

Memorable MG Route – guide and directions

Milford on the A3 to Goodwood Aerodrome along the A286

The route is south from Milford, just off the A3 southwest of Guildford, through Haslemere and Midhurst, then over the South Downs by the Goodwood horse racing course and on to Goodwood Aerodrome. With the North Downs behind you at Milford and heading south on the A286, the route takes you across the western edge of the bowl of the Sussex Weald with its verdant quiet valleys and tree covered hills. At modest speeds, the winding roads particularly suit the handling of a pre-war or classic MG. You need to take time as there is a great deal to see along the route with several interesting diversion options on the way together with suggestions for refreshment stops. Probably the high point of the route is your first glimpse of the smooth lines of the South Downs ahead.

Route miles	Route guide	Diversion miles
	<p>Map: you will need Ordnance Survey Landranger Sheet 186 (1:50,000 or 1.25 inches to the mile).</p>	
0.0	<p>Depart from the centre of Milford on the A283 (the old A3 before Milford had the welcome benefit of the A3(T) bypass) by taking the turn south east at a set of traffic lights clearly signposted for Petworth A283 and Haslemere A286. There is then a very short stretch of road leading to a roundabout where the A283 and A286 split – you need to take the final exit for Haslemere A286. You then very soon settle down on an interesting road heading southwest.</p> <p>Some splendid houses are set back along the first few miles of the road. As you near the edge of the western side of the village, Wheelerstreet, you pass a cricket pitch on your left with a splendid pavilion. The road is then gently undulating through verdant hedgerows and copses. Witely Common is on the right.</p>	
3.2	<p>Pass through the pleasant village of Brook.</p>	
6.8	<p>As you descend the hill to Haslemere, the vista of the wide high street lined with some pleasing period buildings is a delight.</p>	
	<p>Diversion option 1: Black Down</p> <p>Turn left at the bottom of the high street in Haslemere on to the B2131 signposted for Petworth. Before you leave Haslemere you need to look out for a lane on your right called Haste Hill. This takes you to Tennyson's Lane and the National Trust car park. Black Down, the highest point in Sussex, at 919ft above sea level, is part of a plateau of nearly 500 acres covered with gorse, heather and woodland, mainly pine and birch. A three mile walk around the top has fine views over the Sussex Weald and to the South Downs. The circular walk starts at the National Trust car park in Tennyson's Lane. For a copy of a detailed guide to the walk go to: www.v8register.net/mmgr/mmgr.htm</p>	2.2
6.9	<p>At Haslemere you turn right at the bottom of the high street on to the B2131 for less than 100 yards and then fork left up Shepherd's Hill signposted for Midhurst A286. Cresting the hill you then reach open country and to you left you can see Black Down. Later runs through woodland with a section of winding "sunken lane" before descending to Fernhurst. There is a speed camera on the 40mph downhill section.</p> <p>Map: at this stage you will reach the southern edge of the Ordnance Survey Landranger Sheet 186 (1:50,000 or 1.25 inches to the mile) and you will need to switch to Landranger Sheet 197 for the remainder of the route.</p>	

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- 9.9 At Fernhurst** approach the crossroads with care. To the left is a well known TVR garage and to the right a minor road which takes you to the centre of this small village.

Diversion option 2: Hollycombe Steam Centre

4.5

Turn right at the crossroads in the centre of the small village of Fernhurst into Vann Road which heads west towards Liphook. It is an attraction many will enjoy but opening times are restricted particularly outside the school holiday period in July and August. So do check opening times with their website first. On your way to Hollycombe you pass the **Candle Factory** which is open from 9.00am to 5.30pm weekdays only.

- 12.9 Just south of Fernhurst** there are two pubs as options for refreshment or lunch. The Kings Arms Inn is easy to spot as it is a good looking place on a bold location on the A286, whereas the small Duke of Cumberland Arms is a real mystery tour with no certainty of finding it on the first or even at the second attempt! The grid reference is added in the panel alongside in case of need!

Diversion option 3: Kings Arms Inn

0.0

This 17th century dining pub has a relaxed and civilised atmosphere and a good menu of dishes cooked to order with fish a major feature. The real ales include Ringwood Best. It is easy to spot as it is a good looking place on a bold location on the A286, immediately after a sharp righthand bend 3 miles south of Haslemere. It has a large car park. Postcode: GU27 3HA

Diversion option 4: Duke of Cumberland Arms

0.7

This small freehouse in what appears to be a private cottage has to be one of the most tucked away pubs you can imagine. There is no pub sign and no signposts and access is by the narrowest of lanes south of Fernhurst. Take the lane opposite the Kings Arms and proceed with care looking for a red telephone box in the small hamlet of **Henley**. Decent bar food includes soup, ploughman's and cooked dishes. Real ales include Gribble Fursty Ferret and Hogs Back TEA plus farm cider. There are two unpretentious low ceilinged bar rooms in this 15th century cottage with log fires and gas lamps. Modest sized car park. In case of need the Grid reference is 894258

Shortly after the Kings Arms Inn another section of sunken lane follows as the road climbs a woodland covered hill and then loops round the hamlet of Henley below. As if to create a sense of mystery, the access roads to Henley are narrow and very steep, seeming more like pedestrian pathways, and an economy drive on signposts for the village seems totally successful!

The road then descends to the River Rother valley and your approach **Midhurst** as you reach a small roundabout as a junction with the east-west A272. Ahead is an entrance to **Cowdray Park**.

- 14.8 Midhurst** is an old market town on the River Rother, full of attractive houses and several fine old inns, including the 15th century Spread Eagle Inn. The view up the hill from the bridge over the River Rother to the town centre is again an attractive wide vista.

Diversion option 5: Cowdray House (ruins)

1.0

Across the meadow from the north side of Midhurst are the ruins of Cowdray House. A major conservation project was completed in 2007. The ruins are well worth a visit for not only the house and kitchen, but also the walled garden. Shortly after crossing the bridge over the River Rother you will see

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the ruins over the meadows to your left and diagonally to your left a large car park behind a bus stand. There are also modern WC facilities alongside the car park.

From Midhurst the route runs through the South Downs, passing Cocking, a small downland village nestling below Cocking Down, and then drops to Singleton.

- 20.5 At Singleton** you have the attraction of the museum nearby and a pub nearby for refreshment or lunch.

Diversion option 6: Fox Goes Free

1.5

This freehouse is in the small village of Charlton between Singleton and East Dean – just turn left in the centre of Singleton when you reach a sharp righthand bend in the main road. Charlton is less than a mile east from Singleton. Good interesting bar snacks and cooked dishes and well kept real ales including Harveys and Ballards Best and a nutty 3.5% brew Ballards make especially for the pub called the “Fox Goes Free”, extraordinary value at £2.00 a pint. It is not far from the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum.

- 20.7 As you leave Singleton** on the A286 signposted for Chichester, you negotiate a couple of narrow bends over a small bridge and then just ahead you will see the turning left for **Goodwood**. Glancing to your left you will see the road climbs to the skyline on the South Downs. Immediately after making that left turn you will see the entrance to the **Weald and Downland Open Air Museum** on the right.

Diversion Option 7: The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum

0.0

The museum provides a quite extraordinary opportunity to walk amongst a fascinating collection of nearly fifty historic buildings dating from the 13th to the 19th century, many with period gardens and some with farm animals. The entrance to the museum is

- 21.9 The viewpoint on top of the Downs** by the Trundle, close to the grandstand on the Goodwood horse racing course, provides a panorama over West Sussex. The sight of the spectacular grandstand and associated buildings sat isolated and splendid atop the Downs is one you will never forget. Horse races have been held here regularly since 1802. The most important meeting is at the end of July/early August, known as Glorious Goodwood, a title that could not be more apt on a bright sunny summer's day. On such a day, the views for some 30 miles back to the north can be stunning. The Trundle is an Iron Age hill fort on St Roche's Hill.

Diversion option 8: The Trundle

0.7

The prominent hill is topped with the well-defined ramparts of an Iron Age hillfort and the fainter remains of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure dating to perhaps 3700-3300 BC. A small medieval chapel was later built on the hilltop, dedicated to St Roche, and at one time the Trundle was called 'St Roche's Hill'. Further details on the Trundle are available at:
www.walkinginwestsussex.co.uk/Walk25.htm

- 21.9 From the Trundle to Goodwood Aerodrome** the route is downhill through the broadleaf woodland of the well managed Goodwood Estate, passing Goodwood House. At the foot of the long hill open farmland appears and the drone of light aircraft on circuits indicates you are close to the airfield.

- 25.0 Goodwood Aerodrome** is a welcome sight and, free of the crowds and marquees seen at the popular Goodwood Revival race meeting, it is a

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relaxed and quiet place with a distinct period feel.

Inside Goodwood Circuit you find the paddock area is to your left and then ahead of you is the aeroclub building. The aeroclub café offers morning coffee, tea and cakes or light snacks and cooked dishes for lunch which make this a most enjoyable place to take a leisurely break. You are surrounded by photos of WW2 fighters and aircrew stationed at the airfield, then known as Westhampnett. Today Goodwood is a popular light aviation airfield so you find modern day pilots on adjacent tables discussing their flight plans. From the windows of the café you have a full view of the airfield operations and parked aircraft. On warm days you can sit out on the sheltered veranda and soak up the atmosphere and views.

Several interesting places to visit are within a short drive of Goodwood Aerodrome - Bosham with its church, harbour and welcoming pubs is a good choice as you run up to lunchtime. There is Chichester, a relaxed town with a cathedral and theatre and much more. A few miles further to the west on the old A27 is the attractive coastal village of Emsworth with pleasant shoreline walks, restaurants and pubs.

For the return to Milford an attractive route is via the A285 to Petworth and then up the A283 to Milford. It is almost a parallel route to that you have followed to get to Goodwood.

25.0

10.6

The diversion options are simply suggestions for visits that you might select as individual additional features for the route. They are not intended to be an extended route. With the stops for all these options, the total route of some 35.6 miles which with the return route might make for a longer day than many would wish to have. A heavy day would run counter to the aims of a Memorable MG Route.

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Maps for the route

You will need to review the route with a road atlas or map so you can see much of the detail along the route and the diversion options. You can use a road atlas (a Philips Navigator Atlas for instance, which claims to show every road in the country), the relevant Ordnance Survey maps (the necessary Landranger sheets are mentioned in the route guide) or one of the online route finder services.

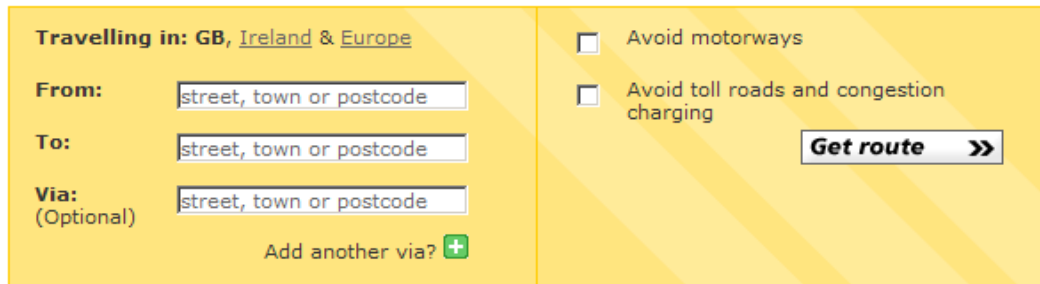
AA online route planner service

The AA have a useful online service which enables you to set the starting point and destination and then force the route to go through particular places using the "via" options.

http://www.theaa.com/travelwatch/planner_main.jsp?database=B

Route Planner

You can search for a route using **street** or **postcode**, **town**, **city** or **place of interest** (eg sports ground, hospital, train station, airport). Get driving directions and a detailed map of your journey.



Using the Route Planner box above on the AA website, the route from Milford via Haslemere, Fernhurst, Midhurst and Singleton to Goodwood Aerodrome can be found by entering:

From: **Milford**

To: **Goodwood Aerodrome**

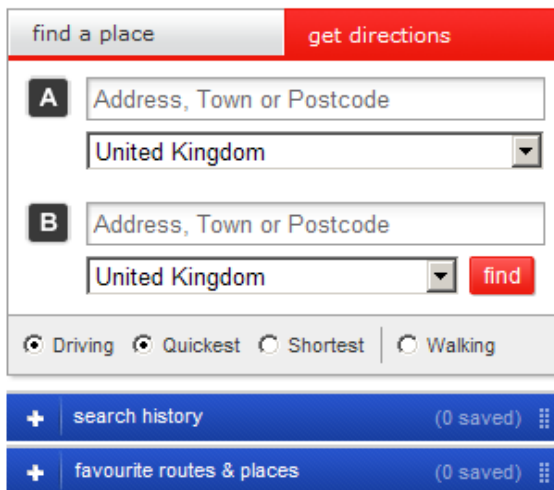
Via: enter four via options as **Haslemere**, **Haslemere**, **Fernhurst**, **Midhurst** and **Singleton**.

Finally: check the "**Avoid motorways**" check box on the righthand side of the entry form.

Click: "**Get route >>**"

Multimap route service

Multimap is a useful way of finding route directions with a map.



The route from Milford via Haslemere, Fernhurst, Midhurst and Singleton to Goodwood Aerodrome can be found using the Multimap route finder. Just follow these easy steps:

Go to the Multimap website at www.multimap.com

Select the tab "**get directions**".

Enter at **A**: **Milford**

Enter at **B**: **Goodwood Aerodrome**

Check the "**Shortest**" button.

Click "**find**".

The route will pop up and you can work your way through the map and study the route directions too.

Maps

We have not included copies of maps as part of this route guide because of the internet and publishing copyright fee costs. Do get the two Ordnance Survey Landranger maps or a good road atlas.