

# Pick 'n' Mix Pick 'n' Mix the best of Elham Valley



Even a short country break in the Elham Valley will whisk you away from the 24/7 and leave you refreshed. So whether you have just half a day, a day, a weekend or more to visit, here are some suggestions for making the most of your time.

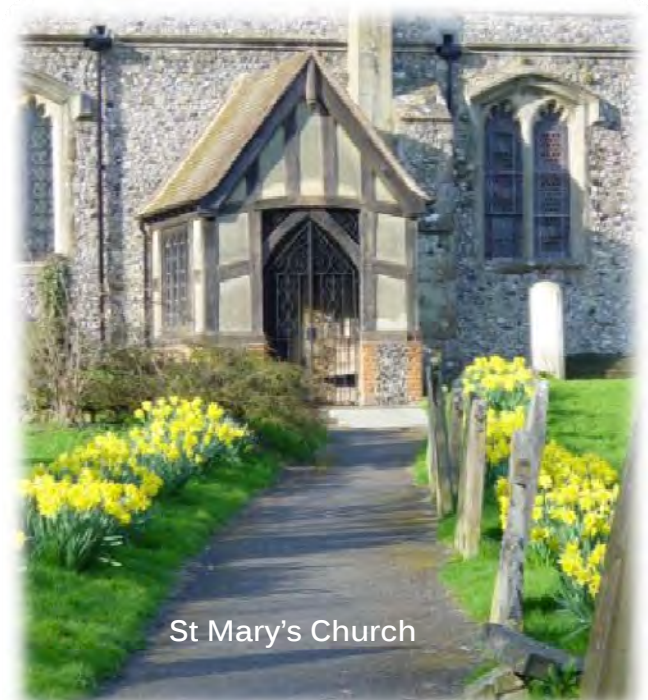
## Half Day (3 Options)

1. Visit the village of Elham. Pick up the Elham Country Break leaflet at the [Rose & Crown](#) and follow the heritage trail. Investigate the interesting buildings and houses of Elham before stopping off for lunch at the [Rose & Crown](#), the [Kings Arms](#) or [Abbots Fireside](#). Or why not have afternoon tea at the [Cosy Tea Room](#).

2. Visit [Lyminge](#), among the larger villages in the Elham Valley and the source of the Nailbourne stream. One of the oldest standing structures in Lyminge is the 11th-century parish church where a 6th-century Jutish cemetery was discovered. Next to the playing field you'll also come across St Ethelburga's Well – the village was the site of an ancient monastery founded by Ethelburga, daughter of the King of Kent.

At the heart of Lyminge is a cluster of shops and the old railway station building now houses the village library. If you wander to the outskirts of the village, you'll find a splendid cricket pitch and modern pavilion at Sibton Park, and there's [a golf course](#) at nearby Etchinghill.

3. If you come on a spring or summer Sunday, look around the [Stelling Minnis Windmill](#) and Museum and have afternoon tea in their café. The Grade One-listed, picturesque wooden smock mill is open on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays, 2pm-5pm, from Easter Sunday to the end of September. Round off with a visit to flint-built [St Mary's Church](#), which dates from the 13th century, and a walk on the Minnis or common.



## Full Day

1. Explore the village of Bishopsbourne, one-time home to author Joseph Conrad as well as Reverend Richard Hooker who played a major part in the development of Anglicanism in the 1500s. Hooker was buried in the chancel of the village church of St. Mary, and a memorial to him can be seen on the south wall. St Mary's is also noted for its remains of early 14th-century wall paintings, medieval glass and William Morris mosaic tiles around the altar.

Next to the church is Conrad's former home, 'Oswalds', and from behind the church you can follow the path to see Bourne Park.

After lunch at the Mermaid – do try the ales for which it is renowned – stretch your legs on the Elham Valley Way in the opposite direction to Kingston. En route you will cross through Charlton Park. At Kingston, take a look at [St Giles](#) and treat yourself to a refreshing drink at the Black Robin. The walk back to Bishopsbourne is not too far!

2. There is a wealth of opportunities for learning arts or crafts in the Elham Valley. Perhaps book a pottery-making session with [Annie Begley](#) in Wingmore, or a pottery-painting class with [Roseneath Ceramics](#) in Rhodes Minnis. You could also stop off at [Hode Pottery](#) in Petts Bottom to buy garden pottery. Alternatively, attend a workshop with the [Hilltop Spinning & Weaving Centre](#) in Lyminge, where you can learn hand spinning, weaving, dyeing with natural dyestuffs and felt making.





Shelter building



Fire making

## Weekend

If you are coming to the Elham Valley for the weekend then you certainly want to experience the great outdoors. What better way to do this than to learn some bushcraft skills. [Natural Pathways](#) provides a broad range of Survival Bushcraft and Nature Awareness Courses for children and adults, including learning about fire and shelter.

The courses are held in woodland around Barham and vary from flint knapping and wildlife tracking to a Family Weekend Bushcraft camp. Definitely a special adventure together.

## A Few Days

1. Share a walking holiday with Derek Bright of [Walk Awhile](#). Book the seven-day, six-night 'Discovering Rural Kent' package, with five full days of walking that start and finish at the cathedral city of Canterbury.

Together you will follow the Elham Valley Way through Bridge, Bishopsbourne and Elham before continuing on to Postling and Wye. Accommodation in the Valley can be arranged for you, as well as luggage transfers. A variety of activities en route can be booked, too, so if you fancy learning bushcraft and survival skills, attending a pottery workshop or a yoga class during your tour, let Walk Awhile know and Derek may be able to build it into the package.

When you visit lovely places it is really nice to know that your activities contribute to a sustainable future. Derek operates a Responsible Travel Policy that is supportive and in sympathy with local communities and the environment. Walk Awhile has also achieved a Silver award from the Green Tourism Business Scheme and is featured on [www.responsibletravel.com](http://www.responsibletravel.com). You can read his Responsible Tourism Policy on his website.



2. Bring your own horse and [Have Horse Will Travel](#) will organise everything for you – stabling, accommodation in local b&bs, food and drink, and a guide for the duration of your holiday. The three-day ride incorporates the Elham Valley, Crundale Downs and Lyminge Forest (approx 52 miles), taking you through beautiful valleys, forest and across open downs.

The majority of riding is on tracks and bridleways but where this is not possible you will travel along quiet and minor roads. Assistance will be on hand where main roads have to be crossed. The pace is dictated by the desires and abilities of riders and usually includes a mix of all speeds to suit the group.

Have Horse Will Travel makes a strong commitment to responsible tourism. To ensure their rides in Kent are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable, they aim to bring business to local suppliers by using local accommodation and pubs, and buying products from local farmers. Educating visitors about the area and promoting the local countryside are also important aspects of what they do. Find out more in their Responsible Tourism Policy.

Attraction	Telephone	Website	Opening Times	Address
<b>Rose and Crown</b>	+44 (0) 1303 840226	<a href="http://www.roseandcrown.elham.co.uk/">http://www.roseandcrown.elham.co.uk/</a>	Please check website alternatively phone	Rose and Crown, High Street, Elham, Kent, CT4 6TD
<b>Kings Arms</b>	+44 (0) 1303 840242	<a href="http://www.elham.co.uk/elham/business/KingsArms/KingsArms.htm">http://www.elham.co.uk/elham/business/KingsArms/KingsArms.htm</a>	Monday - Friday 11:00 to 23:00, Saturday 11:00 to 23:30, Sunday 12:00 to 23:00  Check website for food serving times	Kings Arms The Square, Elham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6TJ.
<b>Abbot's Fireside</b>	+44 (0) 1303 840265	<a href="http://www.abbotsfireside.com/index.php">http://www.abbotsfireside.com/index.php</a>	Please check website alternatively phone	The Abbots Fireside, Canterbury Road, Elham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6TD

<b>Cosy Tea Rooms</b>	+44 (0) 1303 840344	No website	Monday – Sunday For times please Call	In the old Post Office, High Street, Elham, Canterbury, Kent
<b>Etchinghill Golf Club</b>	+ 44 (0) 1303 863863	<a href="http://www.pentlandgolf.co.uk/etchinghill/etchinghill-golf-club">http://www.pentlandgolf.co.uk/etchinghill/etchinghill-golf-club</a>	Please check website alternatively phone	Etchinghill Golf Club, Canterbury Road, Etchinghill, Folkestone, Kent, CT18 8FA
<b>Roseneath Ceramics</b>	+44 (0) 1303 862979	<a href="http://www.roseneathceramics.com/index.html">http://www.roseneathceramics.com/index.html</a>	Please check website alternatively phone	Roseneath Ceramics, Roseneath, White Horse Lane, Rhodes Minnis, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6XP
<b>Hode Pottery</b>	+44 (0) 1227 830225	<a href="http://www.hodepottery.co.uk/index.html">http://www.hodepottery.co.uk/index.html</a>	Check website alternatively phone	Hode Pottery, Staddlecombe, Pett Bottom, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 5PE
<b>Hilltop Spinning and Weaving Centre</b>	+44 (0) 1303 862617	<a href="http://www.hilltopspin.co.uk/page3.html">http://www.hilltopspin.co.uk/page3.html</a>	Check website alternatively phone	Windmill Cross Canterbury Road Lyminge Folkestone, Kent, CT18 8HD

*With thanks to David Ratcliff of St Mary's Church, the Duke of Cumberland, Hilltop Spinning and Weaving and natural pathways for supplying photographs*

