

YOUR GROUP IS WELCOME IN CHARNWOOD!

Charnwood's many features add up to a fascinating destination promising a non-stop voyage of discovery from its ancient origins and unique habitats to its varied places to explore today.

The market and university town of Loughborough is located off junction 23 of the M1, in the heart of Charnwood's rolling countryside. It offers a wide range of shopping, tasty eating out experiences, family attractions, fascinating heritage, vibrant events and plenty of places to explore. Loughborough's retail market takes place every Thursday and Saturday and there's a Vintage Market every Friday.

There are many villages in Charnwood all with their own characters and charm and well worth a visit.

Coach parking:

There is one designated coach parking space on Granby Street in Loughborough near to the museum. Parking is limited to 2 hours and cannot be pre-booked. Tour organisers will need to contact all other venues to arrange for coach drop-off instructions.

Loughborough public conveniences:

There are two locations for public toilets in Loughborough (small charge applies). Disabled toilets are free with the use of a radar key.

Market Place, Loughborough, LE11 3EQ

Opening hours:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesdays 9am – 5pm
- Thursday 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Friday 9am – 5pm
- Saturday 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Sunday 9am – 4.30pm

Facilities:

Baby changing facilities are available and there is a disabled toilet.

Queen's Park, Loughborough, LE11 3DU

Opening hours:

Daily 8am – 3.30pm

Facilities:

Baby changing facilities are available and there is a disabled toilet.

For more information:

Visit the www.discovercharnwood.co.uk website.



Suggested itineraries

Day visits:

Suggestion 1

- Visit **Charnwood Museum** for a tour and talk about the history of Loughborough and Charnwood.
- Wander around **Loughborough market** to experience the hustle and bustle of the market traders.
- Trip on the **Great Central Railway** travelling through the Leicestershire countryside with afternoon tea.

Suggestion 2

- Guided walk around **Bradgate Park** with ranger - choice of four themes.
- Tour of **Stoneywell Cottage** (National Trust), the home of a family that lived and loved Arts and Crafts (numbers are restricted so may need to split larger groups).
- Step into the world of bells with a tour of the last major bellfoundry in Britain, on a factory tour of **John Taylor & Co Bellfoundry**.

Suggestion 3

- Guided tour of **Charnwood Museum** to hear about the history of Loughborough and Charnwood.
- Time to wander around **Queen's Park** and **Carillon Museum and War Memorial**.
- View the current exhibition at The Sock Gallery and afternoon matinee performance at **Loughborough Town Hall**.

One night stay

Stay at **Burleigh Court Hotel**

Day 1

- Visit **Charnwood Museum** for talk about the history of Loughborough and Charnwood.
- Free time for walk around **Queen's Park**, lunch and shopping.
- Visit **John Taylor & Co Bellfoundry** for tour around factory.
- Evening meal at hotel and use of spa facilities.

Day 2

- Guided walking tour of **Bradgate Park** on one of the four themes available.
- Light lunch at **Bradgate Park** tearooms.
- **Great Central Railway** at Quorn to alight on train for ride through the Leicestershire countryside and afternoon tea.

Add an extra night

Day 3

- Boat trip from Pillings Lock with the **Peter le Marchant Trust** and lunch on board or at Pilling Lock Marina restaurant.
- Tour of **Rothley Wine** and tastings.

Festivals and events

Annual events

For more information on events taking place in Charnwood see:
www.discovercharnwood.co.uk/events

January

Annual pantomime - Loughborough Town Hall
Great Central Railway Winter Steam Gala

February

Leicestershire Half Marathon at Prestwold Hall

April

Great Central Railway Easter Vintage Festival

May

Great Central Railway Vintage Vehicle Rally

June

Loughborough Car Show in the town centre

July

Rempstone Steam & Country Show

August

Stonehurst Farm 1940s Weekend
Great Central Railway Summer Vintage Vehicle Weekend

September

Great Central Railway Vintage Bus Rally

October

Great Central Railway Autumn Steam Gala

November

Loughborough Fair
Remembrance Sunday at Queen's Park
Great Central Railway Bonfire Night
Loughborough Town Centre Lights Switch On

December

Annual pantomime - Loughborough Town Hall
Stonehurst Christmas Weekend
Quorn Christmas Food and Craft Trail
Loughborough Santa Run
Great Central Railway Christmas Services

Towns & Villages

Anstey

Anstey is known as the Gateway to Charnwood Forest. It is a combination of a traditional English village (with two village greens - the top green and bottom green) and an industrial town with several 19th-century hosiery factories (many of which are now being turned into apartments).

The place-name of Anstey is first recorded in the Domesday Book when it was held by one of the county's largest landholders, Hugh de Grandmesnil, castellan of Leicester. At the time it was a small farming community. When Bonnie Prince Charlie's army moved south during the 1745 rebellion, although the main body of troops were turned back at Derby, a foraging party reached the commons of Anstey.

Famous past Anstey residents include Ned Ludd (Ludlam), the machine-wrecker whose name was appropriated by the Luddites, and snooker player and commentator Willie Thorne, who started playing snooker at the village's Conservative club.

Today the village offers independent retail shops and a good selection of teashops and eateries, perfect for a stop off if visiting nearby Bradgate Park.



Take a walk to the 16th century stone-built Packhorse Bridge, which crosses Rothley Brook. A scheduled monument, it's one of the best-preserved of its kind in the country.

Public conveniences:

The Nook, Anstey

Towns & Villages

Barrow-upon-Soar

Barrow-upon-Soar is a large village in Leicestershire and is pleasantly situated on the east side of the River Soar, and on both sides of the Midland Railway. The village is 3 miles from Loughborough and is known for a plesiosaur that was excavated here in 1851. The specimen of *Atychodracon megacephalus*, was found in a lime pit outside the village, and was nicknamed the "Barrow Kipper". At the centre of the village is a roundabout with a sign depicting its skeleton. The skeleton is now on display at the Leicester Museum & Art Gallery, with a full-size replica at Charnwood Museum in Loughborough.

Barrow offers riverside pubs, eateries and opportunities for boating and other water based leisure activities.



A striking feature in Millennium Park in the village is the sundial which contains one of the biggest gnomons in England. This sundial, which is one of only five of its type in the country, is set in a chapter ring of 16 hour marking granite blocks.

Towns & Villages

Birstall

Birstall is the largest village in Charnwood and is the last major settlement before Leicester when arriving from the north.

The village centre lies just off the A6, along Sibson Road and offers High Street and independent retailers, a garden centre and a variety of places to eat and drink.

The Grand Union Canal runs through the bottom end of the village, separating it from Watermead Country Park, a series of lakes in the bottom of the Soar Valley, which have been set aside as a recreational area and country park. The Great Central Railway steam railway has its southern terminus near the village. The symbol of Birstall is a Cedar tree. The original tree stands in Roman Road. It was once in the grounds of the now demolished Birstall Hall.

Watermead Country Park is one of the best sites in Leicestershire for bird watching and nature study. As well as the Reedbed Nature Reserve which opened in 2004, the park is also home to the Birstall Nature Reserve, situated towards the south of the park. This area has been a reserve since the early 1980s.



Surfaced paths run throughout the park which provide an opportunity for walking, running and cycling, and many seats along these trails are ideal places for visitors to sit and enjoy the general peace and quiet.

Towns & Villages

Hathern

Hathern is a large village and civil parish in the Charnwood district of Leicestershire, England. The village itself is located in the north of the district, and is just north of Loughborough, accessed via the A6 with easy access to the M1 and rail services. East Midlands Airport is also only a 15 minute drive away.

Although the village has little in the way of retail shopping, many businesses continue to thrive here and through the years Hathern has retained a vibrant community, with a volunteer group - Hathern Village Association - specifically set up to plan and develop events as well as Hathern Together who publishes 'The Guide' and runs the informative website www.hathernonline.co.uk.



Towns & Villages

Loughborough

Address:

Loughborough Town Centre
Loughborough
Leicestershire

**[www.discovercharnwood.co.uk/
loughborough](http://www.discovercharnwood.co.uk/loughborough)**

Description:

Loughborough is a thriving market and university town which offers a wide range of shopping, street markets, tasty eating out experiences, fun family attractions, fascinating heritage, vibrant events and plenty of places to explore.

Good to know:

Loughborough's retail markets are held every Thursday and Saturday from 8am to 4pm. The Vintage and Collectors market is held every Friday between 9am and 4pm.

The Farmers' and Craft market is held on the second Wednesday of each month between 8am and 4pm.

Public conveniences - Loughborough town centre

Queen's Park, Loughborough, LE11 3DU
Open daily: 8am – 3.30pm.

Accessible toilet available. Baby changing facilities available.

Market Place, Loughborough LE11 3EQ

- Open daily: Monday 9am – 5pm
- Tuesday 9am – 5pm
- Wednesday 9am – 5pm
- Thursday 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Friday 9am – 5pm
- Saturday 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Sunday 9am – 4.30pm

Accessible toilet available. Baby changing facilities available.

Coach parking:

There is one designated coach parking space on Granby Street in Loughborough near to the museum. Parking is limited to 2 hours and cannot be pre-booked. Coach drop-off on Woodgate. Coaches then need to move off site.



Towns & Villages

Mountsorrel

Mountsorrel village is situated between the River Soar and the rocky crags of Charnwood Forest. The village grew in between rock and river with the communication links of canal, rail and road. The village today consists of ancient buildings, inns, boatyards and housing. An ideal way to see the beauty of Mountsorrel is to take the delightful village trail.



Notable landmarks include The Butter Market, erected In 1793 to protect stallholders from the weather and to replace the original medieval market cross which is now sited at Swithland.

Castle Hill is a registered Ancient Monument. The site includes a War Memorial commemorating the fallen in both World Wars and is the site of a former castle. Stonehurst Farm & Museum has more to offer than the average farm park, housing a blacksmiths forge, vintage car museum, a natural foods and gift shop, tea room with homemade cakes and hands on experiences on the farm. It is also home to John's House, Leicestershire's only Michelin Star restaurant.

Towns & Villages

Newtown Linford

Newtown Linford is a beautiful village in the Charnwood Forest with many old houses and buildings, some thatched, excellent local amenities and a number of very popular cafes.

An entrance to Bradgate Park can be accessed here which was first enclosed as a deer park around 800 years ago. It provides 830 acres of publicly accessible countryside. The Park offers a wild and rugged landscape with dramatic rocky outcrops and gnarled old oak trees, many of which are well over 500 years old, and some of the finest views, and is rich in change throughout the seasons.



This stag beside the road in Newtown Linford is carved from an old tree which needed to be felled due to its condition.

Public conveniences:

The Bradgate, Newtown Linford

Towns & Villages

Quorn

Quorn adopted its name in 1889 when it was shortened from Quorndon to avoid postal difficulties owing to its similarity to the name of another village, Quarndon, in neighbouring Derbyshire.

The village has a railway station called Quorn and Woodhouse, shared with the neighbouring hamlet of Woodhouse, which was on the national Great Central Railway network and is now on the preserved Great Central Railway. Numerous royal visitors have disembarked at the station to take part in the Quorn Hunt, including the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII).

Sarson Street, running adjacent to Rawlins Community College, features many 19th-century terraced cottages, formerly those of framework knitters. Framework knitting was a major local industry until the onset of major mechanisation, and the cottages along this road display certain features typical of such an activity. Large windows for example were intended to allow in the necessary amount of light by which to work. Quorn today is a buzzing and charming town with a great selection of independent retailers and food and drink venues and a busy calendar of local events.



Local website:
www.quornmuseum.com

Public conveniences:
Station Road, Quorn.

Towns & Villages

Rothley

Rothley is a village and civil parish which centres on two greens, Cross Green and the Town Green, both of which are accessed by a road that leads from the crossroads. Rothley has been inhabited since Saxon times, as evidenced by the ancient Saxon cross in the church graveyard in the village. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

In the Middle Ages, Rothley was home to a manor of the Knights Templar, known as Rothley Temple, but now the Rothley Court Hotel, which passed to the Babington family after the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century. The knights Templar Chapel forms part of the hotel estate.

In 1899, Rothley railway station was opened on the Great Central Railway, which is now part of the Great Central Railway. The station has been used to film period drama such as the 1988 film *Buster* and the 2004 Miss Marple TV adaptation of *4.50 from Paddington* (where the station stood in for Paddington). Today visitors can enjoy a very traditional English village with fascinating historical connections and no shortage of places to get some great food and drink.



Local website:
www.rothleyparishcouncil.org.uk/village-history.html

Towns & Villages

Shepshed

Often known until 1888 as Sheepshed, or Sheepshead – the town originally grew as a centre for the wool trade. Many symbols to this heritage can be seen around the town.

Inside the 11th century parish church of St Botolph, a wood carving exists depicting a visit of Queen Elizabeth I though it is unclear if the Queen ever came to Shepshed itself, but if she did, it would have been the farthest north that she travelled in the country. The older part of the town is centred on the church. There were many changes during the 19th century.

Shepshed Watermill, is an historic mill dating back and recorded in the doomsday book 1080. The mill was once part of the Garendon Estate until the mid-1970s, now under private ownership the mill has been restored and received a national award in 2003 from The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. It is open for visits several days a year.

The retail outlet, Armstrong Mill, is situated on the main road through the town.



St Botolph's Church: the oldest surviving part of the church, the west tower and spire, dates from the 13th century.

Public conveniences:
Hallcroft, Shepshed

Towns & Villages

Sileby

One of Sileby's most distinguishing features is the Anglican church of St. Mary founded around 1152. It is a Grade II listed building. The Gothic tower now houses a fine ring of 10 bells, which attract ringers from far and wide.

Sileby Mill Boatyard is an independent family run business established in 1985 on the site of a watermill dating back to the 9th century A.D. The mill, now a residential building, still retains the original wheel chamber and fittings. The boatyard offers a full range of boatyard services including day hire on purpose built all weather narrowboats, a well stocked chandlery, moorings, and a busy slipway and servicing division.

Public conveniences:

King Street, Sileby



Towns & Villages

Swithland

Swithland is a delightful Charnwood Forest village, and was designated a conservation area in 1993, and includes 31 listed buildings, including the Grade I Mountsorrel Cross, and several Grade II buildings, including the school, which was built in 1843, and a cottage from 1842.

The village pub, the Griffin Inn, originally the Griffin Hotel, was built about 1700 and has been put to several uses in its history, including a brewery, bakery, and village mortuary. Today it is a very popular venue for food and drink, weddings and events and even houses the village deli, sourcing 80% of their products from within 40 miles. The source of Swithland mineral water is in the village.



Towns & Villages

Syston

There has been a settlement on the site for over 1,000 years, the earliest records being in the Domesday Book as Sitestone. The Roman road known as the Fosse Way passes through the town.

The large and impressive Church of St Peter and St Paul is the most ancient building in Syston, built in pink granite and white limestone with a proud west tower topped by a lozenge frieze, battlements and pinnacles. The church mostly dates from the 15th century but there is a 13th-century sedilia in the chancel and a tomb recess in the south aisle of the early 14th century.

The River Soar runs past the western edge of the town.

For a town of its modest size, Syston has a lot to offer shoppers. As well as national chains the town boasts a good range of independent traders. As well as the Central Park, right in the town centre as the name suggests, Watermead Park is a close neighbour.

Public conveniences:

Melton Road, Syston.



Towns & Villages

Thurmaston

Thurmaston is a village situated four miles north of the city centre of Leicester, convenient for stopping off while exploring the local area. Bounded to the west by Watermead Country Park, the main village stands on the old Fosse Way, the historic road built by the Romans.

Thurmaston lies on the eastern banks of the River Soar, and two marinas are located there, one of which is also a boat-yard, and numerous mooring sites. These lead to the Country Park which is a purpose-built nature reserve.

The town also hosts the Thurmaston Shopping Centre with more than 18 stores, services and restaurants.



Towns & Villages

Woodhouse Eaves/Old Woodhouse

Woodhouse Eaves is a village located on the side of Beacon Hill, in the Charnwood Forest.

It is a sizeable rural village, having several pubs and a few local shops and refreshment outlets.

The Church of St Paul is a granite building with a slate roof, constructed to the designs of William Railton in 1837. Woodhouse, often known to locals as Old Woodhouse, is a small village and civil parish in the heart of Charnwood. The village is located between the larger Woodhouse Eaves and Quorn villages and contains a mixture of small cottages (some thatched) and modern houses.

Beaumanor Hall, ancestral home of the Herrick family, was used as a listening station during the war, and intercepted signals intelligence for Bletchley Park. The oldest part of the village is the church, St Mary-in-the-Elms, which dates back to the 15th century with 17th and 19th century renovations.

Public conveniences:

Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves.



Towns & Villages

Wymeswold

Wymeswold is situated at the northern boundary of Leicestershire and lies in a shallow valley in the gently rolling area known as the Wolds, which straddles the Leicestershire/Nottinghamshire border, mid-way between the cities of Nottingham and Leicester. The village holds a number of events every year, such as the famous Duck Races, the Open Gardens and the Village Show. The village is a very compact settlement built around the fourteenth century St Mary's Church. The older parts are mostly eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings, now infilled with a number of small estates and detached properties.



The village probably took shape in the mid-Saxon period (700-900) together with its associated roads and footpaths. In early records the name appears as Wymund's Wald (ie wood). The Domesday book shows that in 1086 the village was divided into four parts and subsequently these lands had various owners. In the time of Edward III Richard de Willoughby was granted a charter to hold a weekly market and annual fair.

The village offers a small selection of local retailers and pubs, with the Hammer and Pincers especially noted for its food.

The Great Outdoors

Beacon Hill Country Park

Address:

Beacon Hill Country Park
Beacon Road
Woodhouse Eaves
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE12 8SP

www.leicscountryparks.org.uk/beacon-hill

Email: **countryparks@leics.gov.uk**

Description:

The heathland of Beacon Hill is an important site for wildlife, providing varied habitats for a wide range of plants and animals. Due to its ecological and geological importance, much of the country park is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and areas around the summit are protected as a scheduled ancient monument (SAM).

Good to know:

Chainsaw carving trail, rhododendron labyrinth, native tree collection are all ready to be explored, plus a children's play area.

Opening times:

Open daily, 7am til dusk.

Facilities:

Café, toilets.

Did you know?

Beacon Hill has been recognised as the site of a Bronze Age Hill Fort since a line of defensive earthworks was discovered near the summit of the Hill. In 1858, this was confirmed when bronze jewellery and an axe and spear head were found at the site. Some of these artefacts are displayed today at Charnwood Museum in Loughborough. The park is also believed to be one of the earliest known places where man made his home in the area. Due to its great archaeological importance, Beacon Hill is legally protected by English Heritage as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Owned and managed by:

Leicestershire County Council Parks department.



The Great Outdoors

Bradgate Park

Address:

Bradgate Park
Deer Barn Buildings
Bradgate Park
Newtown Linford
Leicestershire LE6 0HE

www.bradgatepark.org/group-visits

Email: admin@bradgatepark.org

Tel: 0116 236 2713

Description:

Bradgate Park was first enclosed as a deer park around 800 years ago. It provides 830 acres of publicly accessible countryside close to Leicester city centre. The Park offers a wild and rugged landscape with dramatic rocky outcrops and gnarled old oak trees, many of which are well over 500 years old. The landscape offers some of the finest views, and is rich in change throughout the seasons.

Also on site:

Visitor centre, ruins of Bradgate House, Old John folly, war memorial and cafes on site.

Need to know:

All group visits should be pre-booked, including self guided tours.

Facilities:

Cafes, accessible toilet.

Opening times:

Open all year round.

Did you know?

The park is home to Bradgate House which was one of the earliest brick-built country houses in England, and childhood home of Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England for Nine Days in 1553.

Who to contact:

Park rangers.

Coach Parking:

Monday - Friday. £20.00 at selected car parks. Contact our Estate Office in advance on 0116 236 2713.

The Great Outdoors

Bradgate Park continued

Good to know:

Group guided tours are a marvellous way to both enjoy and gain a greater appreciation of Bradgate Park and Swithland Wood.

4 tour themes are available:

Ruins of Bradgate House: A tour around the ruins explaining the history of Bradgate House, the Grey family who built it and who owned the Park for many centuries, and the story of Lady Jane Grey (the Nine Day Queen of England) who was born at Bradgate and spent much of her short life here.

History of Bradgate House: A tour through part of the Park exploring Bradgate's rich heritage and some of the characters from its 15,000 years of human history. A great introduction to the Park and its stories.

Natural History of Bradgate Park: A tour through part of the Park looking at its rich and varied flora and fauna and the natural history of the area. The tour can include the Red and Fallow deer herds, the Park's ancient oaks, the River Lin, the fascinating geology and lots more.

An Introduction to Bradgate Park: A combined tour touching on the history and natural history of the Park (including, if desired, a brief look at the ruins of Bradgate House) – the ideal introduction to Bradgate Park.

Min/Max numbers:

Max 30 people (no min number) or 2 tour guides can be provided at additional cost.

Costs:

Tours are £65 per group of up to 30 adults.



Attraction

Charnwood Museum

Address:

Charnwood Museum
Queen's Hall
Granby Street
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 3DU

www.charnwoodmuseum.co.uk

Email: **museum@charnwood.gov.uk**

Tel: 01509 233754

Description:

Situated in the former Victorian swimming baths, Charnwood Museum showcases the rich heritage of the local area. Featuring a wide range of exhibits reflecting the history, geology, archaeology and industries of Charnwood and the surrounding area, permanent displays include 'Coming to Charnwood', 'The Natural World of Charnwood', 'Living off the Land' and 'Earning a Living'.

Need to know:

Visits can also be arranged for organised groups, these do incur charges and must be booked in advance, please contact us for more information. Self guided tours also available.

Entry fees:

Free entry.

Opening times:

Seasonal opening times.

Also on site:

Queen's Park Café offering a seasonal menu with a variety of hot and cold food and drinks.

Nice to know:

We are able to host sleepovers for uniformed groups at Charnwood Museum. All sleepovers take place on a Saturday evening and there are limited dates available throughout the year.



Attraction

Charnwood Museum continued

Who to contact:

Learning Officer

Email: museum@charnwood.gov.uk

Coach parking:

There is one designated coach parking space on Granby Street in Loughborough near to the museum. Parking is limited to 2 hours and cannot be pre-booked.

Did you know?

Charnwood Museum is situated in Queen's Hall, the former Victorian swimming baths for Loughborough. The swimming pool closed in 1975 with the opening of the new Leisure Centre on Browns Lane and in 1980 the Borough Council decided to turn the space into a general function hall.

The pool structure is still there under the floor of the Museum which opened in 1999.



Attraction

The Climbing Station

Address:

The Climbing Station
Empress Rd (off Moor Lane)
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 1RH

www.theclimbingstation.com/

Email: **info@theclimbingstation.com**

Tel: 01509 217636

Description:

The Climbing Station is a bouldering centre in Loughborough run for climbers, by climbers. We know what makes a great indoor-climbing experience and we put 100% into making sure that you'll have an amazing day. We have over 800sqm of bouldering surface, covering almost every angle. We have a top rope wall that can be used by both kids and adults to learn the basics of roped climbing. In addition, we have a range of training facilities to help you get even stronger.

Need to know:

Consent forms for all users must be completed prior to arrival. Whether you're a seasoned climber looking for somewhere new to climb or have never climbed before, we can help you get started with your first time at the Climbing Station.

Open times:

Open every day including bank holidays.

Good to know:

As well as 800sq metres of bouldering, we also have 8 top rope climbing walls, and an extensive training area.

Also on site:

Café onsite.



Attraction

Dobbies Leicester (Rothley)

Address:

Dobbies Leicester (Rothley)
Loughborough Road,
Rothley,
Leicestershire LE7 7NL

www.dobbies.com/leicester

Email: Leicester.Manager@dobbies.com

Tel: 0116 237 6500

Description:

Garden centre with wide range of plants and garden sundries plus concessions shops and café serving lunches and afternoon tea. Also children's tea parties.

Good to know:

Our free, in-store Grow How demonstrations take place on the first Saturday of every month, at 10.30am.

Opening times:

Open daily.

Also on site:

Soft play sessions for young visitors include up to 60 minutes of play (pre-booking advisable - online) and meals and snacks for the whole family to enjoy.

Parking:

Large car park.



Attraction

Great Central Railway

Address:

Great Central Railway
Loughborough Central Station
Great Central Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 1RW

www.gcrailway.co.uk

Email: **sales@gcrailway.co.uk**

Tel: 01509 632323

Description:

The Great Central Railway is Britain's only double-track mainline steam railway. The Railway boasts four stations on its eight mile railway. Each has a different character and each has a buffet or cafe for visitors. Enjoy an exciting calendar of events, a footplate ride or dine in style onboard one of the steam trains.

Good to know:

Many special events are held throughout the year including Steam Galas, Paw Patrol, Bonfire Night, 1940s Wartime Weekend and Santa Specials.

In addition, First Class Restaurant Car Services provide five course meals whilst travelling between Loughborough and Leicester. Childhood dreams can come true with a Drive a Locomotive Experience when you can take the regulator on a mighty steam locomotive or notch up on a powerful diesel.

Facilities:

Lift down to platform at Loughborough station. Portable steps and ramps available to access rail coaches. Accessible toilets available at all stations. Contact the Loughborough Booking Office on 01509 632323 to check your accessibility needs before booking.



Attraction

Great Central Railway continued

Opening times:

Trains run every weekend of the year, bank holidays and selected week days through the summer.

Food & Drink:

Cafes are available at each station.

The Buffet at **Loughborough Central** serves hot and cold meals, light refreshments and is also licensed.

At **Quorn & Woodhouse** drinks and snacks are available in the NAAFI-style Refreshment Room which is open at weekends, also the Butler-Henderson Café, open daily for hot and cold food.

At **Rothley** in the car park, there is the Ellis tea room located in a converted goods store shed.

At **Leicester North**, the Buffet offers hot drinks and snacks.

See separate entry under Food & Drink for more dining opportunities for groups.

Min/max numbers:

Min 15.

Group rates:

10% discount.

Did you know:

The preserved railway is predominantly steam operated and has a double track section which allows passengers to experience the thrill of trains passing at speed. In this respect it is unique in the preservation world.

Coach parking:

Loughborough - street parking close to entrance (can't stop/park immediately outside due to weight restrictions); on-site parking at Quorn/Woodhouse station.



Attraction

John Taylor & Co Bellfoundry & Museum

Address:

John Taylor & Co Bellfoundry & Museum
Freehold Street
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 1AR

www.loughboroughbellfoundry.org

Email:

info@loughboroughbellfoundry.org

Tel: 01509 638 500

Description:

The bellfoundry, home to historic bellfounders John Taylor and Company, is a unique place with global architectural and historical significance. Step into the world of bells with a tour of the last major bellfoundry in Britain led by one of our expert guides.

Also on site:

Museum, currently closed for refurbishment.

Need to know:

Visitors must wear flat, closed shoes to take part in the tour. We also recommend wrapping up warmly in winter and avoiding loose clothing. We regret that there is currently no completely step-free route on the tour and toilet facilities are limited during our renovation works. Contact us direct if you have any queries or concerns about accessibility. Children aged nine and older are welcome on our tours.

Taylor's is a working foundry, so what you see on the day will vary according to current jobs. We cannot guarantee that a casting will take place on the day of your visit, but there is always plenty to see and enjoy.



Attraction

John Taylor & Co Bellfoundry Museum

Group rates:

Tour price: Adult (16+): £12.50

Concession (Student, 65+): £10.50

Child (9-16 years): £8.50

Opening times:

Regular tours available.

Museum - closed for 2023 due to refurbishment.

Did you know?

Taylor's bells can be heard around the world, including St Paul's Cathedral in London and a bit closer to home at the top of the Carillon Tower in Loughborough.

Who to contact:

Heritage Engagement Officer



Attraction

Jump Giants

Address:

Jump Giants
Unit 1 Wymeswold Industrial Estate
Burton on the Wolds
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE12 5TR

www.jumpgiants.com/about/contact-us

Email: **info@jumpgiants.com**

Tel: 08444 141 141

Description:

Jump Giants is the perfect place for schools, youth groups, scouts, clubs; in fact, any groups or teams.

Group sessions are a great opportunity to socialise where they can use all areas of the park and burn off energy. We can organise Dodgeball matches, Basketball Dunk challenges and Foam Zone jump competitions. Whatever your experience, it's a great way to have fun and be active.

Good to know:

Two hours of jumping, jump socks, 60 minutes in a private room for presentation/food, hot dog or pizzas for all, squash throughout the party, and a host to help set up and clear down.

Need to know:

All jumpers must complete a Jump Giants waiver before jumping. Participants under the age of 16 must have a waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Group size:

Minimum booking of 12 people. We can cater for up to 140 children/young adults in any one session.

Group rates:

2 hour group sessions £20 per person.

Opening times:

Site open every day but available for group sessions Mon-Fri during term time only.



Attraction

Loughborough's Carillon Tower

Address:

Carillon and War Memorial Museum
Queen's Park
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 3DU

www.carillontower.org.uk

Email: **carillonmuseum@gmail.com**

Tel: 01509 233754

Description:

Built after WW1 to commemorate those who died; Loughborough's iconic carillon tower is set within the beautiful Queen's Park and just 3 minutes' walk from the town centre. Climb the 138 steps to the balcony, pass through the bell chamber and visit the museum rooms. The bells were produced at the local bellfoundry of John Taylor & Co, a long established firm with a world-wide reputation in the industry. Visit the website for opening times.

Need to know:

The Carillon Tower is a monument built nearly 100 years ago. The Museum is located on a number of floors within the tower and access between the floors is via a spiral staircase. People who have a mobility problem are likely to find that they cannot access the upper floors and should contact the museum using the the contact details below to discuss their needs. A ramp is available to ensure wheelchair access to the ground floor.

Groups will need to split up during the visit as space is tight.

Good to know:

The Loughborough Carillon is first and foremost a war memorial to the fallen in two world wars, but it is also a museum with artifacts, documents and items that recall the events of those wars as they relate to Loughborough people.



Attraction

Loughborough's Carillon Tower continued

Regular carillon recitals are scheduled through the season on the first Thursday of each month, starting at 1pm - see website to confirm dates.

Groups min/max numbers:

Small numbers due to size of venue.

Guided tours available.

Groups can split up between Charnwood Museum/Queen's Park/Carillon.

Opening times:

Restricted opening times - call to make arrangements.

Need to know:

The Carillon has no catering facilities and no toilets of its own, but **Queen's Park Café** is located next to the museum in the park and offers a seasonal menu with a variety of hot and cold food and drinks.

Toilet facilities are available at Charnwood Museum and there are also public toilets in the park, including a free 'disabled' toilet for people with a radar key.

Nice to know:

Recitals take place regularly through the year, including concerts. See the website for list.

Coach parking:

There is one designated coach parking space on Granby Street in Loughborough near to the museum. Parking is limited to 2 hours and cannot be pre-booked.

Attraction

Loughborough Parish Church

Address:

Loughborough Parish Church
Steeple Row
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 1UX

www.allsaintsloughborough.org.uk

Email:

office@allsaintsloughborough.org.uk

Tel: 01509 217029

Description:

All Saints with Holy Trinity Church is Loughborough's Parish Church and one of the major churches in Leicestershire. Its handsome 14th century proportions are crowned by its elaborate and pinnacled west tower and nave clerestory which date from the late 15th/early 16th century. All this reflects the wealth and patronage of the local manorial lords and the merchants and wool traders of later medieval times. Many of their heraldic symbols still embellish the external insets of the great west window and above the tower door.

Opening times:

The church building is usually open for visitors on Saturdays: 10am - 12pm but please check What's On webpages for any changes. Visits at other times can be arranged, get in touch to discuss this or any access needs you may have.

Did you know?

The entrance space beneath the tower is a memorial chapel to the Taylor family, bell founders in Loughborough since 1840 and specifically to four sons who lost their lives in World War I. The floor memorial is made of bell metal.



Attraction

Loughborough Town Hall

Address:

Loughborough Town Hall
Market Place
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 3EB

www.loughboroughtownhall.co.uk

Email: box.office@charnwood.gov.uk

Tel: 01509 231914

Description:

Loughborough Town Hall is one of Leicestershire's top theatre venues, offering a variety of shows and events throughout the year as well as a regular programme of exhibitions within the Sock Gallery.

Group rates:

No group rates available except pantomimes.

Good to know:

Programme runs throughout the year.

Facilities:

Cafe, bar, accessible toilet, lift, designated areas for wheelchair users.

Coach parking:

Coach drop-off on Woodgate. Coaches then need to move off site.



Attraction

Old Rectory Museum

Address:

Old Rectory Museum
Near the Parish Church
Rectory Place
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 1UW

www.loughboroughpastandpresent.org/index.htm

Email:

oldrectorymuseumloughborough@gmail.com

Description:

Set in the Medieval centre of Loughborough, The Old Rectory building represents a rare survival of a stone built 13th century manor house. Today it stands in its own grounds on Rectory Place on the edge of the modern town centre.

Good to know:

The building was home to the Rectors of All Saints Parish Church for most of its life and probably represents one of the oldest rectories in the country.

Need to know:

Venue is small and not very accessible for people with mobility issues. As well as the regular displays in the Museum, the Old Rectory will, from time to time, put on special events. These could be topical or themed exhibitions in the Museum itself, or something just a bit different in the grounds of the Rectory or elsewhere.

Group rates:

Free entry to museum but charge may be made for guided tour.

Opening times:

Saturdays 11:00am - 3:00pm between April and October.

Did you know?

Henry Fearon, Archdeacon of Leicester from 1863 until 1884, and Rector of All Saints', Loughborough, lived here from 1848 until his death in 1885. He is remembered in Loughborough for his involvement in the introduction of the first fresh water supply to the town.



The Great Outdoors

The Outwoods

Address:

The Outwoods
Woodhouse Lane
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE12 8RS

[www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/
outwoodsinformation](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/outwoodsinformation)

Tel: 07890 999176

Description:

The Outwoods consists of a variety of different routes and walks, including an easy access path with a bird feeding station. The north side of the ancient woodland is home to a display of beautiful bluebells during spring every year.

Open times:

Open daily dawn till dusk.

Facilities:

Children's play area, outdoor area for groups and the old ranger's cottage has been converted into a visitor centre and café run by **Olivia's Coffee and Bakery** serving hot drinks and snacks.

Good to know:

The Outwoods is 110 acres of ancient woodland to the south of Loughborough and is one of the oldest surviving woodland sites in Charnwood.

Did you know?

Sculptures can be seen around the walkways.

Parking:

There is a car park for visitors but coaches would need to drop off.



The Great Outdoors

Peter le Marchant Trust Boat Trips

Address:

Peter le Marchant Trust Boat Trips
Registered Office: Canalside Moorings
Beeches Road
Loughborough LE11 2NS

www.peterlemarchanttrust.co.uk/day-trips

Email:

info@peterlemarchanttrust.co.uk

Tel: 01509 265590

Description:

Serenade and Symphony are two broad-beam boats for day trips and can carry up to 26 passengers. With these being 4 feet wider than narrow-boats they offer more comfort and facilities to passengers. They are specially adapted and are accessible to all and include hydraulic lifts for wheelchair users.

Good to know:

A general day trip runs from 10am to approx. 3pm with a stop off for lunch at either a pub or passengers can bring sandwiches and the skipper will moor up at a scenic point along the route.

Need to know:

We seek to make canal boating on our local/regional waterways accessible to all communities and people living with disabilities, enabling them to achieve the benefits and enjoyment of boating.

Group size:

Up to 26 passengers.

Opening times:

Open March to October.

Did you know?

Each are equipped with hydraulic lifts for wheelchair access and have a number of other accessible features.



The Great Outdoors

Queen's Park

Address:

Queen's Park
Granby Street
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 3DU

www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/queens_park

Tel: 01509 634565

Description:

Queen's Park is a much loved local park which has achieved a Green Flag award every year since 2008, a mark of excellence awarded to parks and green spaces. It was first opened in June 1899 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Good to know:

Throughout the summer months, Queen's Park hosts a variety of exciting concerts for residents and visitors to attend.

Opening times:

Open dawn to dusk every day.

Facilities:

Toilets available in the park and at Charnwood Museum.

Also on site:

Aviaries, tearoom, Loughborough Carillon, Charnwood Museum, bowling green, children's play area.

Queen's Park Café is located next to the Museum and offers a seasonal menu with a variety of hot and cold food and drinks.

Coach parking:

There is one designated coach parking space on Granby Street in Loughborough near to the museum. Parking is limited to 2 hours and cannot be pre-booked.



The Great Outdoors

Rothley Wine

Address:

Rothley Wine Estate
Kingfisher's Pool Vineyard
43 Westfield Lane
Rothley
Leicester LE7 7LH

www.rothleywine.com

Email: **Rothleywine@btinternet.com**

Tel: 0116 2375168

Description:

Kingfishers' Pool Vineyard lies on a gentle south facing slope on the bank of the Rothley Brook, a tributary of the River Soar.

Good to know:

Tours and tastings available.

Need to know:

Access could be an issue, enquire before booking about facilities.

Group size:

Small groups for tours and tastings.

Opening times:

By appointment only.

Did you know?

The Rothley Court Hotel is located next door and is a hotel with history, with links to the Knights Templar and William Wilberforce's work to abolish slavery in the 1700s.



Attraction

Stonehurst Farm

Address:

Stonehurst Farm
Bond Lane
Mountsorrel
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE12 7AR

www.stonehurstfarm.co.uk

Email: **office@stonehurstfarm.co.uk**

Tel: 01509 413216

Description:

Family farm including feeding and petting animals, tractor rides, pony rides, play areas, farm walk and motor museum. Site can be muddy during wet weather. Farm shop and tearoom also on site.

Good to know:

Stonehurst Farm is open for school visits / playgroups / other group visits for children of all ages with a minimum group size of 20 children. The farm is relevant to a wide variety of National Curriculum key stage topics and visits can be tailored to suit your needs.

Group size:

Minimum 20 children.

Price:

Adults £7.50; Children £6.50 - group rates available on request.

Opening times:

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 9:30am – 5:00pm.

Facilities:

School facilities include undercover activity and eating areas, hand washing and disabled toilets. Free teachers pre-visits are welcome, with group rates available for 20 or more.

Coach parking:

Free coach parking on site.

Did you know?

The Motor Museum at Stonehurst Farm is a fantastic collection of veteran, vintage and classic cars, motorcycles and motoring memorabilia, built up over the last 50 years by the Duffin family.



Attraction

Stoneywell Cottage - National Trust

Address:

Stoneywell Cottage - National Trust
Ulverscroft
Markfield
Leicestershire LE67 9QE

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/leicestershire-northamptonshire/stoneywell#place-prices

Email: Stoneywell@nationaltrust.org.uk

Tel: 01530 248040

Description:

The home of a family that lived and loved Arts and Crafts. Semi-formal garden combines remnants of the Charnwood heathland landscape, alongside meadows of daffodils and bluebells and a rhododendron collection.

Need to know:

Pre-booking only through National Trust, restricted numbers. All visitors must check in at the off-site car park on arrival, and take the shuttle bus down to the property. Visitors with mobility issues should seek advice before booking as some of the house may be difficult to access.

Group size:

Only small numbers can be accommodated.

Prices:

Adult £8.50; Child £4.25; Family £21.25

Opening times:

Call for opening times. Only small numbers can be admitted per day so forward booking is essential.

Facilities:

Accessible toilet, café.



The Great Outdoors

Whatton Gardens

Address:

Whatton Gardens
Hathern
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE12 5BG

www.whattonhouse.co.uk

Email: **hello@whattonhouse.co.uk**

Tel: 01509 431193

Description:

Although parts of the original 1802 gardens remain, much of what you see today was laid out in the late 19th century by the wife of the first Lord Crawshaw. She designed the 15 acres of mixed woodland and garden areas, with trails leading through shaded trees and little dells.

Opening times:

Open April to October. Check website for full details.

Good to know:

Picnics can be provided but must be pre-ordered.

Also on site:

Large Tipi available to hire.

Did you know?

The Broad Walk through the garden leads to the 'Bogey Hole', a former icehouse that was converted into a picturesque grotto with decorative rockery features. The creation of Bogey Hole dates to at least 1831 when the decorative rockwork was mentioned in an article in 'Gardener's Magazine'.



Food & Drink

Great Central Railway - group dining

Address:

Great Central Railway - group dining and private charters
Loughborough Central Station
Great Central Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 1RW

www.gcrailway.co.uk/contract-services

Email: charters@gcrailway.co.uk

Tel: 01509 632331

Description:

A Great Central Railway Private Charter can guarantee you a unique and memorable event for up to 228 people. Private dining experiences for small parties and large scale dinners can be accommodated on a range of beautifully restored carriages. The first-class comfort of our restaurant cars are matched by the superb menus that our chefs will plan with you to suit your guests. Sunday lunches, afternoon teas and fish and chip suppers are also available.

Need to know:

Pre-booking is necessary.

Group size min/max:

Varies according to which meal service and dates required.

Group rates:

Discounts available according to size of group.

Facilities:

Lift down to platform at Loughborough station. Portable steps and ramps available to access rail coaches. Accessible toilets available at all stations. Contact the Loughborough Booking Office on 01509 632323 to check your accessibility needs before booking.



See www.discovercharnwood.co.uk for more information about Charnwood

Food & Drink

The Manor House Pub & Rooms

Address:

The Manor House Pub and Rooms
Manor House
Woodhouse Road
Quorn
Loughborough LE12 8AL

www.themanorhouseatquorn.co.uk

Email:

eat@themanorhouseatquorn.co.uk

Tel: 01509 413416

Description:

Menus comprise of classics, Manor House favourites and seasonal dishes, prepared with locally sourced ingredients by our talented brigade of chefs.

Facilities:

Separate large room available for large groups, otherwise catering within restaurant.

Max number in group:

Up to 100.

Opening times:

Open every day.

Facilities:

Electric car charging points.

Did you know?

Located next to Great Central Railway preserved railway station Quorn.

Parking:

Large car park.

Also refer to individual attraction listings for details of on-site cafes and restaurants.



See www.discovercharnwood.co.uk for more information about Charnwood

Food & Drink

The Priory Pub & Kitchen

Address:

The Priory Pub & Kitchen
Nanpantan Road
Loughborough LE11 3YD

Parking:

Car park on site.

www.distinctiveinns.co.uk/the-priory

Tel: 01509 216333

Description:

Breakfast, lunch & dinner is available seven days a week at this stylish pub and kitchen. Local ales can be found at the bar along with a huge selection of premium wines, cocktails and spirits.

Good to know:

The Priory is located just minutes from junction 23 of the M1 and is close to Loughborough town centre.

Opening times:

Open every day.

Also refer to individual attraction listings for details of on-site cafes and restaurants.



See www.discovercharnwood.co.uk for more information about Charnwood

Accommodation

Burleigh Court Hotel

Address:

Burleigh Court Conference Centre and Hotel
Loughborough University (West Park)
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 3TU

www.imagovenues.co.uk/venues/burleigh-court

Email: **info@welcometoimago.com**

Tel: 01509 633030

Number of rooms:

185 4-star en-suite bedrooms.

Parking:

On site parking; close to junction 23 of M1.

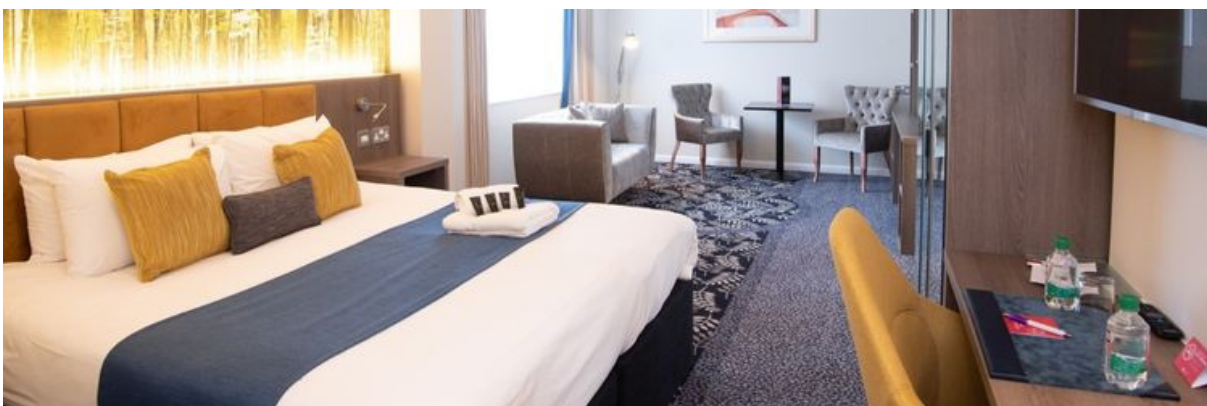
Did you know?

Burleigh Springs Leisure and Therapy Centre is also on site where hotel guests and members can use the great facilities with a personalised and friendly service.

Description:

This award-winning 4-star conference venue and hotel is our flagship venue where we host over 55,000 delegates from around the world every year, from small training events and business meetings, 200 capacity annual conferences, elite sport preparation camps, and everything in between.

Evening meals served every day plus Sunday lunches.



Accommodation

The Link Hotel

Address:

The Link Hotel
Ashby Road (A512)
Loughborough LE11 4EX

**[www.linkhotelloughborough.co.uk/
about](http://www.linkhotelloughborough.co.uk/about)**

Email: **info@welcometoimago.com**

Tel: 01509 633030

Description:

The Link is Imago Venues' three star hotel, special events & meetings venue which can cater for larger groups of visitors and offers exceptional value for money and outstanding customer service.

Snack lunches available and dinner service in the evenings.

Good to know:

The Link is part of a wider venue group and so benefits from shared resources with - Burleigh Court, Holywell Park and Loughborough Campus.

Number of rooms:

94 comfortable en-suite bedrooms.

Parking:

On site parking; close to junction 23 of M1.

Did you know?

The Link is part of Loughborough University. As part of Imago Venues, all profits are gift aided back to the University and go towards funding academic excellence on campus.



All information has been collected in good faith. We cannot be held responsible for changes to information since they were made available. You are advised to check all details before travelling.

If you would like a change to be made to your entry or would like to be included in this guide for tour operators and are located in the Charnwood area get in touch:
info@goleicestershire.com

See www.discovercharnwood.co.uk for more information about Charnwood

