



Leicestershire

Loughborough & Charnwood Visitor Guide

FREE

For more information on things to do, places to stay and what's on in Leicestershire and Rutland, please request a Go Leicestershire Guide or Great Days Out Guide by calling 0906 294 1113 (calls cost 25p per minute) or visit www.goleicestershire.com



Large print format is also available. Please contact 0116 225 4000 for details.

All information in this guide was compiled in good faith and was believed to be correct at time of print. Every effort has been made to avoid errors and omissions. Leicestershire Promotions cannot accept any responsibility for any inaccuracies or subsequent changes made by the establishments featured. You are advised to telephone before you visit. Photography: with thanks to Andy Ward of Creative Link Solutions, Christopher Beech at The National Forest, Leicestershire County Council and Roger Rixon.

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 by **Leicester Shire Promotions** In partnership with **Charnwood**
 Leicester City Council
 Leicestershire County Council
 Leicester City Economic Partnership
 Leicestershire Partnership Agency

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 7-9 Every Street, Town Hall Square, Leicester LE1 6AG
www.goleicestershire.com

Loughborough Town Centre Map

To Derby (A6), (A50) To Nottingham (A60) To Ashby (A512), M1 J23 To Leicester (A6) To Leicester (A6)

These are a selection of places to visit and things to do, for more information visit www.goleicestershire.com

Ten bright ideas not to be missed

- 1 Revisit the golden age of steam on the Great Central Railway
- 2 Explore Bradgate Park, watch the deer and visit Bradgate House - home to the tragic nine day Queen, Lady Jane Grey
- 3 Climb to the top of the Carillon for magnificent views of Charnwood Forest
- 4 Take the Leicestershire Round challenge, a 100 mile circular route, starting in Newtown Linford and passing through the ancient Swithland Wood and enjoying all the local watering holes on the way
- 5 Every Spring, experience nature at her best as bluebells cover the Outwoods, Jubilee Wood and Swithland Wood, part of the National Forest
- 6 Race to the toposcope at the summit of Beacon Hill or get lost in the labyrinth at Lower Beacon Hill
- 7 Follow the Broombriggs Farm Trail walk and climb to the top of Windmill Hill
- 8 Enjoy a picnic at Watermead County Park and see the woolly mammoth and King Lear statues
- 9 Pick up a bargain at Loughborough's street market, held each Thursday and Saturday
- 10 Cuddle baby rabbits and guinea pigs, or brave the tractor ride, at Stonehurst Farm



Don't Miss Out!
 The Leicestershire Events Guide contains hundreds of events, most of which are FREE. The guide can be picked up from any county council library or museum. Alternatively, to receive regular copies directly, you can email eventsguide@leics.gov.uk.



Bluebell Wood

Enjoy a taste of the great outdoors in the beautiful Charnwood Forest. Walking, cycling or horse riding provide a more relaxed pace in which to enjoy all that Charnwood has to offer. Climb the craggy summits and drink in the superb panoramas of the Soar Valley. Explore the varied network of footpaths and bridleways. Make a leisurely journey along the Grand Union Canal. The countryside is rich in wildlife and there are many beautiful villages in which to stop for tea or a pub meal.

Some of the county's top tourist attractions can be found in Loughborough and Charnwood, including Bradgate Park, Great Central Railway and Beacon Hill. Famous for its sporting university, Loughborough is a vibrant market town with first class entertainment and shopping.



Queens Park

TASTE: Places to Eat & Drink

- 49 Boat Inn**
47 Canal Bank
01509 214 578
Traditional canal-side public house.
- 50 Browns Lane Restaurant & Bar**
2a Browns Lane
01509 217 227
The bar and restaurant are bright, relaxing and modern.
- 51 Cactus Cafe**
17 High Street
01509 214 585
Contemporary Mexican restaurant.
- 52 Mr Chan's Restaurant**
14 Bedford Square
01509 216 216
Authentic Cantonese and Peking cuisine. Special Chinese buffet on Sunday.
- 53 The Cheese Cottage & Casa Café**
6 Churchgate
01509 239 852
Café and delicatessen.
- 54 Cooking Made Simple**
212 Park Rd
01509 219 190
Italian deli and café bar.
- 55 The Custard Bar**
60a Wards End
01509 240 401
Town centre bar serving food and drink with regular music.
- 56 Fifty Lounge Restaurant**
50 The Rushes
01509 215 825
Contemporary cuisine.
- 57 Goodliffes Bar**
52 Church Gate
01509 234 300
Stylish bar and bistro restaurant in Loughborough town centre.
- 58 Griffin Inn**
Ashby Square
01509 890 535
Trendy pub, always busy with a mixture of students and locals.
- 59 Loughborough Town Hall Café**
Market Place
01509 634 912
A great stopping off point for a quick bite, a coffee or a delicious lunch. Restaurant and balcony café offer pre-show drinks or dining.
- 60 Moomba**
28 The Rushes
Moomba offers an exciting bbq menu as well as a monthly changing menu reflecting the cuisine of Australia.
- 61 Mugal-e-Shahi**
40a The Rushes
01509 216 013
Indian restaurant.
- 62 The Printroom Café Bar**
60 Woodgate
01509 634 100
Stylishly decorated venue offers the full continental café experience, with constantly changing lunchtime and evening menus. Sat night is cocktails and tapas.
- 63 Queens Park Café**
Granby Street
01509 233 750
A delicious range of hot and cold snacks. Please ring for opening times.
- 64 Root of Asia**
76 Leicester Rd
01509 611 313
Indian restaurant.
- 65 Taste of India**
42 Churchgate
01509 234 216
Indian restaurant.



John Taylor's Bellfoundry cast the 17 ton Great Paul for St Paul's Cathedral in 1881

Outdoors

- 66 Queens Park**
Loughborough
01509 233 754
This formally laid out park, houses the Carillon & War Memorial, Charnwood Museum and café. Children will love to see the birds in the aviary, play on the playground and feed the ducks on the lakes. During the summer, concerts are played in the bandstand. The park is an ideal location to enjoy a picnic.

History & Heritage

- 67 Charnwood Museum**
Granby Street
01509 233 754
Award-winning museum exploring the history of Charnwood. Regular changing exhibitions, events and children's activities. Café and shop.
- 68 Great Central Railway**
Great Central Road
01509 230 726
Enjoy steam and heritage rides between Loughborough and Leicester. See a working signal box and historic locomotive collection. For more information on special events visit www.gcrailway.co.uk.
- 69 John Taylor Bellfoundry Museum**
Freehold Street
01509 233 414
Part of the world's largest bellfoundry. See how bells are made. Tours of the Works available. Phone for times as there are not tours every day.
- 70 Loughborough Carillon & War Memorial**
Queens Park
01509 263 370
First grand carillon in Britain. Museum of Armed Forces. Displays of 1st World War. Magnificent views of Charnwood Forest.
- 71 Old Rectory Museum & Wildlife Garden**
Steeple Row, Loughborough
01509 843 297
Restored 13th Century stone building with local interest exhibits. Open Sat Apr-Oct, 10am-4pm. Located next to the Parish Church.

In 1841 Thomas Cook organised his first day excursion to Loughborough from Leicester



Loughborough's annual Street Fair has been held in the town since it was granted a charter in 1221 by King Henry III



Explore Loughborough Town Centre

Shopping & Leisure

- 72 Arts Centre**
Loughborough University
Epinal Way
01509 222 899
Events include dance, drama, music, opera and poetry.
- 73 Charnwood Indoor Bowling Centre**
Browns Lane
01509 210 018
Eight rink indoor bowls club.
- 74 Loughborough Pool**
Loughborough University
Epinal Way
01509 226 200
The 50m pool has public access. Check for opening times.
- 75 Loughborough Leisure Centre**
Browns Lane
01509 611 080
A modern recently refurbished swimming pool complex plus an excellent range of facilities.
- 76 Loughborough Market**
Market Place
01509 634 624
Held in the Market Place and adjacent streets every Thursday and Saturday. Farmers' Market: Devonshire Square, Loughborough, 2nd Wednesday each month. Bric a brac Market: Devonshire Square every Friday, Mar-Dec, 30-35 stalls with many interesting items.
- 77 Loughborough Town Hall**
Market Place
01509 231 914
It is a comfortable and attractive 497 seat theatre with excellent, state-of-the-art facilities. With a wide programme of events. The downstairs restaurant and Balcony Café each offer a welcoming environment for pre-show drinks or dining.
- 78 Reel Cinema**
Cattle Market
01509 212 261
Six screen cinema.
www.reelcinemas.co.uk

Loughborough is the UK's premier university for sport - if it was a country it would be 7th in the Commonwealth Games medal table

Events you ... must see

- 8 March-15 April Two by Two by ArtSpace**
Charnwood Museum
01509 233 754
27 Loughborough ArtSpace artists exhibition of contemporary artwork.
- 5-6 May Loughborough Canal & Boat Festival**
Canal Bank, Loughborough
01509 635 827
FREE family fun day, with food, drink, stalls, music and entertainment.
- 19 May Picnic in the Park**
Queens Park, Loughborough
01509 268 010
FREE community event with local performers, arts & craft stalls, bouncy castle and food court.
- 25-27 May Glastonbudget**
Turnpost Farm, Wymeswold
0116 269 8807
This is the biggest and best tribute festival! 2007 line up includes Mercury, Buck Rogers, T-Rex, Who's Who, Oasis and more!
- 26-28 May & 24-27 August Days Out with Thomas**
Great Central Railway
01509 230 726
www.gcrailway.co.uk
- 28 May Streets Alive Festival**
Loughborough
01509 268 903
Experience Performing Arts, children's rides, craft stalls, face painting, circus skills, food and refreshments.
- 15-17 June War Weekend - Operation Brownsea**
Great Central Railway
01509 230 726
Dress up 1940s style, World War II re-enactment.
- 23 June Midsummer's Night Flower Ball**
Charnwood Forest Country Club
01509 638 006
Enjoy this lovely summer's evening (the longest of the year) and dance and eat the night away.
- 7-8 July Rempstone Steam & Country Show**
Wymeswold
01509 638 006
Annual charity show featuring live steam exhibits, arts, crafts, games, wildlife and a real ale bar. www.rempstonesteam.org
- 8 July Wet, Wild & Wonderful**
Watermead Country Park
01509 638 026
Family fun day, with a sponsored fishing match, natural crafts and dog show. In aid of Rainbows Children's Hospice.
- 4 August Music in the Park**
Loughborough Grammar School
01509 638 026
A fantastic open air concert in aid of Rainbows Children's Hospice.
- 5 August Summer Spectacular**
Loughborough Grammar School
01509 638 026
Family fun day with a climbing wall challenge, kite flying displays, falconry and much more.
- 12-15 August Pirates of Leicestershire**
Loughborough Town Centre
0116 265 7025
Come and enjoy swashbuckling fun this summer. Play in the sand on our desert island among the rustling palm trees and hunt for buried treasure.
- 27 August National Forest Wood Fair**
Beacon Hill Country Park
0116 265 6918
Wood Fair offering a range of practical demonstrations and crafts.
- 7-10 November Loughborough Fair**
Loughborough Town Centre
01509 634 624
One of the largest street fairs in Britain.
- 25 November Christmas Lights**
Loughborough Town Centre
01509 634 624
Carol Concert: 01509 218 113
Market (day) with open air Carol Concert (evening) in front of the Town Hall.
- 14 December Christmas Craft & French Market**
Loughborough Town Centre
01509 634 624
Carol Concert: 01509 218 113
Market (day) with open air Carol Concert (evening) in front of the Town Hall.
- 15 December-6 January Sleeping Beauty**
Loughborough Town Hall
01509 231 914
Pantomime. Previews on 1, 8 and 9 December.
- 7-9 March 2008 Loughborough Folk Festival**
01509 231 914

About this Essential Guide

This leaflet is produced as a handy reference guide to highlight the many attractions and things to see and do when you are in the Charnwood area and the surrounding Leicestershire countryside. There is further information on many of Charnwood's attractions, places to eat and things to do, plus a comprehensive events listing on www.goleicestershire.com. This also includes information on the rest of Leicestershire and Rutland. Or call 0906 294 1113 (calls charged at 25p per minute). More information is also available at the Tourist Information Centre at Loughborough Town Hall, t: 01509 218 113.

Accommodation

There is a great choice of places to stay in Loughborough and Charnwood, from country house hotels to family run B&Bs. For help and advice on booking accommodation call Loughborough Tourist Information on 01509 218 113, request a copy of the Go Leicestershire Visitor Guide or click on www.goleicestershire.com.

Why choose a graded property?
 When looking for accommodation a quality assurance rating provides an independent assessment of what standard of services and facilities you can expect - a mark of quality that's recognised throughout the UK.

More information on this area and the rest of Leicestershire can be found on www.goleicestershire.com
 Alternatively call 0906 294 1113 (calls charged at 25p per minute).



Great Central Railway

Welcome to Loughborough & Charnwood

Charnwood Area Map

TASTE: Places to Eat & Drink

- The Courtyard Café at Home Farm Organics**
Home Farm
Woodhouse Lane, Nanpantan
01509 237 064
Eatery serving organic produce reared on the farm, hog roasts and Fair Trade refreshments.
- The Bradgate**
Main Street, Newtown Linford
01530 242 239
Relax after a walk in Bradgate Park. Large gardens, great ales and fabulous fresh food.
- The Old Bulls Head**
134 Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves
01509 890 255
A contemporary country pub, situated in the leafy village of Woodhouse Eaves.
- Dominic at David North Ltd**
289 Station Rd, Rothley
0116 230 2263
Specialist patisserie and delicatessen specialising in regional cheeses, savoury pies and tarts.
- Falcon Inn**
Main Street, Long Whatton
01509 842 416
Traditional village inn.
- Gibsons Grey Lady Restaurant**
Sharpley Hill, Newtown Linford
01530 243 558
Set in four acres Gibsons Grey Lady offers beautiful food, cooked to perfection, using the finest, freshest ingredients.
- The Griffin Inn**
174 Main Street, Swithland
01509 890 535
Bar snacks through to à la carte menu. Large car park. Welcoming and friendly environment.
- Houghton's at The Pear Tree**
8 Church Hill, Woodhouse Eaves
01509 890 243
Village restaurant - fine dining food.
- Hunting Lodge Hotel**
38 South Street, Barrow upon Soar
01509 412 337
Public house with restaurant.
- Jade Tea Rooms**
542 Bradgate Road
Newtown Linford
01530 243 664
At the edge of Bradgate Park offering a good selection of hot and cold drinks, baked treats, sandwiches and hot food.
- Kings Arms**
Derby Road, Hathern
01509 844 050
Traditional family pub and restaurant.
- The Manor House**
Woodhouse Road, Quorn
01509 413 416
Dishes are freshly prepared using quality ingredients and local suppliers.
- The Mullberry Tree**
White-Horse Lane, Birstall
0116 267 1038
Enjoy delicious homecooked food in peaceful gardens overlooking Watermead Country Park.
- The Navigation Inn**
87 Mill Lane, Barrow upon Soar
01509 412 842
Canalside pub with excellent beer and a friendly atmosphere.
- The Plough Inn**
Main Street, Normanton On Soar
01509 842 228
Traditional building, decorated in contemporary style, still holds its lovely traditional features.
- The Post Office Tearoom**
550 Bradgate Road
Newtown Linford
01530 242 709
At the edge of Bradgate Park offering a good selection of hot and cold drinks, baked treats, sandwiches and hot food. Open 7 days a week.
- Pretzels Delicatessen**
Station Rd, Quorn
01509 620 888
Serving delicious home-cooked pies and puddings, light lunches and snacks. Also delicatessen food to take away.
- The Queens Head**
2 Long Street, Belton
01530 222 359
A contemporary gastro pub with individually designed rooms. Located in the pretty village of Belton.
- The Quorn Exchange**
10-12 High Street, Quorn
01509 621 444
Located at the heart of the village the Quorn exchange offers a pleasant, modern ambience to enjoy your meal.
- Louis Scott Restaurant**
544 Bradgate Road
Newtown Linford
01530 245 801
Nestling on the edge of Bradgate Park, Louis Scott is the place to enjoy good spirit, entertaining company and good British cuisine.
- The Royal Oak**
14 Cross Green, Rothley
0116 230 2158
A quiet and relaxing atmosphere for all to enjoy.
- Tearoom at Bradgate Country Park**
Bradgate Park, Newtown Linford
0116 236 2713
Newly opened tea room at the centre of Bradgate Park.
- Templars Coffee Shop & Gifts**
5 Woodgate, Rothley
0116 230 2638
Previously the premises of Templar Pianos it has all been tastefully designed as a Coffee Shop, Gifts and has retained Piano Sales.
- The Woodhouse**
Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves
0845 050 4317
A modern, stylish restaurant that offers mouth-watering lunch, set dinner and à la carte menus.

- ### Family Fun
- Stonehurst Family Farm & Museum**
Bond Lane, Mountsorrel
01509 413 216
Enjoyment for the whole family at Stonehurst Farm. See and touch friendly farmyard animals, hold baby rabbits and guinea pigs in "Cuddle Corner". Play in the strawbarn and large activity area. Tractor and trailer rides. Motor Museum.
 - The Charnwood Open Top Bus Tour**
0906 294 1113
(calls charged at 25p per min)
www.goleicestershire.com
Summer only. Open top bus tour linking Loughborough, Great Central Railway and Country Parks. Trained guides provide commentary with fascinating facts about the area.

An annual Bluebell Service is held in Swithland Wood each Spring

Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Service
When looking for places to visit, you need an accreditation system you can trust. VisitBritain's Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Service offers you the reassurance about the quality of the visitor experience. Look for the Marquee, and visit with confidence: Charnwood Museum



Outdoors

- Beacon Hill Country Park**
Beacon Road, Woodhouse Eaves
01509 890 048
Visit the native tree collection, the labyrinth and west Beacon woodland walk. Look out for the Longhorn Cattle, rare breed sheep and the alpacas. 240 acres of heathland, woodland and meadows.
- Bradgate Country Park**
Newtown Linford
0116 236 2713
Extensive areas of parkland, herds of red and fallow deer and the attractive valley of the River Lin. A well-known Leicestershire landmark - the folly known as Old John Tower - dominates the ridge of high land. Café and visitor centre in the centre of Park. Extensive remains of magnificent Tudor house and grounds - one of finest brick houses of its period. Birthplace and early home of Lady Jane Grey (nine days Queen of England 1553).
- Broombriggs Farm & Windmill Hill**
Beacon Road, Woodhouse Eaves
01509 890 048
Farm with circular waymarked paths for walkers and riders. Take in the views from the top of Windmill Hill.
- Hazel Kaye's Garden Nursery**
1700 Melton Road, Rearsby
01664 424 578
One acre garden in old orchard in rural Wreake Valley.
- Jubilee Wood**
Woodhouse Lane
Woodhouse Eaves
01509 890 048
Woodland with rocky outcrops and walks. Beautiful displays of Bluebells in the spring.
- Long Close Gardens**
Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves
01509 890 616
Wonderful five acre garden with original wildflower meadow.
- The Outwoods**
Loughborough
01509 263 151
Woodland overlooking Loughborough. Beautiful displays of Bluebells in the spring.
- Swithland Wood**
Swithland
0116 236 2713
146 acres of ancient woodland.
- The National Forest**
01283 551 211
www.visitnationalforest.co.uk
More than 200 square miles of town and countryside are being transformed by this 'Forest in the making', blending ancient woodland with new planting, to create a new forest for the nation.
- Watermead Country Park**
Fillingate, Wanlip
0116 267 1944
A haven for wildlife with lots of easy walking and statues of Woolly Mammoth and King Lear. An ideal spot for walking, fishing, cycling, picnics, birdwatching and watersports.

Charnwood Forest was a volcanic area over 700million years ago and contains some of the oldest fossils in the country



Shopping & Leisure

- Broughtons of Leicester**
The Old Cinema
Cropston Road, Anstey
0116 234 1888
Enjoy an extensive array of home decoratives and oak furniture - with a Coffee Lounge serving drinks and light refreshments.
- Cooks Farmshop**
Lane End Farm, Markfield Road
Newtown Linford
01530 242 214
Farm sells a large variety of fresh produce.
- fg2**
5 High Street, Quorn
01509 415 537
fg2 is a new contemporary craft and design gallery showcasing creative talent including local artists and makers.
- Sibley Mill Boatyard**
Mill Lane, Sibley
01509 813 583
Explore the beautiful River Soar on our traditional style dayboats and holiday narrowboats.
- Soar Valley Leisure Centre**
Kingfisher Way, Mountsorrel
0116 237 5267
Sports complex and swimming pool.
- South Charnwood Swimming Pool**
Parkstone Road, Syston
0116 264 0057
25m swimming pool.
- Thurmaston Antique Centre**
5 Garden Street, Thurmaston
0116 269 4477
Antique, modern reproduction furniture showroom. 400+ display cabinets full of porcelain and collectables.
- Wicked Hathern Brewery**
46 Derby Road, Hathern
01509 842 585
This two-barrel microbrewery has established itself locally as a guest beer and its range of bottled beer is for sale.
- Woodcock Farm & Farm Shop**
Loughborough Road, Rothley
Woodcock Farm sells a large variety of fresh produce.
- Wymeswold Country Furniture**
17 Far Street, Wymeswold
01509 880 309
Converted Georgian stables, displaying original pine and local crafts
- Wymeswold Fruit Farm**
Wide Lane, Wymeswold
Traditional fruit farm, pick your own strawberries and raspberries (Jun/Jul).
- Wyvale Garden Centre & Coffee Shop**
Loughborough Road, Rothley
0116 237 6500
Garden centre with a large range of plants, pet supplies and a restaurant.



Legend has it that King Lear is buried in a vault beneath the River Soar