

Richard III – Leicester Walking Tour

To use this tour please follow the written directions while referring to the enclosed map.

Walk distance: 1.5 miles from point 1 to end

Time: 45 – 60 minutes

Walking Tour starting point (1) The Magazine

To get to point 1 from the Clock Tower in Leicester City Centre walk along Gallowtree Gate for 150 metres until you reach the Visit Leicester Centre on your right. Turn right here and walk up Horsefair Street for around 300 metres, it turns into Millstone Lane half way up. Follow the road as it curves around to the right then at the junction turn left and walk 20 metres. Here use the crossings to reach the other side of Vaughan Way and the Magazine Gateway is around 50 metres on the left.



The Magazine (Newarke Gateway)

The Magazine is located at the western end of Newarke Street. The building, circa 1410, is a medieval gateway that formed part of the Newarke extension, added to Leicester Castle by the Third Earl of Leicester. It is a Grade I Listed Building.

We have no precise knowledge of where Richard III started his final and fateful ride to battle, just as the Battle of Bosworth itself was inexplicably poorly documented; some events are

open to conjecture. Some accounts indicate that Richard III rode to battle through the Magazine (Newarke Gateway), whilst others make no such mention of this occurring.



To get to point 2:

Walk across the plaza that is in front of the Magazine towards Newarke Houses Museum which will be on the right. Go immediately right after Newarke Houses Museum down Castle View and through the ruins of the Rupert's Gateway.

After 100 metres the road will open out into a grassed area, the red brick building on the left is Leicester Castle.



Leicester Castle/ Castle Yard

Richard often stayed at the Castle when visiting the Leicester. The Great Hall, which was finished by 1150, survives in Castle Yard and is now open for tours on the last Sunday of every month (not December and January)



To get to point 3:

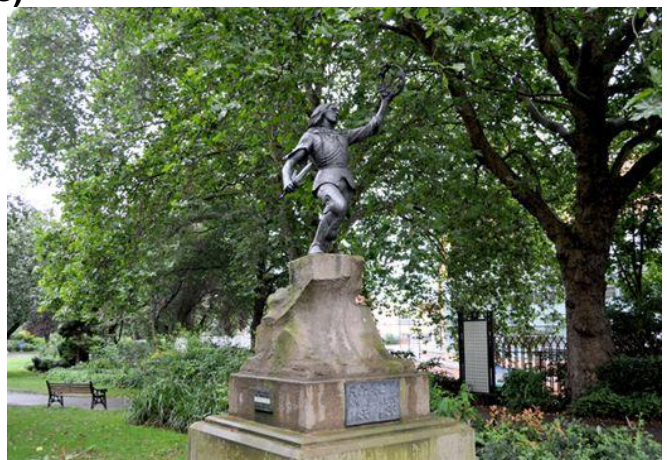
Opposite the front of Leicester Castle is St Mary De Castro Church; to the left of this is a half-timbered building. Pass under the arched section (Castle Gateway) following the road around to the left and then turn left onto Castle Street.

Follow this road as it curves to the right and walk 80 metres to St Nicholas Circle; you should see the Holiday Inn on the opposite side of the road - turn left here. After another 80 metres you will be outside the gates to Castle Park, enter here and the Statue of Richard III will be in front of you.



Richard III Statue (Castle Gardens)

A bronze statue depicting Richard III commissioned in 1980 by the Richard III Society can be found near to the park entrance on St Augustine Road.



To get to point 4:

Use the crossing directly outside of the Castle Park entrance you just walked into and get to the other side of the main road. Turn left and walk past a circular monument on

your right, carry on for around 50 metres; you will arrive at Bow Bridge, St Augustine Road.



Bow Bridge, St Augustine Road

Richard III rode over this bridge on his way to the Battle of Bosworth. Legend has it that his spur hit a stone on the bridge as he crossed it, and an old wise woman among the crowd prophesied that his head would strike the same stone on the way back.



The old bridge was demolished in 1861. The ironwork of the present Bow Bridge depicts the white rose of York, the Tudor rose, the White Boar emblems and Richard's motto 'Loyaulte me Lie'. A memorial stone is mounted on a wall near to the Bow Bridge.

To get to point 5:

Go back up St Augustine Road towards the City Centre keeping to the left of the Holiday Inn; the pavement curves around and you will pass Jewry Wall Museum on your left.

Go over two road crossings and onto High Street, turn left at Highcross Street, and walk around 100 metres to the Travelodge on your left.



Blue Boar Inn

Site of Blue Boar Inn (where Richard III spent the night before going to Bosworth Field) is now covered by the Travelodge on Highcross Street.

There is a legend that the inn was originally called the White Boar, which was Richard's emblem. After the battle the landlord hastily painted the sign blue – the Blue Boar was the emblem of the Earl of Oxford, Henry's chief supporter – however there is no evidence to support this.

The Inn supposedly bore Richard III's badge as its sign and possibly had some pre-existing connections with Richard III. The Inn was pulled down in 1836.

Just before the Battle of Bosworth, the King had his own bed, from Nottingham Castle, set up in a 'large gloomy chamber, whose beams bore conventional representations of vine-tendrils executed in vermilion – these beams could still be seen when the Inn was demolished in 1836.

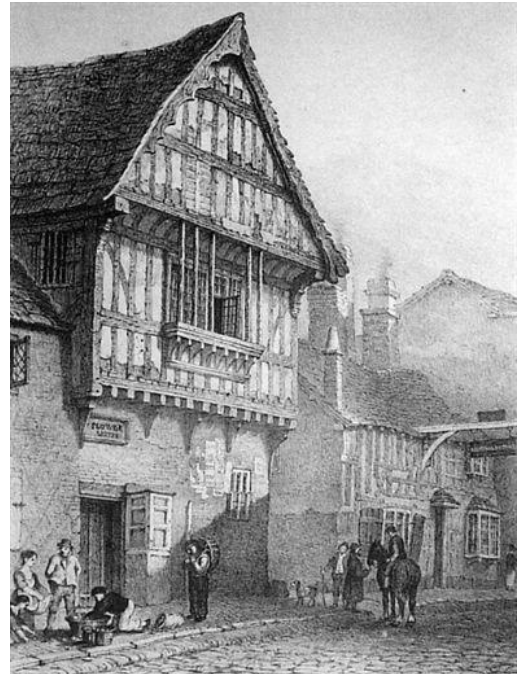
The bed was left at the Inn either to be returned to Nottingham after the battle or because the King intended to return to the Leicester inn.

Folklore tells that the Royal bed remained at the Inn and almost a century later a hoard of medieval gold coins were found in a false bottom underneath the bed.

To get to point 6:

Walk back the way you came along Highcross Street go straight ahead, passing BBC Radio Leicester building on your left and continue onto the cobble stoned Applegate.

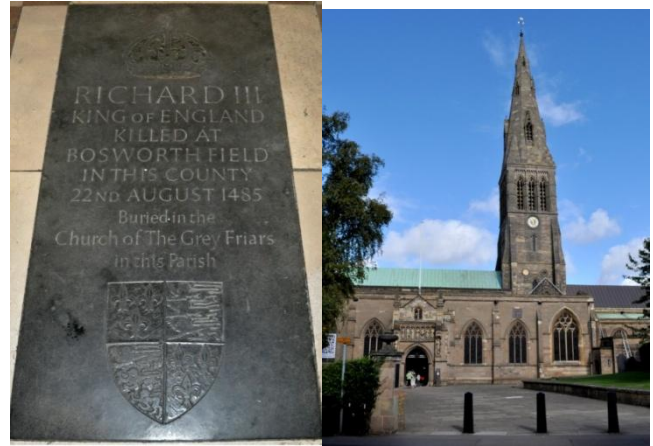
At Peacock Lane turn left and walk around 50 metres, the Cathedral will be on your left.





Leicester Cathedral, Peacock Lane

A memorial tablet in the chancel of the Cathedral is dedicated to Richard III. Open daily from 9am–5pm.



To get to point 7:

Directly opposite the Cathedral main entrance, on the other side of Peacock Lane is a narrow road called New Street.

Walk up here for about 20 metres and the stone wall is inside the car park on your right, to the left-hand side of the attendant's hut. **Please note this is a privately owned car park and may not be accessible to the public.**



Greyfriars Friary

Following the Battle of Bosworth, Richard's dead body was transported back to Leicester, placed on public view and subsequently buried in the choir of the Franciscan Church within Greyfriars.

Greyfriars Friary is commemorated by a 1990 Richard III Society plaque on the wall of the former National Westminster bank building in Grey Friars at its junction with St Martins.



End of the Richard III Leicester Walking Tour

This location is not part of the tour but maybe of interest if you are able to travel there by car: Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, Near Market Bosworth
Situated close to battlefield where Richard III lost his life on the 22nd August 1485.

