**Alfriston Village**

**Alfriston and the Cuckmere Valley**

Take a trip to Alfriston to explore the historic heritage of the village and the natural beauty of the surrounding countryside.

Stroll along the Cuckmere river or up onto the Downs to soak up the peace and tranquillity of the area.

Alfriston is surrounded by the Wealden South Downs and the South Downs Way passes through the centre of this historical village.

Around the village, visitors can enjoy their famous church (The Cathedral of the South Downs), clergy house along with galleries, cafes, pubs and boutiques offering a wide range of gifts, from unusual chocolates to music memorabilia.

Alfriston hosts many events throughout the year including music festivals, traditional fetes, boot fairs ... the list seems endless. Keep an eye on the website noted below for information.

https://www.alfriston-village.co.uk/

**Much Ado Books**

Much Ado Books, is an award-winning independent bookshop situated in Alfriston, offering a hand-picked selection of both new and old books.

www.muchadobooks.com/

**Badgers Tea House**

Drink tea from fine bone china cups, poured from silver teapots, in a lovely walled garden if the weather’s good, or in the cosy tea room if it’s cooler, and enjoy freshly baked scones and perfect cakes.

**Traditional Village Store**

Step inside a traditional village store for a little taste of history. Shop for all your day-to-day provisions and great gifts.

**Relax**

Alfriston was granted its market charter in 1406, and the house at the Old Village Bakery dates from 1510. It was the village bakery for 200 years until 1933 – village residents used to bring cakes to bake to their local bakery (it was run by Richard Harryott in the 1700s, known as Doughy!), but once domestic ovens were affordable, many villages lost their bakery.

The village of Alfriston is steeped in history, and has many lovely sights, including its beautiful church, the “Cathedral of the South Downs”, the Clergy House (the first property ever bought by the National Trust), the High Street full of listed buildings, the pretty Cuckmere River meandering past the village, and of course the South Downs Way which passes through the village.

https://www.queensu.ca/bisc/current-students/getting-around
Alfriston High Street

FOOD&DRINK

Enjoy riverbanks and downland views on the circular walk encompassing Alfriston village and Rathfinny vineyard.

How far?
40 minutes’ ride. Drop off and pick up point is the coach park.

What’s there?
A very old and picturesque Sussex village, nestling under the South Downs and mentioned in the Doomsday Book. But don’t be fooled – Alfriston has a colourful history; ghosts abound and there are many stories of smugglers and fights with the Revenue Men!

The village was also a stopover place for pilgrims on their way between Battle Abbey and Chichester. https://www.alfriston-village.co.uk/

- Dine upon a quintessential English cream tea at ‘Badger’s Tea Shop’ – it just has to be done! http://www.badgersteahouse.com/
- Have a drink in the VERY haunted ‘Star Inn’ – will you sense or see anything?
- Take a walk along the river behind the High Street – check out the church, known as ‘The Cathedral of the South Downs’.
- Go up the hill on either side of the village onto the South Downs. You can walk for miles in both directions, but borrow maps from Student Services first.
- Catch a bus to Lewes or Seaford from here and explore other towns. http://www.cuckmerebuses.org.uk/
- End of November/beginning of December – watch out for the Alfriston Dickensian Christmas Event.

When can I go there?
Depending on demand, once or twice a term.

Who do I ask if I want a special trip?
E-mail: minibus@bisc.queensu.ac.uk

This former hostelry for pilgrims oozes character with open fireplaces, soft golden lights and medieval artefacts adorn walls and corners. For locals and visitors alike, the welcome is traditional in the best sense of the word, with excellent locally sourced food and local Sussex ales on tap. Over the years there have been reports of spooky apparitions appearing.

The Star Inn

This stunning 14th Century hostelry. With delicious food, friendly, relaxing atmosphere, refreshing ales, oak beams, open log fires and, without a doubt, quality service.

The George Inn

A very warm welcome is guaranteed at this stunning 14th Century hostelry. With delicious food, friendly, relaxing atmosphere, refreshing ales, oak beams, open log fires and, without a doubt, quality service.

Explore

Explore The Rathfinny Trail
From Rathfinny Estate the trail begins at the cellar door (the Gun Room), and is marked with wooden sign posts and routes to and from are marked with red Rathfinny shields. On the Trail you will be able to enjoy the mosaic of habitats from the flower rich chalk grassland banks to woodland and the Vineyard itself. Whatever the time of day or year, there’s always something new to encounter.

NOTE: The Rathfinny Trail is officially classified as a “permissive footpath” running across the Rathfinny Wine Estate, and is subject to closure on certain days for Vineyard work.

A map of the route is available from Student Services.

The White Horse

Known as the Litlington White Horse, this chalk filly trots over the South Downs, above the Cuckmere River, southwest of Litlington village. Three local men are said to have cut it into the hillside by the light of a full moon in 1924, and it is believed that it replaced an ancient chalk horse which had become overgrown.