Friday 13 - Sunday 22 September

Your once a year opportunity to discover Leicester’s hidden heritage

heritageopen.days

heritageopendays.org.uk
Yet again, our Heritage Open Days provides the opportunity for Leicester to showcase its remarkable 2000 year history.

Leicester’s heritage buildings, parks, universities, businesses, creative venues and faith buildings will once again stage events to reveal their stories and unseen heritage to visitors.

As well as old favourites there are plenty of new events to be enjoyed. Leicester has so many hidden historical gems and stories to discover.

The programme is again made possible by the dedication and enthusiasm of volunteers that the city is very fortunate to have. They generously share their passion for our local history by providing access and staging events encouraging people to discover and appreciate the rich, diverse culture and heritage of our city.

This brochure provides all the information you need about the open days. Whether you are visiting Leicester, or you are a tourist in your own city, I hope you enjoy the city and what it has to offer.

Sir Peter Soulsby
City Mayor
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<td>Talk: Embodying the Aristocrat</td>
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<td>Glenfield Railway Tunnel</td>
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Abbey Pumping Station Museum
Transport Shed Tour
Corporation Road, Leicester LE4 5PX
Monday 16 September 11am - 4pm
Tours: On the hour, last tour at 4pm

Delve into the Abbey Pumping Station’s Transport Shed to discover an array of fascinating vehicles. Abbey Pumping Station is Leicester’s Museum of Science and Technology, displaying Leicester’s industrial, technological and scientific heritage. Join a tour of the transport shed, home to several historic vehicles including double decker buses, steam roller, fire engines and much more!

Children are welcome on the transport shed tour. Playground on Abbey Pumping Station where children can play with supervision of accompanying adult.

Belgrave Cemetery
Red Hill Way, Leicester LE4 3EX
Sunday 15 and Sunday 22 September 10am - 12 noon
Costumed Guided Tour: 11am

Belgrave Cemetery opened in 1881 for the benefit of the people of Belgrave and covers 5.5 acres. There are many large Victorian memorials in the cemetery carved from marble and granite. A real credit to the stonemason’s art.

The cemetery, under the management of Leicester City Council Bereavement Service, is the final resting place of 14000 souls many with perpetual burial rights. Whilst it is no longer possible to purchase a grave, interment still take place in family graves.

The Friends of Belgrave Cemetery will be on hand to highlight the interesting stories behind some of those laid to rest in the cemetery and there is an opportunity to join a guided walk.

Cemetery information for visitors trying to find a grave will be available. Complimentary refreshments provided. There is ample parking and disabled toilet facilities. Sensible footwear is advisable. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Belgrave Hall
Guided Tour
Church Road, Leicester LE4 5PE
Wednesday 18 September 11am - 4pm
Sunday 22 September 10am - 4pm
Ad-hoc tours which will last between 1 hour to 90 minutes

An 18th century period house surrounded by historic wall gardens, Belgrave Hall provides an oasis of tranquillity. Located in the Belgrave Conservation Area, the hall is surrounded by fascinating historic buildings including the National School, Cross Corners, St Peter’s Church and Belgrave Hall. Join a guided tour of the hall and see areas which aren’t normally open to members of the public.

Larger group booking is advisable
email: belgrave.hall@leicester.gov.uk
or contact 0116 229 8181

Tour will include cellars and all floors, some uneven steps and enclosed spaces. No age restriction although young children may quickly lose interest. Wheelchair access only to the ground floor and gardens.
Braunstone Hall
Stables Museum

Next to Winstanley House Hotel, Hinckley Road, Leicester LE3 1HX

Thursday 19 September
10am - 2.30pm

Discover more about the history of the ancient village of Braunstone. Find out about Braunstone Park and the Winstanley family – the last family to live in the hall. There is also fascinating information about the American occupation of the park during World War Two, local school photographs and lots of artefacts to see.

Access via Gooding Avenue. Three ground floor rooms are accessible. There is no lift to the two display rooms on the 2nd floor.

Toilet facilities are available. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Well behaved dogs, on leads, are welcome.

Central Baptist Church
and William Carey Museum

Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1LA

Friday 13 and Saturday 14 September
10am - 4pm

Founded in 1832, this stunning Georgian Central Baptist Church open its doors for you to explore its beautiful interior. The church houses the William Carey Museum which celebrates the life of the famous missionary who left Leicester to translate the bible into five Indian languages and the New Testament into twenty more.

Suitable for young people aged 11+.

City Hall Tour

115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

Saturday 14 September
Guided Tour: 10am

City Hall, Leicester City Council’s headquarters, underwent major refurbishment to create office accommodation and meeting rooms. The building refurbishment included the replication of period features to create a 21st century refit with a 1930s feel. Join a walking tour to discover the history of the building and how a modern refurbishment has brought a significant city centre building back into use.

Pre-booking is required. To book contact City Hall T: 0116 373 7770 or email: cityhall-townhallevents@leicester.gov.uk

Max 30 people.
De Montfort Hall
Back Stage Tour

Main Foyer, Granville Road, Leicester LE1 7RU

Tuesday 17 September
Guided Tours: 11am, 2pm & 4.30pm

An introduction to De Montfort Hall with a back stage tour: get a rare glimpse behind the scenes of one of the East Midlands’ largest entertainment venues. Built in 1913 originally as a concert hall, De Montfort Hall is the premier live performance venue for Leicester. The hall is a multi-purpose arts and entertainment venue presenting a wide-ranging programme of performances that include musicals, opera, popular touring artists, stand-up comedy, family shows and classical concerts.

Join a walking tour of the workings of the hall’s magnificent pipe organ, visit the dressing rooms used by the stars, step out onto the stage and learn about what goes on behind the scenes at this glorious venue.

Pre-booking is required. To book contact De Montfort Hall Box Office: T: 0116 233 3111. Full wheelchair access but limited to 2 per tour. Lift is an option to most areas although the tour route will be via the stairs unless anyone has difficulties. Majority of the tour is spent standing in various areas of the building. Restricted to young people aged 11+ accompanied by an adult. Max 20 people per tour.

Freemasons’ Hall

78-80 London Road, Leicester LE2 ORA

Saturday 21 September
10am - 3pm

Freemasons’ Hall is the headquarters of the Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasons and home to one of the finest Masonic museums in the country, with artefacts dating back to the 17th Century. The expanded Georgian building includes Roman Ionic, Art Deco and Modernist architecture and is one of the finest Freemasons’ Hall in the country.

Throughout the day, 45-minute escorted tours of the building will be conducted, allowing visitors to access the Masonic Lodge Rooms which are some of the finest in the country. Senior members will be on hand to explain the symbolism, history and the practice of Freemasonry. There will be a chance to learn more about the Masonic charity work in the local community and to see the extensive wedding, banqueting and function room facilities within the hall.

Pre-booking is required. To book contact Visit Leicester.
T: 0116 299 4444.

Max 20 people.

Georgian Leicester Walking Tour

Meet at the main entrance to Leicester Cathedral Gardens

Tuesday 17 September
Guided Tour: 10.30am

A walking tour of one of the city’s most historically important areas. The ‘Georgian Leicester’ walk will identify architectural heritage from the 18th century. Michael Taylor, local author and heritage specialist, will take participants on a route from Leicester Cathedral to New Walk Museum. The event is part of the events programme for the Leicester Georgian Interest Group.

Pre-booking is required. To book contact Visit Leicester.
T: 0116 299 4444.

Max 20 people.
Glenfield Railway Tunnel

Glenfield Village
Saturday 14, Sunday 15, Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September
Guided Tours: 10am, 11.30am, 2pm & 3.30pm

One of the world’s first steam railway tunnels. Built under the supervision of Robert Stevenson between 1829 - 32 this Grade 2 listed tunnel is just over a mile long. Leicester Industrial History Society will provide a rare opportunity to explore this gem from our industrial past by leading tours into the tunnel.

Pre-booking is required.
To book contact Leicester Industrial History Society T: 0116 2415153 or email: lihsvisitgt@virginmedia.com

The meeting place for tours is the Co-op Superstore, Station Road, Glenfield.

Max 25 people per tour.

Please see lihs.org.uk as special access conditions apply.

Great Meeting Unitarian Chapel

45 East Bond Street, Leicester LE1 4SX
Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September
10am - 5pm

The Great Meeting Unitarian Chapel is the earliest brick building of significance in Leicester. Originally built by dissenters in 1708, it still stands witness to reason, freedom and tolerance in religion. A series of plaques commemorate the lives of prominent Leicester citizens.

Visitors are invited to visit and join an informal guided tour of the building.

Max 20 people per tour.

Greyfriars History and Regeneration Walking Tour

Meet at 1 St. Martins East, Leicester LE1 5FX
Friday 20 September
Guided Tour: 1pm

A slow paced one-hour guided walk around the Greyfriars Conservation Area, led by a local expert. Learn some interesting tales about the area’s past and look at its recent renewal under the National Lottery funded Greyfriars Townscape Heritage Initiative.

One of the most historically important parts of the city, the Greyfriars area is undergoing significant regeneration. Working with local property owners in the ‘forgotten’ streets south of the Cathedral, many changes have been made and this walking tour will highlight them and give an insight into some of the interesting bits of history we’ve discovered.

Pre-booking is required.
To book contact Visit Leicester. T: 0116 299 4444.
Max 25 people.
Guided Tour of Evington

Meet at St. Denys Church, Church Road, Evington, Leicester LE5 6FA

Saturday 21 September
Guided Tour: 11am & 2pm

The tour starts at the ancient and beautiful Parish of St. Denys, which is celebrating its 800th anniversary. Visit the best moated site in Leicestershire, meander through the Britain in Bloom heritage village, visit Evington Chapel and finish in Evington Park House where you can see the 17th century panel room. Enjoy free refreshments at the Community Health Fair in Evington Park.

Pre-booking is required. To book email helenpettman@gmail.com or T: 0116 220 4525

Maximum 25 people per tour.

ISKCON Leicester / The Leicestershire Banking Company

31 Granby Street, Leicester LE1 6EJ

Friday 13 - Sunday 15 September
11am - 3pm
Poshak Puralekh Project
Celebration of Indian Dance Costumes

Monday 16 September
7pm - 8.15pm
Victorian Society presentation by Richard Gilles ‘Joseph Goddard Architect of Many Styles’

Tuesday 17 September
7pm - 8.15pm
The Victorian Banking family presentation by Caroline Wessel (Grd Grand Daughter of Mr Ghee/Founder of the Leicestershire Banking Company

Wednesday 18 September
7pm - 8.15pm
The Goddard Family presentation by Joe Goddard ‘Polished Architecture’

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 September
10am - 5pm
Joseph Goddard, Pop Up Exhibition

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September
10am - late
Kirtan Fest and Indian Music Festival

Opened in 1873 as the Leicestershire Banking Company and now a spiritual community centre, 31 Granby Street has long been acknowledged as a landmark in Leicester’s Victorian architecture. During Heritage Open Days there will be an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities which are taking place in the magnificent Banking Hall. Also learn more about the architect of this amazing building, Joseph Goddard.

All activities are family friendly although the presentations are not suitable for young children. The building is accessible and the entrance on Bishop Street is suitable for wheelchair users.

Lancaster Road Fire Station

Central Fire Station, Lancaster Road, Leicester LE1 7HB

Saturday 14 - Monday 16 September & Friday 20 - Sunday 22 September
2pm - 5pm

Come and see the building that has helped protect Leicester’s citizens from fire and other emergencies since 1927. Designed by local architects A.E & T Sawday and built between 1925 and 1937, the Central Fire Station was the most advanced in the United Kingdom and received visitors from all over the world.

After an award-winning refurbishment in 2010 the Central Fire Station has been returned to its former layout and lots of original architectural features are still visible. Tours around the building will be taken by retired Fire Fighters who served in this iconic and important station.
NEW BOOK TOUR

Leicester Civic Society Guided Walk

Meet at Belmont Hotel, 20 De Montfort Square, Leicester LE1 7GR

Saturday 21 September
Guided Walk: 10.30am

Led by expert guides from the Leicester Civic Society take a walk around the leafy areas of Leicester city centre. Starting at the Belmont Hotel the walk will take you through Upper New Walk, through Victoria Park and then onto Welford Road Cemetery.

Pre-booking is required. To book contact Visit Leicester.
T: 0116 299 4444.

Max 30 people.

NEW DROP IN

Love Architecture: A Guided Walk of Leicester’s Cathedral Quarter

Meet at Cathedral Gardens
Leicester

Saturday 14 September
Guided Walk: 3pm

Discover Leicester’s Cathedral Quarter by joining an informative tour, led by architects Adam Smith and David Hickman, covering the history and transformation of the area through various periods of history including the Georgian and Victorian times.

Max 30 people.

NEW DROP IN

Love Architecture: A Guided Walk of Leicester’s Cultural Quarter

Meet at LCB Depot, 31 Rutland Street, LE1 1RE

Saturday 14 September
Guided Walk: 12noon

Discover Leicester’s Cultural Quarter by joining an informative tour, led by architect Nils Feldman, on behalf of the Leicestershire and Rutland Society of Architects. Covering the history and transformation of the area from hosiery and boot making to the centre of today’s creative industries.

Max 30 people. There is limited on street pay and display parking, nearest car park is NCP car park on Halford Street.

Suitable for visitors aged 16+.

DROP IN

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Meet at Belmont Hotel, 20 De Montfort Square, Leicester LE1 7GR

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HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2019 EVENTS

To help you navigate around the city on foot look out for the on-street map signage or pick up a more detailed, free city centre map at Visit Leicester Information Centre. Discover more destinations with unique heritage and cultural highlights not to be missed as well as a myriad of shopping experiences and tantalising places to eat, drink and relax at visitleicester.info.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2019 EVENTS

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33. Welford Road Cemetery
Magazine Gateway

Oxford Street, Leicester LE1 5XW

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September
Tours: 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm

The Magazine Gateway, a building people walk, cycle and drive past, opens its doors and invites you to look inside. Originally a 15th century gateway in the former Newark religious area, this building was later used as a munitions store during the English Civil War. Interesting features include graffiti dating back to the 16th century. Book a tour with a blue badge guide.

Pre-booking is required. To book contact Newark Houses Museum and Gardens T: 0116 225 4980

Next to Hugh Aston (Business & Law Building) De Montfort University and near to Newark Houses Museum. Not suitable for very young children or those with mobility issues. Sensible shoes must be worn. Access to upper floor is via a spiral staircase.

Max 15 people per tour.

Secular Hall

75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB

Sunday 15 September
10.30am - 4.30pm

Leicester Secular Hall is a Grade 2 listed building which opened in 1881 and is home of the Leicester Secular Society: the oldest Secular Society in the world. There will be guided tours of the building with an opportunity to see old Dutch tiles which are not usually on view.

There will also be an exhibition about the history of the society and the hall. Plus a display of historic images, provided by Ned Newitt, of what is now the Cultural Quarter and the old Wholesale Market area and Humberstone Gate.

Light refreshments will be available throughout the day.

The Sport Front: Wartime Britain at Play, 1939-1945

Bishop Street Methodist Church, 10A Bishop Street, Leicester LE1 6AF

Tuesday 17 September
Talk: 7.30pm

What role did sport play in winning the Second World War? Did the British continue to watch cricket, football and rugby during the Battle of Britain and the Blitz?

In this talk, Professor Matthew Taylor uncovers the untold story of sport and the British home front. He explains how sport helped to maintain the morale of the British people, support the welfare of war workers and provide a reassuring sense of familiarity at a time of mass anxiety and threat. But he also shows how it could be a site for division, conflict and prejudice, challenging assumptions about wartime unity and equality.

Pre-booking is advised: eventbrite.co.uk/e/sport-and-the-home-front-wartime-britain-at-play-1939-1945-tickets-65251284348
St Margaret’s Church
St Margaret’s Way,
Leicester LE3 3EB
Saturday 14 September
10am - 4pm
St Margaret’s Church opens its doors and welcomes you to visit and discover what lies within. A large medieval church steeped in local history. Visitors are invited to hunt for the church mouse (made of wood!), enjoy the Victorian stained-glass windows and see some of its important tombs. The bell tower erected in 1441 houses a particularly large peal of 14 bells including the largest bell Margaret!

The North Aisle has a children’s corner. Children will need to be supervised by an adult in this area. Refreshments will be available during the day.

Full wheelchair access, on-site disabled parking, accessible toilets and hearing loop. Pushchair friendly. Assistance dogs and dogs on leads are welcome.

St James the Greater Church
London Road,
Leicester LE2 6EL
Saturday 14 September
10am - 4pm
The church will be open, light refreshments will be served. At 12 noon there will be a teddy bear parachute jump. Participants should bring their own teddy bear and parachute from 11.30 am. Prizes for the slowest descent (adult and child) and best designed parachute (under 12s).

Entry fee for parachute jump is £5 for adults, £2.50 for children. All proceeds to the church roof appeal. Toilets available.

St Andrew’s Church
Jarrom Street,
Leicester LE2 7DH
Saturday 14 September
10am - 4pm
A rare opportunity to see the interior of this high Victorian masterpiece by Sir George Gilbert Scott, the architect of the St Pancras Station Hotel.

Enjoy the huge space, the elaborate roof and the bold brick patterning on the walls.
Stoneygate Tram Depot: A Journey Back in Time

453 London Road, Leicester LE2 3JW

Sunday 15 and Sunday 22 September
10am - 4pm

An Edwardian tram depot built in 1904 to coincide with the introduction of electric trams in Leicester. The building is in original condition and even has the old tram rails which you can still see today.

Visitors can have a tour around the depot including the lower ground undercroft. There will be displays telling the fascinating story of the tram depot along with transport related artefacts from the Leicester Transport Heritage Trust’s archive.

You can also enjoy a heritage bus journey experience from the tram depot on a 20-minute round trip.

St Mary’s Church, Humberstone

Main Street, Humberstone, Leicester LE5 1AE

Saturday 14 September
10am - 4pm

St Mary’s Church Humberstone invites visitors to drop in and discover what the church has to offer. Tours and information are available to learn more about the church and the village. Humberstone, a Leicester suburb, was formally a village and this is an opportunity to visit St Mary’s, the parish church. Drop in to see many interesting features of the church. The west tower is medieval and is surmounted by a spire. Raphael Brandon rebuilt the rest of the church in 1858 and there will be an exhibition about some of his work.

There will be displays about the history of the church and the village including a self-led tour of the church. The church is at the start of the Humberstone local history trail. There will be children’s activities, suitable for 7-12 years during the day. Free light refreshments will be available.

St Nicholas’ Church

St Nicholas’ Circle, Leicester LE1 4LB

Saturday 14 September
10am - 4pm

St Nicholas’ Church has played an important part in Leicester’s history. Explore the oldest place of worship in Leicester. Discover how the building has evolved over the centuries since its Saxon origins. Visitors are encouraged to find the Roman dog’s paw print and enjoy the peaceful space.

There will be displays about the history of the church and the village including a self-led tour of the church. The church is at the start of the Humberstone local history trail. There will be children’s activities, suitable for 7-12 years during the day. Free light refreshments will be available.
The City Rooms
10 Hotel Street, Leicester LE1 5AW
Monday 16 - Friday 20 September 10am - 4pm
The City Rooms is opening its grand doors to reveal the beauty of the inside of the building. The City Rooms is a Georgian Grade I listed venue in the heart of Leicester City Centre. Built in 1792 it has undergone a careful two-year restoration programme which has transformed it into a stunning wedding and conference venue. Steeped in history, the centrepiece is a magnificent ballroom which runs the entire length of the building which also retains many period decorative features.

Talk: Embodying the Aristocrat: A History of the 18th Century Elite Male Body
Great Meeting Unitarian Chapel, 45 East Bond Street, Leicester LE1 4SX
Friday 13 September 5.30pm - 7pm
Are men’s fixations with toned abs and sculpted biceps a recent phenomenon? Are they born of today’s peer pressure, advertising and a constant media bombardment or have issues of the ideal male body manifested throughout history? Did men of the past behold the smooth marble perfection of the Apollo Belvedere and guiltily suck in their flabby paunches? Join Dr Sarah Goldsmith in peering into the forgotten world of eighteenth century men’s bodies as she starts to knit together sinew, muscle and bone, to rediscover what eighteenth-century men did with their bodies, who they idolised, and what value was placed on attaining ‘the body beautiful.’

Pre-booking is advised: eventbrite.co.uk/e/embodying-the-aristocrat-a-history-of-the-18th-century-elite-male-body-tickets-65251202102

Town Hall
Town Hall Square, Leicester LE1 9BG
Saturday 14 September 12noon & 2.30pm
Join a guided tour and find out more about this fine civic building, a true Victorian jewel, built in the Queen Anne style. Discover how this magnificent building was nearly destroyed during World War 2 by a German bomb and see the council chambers, tea room, civic plate, court room and cells.

Pre-booking is required. To book contact City Hall on T: 0116 373 7770 or email: cityhall-townhall.events@leicester.gov.uk
Max 30 people per tour.
University of Leicester: Curious Collections

Main Campus University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 September
Guided Tours: 10am, 11.30am, 1pm & 2.30pm

The University of Leicester are declaring their stores open! The collections held by the university underpin its world renown teaching and research. This is a rare opportunity to see these amazing collections.

There will be an opportunity to visit the following departments. Archaeology showing how artefacts aid our understanding of human development, which can lead to exciting discoveries; Archives & Special Collections will be looking at why they hold significant collections for the University and persons of importance; Attenborough Arts will lead an ‘Art on Campus’ tour; the East Midlands Oral History Archive is a collection of distinctive character; Geology takes us back millions of years with specimens from across the world; the Herbarium highlights the importance of archiving vascular plant collections; and Museum Studies will be presenting ‘Deadly dangerous objects from around the world and how we use them for teaching’.

Pre-booking is required.
le.ac.uk/curious-collections
Max 12 people per tour.
Pushchairs may be asked to be left outside stores due to restricted space.

Victoria Park Raucous Races

Outside De Montfort Hall, Granville Road, Leicester LE1 7RU

Saturday 14 September
12noon - 4pm

Leicester’s parks have been recreational spaces for generations of people to enjoy. For the 4th year Victoria Park will be hosting its Raucous Races event. A Victorian-themed family fun day celebrating the history of the park. Activities will include face-painting, story-telling, live magic and music shows and Horsey Hopper races. A Victorian tea room and refreshments will also be available.

Pre-booking is required.
To book contact Visit Leicester
T: 0116 299 4444.

Tour not suitable for young children.
Max 20 people per tour.

Welford Road Cemetery

Meet at Welford Road Cemetery Visitor Centre, Welford Road, Leicester LE2 6BF

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September
Guided Tour: 11am

Welford Road Cemetery is a Grade 2 listed Victorian garden cemetery which for most of the Victorian period was the only cemetery in Leicester. Opened in 1849 the cemetery contains the graves of many of those who, in the 19th century, contributed to the growth of Leicester. Book on a tour and learn more about the fascinating stories of the people buried in the cemetery.

Pre-booking is required.
To book contact Visit Leicester
T: 0116 299 4444.

Tour not suitable for young children.
Max 20 people per tour.
For further details of events and access information, please visit:
heritageopendays.org.uk
visitleicester.info

heritageopenday #leicester

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this guide is correct and accurate at the time of going to print. We apologise for any changes which may be necessary.