

London Victoria-Brighton

Southern Railway operates a fast and frequent service between London Victoria and Brighton with a journey time of approximately one hour. Thameslink also run services on part of this route between East Croydon and Brighton (trains running to and from London Bridge/Blackfriars) and Gatwick Express operate from London Victoria to Gatwick Airport.

With some luck, a journey between London Victoria and Brighton will offer you lots of opportunities to see Britain's wildlife. As the train pulls out of Victoria and you cross the Thames, look out for the statuesque **grey heron** standing motionless at the edge of water waiting for an unsuspecting fish to pass by. Many breed in London's parks and can often be seen fishing on the edge of the Thames and other rivers, along with the all-black **cormorants** and various gulls. Then almost immediately you might see **peregrines**, which sometimes perch on the old Battersea Power Station. The train then heads into the southern suburbs, where the tallest office blocks at East Croydon are also home to this species. The early part of the journey is an ideal time to look out for some of our commonest mammals, particularly **foxes** and **grey squirrels***. Encircling central London are populations of **moles**, which tend to be found in low-lying land, rarely coming to the surface but remaining in their tunnels and conspicuous by their tunnels' excavated earth – molehills. A little further south as the countryside opens up, watch out for **rabbits*** nibbling grass and scurrying away at the sound of the approaching train. **Muntjac deer** and **roe deer*** are often seen feeding in fields close to the forested areas south of Gatwick airport you'll see many species of woodland and farmland birds in the area north of Hayward's Heath. As the train pulls into Brighton, look again for the **peregrines**, powerful falcons that sometimes show up on Pelham Tower below the Station or above Churchill Square.

*Grey squirrel – picture on page 7

*Rabbit – picture on page 13

*Roe deer – picture on page 11



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Muntjac deer - known as the barking deer, muntjac are the smallest deer in the UK.



© Mark Bolton/NPL

Peregrine - our largest and most powerful falcon.



© Colin Carver/NPL

Fox - one of the most familiar mammals, spotted in both towns and countryside.



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Grey heron - a tall agile bird, waiting motionless for a fish to pass by.

