

Itinerary: Great Outdoors

Friday

Evening

Check into your hotel and enjoy dinner.

Saturday

Morning

University of Leicester Botanic Gardens

Enjoy 16 acres of lovingly cultivated grounds and greenhouses, displaying a wide variety of environments, including alpine, tropical, temperate and cactus houses. Outdoors there are rock gardens, a herb garden, a water garden and an arboretum. Included are the national collections of hardy fuchsia, skimmia, Lawson's cypress and aubrieta. The formal planting centres around a restored Edwardian garden.

Lunch stop

The Cow & Plough

Traditional real ale pub set in the surroundings of a former working farm, with a separate restaurant serving modern English food. The bar is adorned with old pub signs and memorabilia. The pub serves seven real ales and also has its very own Steam'n' Billy Beers.

Afternoon

National Memorial Arboretum

In the heart of the National Forest is the National Memorial Arboretum. The memorial is dedicated to lives lost in conflict and service and is a place of interest and reflection. Once you have toured the memorial you can also visit the Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness.

Conkers

Visit Conkers, an award-winning attraction in the heart of the National Forest. Take a ranger tour through 120 acres of Leicestershire's countryside including woodlands, lakes and gardens.



Conkers

Evening

Return to your hotel and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Sunday

Morning

Calke Abbey – tour of house & gardens,

Visit this fascinating abbey, and find out how the eccentric Harpur family lived. The building of Calke Abbey has been restored, but the contents of the house have been left as the National Trust found it with centuries worth of collections of Harpur family paraphernalia.

One of the things to look out for is the magnificent 18th century state bed. You can also enjoy the grounds of the estate and visit the tea room and gift shop.

Lunch stop

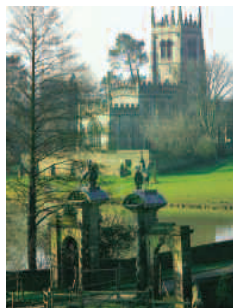
The Royal Hotel

Located in the heart of the National Forest, in the historical market town of Ashby de la Zouch, this Regency hotel offers an excellent Sunday lunchtime carvery.

Afternoon

Ferrers Centre & Staunton Harold Holy Trinity Church

Visit the Ferrers Centre, a collection of shops, art galleries and independent boutiques, set in a Georgian courtyard within the estate of Staunton Harold. Once you have finished browsing the shops you can visit the Garden Centre or take a walk through the countryside estate where you will find the 17th century Holy Trinity Church.



Staunton Harold



National Memorial Arboretum

For information on accommodation rates that will suit your budgets, details of accessibility and where groups can visit please contact groups@goLeicestershire.com or call Helen on 0116 266 9999.

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