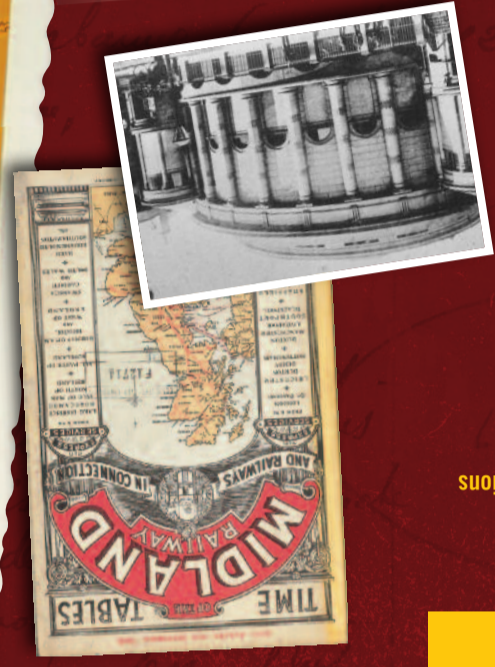




- 13 Welford Road Cemetery
- 12 244 London Road
- 11 High Cross Coffee House, 103-105 High Street
- 10 Charles Street Chapel (now Central Baptist Church)

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST TO VISIT INCLUDE:

- 9 The Town Museum
- 8 Belvoir Street Chapel, 54 Belvoir Street
- 7 East Gates Coffee House, 12-14 East Gates
- 6 Thomas Cook Building, 5 Gallowtree Gate
- 5 26-28 Granby Street
- 4 38 Granby Street
- 3 121 Granby Street
- 2 Campbell Street and London Road Railway Stations
- 1 Thomas Cook Statue



CITY CENTRE MAP

175th ANNIVERSARY

INTRODUCTION



On 5th July 1841, Thomas Cook arranged to take a party of around 500 temperance (anti-alcohol) campaigners from Leicester's Campbell Street railway station to a temperance rally in Loughborough. The fee for the excursion (one shilling) covered return rail travel. The success of this and later excursions led Thomas Cook to set up his own travel agency business.

Thomas Cook is credited as being one of the world's first travel agents and a pioneer of popular tourism, earning Leicester the title of the "birthplace of tourism".

This walking trail will take you around the sites that are connected with the Thomas Cook story in Leicester. The trail includes the site of the Campbell Street Station, the Thomas Cook Building from where excursions were sold, the coffee houses Cook set up in the town to provide a non-alcoholic alternative to pubs, the chapels he visited and the museum where his son donated material collected from his world travels.

Start your walk on London Road outside the railway station. The walk will take approximately one hour.

storyofleicester.info/thomascook

HERITAGE PANELS

Whilst you are exploring, look out for the heritage interpretation panels that tell the story of Leicester. This trail is linked to the Thomas Cook's Victorian Leicester series but there are ten others that explore themes like the city's connection with King Richard III, its Roman origins or its industrial heritage. The Modern Leicester series also celebrates some of Leicester's famous sons and daughters like Richard Attenborough and Sue Townsend.



For more information go to visitleicester.info/heritagepanels and like our facebook page for the latest news on more heritage panels and events in Leicester: [facebook.com/storyofleicester](https://www.facebook.com/storyofleicester)

Thomas Cook's
LEICESTER
WALKING TRAIL



Thomas Cook
Credit: Thomas Cook Archives

LONDON ROAD

1. Thomas Cook Statue

The statue of Thomas Cook by James Butler outside London Road Railway Station was unveiled in 1994. It celebrates the historic Leicester to Loughborough excursion which set off from Campbell Street Station on 5th July 1841.



Temperance Hall & Hotel
Credit: Thomas Cook Archives

GRANBY STREET

3. **121 Granby Street** was built as Thomas Cook's Temperance Hotel. He moved there in 1853. It was managed by Cook's wife Marianne. The Temperance Hall (now demolished) stood next to it and was the largest concert hall in the city until the opening of De Montfort Hall in 1913.



Former Victoria Coffee House

4. **38 Granby Street** was previously the **Victoria Coffee House**. Thomas Cook was a lifelong supporter of the temperance movement that encouraged people to give up drinking alcohol, believing drunkenness was the cause of many problems. He was a founder member in 1877 of the Leicester Coffee and Cocoa Company Ltd., which set up 14 coffee and cocoa houses in the town to provide alternatives to pubs. Victoria House is the finest example.

5. **26-28 Granby Street** were known as Cook's Rooms. This was where Thomas Cook lived between 1843 and 1853. He used it as a hotel, reading room, printworks and also as a booking office for excursions.

Thomas Cook's LEICESTER WALKING TRAIL



Thomas Cook Building

GALLOWTREE GATE/
EAST GATES

6. **Thomas Cook Building, 5 Gallowtree Gate**
The Thomas Cook Building, built in 1894 as offices, was commissioned by Thomas Cook's son, John Mason Cook. The ground floor housed the excursion, tourist and shipping office alongside the foreign banking and exchange department. Look up at the tile friezes on the building which tell the story of the first 50 years of Thomas Cook & Son.

7. **East Gates Coffee House, 12-14 East Gates**
Another example of Thomas Cook's coffee houses, the heritage panel nearby tells you more about its history.

East Gates Coffee House 1885
Credit: Reproduced by kind permission of English Heritage



Belvoir Street Chapel
Credit: Special Collections of the University of Leicester

BELVOIR STREET

8. **Belvoir Street Chapel, 54 Belvoir Street**
Belvoir Street Chapel was built in 1845 to accommodate a growing Baptist congregation. Baptists were a large and influential group of non-conformists (who were not part of the Church of England) and included businessmen, prominent manufacturers and civic dignitaries. As a Baptist, Thomas Cook would have visited this chapel.



New Walk Museum & Art Gallery

NEW WALK

9. **The Town Museum**
Now known as New Walk Museum & Art Gallery, the Town Museum opened in 1849. When it opened, Thomas Cook thought it would become "an instructive lounge for the lovers of science". His son, John Mason Cook, donated objects from his travels, some of which are on display in the Ancient Egypt Gallery.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST
TO VISIT INCLUDE:

10. **Charles Street Chapel**
This Baptist chapel (now Central Baptist Church) was built in 1830. In his Guide to Leicester, Thomas Cook wrote: "Charles Street Chapel is a neat edifice seating about 700 people. The congregation includes several very influential families and the senior MP of the Borough. The Sunday school contains about 260 scholars and 26 teachers". As a Baptist himself, Thomas Cook would have visited this chapel.



Interior, Charles Street Chapel

11. **High Cross Coffee House at 105 High Street** (now the High Cross pub) was another of Thomas Cook's coffee houses.

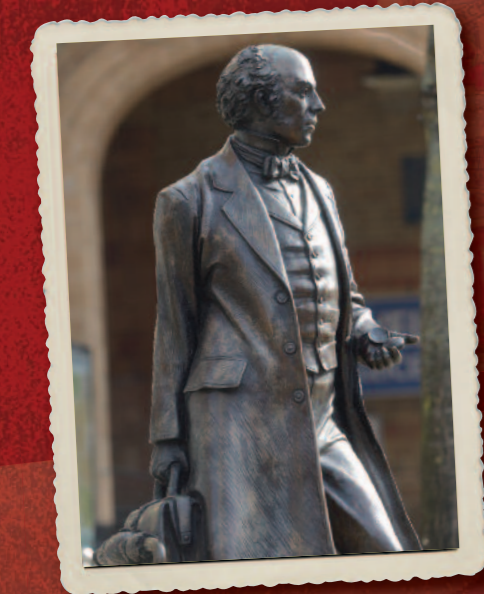
LONDON ROAD

12. **244 London Road** was built in 1878-9 for Thomas Cook as a home to retire in. Sadly in 1880 his daughter Annie Elizabeth died here in the bath as a result of toxic fumes from a faulty hot water appliance. Thomas himself died in 1892.



Thomas Cook's grave

13. **Welford Road Cemetery Welford Road, Leicester LE2 6BF**
Following his death, Thomas Cook was interred in Welford Road Cemetery. He is buried with his wife Marianne and daughter Annie Elizabeth. His only son, John Mason Cook, is also buried there in a separate plot. This fascinating Victorian cemetery is open daily and has a Visitor Centre open Friday 10am - 4pm; Saturday and Sunday 10am - 1pm. For more information visit www.fowrcl.org.uk

2. Campbell Street and London Road
Railway Stations

Leicester's first mainline station, Campbell Street, was built in 1840 behind London Road. It was from there that Thomas Cook ran his first railway excursion in 1841. The station was replaced by London Road Station in 1892. The two stone pillars that mark the entrance to Campbell Yard on Station Street are from the original station. The story of the two stations is told on panels inside the covered area outside the booking hall.

Campbell Street Station c. 1885
Credit: Leicestershire Record Office



Entrance to Campbell Yard
Credit: John Brown