful garden with its maze, wildflower meadows and rose garden.

## LABRADOR TRAIL

Website: [Whitchurch Circular](#)

Distance - 8.5 miles

Duration - 4 hours

Difficulty - Moderate

Pangbourne and its companion Whitchurch, on the other side of the River Thames – in Oxfordshire – are delightful villages. Passing on a toll bridge over the river, you come to St Mary's Church, with the route continuing along part of the Thames Path National Trail (which opened in 1996) past Coombe Park, to a wood with views down to the Thames. From there it is up through a nature reserve and Great Chalk Wood, from where the original route diverts to Hill Bottom and a pub for refreshments. After refreshments you walk through a pocket park and then re-connect with the original walk's route to go through woods and fields, then head back down through Whitchurch and into Pangbourne for a late lunch or tea.

The route guidance is very thorough and takes up many pages. Use the link provided above to access the route guidance webpage.

# WOLFHOUND WANDER

Distance - 5.5 miles

Duration - 3 hours

Difficulty - Easy

- From The Elephant Hotel turn left and then right at the roundabout. Continue on your way out of the village towards the River Thames.
- Follow the pavement across the Toll bridge. The original toll bridge was built in 1792. The current Whitchurch Bridge is the third on the site, an iron structure erected in 1902.
- Just after the toll house turn left (following the Thames Path National Trail sign), entering the historic area of Mill Pond. The Mill is mentioned in the Domesday Book and the wharf would have been bustling with barges transporting corn from the mill and wood from the nearby timber yards. Turn right after Church Cottages, down a narrow alleyway to the Church. Go through the other end of the Church yard and follow the drive to the High Street.
- Turn left and walk up the High Street. Just past the art gallery the road narrows and there is no pavement for 100m, take care. Continue up Whitchurch Hill, crossing over the road to follow the footpath on the raised bank the other side. Cross back over the road opposite the war memorial.
- 50m after the War Memorial take the footpath to your left, then bear left again and go through a kissing gate into open fields. Follow the footpath along the edge of the wood.
- At Beech Farm cross over the entrance drive and follow the footpath along a field edge and through a kissing gate into the woods. Follow the path through the woods ignoring paths to the right. Come out of the woods and cross a field heading towards Coombe End Farm. Follow the footpath through a couple of fields until it brings you out on the farm track. Turn right and follow the farm track to the road.
- Turn left and follow the minor road. After half a mile the view opens out on your left and you can see right across the Thames Valley towards the North Wessex Downs.
- Continue along the minor road. It will weave sharply to the right and then sharply to the left.
- After 400 metres, turn right at the derelict farm buildings onto the bridleway. Enter Great Chalk Wood and bear right. Follow the path almost to the exit by Stapnall's Farm, then turn left on to another bridleway that gently descends past the hazel coppice on the right.
- After 400 metres, turn left onto the footpath that gently climbs through mixed beech and spruce. Follow this path through the wood, ignoring minor paths to the left.
- Leave the wood and follow the footpath around the field margin with the mature blackthorn hedge on your right; uphill, then bearing left, past the cemetery.
- Head downhill and turn right, go across the playing field onto Whitehills Green. Bear left and then right for Reading Road.

- Continue on Reading Road across the railway line and continue on until you reach Manor Road.
- Turn left onto Manor Road.
- Continue until you see River Lane, Turn right onto it and at the end of the lane you will see a path connecting to the Thames River Path.
- Once at the Thames River turn right to head up to the weirs and bridges to cross the River Thames.
- Once across the bridges continue on the High Street until you reach Reading Road.
- Turn left on Reading Road and make your way down the hill back into Pangbourne Village.