



COVENTRY PEACE TRAIL

In 1944 the people of Coventry and Stalingrad declared a formal friendship link between their two war-devastated cities and twinning in the modern world was born. The Coventry Peace Trail visits all of the sites associated with peace in Coventry city centre.

Day One

Morning

Depart from London Euston to Coventry by train approximately 1 hour. On arrival in Coventry stroll to the world famous **Cathedral Ruins** located in the heart of the city. **St Michael's Cathedral** was destroyed from the air on 14 November 1940, the only cathedral church in Britain to be lost in this way. The ruins stand as a place of pilgrimage.

At the altar of the ruined church stands a charred cross, a replica of two beams found lying in the rubble the morning after the destruction. View the **Reconciliation Sculpture**, a work by Josefina de Vasconcellos, representing the reunion of those divided by war that was given to Coventry Cathedral by Sir Richard Branson in 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The ruins also contain the **Home Front Memorial**, the Statue of Christ (carved by a schoolboy who was later killed while serving in the RAF in 1943) and the **Commemorative Plaque** that marks the 50th anniversary of the Coventry Blitz.

Walk into the adjacent **New Cathedral** to view **The Cross of Nails** (originally formed from three medieval roof nails found in the ruined cathedral), **The Stalingrad Madonna**, a sketch drawn by a German doctor while serving on the Eastern Front and The Font which is a boulder from a hillside in Bethlehem.

Walk to the **Peace Garden** in Bayley Lane which has a central plinth engraved with the names of Coventry's 26 twin towns and cities around the world. Visit **The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum** which holds a collection of Graham Sutherland's drawings from his cathedral tapestry and a Peace

and Reconciliation gallery, reflecting Coventry's experience of war and the city's post-war commitment to reconciliation.

Lunch and refreshments are available locally in a selection of café and restaurants such as the Herbert Café, Browns Café Bar, Godiva's Café or Benedicts.

Afternoon

After lunch walk to **Broadgate** to view Coventry's striking statue of the legendary **Godiva**, whose self-sacrifice and concern for others mirrors the city's much more recent profile. **The Phoenix Statue** is located in Hertford Street and it depicts the Phoenix that symbolizes the city arising from the flames and destruction of the old.

Across the city centre you will find **The Belgrade Theatre**- Coventry's main theatre. It is named in honour of the capital of Serbia, which was twinned with Coventry in 1957 and this town provided a gift of wood for the interior of the new theatre.

Adjacent to the **Coventry Transport Museum** lies **Lady Herbert's Garden** originally created in the 1930's. Three holly, maple and hazel trees have been planted to symbolize Coventry's famous three spires and the city's post-war dedication to peace and reconciliation.

The final place to visit on this Peace Trail is the **Garden of International Friendship** which dates from 2000. The theme of international friendship is picked out in the lettering on the walls and the viewing platform of this garden.

Take a leisurely stroll through the city to Coventry train station for your return journey to London.