The Visit Leicester Centre
51 Gallowtree Gate, Leicester, LE1 5AD

Opening Times:

Monday – Saturday: 10.00am – 6.00pm
Sundays & Bank Holidays: 11.00am – 5.00pm

Open every day throughout the year, except Christmas Day and New Years Day.

SCAN ME

WITH YOUR PHONE

T: 0116 299 4444 or 0844 888 5181
W: www.visitleicester.info
E: info@visitleicester.info

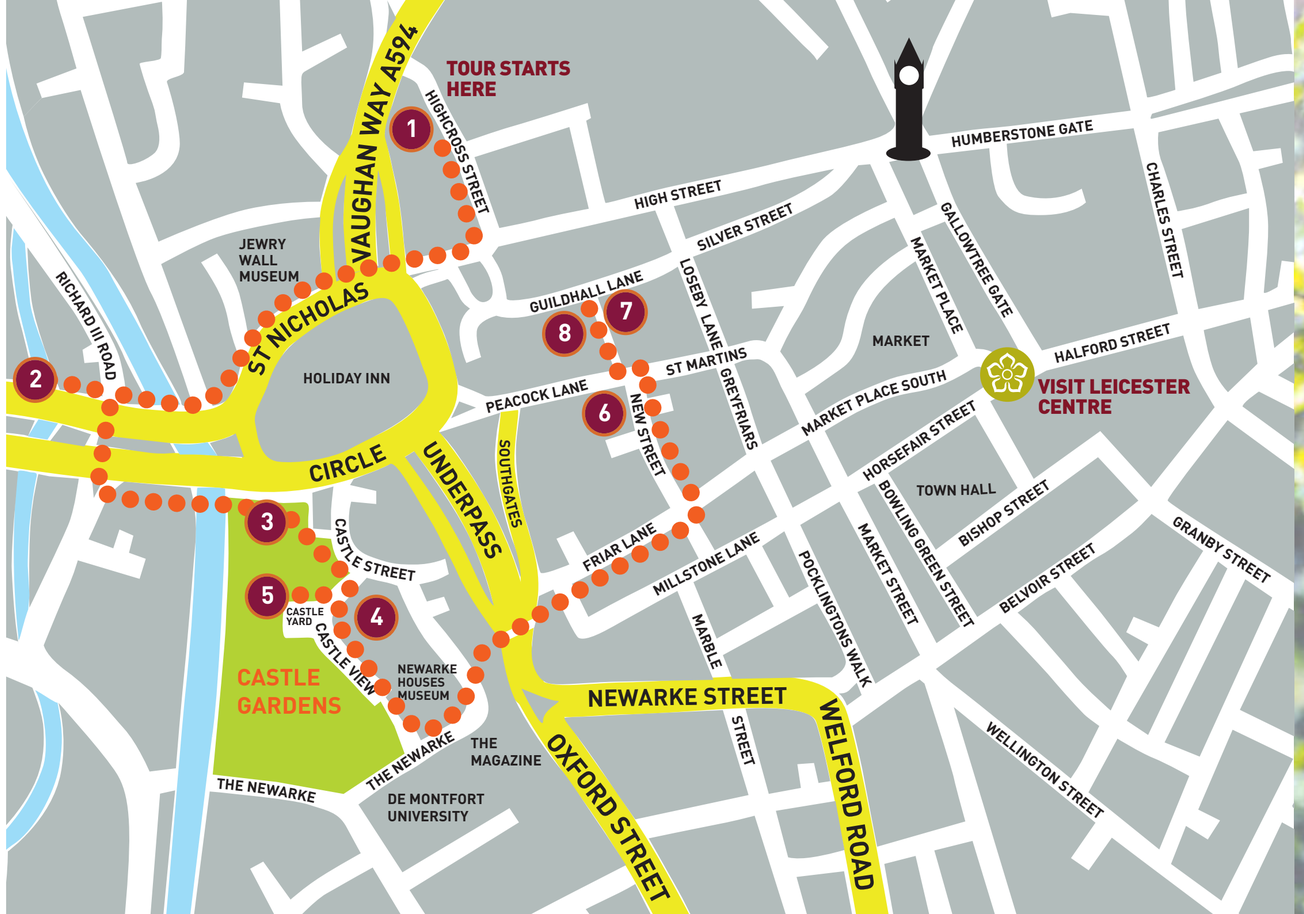
/ visit_leicester **/visitleicester**

All details are correct at time of going to print; we apologise for any changes to this walking trail which may be necessary due to road works or other unforeseen circumstances. Please check opening times, tour dates etc. with venues before visiting.

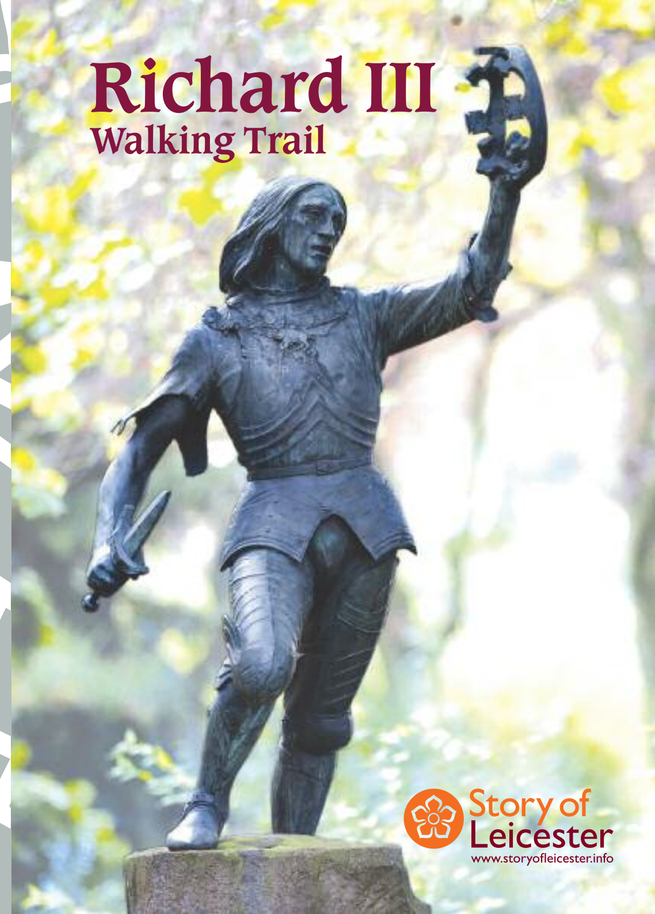
Leicester City Council

Visit Leicester
www.visitleicester.info

Produced by Leicester City Council Marketing & Brand Management Team (RB 01.2013).



Richard III
Walking Trail



Story of Leicester
www.storyofleicester.info

Richard III Walking Trail…

King Richard III was a regular visitor to Leicester and spent his last night in the city before his death at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. His body was brought back to Leicester and buried in the church of the Franciscan Friary, known as the Greyfriars. The Richard III Walking Trail, which lasts approximately 30-45 minutes, takes you around key sites in the city centre that are connected to the last Plantagenet King. The trail finishes at the Richard III exhibition at the Guildhall.

1 Blue Boar Inn

The site of the Blue Boar on Highcross Street in is now covered by a Travelodge. It was where King Richard III spent his last night before being killed at the Battle of Bosworth on 22nd August, 1485. Before the battle, the King had his own bed transported to the inn from Nottingham Castle. The bed was left at the inn, either to be returned to Nottingham or because Richard intended to return to Leicester. Legend tells that the inn was originally called the White Boar, taking its name from Richard's emblem, however this was allegedly changed by the landlord after Richard's defeat at Bosworth.

2 Bow Bridge

Possibly riding to battle through the Magazine gateway, Richard III rode over this bridge on his way to Bosworth. Legend has it that his spur hit a stone on the bridge as he crossed it and an old wise woman among the crowd was alleged to have prophesised the King's defeat, foreseeing that his head would strike the same stone on the way back. The old bridge was demolished in 1861. The ironwork of the present bridge depicts the white rose of York, the Tudor rose, the White Boar emblem and Richard's motto 'Loyaulte me Lie,' (Loyalty Binds Me).

3 Richard III Statue, Castle Gardens

A bronze statue depicting Richard III, commissioned in 1980 by the Richard III Society, can be found near to the park entrance on St Augustine Road. The statue, by James Walter Butler, was unveiled on 31 July 1980 by Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

4 St Mary de Castro

St Mary de Castro means 'St. Mary of the Castle.' The church stands within the grounds of Leicester Castle, from which it gets its name and of which it was once the chapel. It was granted to Robert de Beaumont, first Earl of Leicester, in 1107, although it has been claimed that there was an earlier Saxon church on the site. Monarchs of England who came to Leicester stayed at the castle and worshipped in this church. King Henry VI was knighted in St Mary's in 1426 and it is also thought that Geoffrey Chaucer was married here. Perhaps the last reigning Monarch to worship in St Mary's was King Richard III and here too his body is believed to have rested briefly after the Battle of Bosworth. Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 12.00pm – 2.00pm; Saturday 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

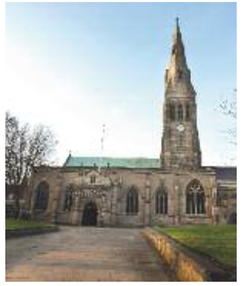
5 Leicester Castle

Hugh de Grentmesnil first established Leicester Castle in the late 1060s. After his death, the castle was passed into a succession of noble medieval families, including the de Montfort family in the thirteenth century, and John of Gaunt in the fifteenth century. Richard III often stayed at the Castle when visiting Leicester. A plaque on the side of Castle House commemorates the presence at the castle of two Kings in two days; Richard III and Henry VII, the vanquished and the victor of The Battle of Bosworth. The Great Hall, which was finished by 1150, survives in the Castle Yard and is now open for tours on the last Sunday of every month (excluding December and January).

6 Greyfriars

Following the Battle of Bosworth, Richard's body was brought back to Leicester and placed on public view. He was subsequently buried in the choir of the Franciscan Church within Greyfriars. Over time the exact location of the Greyfriars became lost. Greyfriars Friary is commemorated by a plaque, commissioned in 1990 by the Richard III Society, on the wall of the former National Westminster bank building in Grey Friars at its junction with St Martins. Near to the Cathedral end of New Street, the only visible remains of the Friary, a small piece of grey stone wall, can be seen next to the attendant's hut in a car park. Across the road is the car park that was subject to an archaeological dig in 2012 when Leicester City Council, the University of Leicester and the Richard III Society began the search for the lost King's grave. This site is currently closed to the public. Please contact Visit Leicester for information on guided tours.

7 Leicester Cathedral



The Normans began the construction of the original church around 900 years ago. It was rebuilt and enlarged between the 13th and 15th centuries and became the 'Civic Church' with strong links with the merchants and guilds (with the Guildhall being located nearby). Just over 100 years ago the Victorian Architect, Raphael Brandon, magnificently restored and rebuilt the church, including the addition of a 220ft spire. When the Diocese of Leicester was re-established in 1927, the church was hallowed as Leicester Cathedral. A memorial tablet in the chancel of the Cathedral is dedicated to Richard III. Open daily from 9am–5pm.

8 The Guildhall

The Guildhall dates back six hundred years and is one of the best preserved timber framed halls in the country. It is currently home to an exhibition detailing the recent archaeological dig at the Greyfriars. The exhibition, entitled 'Richard III: Leicester's Search for a King,' has been developed by Leicester Arts & Museum Service to introduce the remarkable story behind this excavation, narrated by those working on the project.

Richard III: Leicester's Search for a King
Opening Hours:
Monday – Sunday, 11.00am – 4.30pm
The Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, Leicester, LE1 5FQ
Free admission
W: www.visitleicester.info/richardIII
E: info@visitleicester.info
T: 0116 253 2569

/RichardIIILeics
/kingrichardleicester

Please note that parts of The Guildhall may be closed for private hire bookings during the course of the exhibition. If travelling some distance, please check with the Guildhall prior to visiting.