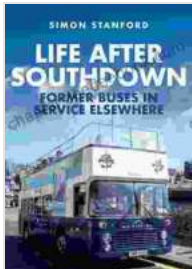


# Life After Southdown: Former Buses In Service Elsewhere



## Life After Southdown: Former Buses in Service Elsewhere

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 75015 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 156 pages



The Southdown Motor Services Ltd., a renowned bus operator in southern England, played a significant role in shaping the public transport landscape for over a century. Throughout its history, Southdown operated a vast fleet of buses, many of which have now been retired. However, the story of these retired buses does not end there. Remarkably, a substantial number of former Southdown buses have found new homes and continue to serve communities in various corners of the UK and even beyond.

## Preservation and Restoration Projects

A testament to the enduring legacy of Southdown, numerous former buses have been lovingly preserved and restored by dedicated enthusiasts and preservation groups. These historic vehicles are often showcased at vintage bus rallies and events, providing a glimpse into the rich history of public transport. Some notable examples include:

- **AEC Regent V** (Registration number: 139 SCT): Retired from Southdown in 1964, this classic bus has been restored to its former glory and now operates as part of the Wythall Transport Museum's heritage fleet.
- **Leyland PD3** (Registration number: 8950 DH): Originally built in 1953, this bus was used by Southdown until 1971. After retirement, it was purchased by a private collector and has been meticulously restored to its original condition.
- **Bristol Lodekka** (Registration number: 9442 GN): A stylish double-decker bus, this Lodekka entered service with Southdown in 1964. After retirement, it was purchased by the London Bus Museum and now forms part of their extensive collection.

## Continued Service in the UK

Beyond preservation projects, many former Southdown buses have continued to ply their trade in various parts of the UK, providing valuable transportation services to local communities.

- **Stagecoach:** Several former Southdown buses found a new lease of life with the Stagecoach operating group. These buses can be spotted in service in towns and cities such as Chichester, Hastings, and Eastbourne.
- **Arriva:** Another major bus operator that acquired former Southdown vehicles is Arriva. These buses are now serving communities in areas such as Kent, Sussex, and Hampshire.
- **Smaller Bus Operators:** Numerous independent bus operators across the UK have also purchased retired Southdown buses to

supplement their fleets. These buses are often used on local routes or specialized services.

## **Overseas Adventures: Exporting Southdown Buses**

The reach of Southdown buses extends beyond the UK borders, with many former vehicles finding their way to new destinations overseas.

- **Pakistan:** A significant number of retired Southdown buses were sold to transport operators in Pakistan. These buses continue to serve in cities like Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad.
- **Brazil:** Former Southdown buses have also been exported to Brazil, where they are used in the public transport system in cities such as São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.
- **Other Countries:** Southdown buses have also found new homes in countries such as Portugal, Spain, and even Japan, where they are used for various purposes, including tourism and vintage events.

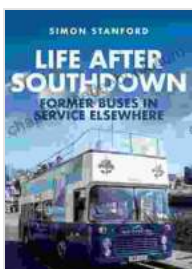
The retirement of Southdown buses marked the end of an era in public transport history. However, the legacy of these iconic vehicles lives on through the many buses that continue to provide valuable transportation services in the UK and beyond. Whether it's preserved as a historic artifact, serving communities on local routes, or venturing on new adventures overseas, former Southdown buses continue to fascinate and inspire bus enthusiasts and transport enthusiasts alike. Their journeys are a testament to the enduring spirit of public transport and the enduring appeal of these classic vehicles.







1. Buses Magazine, "The Life After Southdown," Issue 720, March 2023.
2. The Southdown Enthusiasts' Club, "Preserved Southdown Vehicles," <https://www.southdownenthusiasts.org.uk/preserved/>
3. Bus Lists on the Web, "Ex-Southdown Vehicles," <https://www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk/scrapyards/exsouthdown.html>



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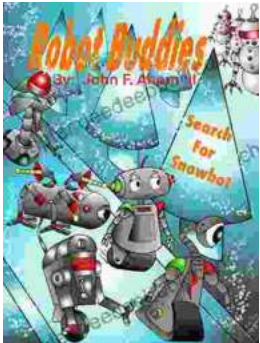
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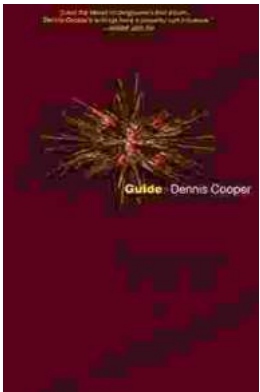
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