

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ROUND

HOWEVER YOU ARE TRAVELLING, THE BUS CAN GIVE YOU A HELPING HAND.

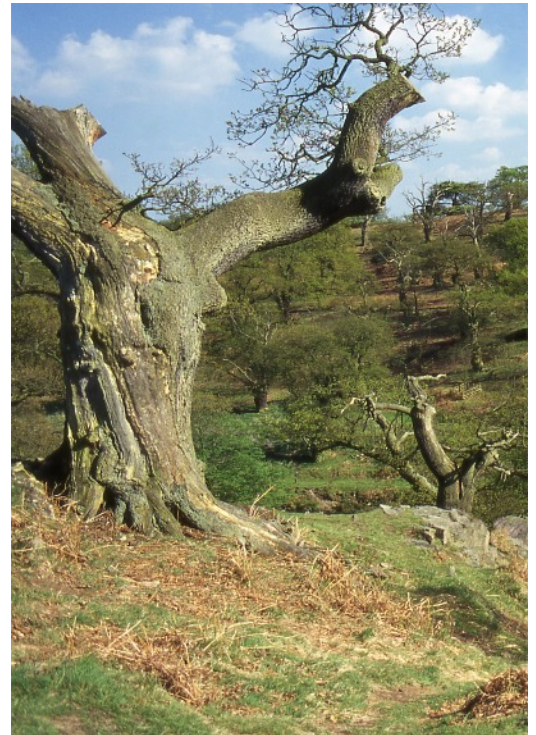
This is a 108 mile circular walk around Leicestershire. This guide shows how to tackle it in bite sized chunks by utilising the local bus services. The Round was last checked and updated in 2017, bus information was last updated May 2023 but they are best double checked as constantly changing.

The route is well waymarked and there numerous spots along the route to take a comfort break or get some sustenance.

As a circular it can of course start anywhere but the guides are to and from Bradgate Park



THE PARK



The Leicestershire Round.

However you are travelling, the bus can give you a helping hand.

The Leicestershire Round should be high on your list of walking priorities. It is a 108-mile circular walk around the county connecting many places of historical, geological and geographical interest. A bonus for the walker is that Leicestershire paths are mostly in good order and well-waymarked. Leicestershire has no National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and perusing the map may give the impression of nondescript countryside. The reality is that the county has lovely rolling countryside with lots of attractive woods, hedgerows and a National Nature Reserve and local nature reserves and an abundance of SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest). It also has the Charnwood Forest Geopark, a superb, unspoiled landscape of rocky outcrops; the remnants of ancient volcanic activity

(<https://www.facebook.com/CharnwoodForestGeopark>)

This area was under consideration as a national park until the M1 cut it in two but is now under consideration to be adopted as a UNESCO World Geopark. This area includes three Country Parks including Bradgate Deer Park, the former home of Lady Jane Grey for a few days queen of England.

Some people will find the most satisfying way of walking the Round is to do it in one go, doing each walk in the same order and direction. If doing so there are numerous hotels in the city and some spread around the villages but not at all of the natural break points in the Round. However, if this is not an option, the walk can be broken down into day trips or short breaks. This is where the bus can be really useful whether you live locally; drive to the walk on a day trip, or if you are having a short holiday. Most of the walk can be done by staying in Leicester City, where there is a wide range of attractions if you want a rest day. If you have come a long way you can fill in some of your arrival day looking around, although with good planning you may be able to do part of the walk on your arrival and departure days.

The county has good train services from most parts of the UK and local services serve places close to the Leicester Round and have paths to them. Useful stations are Sileby, Melton Mowbray, Oakham, Market Harborough and Hinckley. There is also a regular service between Loughborough and the Leicester outskirts, run using vintage engines on the privately run Great Central Railway



If you are doing short sections Melton Mowbray can be used as a base for Syston to Somerby. The buses are also useful if you are doing sections staying at guest houses on the route. If you do walks 3, 4 and 5 in this manner, the buses are simplified.



On each stage of the walk sections, useful bus routes will be recommended. If you are driving it is best to drive to the end of your walk and catch the bus to the start. Where this is possible the bus will be listed. In many cases, a bus will be needed to the start and from the end back to your base or car.

The walk plan in the Leicestershire Round guidebook is followed as far as possible but will be amended where relevant to access bus routes. It is best to walk from the less frequent bus route to the most frequent so this may involve doing the walk the 'wrong way round' or doing some legs in a different direction.

Sunday bus services are more limited but some sections can be accessed on what Sunday buses there are. We are not showing the bus times as these can change. The website is provided to enable times to be checked.

Leicestershire also has some nice canal walks and its section of the Midshires Way is attractive. There is also the Jubilee Way, the Ivanhoe Way and the National Forest Way to try.

There are numerous interesting pubs and tea rooms on the round. We all have different ideas as to what is a good pub but we detail a few watering holes we considered worth a visit at the time of writing but pubs are closing frequently and opening time change quite often. These are ones we felt welcomed walkers, even if requiring muddy boots to be removed. The best source of reasonably up-to-date information on the pubs is Whatpub produced by the Campaign For Real Ale.

These notes need to be read in conjunction with the Leicestershire Round guide book, or the Ordnance Survey Maps.

1. Newtown Linford to Mountsorrel 11m

Catch Coalville bus number 125 from Leicester St Margaret's Bus Station to Newtown Linford. Get off by the church and the entry to Bradgate Park.

<https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/supported-bus-services-timetables/>

The Swan in Mountsorrel is a friendly local worth considering and in the next village, Rothley, the Woodies is an excellent pub with good gardens but no food in the evenings. There is a very good fish & chips cafe.

Return to Leicester on services 126/127 frequent <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/midlands>



2. Mount Sorrel to Frisby in the Wreake 11m

Catch the Shepshed service 126/127 bus from Leicester St Margaret's Bus Station to Mountsorrel and get off at the Buttercross.

As you approach Frisby the Blue Bell in Hoby is a good spot for food and drink

Return to Leicester on service 5A on A607 (frequent). Take care crossing the road.

<https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/midlands>

If choosing this option the Flying Childers near the bus stop, offers good value food and a choice of good ales etc.

NOTE: The next two sections are the least convenient section for public transport as the services are infrequent and there are no Sunday services. Staying in Melton Mowbray helps. You could stay two nights, reverse walk 3 and carry your stuff on walk 4, or post it home.

3. Frisby in the Wreake to Somerby 10m

Catch Melton Mowbray service number 5A from Leicester Haymarket Bus station to Frisby <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/midlands>- These are frequent but take 42 minutes.

The Stilton Cheese in Somerby is a welcome retreat

Catch the Centrebus 100 bus from Somerby to Melton Mowbray for 5A buses or train to Leicester

If you are driving park at Melton and catch a bus to Somerby and reverse walk

<https://www.centrebus.info/index.php/routes/leicestershire> or

<https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/supported-bus-services-timetables/>

4. Somerby to Belton in Rutland 8m

You need to arrive early in Melton Mowbray for the Centrebus 100 Melton Mowbray bus to Somerby. The walk would have to be curtailed to Belton in Rutland, 8 miles, where the Centrebus service 747 will take you to Leicester.

<https://www.centrebus.info/index.php/routes/leicestershire> or

<https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/supported-bus-services-timetables/>

The Sun Inn Belton is a 16thC coaching Inn with a real fire during the winter and a large beer garden for the summer but its opening hours are very limited

5. Belton to A6 near Foxton 12m

It is simplest to split the section from Belton to Peatling Magna at the A6 rather than Foxton. Catch the 747 from Leicester Haymarket Bus station to Belton and walk to the A6 near Foxton 12m. The A6 finish is not a fun place to wait for a bus so try to time your arrival so you have a short wait.

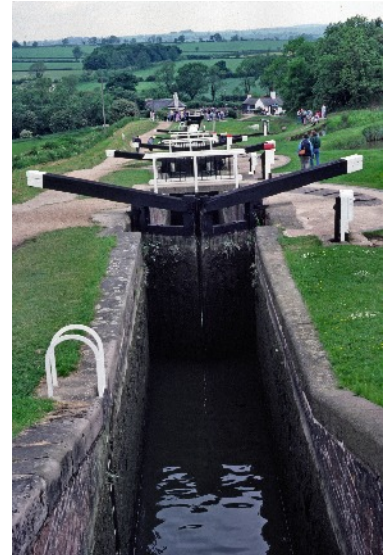
At the A6 there is a bus to Leicester (hourly) using the Arriva X3 <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/midlands/> or Stagecoach X7 <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables> from bus stops on A6 near Foxton

An alternative is the stop at Gallow Field Road where there is a pavement alongside the carriageway to the canal and a footpath branches off the towpath to meet up with the Leicestershire Round on the edge of Foxton.

It is possible to take the bus to and from Foxton itself but a bit messy. The 44 stops on Main St., adjacent to Vicarage Drive and you can catch this to go into Market Harborough for a Leicester bus

<https://www.centrebus.info/index.php/routes/leicestershire>

There are several pubs in Foxton ranging from the quick food type to the traditional; something for everybody. Perhaps the most interesting is the Bridge 61 by the canal at Foxton Locks- snacks, good beer and character.



6. A6 near Foxton to Peatling Magna and Countesthorpe 13m

Catch the X3 or X7 from Leicester St Margaret's Bus Station to the A6 near Foxton. where there is a request stop although there is no bus stop sign. Ask the driver. You can stay on into Market Harborough and catch 44 to Foxton itself.

This leg is blessed with several really good hostelryes. Early on you have the Bell at Gumley, then the Chandlers Arms at Shearsby and two pubs in Bruntingthorpe which could not be more different. The Joiners is a good upmarket eatery and the Plough is a real ale haven with no food.

When you arrive at Peatling Magna you will need to walk along a field footpath to Countesthorpe where there is a bus no 85 every 10 minutes towards Leicester. Some of the times require a change to a 48 in Wigston. <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/midlands>

7. Countesthorpe to Frolesworth 8m

Catch the Arriva 85 from Leicester St Margaret's Bus Station to Countesthorpe and walk back to the Leicester Round and proceed to Frolesworth.

At Frolesworth catch an Arriva X84 to Leicester St Margaret's Bus Station.

You may prefer to do this a walk in reverse so that you finish at the frequent service – there are pubs sometimes open in the villages along this leg – as it is only 8 miles so if you feel like 3 more the Pig in Muck in Claybrook Magna is a really good brew house with good food.

8. Frolesworth to Barwell 11m

This walk section tallies with those in the guidebook.

Catch an Arriva X84 from Leicester St Margaret's Bus Station to Frolesworth

The route goes through Claybrook Magna and there are pubs in Sharnford, Burbage and Barwell.

At Barwell, there are frequent Arriva 158 and Stagecoach 148 buses to Leicester

9. Barwell to Market Bosworth 7m

Catch an Arriva 158 or Stagecoach 148 bus from Leicester

Haymarket to Barwell

The route goes to Sutton Wharf on the Ashby Canal and starts through an industrial estate.



If using buses there is a variation to be had here. Stay on the bus from Leicester to Hinckley and catch the 66 towards Nuneaton. Get off in the historic village of Stoke Golding and follow the canal to meet the Leicester Round near Poplar's Farm. The George & Dragon in Stoke Golding and Dog & Hedgehog in Dadlington are very good pubs.

The route continues through Sutton Cheney with two pubs and there are numerous cafes and pubs in Market Bosworth. The Red Lion is well worth a visit.

At Market Bosworth catch an Arriva 153 bus back to Leicester

You may prefer to do this walk in reverse so that you finish at the frequent service

10. Market Bosworth to Markfield 12m

Catch an Arriva 153 bus from Leicester St Margaret's Bus Station to Market Bosworth

The Gate at Osbaston can provide a break as can the Bulls Head at Nailstone at weekends. The Bricklayers at Thornton can also provide traditional food. The Queens at Markfield is on your route but does not do food.

At Markfield catch an Arriva 29 bus to Leicester.

If you can walk another 2 miles to Newtown Linford you can finish the walk today!

11. Markfield to Newtown Linford 2m

Catch an Arriva 29 bus from Leicester St Margaret's Bus Station to Markfield

In this very attractive village, there is an upmarket eatery and a simple club welcoming walkers but with snacks only- Open evenings only except weekends

From Newtown Linford use the infrequent bus number 125 to Leicester.

<https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/supported-bus-services-timetables/>

As this is a very short walk you can do it on your going home day if you are on holiday.

You may prefer to do this walk in reverse so that you finish at the frequent service – if doing so and wanting a good pub to wind down with good value meals, break your journey in Groby where the bus stops outside the Stamford Arms

We trust you will find this guide useful but there will inevitably be constant change.

To the best of our knowledge all information is correct at time of publication but you are well advised to double check.

If you find any obstructions or damage to infrastructure, any pub closure or bus change please advise us via the website of the Leicestershire Footpath Association

Guide



A new guide is now in the shops at £9.95 produced by the Leicestershire Footpaths Association.

This is a totally rewritten edition published thirty years after the first launch of the guide to this walk created to mark the centenary of the Association

The new guide is in full colour with maps from Ordnance Survey at 1:25,000.

Copies are available online at

<https://www.cordee.co.uk>

Other useful websites

<https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/supported-bus-services-timetables/>

For subsidised public transport information

<https://whatpub.com>

Local refreshments but ring to check opening times

<https://www.nationalforest.org>

Info re that element of the walk

<https://www.lfa.org.uk>

Leicestershire Footpaths Association

<https://www.leicscountryparks.org.uk>

Parks along the route

<https://leicsra.org.uk>

Ramblers Association

<http://www.goleicestershire.com>

Tourist Information

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