



Royal
Geographical
Society
with IBG

Travels and journeys

A self-guided walk in Leicester



Explore one of Britain's most multicultural cities
Discover how Leicester has welcomed generations of visitors
Find out how the city became a hub for travel and democracy

www.discoveringbritain.org

the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks





Contents

Introduction	4
Route map	5
Practical information	6
Directions	10
Further information	13
Credits	14

© The Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, London, 2015

Discovering Britain is a project of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)
The digital and print maps used for Discovering Britain are licensed to the RGS-IBG from Ordnance Survey

Cover image: Leicester railway station portico © Rory Walsh RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Travels and journeys

Discover how Leicester became a multicultural city

Leicester in the East Midlands is one of Britain's most vibrant and multicultural cities. An estimated 40 per cent of the population were born or descend from countries overseas, particularly from South Asia, East Africa and the Caribbean.

On this walk, created by local students, you can discover how people have travelled the world to live in Leicester. Visit a team of tigers, an unusual 'castle' and spectacular religious buildings. Hear about a French revolutionary, Caribbean carnivals and a South African statesman.

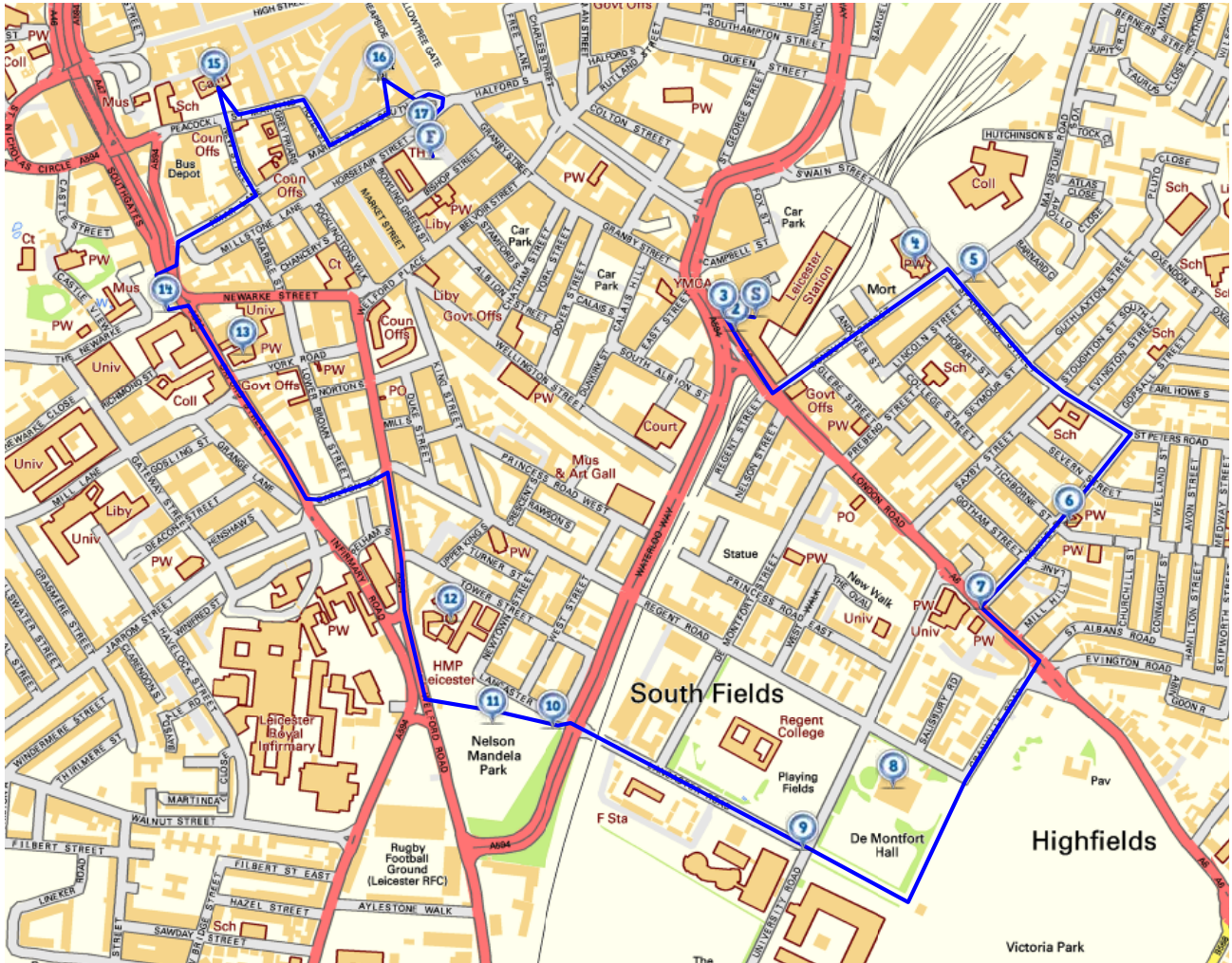
Leicester's motto is '*Semper Eadem*' or 'Always the Same'. Yet the city is constantly changing. From the Norman conquerors who built the Cathedral to Victorian exiles from Europe to today's migrants, Leicester has welcomed people, trades and cultures from worldwide.

This walk was created by students from local secondary schools in collaboration with geography undergraduates from Leicester University.



Views of multicultural Leicester
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Route map



Stopping points

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| S. Leicester railway station | 10. Nelson Mandela Park |
| 2. Leicester railway station | 11. Welford Road Stadium |
| 3. Thomas Cook statue | 12. HM Prison Leicester |
| 4. Leicester Central Mosque | 13. The Jain Centre |
| 5. The African Caribbean Centre | 14. De Montfort University |
| 6. Leicester Synagogue | 15. Leicester Cathedral |
| 7. London Road | 16. Leicester Market |
| 8. De Montfort Hall | 17. Boer War Memorial |
| 9. University Road | F. Town Hall Square |

Practical information

Location	Leicester, Leicestershire, East Midlands
Getting there	<p>Train - Leicester is on the Midland Main Line. There are direct trains from Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, Leeds, York, Birmingham and London St Pancras.</p> <p>Bus - Many local bus routes and long distance coaches. Leicester has two bus stations, the nearest to the walk is Haymarket on Charles Street.</p> <p>Bicycle - National Cycle Route 6 passes the city. The Leicester Bike Park is at the end of the route in Town Hall Square.</p> <p>Car - Access via Junction 29 of the M1, Junction 2 of the M6 and the M69 from Coventry. Plenty of car parking in the city centre (charges apply).</p>
Start point	Leicester railway station, LE2 0QB
Finish point	Town Hall Square, LE1 6AG
Onward journey	To return to the railway station use Directions 18 (on page 25)
Distance	2 ½ miles
Level	Gentle - a flat city centre route, though by some busy roads
Conditions	This walk is on pavements and paved paths; be careful of traffic when crossing busy roads.

Suitable for

Families - take care of young children by busy roads, especially near the railway station

Wheelchairs / pushchairs - an entirely step-free route

Dogs - must be kept on a lead in the city centre

Refreshments

There are plenty of places to stop for food and drink in the city centre at the end of the route. For a rest or a packed lunch try Victoria Park (by Stop 9) or Nelson Mandela Park (Stop 10).

Toilets

Public toilets available at Nelson Mandela Park and Leicester Market (Stop 16)

Other info

There are several religious buildings on the route. Most are open during the week to visitors, though please be respectful of their traditions of worship.

Welford Road Stadium (Stop 11) can be very busy on Leicester Tigers match days.

Family-friendly activities

Leicester Caribbean Carnival and **Leicester Mela** are both held in August. *(The walk route may be subject to road closures during the festivals)*

New Walk Museum and Art Gallery includes dinosaur and Ancient Egypt galleries. Open daily until 5pm. Free admission. Tel: 0116 225 4900

The National Space Centre all-weather family attraction is open Tues to Suns. For tickets and info tel: 0116 261 0261

Tourist Information

VisitLeicester.info, 51 Gallowtree Gate (near Town Hall Square). Tel: 0844 888 5181 or 0116 299 4444

Directions

These directions are for use with the Leicester walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions belows to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Leicester

Leicester railway station

Directions 1 - Make your way to Leicester railway station and listen to Track 2.

2. Arrival

Leicester railway station

Directions 2 - If you are inside the station make your way outside onto the main road and to the corner of London Road and Station Street. Stop by the statue of a man on a pedestal and listen to Track 3.

3. A grand tourist

Thomas Cook statue

Directions 3 - From the Cook statue walk past the front of the station along London Road. Immediately after the station building turn left into Conduit Street. Go along Conduit Street and stop at the junction with Sparkenhoe Street where there is a mini roundabout. The central mosque is on the left. Stop here and listen to Track 4.

4. A city spectacle

Leicester Central Mosque

Directions 4 - Turn right onto Sparkenhoe Street. Stop at the second mini roundabout looking across the road at the African Caribbean Centre and listen to Track 5.

5. Caribbean carnival

The African Caribbean Centre

Directions 5 - Continue along Sparkenhoe Street as it climbs gradually. Shortly after passing a pedestrian crossing and a school on the right hand side turn right into Highfield Street. Walk along Highfield Street looking out for various religious community centres including the Islamic Information Centre, the Bangladesh Cultural Centre and a Hindu temple. At the junction with Tichborne Street is a redbrick synagogue. Stop outside the gates and listen to Track 6.

6. The textiles tower

Leicester Synagogue

Directions 6 - Continue along Highfield Street. At the junction with London Road turn left. Listen to Track 7 as you walk or find a convenient place to stop if you prefer.

7. Worldwide workers

London Road

Directions 7 - Continue up London Road. At the traffic lights at the brow of the hill turn right into Granville Road. Walk along Granville Road with Victoria Park on your left. Where the road bends round to the right, continue straight on through the gates onto the pedestrian walkway through the park. Stop beside the steps on the right leading down to the large hall and listen to Track 8.

8. Festival hall

De Montfort Hall

Directions 8 - Continue along the walkway through the park. At the large war memorial turn right down Peace Path noting memorials either side to Leicester and Commonwealth people who fought and died in a variety of conflicts. Stop by the ornamental gates at the bottom and listen to Track 9.

9. Learning in Leicester

Leicester University

Directions 9 - Use the pedestrian crossing to cross University Road and go straight down Lancaster Road. Pass the fire station and go under the railway bridge. At the junction use the pedestrian crossing to go straight across Tigers Way and into Nelson Mandela Park. Keep to the footpath along the right hand side of the park with Lancaster Road on the right hand side. About three-quarters of the way across the park look for a large rock to the right of the path. Stop by the rock and listen to Track 10.

10. Walking to freedom

Nelson Mandela Park

Directions 10 - Continue along the path across Nelson Mandela Park to exit beside the public toilets. Turn right on Welford Road. Stop by the enormous red brick wall, look back across the roads and car park to the stadium, and listen to Track 11.

11. A team of tigers

Welford Road Stadium

Directions 11 - Continue along Welford Road with the high wall on your right. After about 100 metres stop by the prison entrance and listen to Track 12.

12. Crime and punishment

HM Prison Leicester

Directions 12 - Continue along the pavement on the right hand side of Welford Road. When you reach The Bricklayer's Arms pub turn left along Carlton Street. At the end of Carlton Street turn right onto Oxford Street. Stay on the right hand pavement. Pass a junction with traffic lights and then York Road. Stop outside the next building on the right which is a white marble temple and listen to Track 13.

13. A centre of change

Jain Centre

Directions 13 - The temple is open to visitors from Monday to Friday between 2pm and 5pm and is well worth a visit. Ask the people at reception if you can visit the temple upstairs. You will need to remove your shoes. When you are ready, continue along Oxford Street. Cross over at the first pedestrian crossing and go past the Leicester Business School. Go behind the old stone gateway to the plaza outside De Montfort University. Stop here and listen to Track 14.

14. A father of democracy

De Montfort University

Directions 14 - From the back of the stone Magazine Gateway walk past the 'Welcome to De Montfort University' sign on the wall. Use the pedestrian crossing to go across the dual carriageway and then go straight into Friar Lane. Take the first left into New Street and follow it towards the spire of the cathedral. Cross Peacock Lane to the cathedral entrance and listen to Track 15.

15. Spires and soldiers

Leicester Cathedral

Directions 15 - The cathedral is worth a visit and is open to visitors daily. When you are ready leave the cathedral by the main entrance and turn left onto St Martin's. Take the second right into Hotel Street. At the next crossroads turn left into Market Place South. Pass several entrances to the indoor market and instead go into the outdoor market on the left. Stop in a convenient place and listen to Track 16.

16. Exotic fruit

Leicester Market

Directions 16 - When you have finished exploring the market make your way back to Market Place South and go through the archway. Turn right into Horsefair Street and then immediately left into Town Hall Square. Stop in the square and listen to Track 17.

17. War, grief and peace

Town Hall Square

Directions 17 - Remain in Town Hall Square and listen to Track 18.

18. A multicultural journey

Town Hall Square

Directions 18 - From Town Hall Square you may wish to explore more of the city centre or do some shopping. To return to the railway station where the walk started, with the Town Hall on your right exit the square by square via Bishop Street. At the end turn right into Granby Street. This road leads back to the station, which will be across London Road.

Further information

Find out more about the walk story and places of interest along the route:

De Montfort University

www.dmu.ac.uk/home.aspx

Islam Information Centre

www.islaminfocentre.org.uk

Islamic Centre

www.islamiccentre.org

Jain Centre

www.jaincentreleicester.com

Leicester Caribbean Carnival

www.leicestercarnival.com

Leicester Cathedral

www.cathedral.leicester.anglican.org

Leicester Market

www.leicestermarket.co.uk

Leicester University

Building bridges with Africa

www2.le.ac.uk/about/stories/inclusive/africa

Leicester University

Gondar link

www2.le.ac.uk/institution/gondar-information-hub

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this walk:

- **Year 8 students from Moat Community College** and **Year 9 students from Soar Valley College** for researching the stopping points on the walk
- **Amy Atkins, Amita Bhakta, Chris Bonham, Samuel James, Tanith Ludlam, Rebecca Selves, Cerise Watson, Natalie Weatherill** and **Emma Wilding**, students from Department of Geography, University of Leicester for compiling the walk script
- **Dr Gavin Brown** (Department of Geography, University of Leicester) and **Alex Lund** (Widening Participation Officer, University of Leicester) for coordinating the walk
- **Jenny Lunn** for editing the walk materials
- **Rory Walsh** for additional research and taking photographs
- **Dr Gavin Brown, Tanith Ludlam, Rebecca Selves** and **Natalie Weatherill** for recording the audio commentary
- **Caroline Millar** for editing the audio files
- **William Sitwell** and **Mike Jackson** for additional research
- **Steve Cadman, Patrick Khachfe, Stephen Lamb** and **Matt Neale** for additional photographs
- **Olivia Antrobus, William Dyson** and **Christine McKenna** for additional assistance with compiling walk resources



Britain's landscapes are wonderful.

There is a tremendous variety within our shores – whether in the countryside, in towns and cities or at the seaside. And every landscape has a story to tell about our past and present.

Discovering Britain is an exciting series of geographically-themed walks that aim to bring these stories alive and inspire everyone to explore and learn more about Britain. Each walk looks at a particular landscape, finding out about how forces of nature, people, events and the economy have created what you see today.

The self-guided walks are fun, informative and inspiring. Prepare to discover something new, to be surprised and to find the unexpected.

Visit www.discoveringbritain.org to

Send your review of this walk

Search for other walks

Suggest a new walk