

Diwali

L E I C E S T E R



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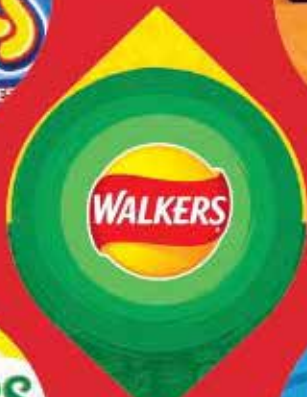
#DiwaliLeicester



Leicester
City Council

HAPPY DIWALI

TO ALL OUR
CUSTOMERS



Happy DIWALI



Leicester is a vibrant, culturally diverse and inclusive city with one of the most unique identities in the country, and we take enormous pride in celebrating each other's faiths and cultures. Diwali is most certainly an important feature in the city's festival calendar and we are famous for our celebrations being amongst the best in the UK and one of the biggest events outside of India.

Diwali is a time for people to come together in a spirit of friendship and greater understanding and we are delighted to be able to bring celebrations back to the streets of Leicester. We really do hope that people, from within and beyond Leicester, are able to celebrate and enjoy the sights and sounds of our Diwali celebrations with their friends and family.

As always, our thanks to all of those who have worked to ensure that our Diwali celebrations are a safe and successful event, particularly the Leicester Hindu Festival Council, Curve, the programming partners, Leicestershire Police, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Leicester Fire and Rescue Service, local ward councillors and city council departments involved.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Diwali.

Sir Peter Soulsby
City Mayor

Piara Singh Clair MBE
Deputy City Mayor

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For further information on
Diwali in Leicester:

visitleicester.info

info@visitleicester.info

0116 299 4444

WHAT IS Diwali

Diwali is an ancient festival celebrated by **Hindus, Sikhs** and **Jains** all over the world. It represents the universal messages of good over evil, of truth over falsehood and of light shining in the dark of the year. It is traditionally a time for exchanging gifts, friendship, peace, and goodwill to all.

For **Hindus**, Diwali represents the start of the New Year. It also marks the start of winter. Diwali honours **Lord Rama** and his wife **Sita** returning to their kingdom of Ayodhya, following Rama and **Hanuman's** victory over the demon **King Ravana** and rescue of Sita from his evil clutches.



Each day leading up to Diwali has a different meaning and these also vary between regions or communities.

The first day marks the start of Diwali. It is dedicated to the worship of the **Goddess Lakshmi** who provides prosperity.

On the second, there is a focus on abolishing evil and the **Goddess Kali** is worshipped.

On the third, Diwali day, clay lamps (called divas) and candles are lit in temples and houses, and fireworks are let off, giving



We offer a wide range of Indian food in a friendly atmosphere for all to enjoy.



HAPPY Diwali 

- Private parties welcome
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Diwali its name of **Festival of Lights**. People also clean and decorate their homes with Rangoli (traditional colourful folk patterns), buy new clothes, and give each other gifts and sweets.

On the fourth, it is the start of the New Year (**Nutan Varsh**) and businesses traditionally open new accounts.

The fifth day is important to Hindus as it celebrates the relationship between brothers and sisters.

People seek blessings at Diwali from **Lakshmi**, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, and **Lord Ganesha**, the remover of obstacles.

For **Sikhs**, Diwali celebrates the release of the sixth guru, **Guru Hargobind Ji**, and 52 Hindu Rajas (kings) from imprisonment. Guru Hargobind Ji was held for 40 days at the Gwalior Fortress along with the Rajas, who had been deprived of their kingdoms and were badly treated. When the time came for the Guru's release, he refused to leave unless the Rajas were also set free.

The condition imposed on him was that only those Rajas that could hold onto the Guru's robe would be set free. Guru Hargobind Ji had a special robe made with 52 khalia (tapers) so that each of the Rajas could walk free with him. He was then given the name '**Bandhi Chhorr**', the deliverer of prisoners.

In India, Sikhs celebrate by lighting candles and divas (clay lamps) in houses and on the Sarowar – the sacred water which surrounds the Golden Temple, Amritsar. Sikhs in Leicester celebrate in Gurdwaras (temples).



For **Jains**, followers of one of India's most ancient religions, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of **Moksha**, the final liberation of the soul from the cycle of death and rebirth, by **Lord Mahavir**. On this day, Jains celebrate this permanent happiness of the soul and remember Lord Mahavir's last sermon, which was given on Diwali day, before his soul left his body and was liberated.



Diwali Greetings

Are you interested in joining our wonderful Fostering family?

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Leicester's

DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

Leicester's celebration of Diwali is one of the biggest outside of India. Whether it's to enjoy dance, fireworks, food or fashion, come and celebrate Diwali with us!

The festival kicks off with our famous lights switch-on on **Sunday 9 October** and culminates with a glorious fireworks display and entertainment on Diwali Day **Monday 24 October**.

We also have a fantastic selection of events taking place around the city during the fortnight and we welcome you to join us in Leicester.



The festivities begin with the illumination of the Diwali lights along Belgrave Road, on Leicester's 'Golden Mile', on Sunday 9 October. Up to 40,000 people watch the lights switch on, which follows a vibrant programme of music and dance on the Belgrave Road stage, presented by the Leicester Hindu Festival Council and Leicester City Council, supported by Curve and Aakash Odedra.

The stage programme for Diwali lights switch-on runs from 5.30pm - 8pm on Belgrave Road with the lights turned on at 7.30pm, followed by the fireworks, which this year can be viewed from Belgrave Road.

The Diwali Village on Cossington Street Recreation Ground will feature a full stage programme showcasing local talent, children's fun-fair rides and stalls including food and concessions running from 3pm - 9pm.



Citizens of Change

We are delighted to sponsor Leicester's Diwali celebrations and wish all celebrating love, laughter and joy.

As Citizens of Change we believe in the transformative power of communities coming together and are witness to how it changes lives for the better.



The Golden Mile will be bathed in light throughout the festive period until Diwali Day, when the celebrations continue with events on Cossington Street Recreation Ground.



On Diwali Day, Monday 24 October, the Diwali Village will again be on Cossington Street Recreation ground along with a full stage programme of entertainment, presented by the Leicester Hindu Festival Council. Look out for Dundu, a giant illuminated puppet as they parade through the crowds.

Fireworks have always been a traditional part of Diwali celebrations and on Diwali Day the fireworks can be viewed at approximately 8.10pm. Watch aerial fireworks, combined with pyrotechnics,



exploding hundreds of feet above forming layers of spectacular colour and sound; highlighting the tradition of light during this wonderful festival.

This year Leicester's Wheel of Light returns. The big wheel will be located on Belgrave Road from Friday 7 October - Sunday 6 November.



Find out more

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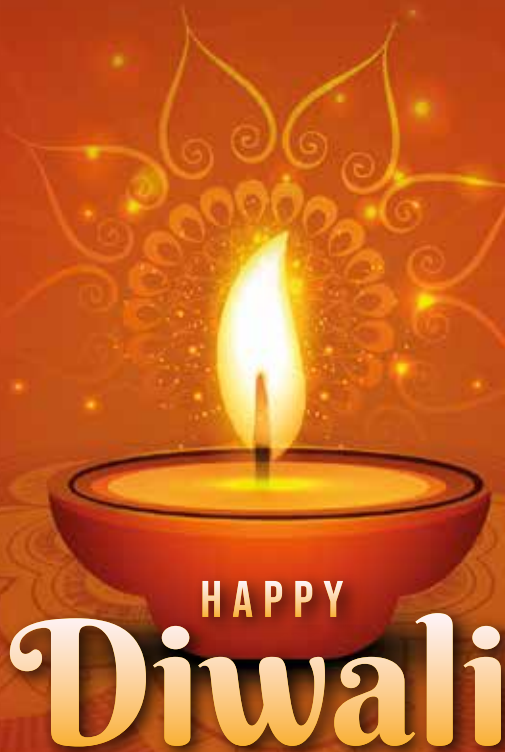


Image by Harryarts / Freepik

Wishing all our colleagues and friends peace, prosperity and a very happy Diwali.

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What's ON

For details of more events and activities
go to visitleicester.info or follow us on:



leicesterfestivals



leicesterfest #diwalileicester

Where is Home Exhibition

Until 30 October

Leicester Museum and Art Gallery

W: leicestermuseums.org

An Indian Summer presents a national exhibition exploring the global story of Indian migration to the UK. Our story begins after the abolishment of slavery and will take you on a journey to the present day. 2022 is a momentous year for South Asian heritage, marking India and Pakistan's 75th anniversary of partition, and the 50th anniversary of Asian Ugandan expulsion. These globally significant events have shaped modern Britain and Where is Home? looks first hand at those directly affected by these seismic cultural shifts, and explores the origins of how they began. Produced by Inspirate, the exhibition is funded by National Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England and Leicester City Council.



The World Reimagined

Until 31 October

Leicester city centre

W: theworldreimagined.org

The World Reimagined sees trails of large Globe sculptures across Leicester and the UK, to bring to life the reality and impact of the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans. Created by both established and undiscovered artists the trails are at the centre of a broader learning and engagement programme - with hundreds of schools, community groups, sporting and cultural institutions taking part across the country.



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Rebuilding Lives Exhibition: 50 Years of Ugandan Asians in Leicester

Until 2 January 2023

Leicester Museum and Art Gallery

W: leicestermuseums.org

On the 4 August 1972, President Idi Amin of Uganda announced that all Ugandan Asians must leave the country within 90 days. Navrang Arts presents an exhibition commemorating this 50th anniversary when over 60,000 Ugandan Asians were forced out. Around 27,000 with British passports came to the UK and several thousand settled in Leicester. It is a story of families and community. Of re-building broken lives. And of giving back to the country that is now their home. Discover life in Uganda before the expulsion, hear the stories of people fleeing the country and seeking refuge and explore the impact of their families have had on all aspects of the modern city of Leicester. Produced by Navrang Arts, the exhibition is funded by Leicester City Council and National Heritage Lottery Fund.



Rebuilding Lives: Lunchtime Talks

Friday 7 October and Friday 11 November
1pm – 2pm

Leicester Museum and Art Gallery

W: leicestermuseums.org

Complementing the Rebuilding Lives exhibition join guest speakers as they discuss different aspects of the Ugandan Asians in Leicester story.

Free event, pre-booking recommended on the Leicester Museums & Galleries website.






**Wishing you a
Happy Diwali
from Gateway Sixth Form College**

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Throughout September, October and November

W: leicestermuseums.org

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All materials will be provided free of charge. Later the squares will be sewn together to make a Global Leicester quilt to be displayed in the city over 2023.

To book your free place telephone

07999 840 140 or email

linda.harding@leicester.gov.uk

Wheel of Light

Friday 7 October – Sunday 6 November
Belgrave Road

W: visitleicester.info



The Diwali Wheel of Light returns to Belgrave Road, providing a glittering centrepiece and extra fun to this year's celebrations. Each ride lasts for approximately 8 to 10 minutes, in which you'll rise to a dizzying 110 feet. The wheel offers unparalleled views around the Golden Mile and beyond.

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Diwali LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Sunday 9 October

Diwali Lights Switch On 5.30pm - 9pm

Main stage 5.30pm - 8pm

Belgrave Road

Diwali Village 3pm - 9pm

Stage 4pm - 8.30pm

Cossington Street Recreation Ground

Celebrate Diwali Leicester with the illumination of the Diwali lights along Belgrave Road; featuring a traditional music and dance programme on the main stage, Diwali Village, annual Mela Rangoli exhibition and firework finale. The highlights of the main stage will relive colourful moments from Curve's recent community production 'Finding Home' and Aakash Odedra Company present Shiamak Midlands Dancers in a 'Celebration of Light', performed by some of the best Bollywood dance talent in the Midlands.

Visit the famous Diwali Village in Cossington Street Recreation Ground packed to the brim with fashion, jewellery, arts, crafts, henna and community information as well as children's funfair, freebies and giveaways. Plus don't miss the huge variety of tantalising traditional Indian snacks, delicious curries and drinks from across the Indian subcontinent.

To give light and warmth to everyone that comes to the park a large moon shaped fire installation 'The Fire Head' will be installed. At two metres tall, surrounded by large candles that will be lighted at twilight and burn bright throughout the evening.

Watch as the lights of Diwali come to life in the hands of a trio of fire performers, Helter Skelter Arts, with a spectacular fire show. The Diwali community stage will dazzle with dances and music, creating a party mood. Artists from across the region showcase their talents along with performances from local schools, dance academies and performing art groups. Take part in a Bollywood dance class with Shiamak Midlands & Aakash Odedra Company at Desi Masti Studio.

Enjoy a ride on Leicester's Wheel of Light, lighting up the streets at night with its 110-foot illuminous Ferris wheel providing a birds-eye view of the spectacular lights along Belgrave Road. And finally the Diwali lights switch-on would not be the same without the spectacular aerial firework display which can be seen above Leicester's Golden Mile and the surrounding area.



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Highlights

Ancient Giants

6.15pm and 7.15pm

Presented by An Indian Summer: Hanuman and Ravana roam Belgrave Road in a battle over good and evil - take a picture with the Giant Puppets as the story of the Ramayana is brought to life.



Helter Skelter Arts

6.30pm and 8.30pm

Featuring impressive props, sparkly fire and special effects, combining movement, music and flames in a high energy show.



Curve presents:

Highlights from Finding Home

Choreographer Mel Knott, working with community performers and Curve Young Dance Company, present a dance piece responding to Curve's Ugandan Asian story at 50.



Aakash Odedra Company presents: Celebration of Light

A Bollywood dance extravaganza, get ready to clap, dance and sing along to celebrate Diwali!



Blue Peter



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Diwali Open Day: From Aakash Odedra Company and Shiamak Midlands

Sunday 9 October

3pm - 8pm

Aakash Odedra Company, First floor,
32 Belgrave Road, Leicester, LE4 5AS
T: 0116 319 0733

Join the Aakash Odedra Company and Shiamak Midlands for a free open day at their studios. Drop in any time for exciting dance classes and short performances from talented Shiamak Midlands teachers. Sessions are open to all ages, for everyone to celebrate Diwali through dance.



Diwali Mela Bazaar

Saturday 15 October

11am - 5pm

Humberstone Gate & Clock Tower

W: visitleicester.info

Leicester City Council brings a flavour of Diwali celebrations to the city centre. Experience a feast of Indian shopping, arts, crafts, Indian cuisine and live entertainment. There's something for everyone at this cultural festival.



Rangoli Exhibition

Sunday 9 October

4.30pm - 8.30pm

Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre
Leicester Belgrave Mela in partnership with Leicester City Council bring the annual Diwali Rangoli exhibition - a mixture of breathtakingly modern and traditional Rangoli styles. Be inspired by this once forgotten folk art and see how artists transform it into a visually stunning exhibition. Free drop in event.



Diwali Family Art Workshops

Monday 17 – Thursday 20 October
1.30pm – 4.15pm
Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre
Canal and River Trust invite you to get creative and have fun this half term creating Rangoli patterns, lanterns and paper boats. Free family drop in - workshops last 40-minute per session and suitable for ages 7+. These can then be taken home or sailed on the canal at our waterside Diwali festival on Friday 21 October by Lime Kiln Lock near Abbey Park. Booking required T: 0116 299 5500.

Celebrate Diwali at Curve

Monday 17 – Monday 24 October
Curve
W: curveonline.co.uk
Curve will be celebrating with special foyer music, live lunchtime performances in the cafe, decorations and food. Plus see an extract of Nupur Arts remarkable exhibition; Gujarat to the Golden Mile on the Mezzanine floor. Drop in and join the celebrations.

Diwali Crafts and Stories

Tuesday 18 October
1pm – 4pm
Belgrave Library
T: 0116 299 5500
Enjoy Diwali crafts and stories for children and families. Make a Diva lamp out of salt dough, design your very own rangoli pattern or make a Ramayan themed character mask.

Waterside Diwali Celebration

Friday 21 October
5pm – 7.30pm
Lime Kiln Lock, near Abbey Park LE1 3WA
A family friendly waterside celebration at Lime Kiln Lock near Abbey Park. Help light up the canal with your handmade lantern and the chance to sail your own handmade boat along with the beautiful, illuminated art pieces. Enjoy traditional food and drink and experience the water come alive with light, friendship and family fun.



The Art of Story Telling through Kathak Dance

Saturday 22 October
3pm – 5pm
CICD studio – 50 Churchill Street,
Leicester, LE2 1 FH
W: cicd.org.uk
Tickets: £5 per person
Learn the art of classical technique and story-telling through Kathak poems and bhajan using mime, hand gestures and facial expressions with experienced teachers of CICD.

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Recommended Viewing Sites for Diwali Aerial Firework Display



The **green zones** show the best places to watch the Diwali firework displays



The **red zones** will not provide a good view

Diwali Lights Switch On

Sunday 9 October, 5.30pm to 9pm

Diwali Fireworks display starts approx. 7.30pm Village closes at 9.00pm

Diwali Day

Monday 24 October, 6pm to 8.30pm

Fireworks display starts approx. 8.10pm
Diwali Village closes at 9.00pm

Please note that times are approximate and Leicester City Council reserves the right to cancel fireworks display due to adverse weather conditions or safety reasons.



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50
YEARS
IN PROPERTY

Diwali Day

Monday 24 October

3pm - 9pm stage programme from 6pm
Cossington Street Recreation Ground

W: visitleicester.info

The Golden Mile will be bathed in light throughout the festive period until Diwali Day when the celebrations continue at Cossington Street Recreation Ground. Enjoy entertainment, children's funfair, food and craft stalls. See Dundu, a giant illuminated puppet and watch the aerial firework display hundreds of feet above.

Kali to Krishna

Saturday 29 October

2pm - 6pm

Curve

W: curveonline.co.uk

£10

Demonstration and workshop for community dancers and young people, run by the Centre for Indian Classical Dance. The theme of the afternoon will be Kali to Krishna denoting female and male energy. The demonstration is open to anyone interested in dance and the arts. This will be followed by an Abhinaya workshop for professional and community dancers and young people who have good experience and technical skills in any forms of Indian Classical Dance. 11 years and over.



Celebrate Diwali at the Museum

Sunday 6 November

11am - 4pm

Leicester Museum & Art Gallery

W: leicestermuseums.org

Enjoy dancing demonstrations from Kathak to Bollywood by the talented dancers of Nupur Arts. Dance with the dinosaurs in our Diwali Dino Disco and enjoy free family arts and crafts.



Feeling the **Squeeze?**



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Leicestershire Police wish you a Happy Diwali



Please Remember

- It is illegal to set fireworks off in the street
- Don't fly drones over crowded areas or within 50 metres of a person or building
- Cover up your jewellery when outside your home
- Look after yourself, your friends and your belongings
- Extra officers will be on patrol if you need help



Leicestershire
Police

Protecting our communities

Travel INTO LEICESTER

Park & Ride

The Diwali Park & Ride service will be operating for both the Switch-On and Diwali Day. This will run from the Birstall Park & Ride site, located at LE4 4NN to Belgrave Road as parking is limited. Please note: due to the temporary closure of Abbey Park Road the drop off and pick up point will be on Belgrave Road at the pull-in by Lower Willow Street.

For Diwali Lights Switch-On, Sunday 9 October and Diwali Day, Monday 24 October services will run from Birstall Park & Ride site to Belgrave Circle from 4pm until 10pm with a break between 7pm and 8pm. The last bus will leave promptly at 10pm.

The cost will be £4 per person for a return journey or £6 for a group of up to five people travelling in a car together. The cost for concessionary pass holders is £1 for a return journey. Park & Ride Season Tickets will not be valid.

For the most up to date information on public transport, walking and cycling routes and car shares, please visit choosehowyoumove.co.uk
Temporary bike park on site.

Car parking

Car parking spaces in and around the area will be limited during the event; therefore visitors are positively encouraged to use public transport to travel to and from the city centre. There will be limited spaces available for blue badge holders on a first come first served basis in the B&M car park access from Belgrave Circle.

A 24-hour NCP car park is situated in Abbey Street, which is approximately a three minute walk from bus stops and approximately a 15 minute walk from the event. 24-hour parking is also available at the Haymarket Centre, and also at Lee Circle, which are approximately a 15 minute walk from the event.

There are other car parks a little further out from the ones mentioned, These are Phoenix Square, Upper Brown Street Car Park, Dover Street and Newarke Street.

For more information about travelling by bus, contact Traveline **0871 200 2233** or traveline.info. For National Rail enquiries, telephone **08457 484 950**. Further information about travelling to Leicester is at visitleicester.info



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Bus services

The bus services below are those that will travel, or have stops near to, Belgrave Road. Bus services will continue to operate normally on Abbey Park Road and Belgrave Gate to facilitate attendance at the events.

4	(First)	Rushey Mead	Departs Haymarket Bus Station	Stand HR
5	(Arriva)	East Goscote	Departs Haymarket Bus Station	Stand HQ
6	(Arriva)	Syston	Departs Haymarket Bus Station	Stand HP
25	(First)	Beaumont Leys	Departs Haymarket Bus Station	Stand HT
26	(First)	Beaumont Leys	Departs Haymarket Bus Station	Stand HV
54	(First)	Beaumont Leys	Departs Haymarket Bus Station	Stand HY
126/7	(Arriva)	Shepshed/Loughborough	Departs St Margaret's Bus Station	Stand SH

Bus Diversions

When Belgrave Road is closed to traffic bus services will divert as follows:

Services **4** to Rushey Mead, **6** to Thurmaston and **5, 5A** to Melton will use Marfitt Street and Catherine Street. Services to **25/6** and **54** to Beaumont Leys/Mowmacre Hill and **126/7** to Loughborough will use Abbey Lane.

The nearest point that buses will be able to access Belgrave Road are Belgrave Roundabout and Melton Road at Marfitt Street.



Find out more...

familyadoptionlinks.org.uk



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Saturday 5 November 2022

ADVANCE TICKETS:

- Early bird discount Adult £8
- Group ticket £20 (up to four people)
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- Children four and under free

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Happy Diwali

Road CLOSURES

Diwali Lights Switch-On : Sunday 9 October

Diwali Day : Monday 24 October

Sunday 9 October

Belgrave Road will be partially closed between Belgrave Circle and Garfield Street from 10am to enable the event to be set up. Vehicles will still be able to access the rest of Belgrave Road from the Melton Road/Loughborough Road end until 5pm. Please be aware this will cause delays for vehicles getting into and exiting the area.

Sunday 9 October and Monday 24 October

A full closure of Belgrave Road and the junctions with its side roads will be in place from 5pm until approximately 9.30pm, during which time vehicles will not have any access.

Please note that on both dates the Emergency Services and Leicester City Council will need to maintain two clear routes through the Belgrave area for emergency vehicles.

The routes are: Loughborough Road, Holden Street, Ross Walk, MacDonald Road, Hildyard Road, Marjorie Street, Abbey Park Street, Harrison Road, Surrey Street, Doncaster Road, Cossington Street, Rothley Street, Rendell Road and Portsmouth Road.

Any vehicles parked on these roads, which will be marked on both sides with 'No Waiting' cones, between 6am and 10pm on Sunday 9 October and Monday 24 October will be ticketed and towed away. Doncaster Road will have the existing one-way order suspended for both Diwali events.

In addition, any vehicle causing an obstruction on any road in the Belgrave Area will also be ticketed and towed away. Any vehicle parked in contravention of a parking restriction, temporary parking restriction, causing obstruction or dangerously parked will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice and will be towed away to a secure compound.

You will also incur costs for the vehicle being towed to the recovery company. It is important that you adhere to signs, lines and cones in place for this event to avoid any penalties.

Health and safety

In the interests of public safety, members of the public are asked not to bring fireworks to the celebrations. The use of fireworks in a public area will not be tolerated and will be reported to the police.

Leicestershire Police will have mobile awareness units at this year's events, highlighting the importance of safety during the festive period. The units will be at the Diwali Village on Cossington Street Recreation Ground for the public to pop along to. We would like to thank Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service and Leicestershire Police for their continued support of the Diwali celebrations.

For further information visit:
celebratesafely.com



Rushey Fields

BELGRAVE

GOLDEN MILE

Cossington
Recreation
Ground

Road Closure Key

-  Road Closure, no parking.
-  Emergency Routes, no parking.
-  Vehicles causing an obstruction will be towed.

 Road Closure,
no parking

Emergency Routes,
no parking

- Vehicles causing an obstruction will be towed

GOLDEN
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Uncover the Story OF LEICESTER

Leicester is the perfect place to visit, with more and more people choosing to stay for a little longer and experience what our city and county have to offer. We're inviting visitors near and far to Uncover The Story of what makes Leicester special.

Stepping into Leicester for the first time, you're joining a 2,000 year history, starting when the Romans settled by the River Soar. Visitors continued to choose Leicester as a home, from the Saxons and Vikings through Normans, Tudors and Victorians, all the way to more recent arrivals from the Indian subcontinent and across Europe.



Each of these new arrivals brought their unique culture, art, food and personality, contributing to our diverse and vibrant city. Leicester today is a friendly place, bursting with heritage and culture, wonderful attractions, top restaurants and an impressive night life.

Packed with places to visit

Our best known story can be found at the **King Richard III Visitor Centre** where the remarkable discovery of the king in a car park is revealed. The city and county have



many other stories. Find out why we are known as Space City by visiting the award winning **National Space Centre**. Take a tour to view the stunning and vibrant street art that adorns many buildings. Out in the county sample incredible cuisine with our famous pork pies and stilton cheese.

The city has a selection of fantastic free museums, including **Leicester Museum and Art Gallery** which features dinosaurs, a significant Ancient Egyptian collection, the largest collection of German expressionist art in the UK and a collection





of Picasso ceramics. A stone's throw away you'll find **Newarke Houses Museum** for a more hands-on experience recreating the social history of Leicester.

Out in Leicestershire find hidden treasures and great attractions that will leave you wanting more. Meet all four great apes at **Twycross Zoo**, experience the UK's national dive centre at **Stoney Cove** or visit pretty cottages like the **1620s House** or **Stoneywell** tucked away in the countryside.

The city is rightly famous for its sporting achievements. We are home to former Premier League winners and FA cup champions **Leicester City**, **Leicester Tigers** are the 2022 Premiership Rugby title holders and the most successful rugby club in English history. **Leicester Riders** are the oldest club in the British basketball league and won this league in 2021 and 2022. **Leicester Lions** have previously won the Great British Speedway championship and sit top of the table for 2022.

Leicestershire County Cricket Club is a short journey from the city centre and has been playing top level cricket since 1895.

Leicester's theatrical traditions are in evidence at **Curve**, the **Y** and **Little Theatre**. The famous **Golden Mile** is at the centre of the Diwali festivities and is a vibrant marketplace for Indian food, spices, fashion and jewellery.

Great places to stay

Book an overnight stay in this welcoming city, and you'll be sleeping in the place where Thomas Cook dreamt up the first package holiday. You're spoilt for choice with large hotels such as the **Novotel** or **Holiday Inn** and some fantastic new hotels with **The Gresham aparthotel** and **Hotel Brooklyn**. If you're after a more historic experience the **City Rooms** right near **Leicester Market** is ideal or located at Braunstone Park you'll find **Winstanley House** with top notch rooms and the superb **Black Iron restaurant** serving delicious meals.

Back in the city, **St Martin's Lodge** is a fully renovated Grade II listed Georgian building with many original features or you could choose the **Belmont Hotel** on the leafy Victorian promenade New Walk. There are also the 4 star **Marriott Hotel** and **Hilton** near Junction 21 of the M1.



Head to
visitleicester.info/uncoverthestory
to start your journey



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