On your marks, get-set, go!
Leave the car at home, or at your accommodation, and ride the New Forest Tour Green Route or the Beach Bus (seasonal services) to Beaulieu village where you can hire all the cycling equipment you and your family will need from New Forest Activities. Hop on your bikes and make your way to the National Motor Museum, where the story of motoring on our roads and racetracks comes to life. Re-live memorable challenges in World of Top Gear – and see exclusive behind-the-scenes footage featuring the stars of the show or while a way a few hours checking out all 250 car and motorbike from world land speed record breakers to film favourites like the magical flying car Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.
As well as the museum, the beautiful grounds and gardens of the Palace House must be explored. Get a bird's eye view of the beautiful house and gardens on the high-level, mile-long monorail, climb aboard the replica 1912 open top London Bus for a gentle ride or get in the driving seat yourself and put your foot down on the go karts.
If you get your thrills from less ‘lively’ experiences, explore the charming ruins of Beaulieu Abbey and listen for the sounds of chanting and Brother Augustus’s footsteps and smell the fragrance of incense when there is none burning.

From motors to maritime
After a fun morning of motoring madness, hop back in the saddle and head along the Beaulieu River (at a considerably slower pace!) on the 2-mile footpath to Buckler’s Hard. This 18th century village and shipbuilding yard is where warships for Nelson were built – three of which took part in the Battle of Trafalgar. The children can learn all about the Buckler’s Hard and the Maritime Museum and see for themselves a replica James Watt steam engine, workshops which has been built using traditional methods.
From a thriving shipbuilding village to a sleepy rural hamlet, discover who lived there, the changes that occurred and how it developed into a popular visitor destination in the 20th century. And your visit wouldn’t be complete if you didn’t sit on the riverbank with a Beaulieu ice cream and chilled glass of Beaulieu apple juice from the apple orchard. By now, you've worked up a thirst!
Fully refreshed, hop back on your bike for the last part of your journey heading back to Beaulieu village. After an exciting day of cycling, exploring and soaking up this region’s heritage, you may find the smallest members of your family sleep well tonight!
For families that like a more challenging route, any of the cycle routes can be extended. So if you want to go further afield, make sure you come back to the New Forest soon and try one of the other many routes. There’s certainly enough to keep those budding Bradley Wiggins’ pedalling!

Family wheels in motion
Beaulieu to Buckler’s Hard river trail
The New Forest boasts over 100 miles (160 kilometres) of car-free, approved cycle trails with the very best cycling conditions making it a safe haven for cyclists of all abilities.
Famous attractions, woodland adventures, historic sites, delightful places to eat and beautiful villages all connect up to the cycle routes and await your discovery. Pedal power really is the best way to explore all that the New Forest has to offer.
One of the most popular routes for families is from beautiful Beaulieu to the historic Buckler’s Hard as the route follows a two mile footpath along fields and woodland and offers a wonderful day out for all the family to enjoy. And this is where this trail will take you…