

## Heritage Site and Nature Attractions

### Ullesthorpe Windmill

Ullesthorpe lies 3 miles west of Lutterworth in South Leicestershire. Its tower mill was built by subscription in 1800. Like many other village mills it ceased to operate as a windmill before 1900. Some time before that an additional pair of stones had been installed on the first floor, driven by a steam engine in the yard below. The wooden windmill mechanism was not modernised in the mid nineteenth century by replacing it with iron and much of it survives unmodified since it was built.

Although the owners took steps to preserve the mill, which is in a small compound containing the miller's house, a granary, bake-house and pigsty, the tower has only recently been opened-up for access by the public, who can now climb to the cap.

Open Days are held at intervals during the summer, often with additional entertainment such as morris-dancing, and visits for parties can be arranged by contacting Roger Jones on tel: 01455 209264 or e-mail:

[mohsenjones@googlemail.com](mailto:mohsenjones@googlemail.com).

Turn left out of the hotel drive and continue into the village. Take the second left and the Windmill is on the right hand side set back from the road.



### Fosse Meadows



Where the River Soar and the Fosse Way first come together, in the south of the county stands Fosse Meadows Nature Park in the parish of Sharnford. Formerly farmland, the Park was purchased by Blaby District Council in two lots, opening in 1987. Although much of the farm had been modernised and converted to arable use, the farmer was sympathetic to the needs of nature, and some areas were left untouched. Most notable are the two meadows that lie alongside the River Soar, which forms the north-eastern boundary of the site.

There are many footpaths around Fosse Meadows Nature Park to explore at your leisure. See <http://www.lros.org.uk/fossemeadows.htm> for more details.

From the hotel it is a short drive or it is possible to walk there and back in a day. Turn right out of the hotel drive and follow the road to Frolesworth. Turn left at the t-junction and follow that road until you reach a cross roads with Fosse Meadows signposted to your left. Approximately half a mile down that road is the Nature park.

## Foxton Locks

Foxton Locks - all the fun of the canals, set in the heart of rural South Leicestershire. Watch colourful narrowboats ascending the 'staircase' of ten locks, as their crews turn paddles and heave gates open to move their boats up the hill. Discover the wildlife in the side-ponds - ducks, herons, rare reeds and much more. Find out about Foxton's fascinating history at the museum, then take a boat trip on the canal. Enjoy a pint, or treat yourself to a meal at the Foxton Locks Inn. Then browse through the traditional 'roses and castles' gifts and canal books at the Foxton Locks Shop.



From the hotel, turn left and drive into Ullesthorpe village. At the T-Junction turn left again and follow the road through Bitteswell into Lutterworth. Turn left at the T-Junction and then right at the next T-Junction, follow the road through Lutterworth town centre and at the roundabout turn left. Follow that road all the way to North Kilworth where you take the first left, approximately 5 miles along that road turn right for Mowsley and Foxton. Foxton locks is well signposted from this point on.

## Claybrooke Villages



The villages of Claybrooke Magna and Claybrooke Parva are only a mile from High Cross, known as the centre of Roman England, as it was the point where the Roman Watling street crossed the Fosse Road, two principle Roman roads. Little sign is evident now other than the remains of a monument, built to mark the spot in the 17th Century but later destroyed by lightning. This road to the Claybrookes was formerly the B577 to Lutterworth but has recently been declassified. In the 18th and 19th centuries on the main coach road from London to Holyhead and there are two well preserved mile posts, one in each of the villages. Claybrooke Magna is the larger of the two villages with a population of around 400 people. There are around 30 houses in the village built in the 1990s, but some of the housing is much older with buildings dating to

Victorian and Georgian times, with some half-timbered Tudor houses by the Vineyard. A little way out of the village is an old water-mill, still in working order, which is driven by the small stream which winds its way through the area.

From the hotel, turn left out of the drive and follow the road into the village. At the T-Junction turn right and this road goes straight to Claybrooke Magna.

## Stanford Hall

Home of the Cave family, ancestors of the Lady Braye, since 1430. Present Hall built by Smiths of Warwick in 1690s and still occupied by the Cave family. It contains antique furniture, fine pictures (including the Stuart Collection) and family costumes.

The grounds include a walled rose garden, nature trail, souvenir shop and a craft centre most Sundays. Visit the motorcycle see a replica of Percy Pilchers 1898 flying machine. Events occur most Sundays from early May. Tel 01788 860250



From the hotel, turn left out of the drive and follow the road to the village. At the T-Junction turn left to Lutterworth. At the next T-Junction turn left and at the following T-Junction turn right through the town of Lutterworth. Take the second exit at the round-about and then Stanford Hall is signposted off to the left.

## Bradgate Park



Bradgate Park is Leicestershire's largest and most popular country park. It comprises of 840 acres of land with grass, heath, bracken, rocky outcrops, small woods, herds of deer and the River Lin. The Park also includes the ruins of Bradgate House, the birthplace and early home of Lady Jane Grey 1537 - 1554 (Nine Days Queen of England.) Old John Tower folly, a well known Leicestershire landmark, stands on the ridge of high land. There is also a country park shop, refreshments and information point (off Newtown Linford car park). As well as a tea room adjacent to the visitor centre.

From the hotel, turn right out of the drive and follow the road to Frolesworth. At the T-Junction turn left and at the next T-Junction turn right. This road takes you to the outskirts of Leicester. Take the M1 motorway North for one junction to 21a to join the A46. Come off the A46 towards the village of Anstey and then follow the signposts to Newton Linford. Bradgate Park is then signposted to the right.

## Coombe Abbey

Brinklow Road, Binley, Coventry, CV3 2AB Tel: (02476) 453720



Combe Abbey was founded by Cistercian monks in 1150 AD. The stables have been restored and became the Abbeygate, a superior banqueting suite housing the award winning Mediaeval Banquets. There are beautiful historic gardens with a moat, formal bedding displays and an impressive collection of trees planted in Victorian times. Many wildfowl can be found here. A tranquil seating area, ideal for picnics and feedings the ducks!

From the hotel, turn left out of the drive and right at the next T-Junction. Follow that road until you reach the A5 cross roads. Go straight over the A5 on the B4455 heading towards Monks Kirby and Brinklow. When you reach Brinklow, turn right towards Coventry. Coombe Abbey is the signposted to the left.

## Garden Organic Ryton - Wolston Lane, Coventry, CV8 3LG

Garden Organic Ryton - run by the charity Garden Organic (formerly known as HDRA) - attracts more than 30,000 visitors each year. This beautiful ten-acre site in Warwickshire has grown rapidly since it was established in 1985. The gardens now boast 30 different attractions including themed gardens, educational displays and wildlife areas - all demonstrating the wonders of organic gardening.

Families can have fun in our fascinating visitor centre, The Vegetable Kingdom, where they can learn all about vegetables they have never heard of before and take part in interactive games with a colourful cast of vegetable characters. Our Children's Garden also offers an exciting place for discovery and play. There are also regular events and courses held at Ryton.

Visitors can enjoy delicious refreshments in our award-winning restaurant and café, or browse around our shop which sells a wide range of organic foods, gardening goods, books and gifts.



From the hotel, turn left out of the drive and right at the next T-Junction. Follow that road until you reach the A5 cross roads. Go straight over the A5 on the B4455 through Brinklow, take the third exit from the roundabout towards Wolston and Ryton-on-Dunsmore. The Organic Garden is on the left hand side.

## Bosworth Water Trust Leisure and Water Park

Far Coton Lane, Wellsborough Road, Mkt Bosworth, Warwickshire, CV13 6PD



Bosworth Water Trust is a 50 acre leisure park with 20 acres of lakes for windsurfing, sailing, kayaking and canoeing. The site is well grassed and gently sloping. There is a lakeside snack bar open all year. The lake is an ideal venue for a family activity weekend, large enough to provide some excellent sailing but still of a size where children can be watched. The water for the lake is supplied from a bore hole 400ft below ground, so clean water is always guaranteed.

From the hotel, turn left out of the drive and right at the next T-Junction. Follow that road until you reach the A5 cross roads. Turn right onto the A5 and follow the road until the junction with the A444. Turn right onto the A444 and then at the next major crossroads turn right again onto the B585 towards Market Bosworth. The Leisure and Water park is on the left hand side.

## Conkers

Conkers, the award winning attraction at The Heart of the National Forest, a unique mix of both indoor and outdoor experiences. Just right to keep you and your family engaged for hours from adventure activities through to our restaurant, cafe and coffee shop, specialist retail area, Ranger activities and the National Forest Art Gallery.

Conkers Discovery and Waterside Centres are linked by our Conkachoo train which regularly travels between the centres or you can easily walk along the footpath too.

Young or old, at Conkers we have everything to make an ideal day out for all the family.

Rawdon Road (B586), Moira, DE12 6GA



## Rockingham Castle

Rockingham Castle, Rockingham, Market Harborough, Leicester, LE16 8TH (01536 770240)



This remarkable castle, built on the instruction of William the Conqueror, has been the Watson family home for 450 years. Prior to the Watson's ownership the Castle was held by the crown. There are very few other homes that have been continuously occupied for nearly 1000 years and within that time been owned by of just one family since being relinquished as a royal Castle.

## Kenilworth Castle & Elizabethan Gardens

Take your family to one of England's most spectacular castle ruins in Warwickshire, and discover links to some major historical figures – including 'Bad' King John, Henry V, and Henry VIII. However, Kenilworth is most famously associated with Robert Dudley and Queen Elizabeth I. Elizabeth kept Dudley's last letter to her in a casket by her bed until she died. View a copy of this letter, and explore Leicester's gatehouse where Dudley courted his Queen – both part of a multi-million pound investment. This includes two exhibitions, a brand new audio tour that brings Kenilworth's eventful past to life and the recreation of the original Elizabethan garden.

Kenilworth Castle, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1NE (01926 852078)



## West Lodge Rural Centre

Back Lane, Kettering, Northamptonshire  
NN14 2SH 01536 760 552



At West Lodge Farm Park, children of all ages can meet and learn about our range of farm animals, including many rare breeds, handle the fluffy young chicks, rabbits and guinea pigs in Cuddle Corner and laugh at the antics of our pygmy goats on Goat Mountain. You can feed the ducks, groom a pony, watch and get involved in the ever popular piglet race, plus many more seasonal activities, such as lamb bottle feeding in the spring! There is plenty to see and do under cover too, with all the activities and a good variety of penned animals on display in our many barns near the centre.

Walk one of the many nature trails, from quarter of a mile to three and a half, taking you through our conservation award winning farm through woods, meadows, by streams and ponds enjoying the diversity of wildlife on the way. If you look up you may see skylarks, lapwings and raptors and if you are lucky you might even see a red kite. Closer to the ground look out for deer, hares, wild rabbits, foxes, badgers, voles and grass snakes.

Back at the farm, children can work off their energy in indoor and outdoor play areas, build a shelter in the den making area, as well as enjoying the free barrel ride which runs every hour. There is also, during the main season, a real tractor trailer tour of the farm available to book. Everyone can enjoy home cooked meals, snacks or tea and cakes in our Rickyard restaurant.

The centre is conveniently situated within 30 minutes of Peterborough, Northampton and Leicester. While being private and secluded, West Lodge Rural Centre is within easy reach of all major routes, being one mile from the A6, five minutes from the A14 and twenty minutes from both the A1 and M1.