**History,**

**heritage**

**and...**

**handrails**

Your guide

to an accessible

break in

Leicestershire

**Welcome to your guide**

When choosing where to go on your next English holiday the last thing you should have to worry about is whether or not the hotels and attractions are accessible. After all, holidays are meant to be fun!

That’s why we’ve developed this guide containing places to stay and visit that have all worked through VisitEngland’s rigorous Access For All process. This process ensures that:

• Key members of staff have completed disability awareness training, helping to ensure you receive a warm welcome and your needs are met.

• Hotels have been assessed under the National Accessible Scheme and awarded the appropriate ratings for mobility, hearing and visual impairments.

• Attractions and other venues have received an audit from a professional tourism access advisor and are working through plans to improve their accessibility.

• All venues have received a mystery visit from individuals with access needs.

• All venues have an access statement available on their website giving detailed information on their accessibility.

We’ve also teamed up with the Disabled Persons Railcard to bring you all the information you need should you wish to travel to your holiday destination by train.

We appreciate that everyone’s access needs are different, so whilst we can’t guarantee that every venue listed in this guide will meet your individual needs, we hope this provides a good starting point for researching your next holiday.

When in doubt, we would advise checking with the individual business or attraction before booking.

To find out more go to

**VisitEngland.com/accessforall**

**About Leicestershire**

Situated in the heart of England, Leicester and Leicestershire have been playing host to everyone from Roman armies to medieval kings and queens for over 2,000 years. To this day the city and county still provide a warm welcome and a diverse range of arts, culture, history, festivals, attractions, shopping, food, drink and accommodation for visitors from around the world.

This historical legacy provides a wealth of attractions waiting to be discovered, from national centres of remembrance and brewing, to Leicestershire’s industrial and fashion heritage, battlefields and the discovery of King Richard III’s remains.

With the ‘Stay Play Explore Glorious Heritage’ short break choose to visit any 3 out of these 5 accessible attractions:

• Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre

• The National Brewery Centre

• National Memorial Arboretum

• Snibston Discovery Museum

• Richard III’s Leicester & afternoon tea at The Belmont Hotel

Plus enjoy an overnight stay with breakfast for two at the 4 star Hinckley Island Hotel - all for just £109.

To find out more and to book your break go to

**www.stayplayexplore.co.uk/gloriousheritage**

**Places to go**

**Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre**

If you’re a budding historian, or just like a dramatic story, you’ll love Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre.

The Battle of Bosworth in 1485 was the dramatic conclusion to the Wars of the Roses, where Richard III lost his life and Henry Tudor was crowned king. The Battlefield Heritage Centre provides an incredible insight into the battle and the events and people surrounding it.

Centre highlights include an interactive exhibition, audio-visual displays, a soldier’s camp and falconry - as well as re-enactment events and guided walks on certain days.

The majority of the Heritage Centre, including the exhibition, is situated on the ground floor with step-free access but, depending on your access needs, parts of the Battlefield Trail and the Country Park may be more challenging.

Parking spaces for Blue Badge holders are available, as well as one mobility scooter and two wheelchairs, which are offered free of charge. Pre-booking is recommended.

**Tel 01455 290 429**

**www.bosworthbattlefield.com**

**The National Brewery Centre**

If you like a good pint, what could be better than a visit to the home of all things beer related!

Incorporating large elements of the original Bass Museum, The National Brewery Centre celebrates the history, art and fun of brewing. You can discover the development of brewing with a holographic presentation, take a guided tour of the site and finish off with a few samples at the microbrewery.

The Centre is located on a level site with wheelchair friendly access and a lift to the exhibition spaces on higher floors; however, some areas of this historic site are cobbled. There’s also a hearing loop in reception, a wheelchair available and a complimentary carer ticket policy.

Burton-on-Trent station is just a stone’s throw away and parking spaces for Blue Badge holders are available at the Centre itself.

**Tel 01283 532 880**

**www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk**

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**Richard III: Leicester’s Search for a King**

In the summer of 2012 archaeologists unearthed the grave of King Richard III.

The search for the King’s lost remains, and the story of his life and death in battle, is at the heart of the exhibition at Leicester’s Guildhall, offering the chance to discover how the skeleton’s true identity was proven. Features include accessible touchscreen displays, a model of King Richard’s skull and objects from the excavation.

Located on the ground floor via a ramp, the exhibition itself has level access, as well as a low reception desk and accessible toilets. Motorised scooters are welcomed and a complimentary wheelchair is available. The Lanes car park has designated parking bays and is only 200m away. The new King Richard III Visitor Centre will open in 2014, including a world class interactive and immersive exhibition.

Tours of Richard III’s Leicester are available and traditional afternoon teas are offered at The Belmont Hotel.

**Tel 0116 299 4444**

**www.visitleicester.info/richardIII**

**Snibston Discovery Museum**

As the largest science and technology museum in the East Midlands, Snibston Discovery Museum offers an incredible range of exhibitions and events throughout the year.

The museum explores our changing technological world and has over 90 indoor and outdoor hands-on exhibits, including historic science, technology, design and fashion collections. You can also take a colliery tour with an ex-miner and ride on the Heritage Railway.

Most of the museum is step free, has accessible toilets and parking spaces for Blue Badge holders. Wheelchairs can also be booked free of charge in advance, or upon arrival.

The colliery tours do feature some uneven surfaces and stepped areas, but helpful tour guides are on hand to help where needed. The Heritage Railway has a sloped platform with tactile floor and benefits from ramps.

**Tel 01530 278 444**

**www.snibston.com**

**National Memorial Arboretum**

Set in a beautiful and evolving landscape, the National Memorial Arboretum is the UK’s year-round Centre of Remembrance - a place where visitors can look forward with hope as they reflect on peoples’ lives, learn through powerful stories and remember the country’s history of service and sacrifice.

The Arboretum is set in 150 acres with 50,000 maturing trees and over 280 significant memorials, including the iconic Armed Forces Memorial.

The visitor centre facilities are all accessible and there are hard standing paths around the grounds, as well as accessible toilets; both mobility scooters and wheelchairs are available.

You can explore the grounds using the fully accessible Land Train featuring a running commentary. There is also an induction loop available in the Chapel - where a two minute silence is observed daily.

Small car parking charges apply.

**Tel 01283 792 333**

**www.thenma.org.uk**

**Afternoon Tea at The Belmont Hotel**

Nothing is more quintessentially English than an afternoon tea.

Set in a Victorian conservation area, The Belmont is the perfect place to recharge and spoil yourself after a day exploring King Richard III’s Leicester.

Jamie’s Bar within this 3 star family run hotel offers a decadent afternoon tea, including finger sandwiches, homemade cakes, scones with jam and clotted cream plus a selection of teas and coffees. You can also choose a savoury afternoon tea, or upgrade to a glass of Prosecco or Champagne!

Guests on a ‘Stay Play Explore Glorious Heritage’ break can choose to indulge in the Traditional Afternoon Tea as part of their package.

There is level access to the hotel’s New Walk entrance and a ramp leading from the main car park through to reception. The car park at the side of the hotel offers two designated parking bays.

Book ahead to avoid disappointment.

**Tel 0116 254 4773**

**www.belmonthotel.co.uk**

**Places to stay**

**Hinckley Island Hotel**

As Access for All winner of the 2012 Leicester & Leicestershire Excellence in Tourism Awards, this 4 star hotel is the perfect base for exploring Leicestershire.

Hinckley Island Hotel has a whole host of luxury features, including a Health Club, swimming pool, Piazza Lounge and contemporary Triumph Bar. There is also free WiFi on offer.

The hotel has level access throughout provided by wheelchair friendly lifts, ramps and accessible parking spaces.

There are 4 fully accessible rooms with wet-rooms and lowered facilities. The rooms also include hearing loops, anti-allergy bedding, Deafgard pillows and reading glasses upon request. There are a further 8 adapted rooms with grabrails and wider doorways.

Located close to the M6, M69 & M1, the hotel offers easy access to the ‘Stay Play Explore Glorious Heritage’ attractions.

**Tel 01455 631 122**

**www.pumahotels.co.uk/hinckley**

**Rated as suitable for guests with hearing loss, visually impaired guests, older and less mobile guests, part-time wheelchair users and wheelchair users under the National Accessible Scheme.**

**How to get there**

**Nearest accessible National Rail stations: Leicester; Hinckley** (for Hinckley Island Hotel); **Burton-on-Trent** (for National Brewery Centre)

• Advance single tickets from London to Hinckley by train from £8.00 (or £5.30 with a Railcard)

• Advance single tickets from Bristol to Leicester by train from £21.20 (or £14.00 with a Railcard)

• Advance single tickets from Leeds to Burton-on-Trent by train from £11.40 (or £7.55 with a Railcard)

Check out the latest offers from all of Britain’s train companies at **nationalrail.co.uk**, and use the Cheapest Fare Finder tool to find the best value fare for you.

**Save 1/3 on rail fares with a Disabled Persons Railcard**

A Disabled Persons Railcard allows you – and one adult travelling with you - to get 1/3 off most rail fares throughout Great Britain. You may qualify if you have a disability that makes travelling by train difficult. Visit

**disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk,** pick up a leaflet from a National Rail station, or call **0845 605 0525.**

**Passenger Assist** is a service provided by train companies to those who require assistance with any part of their train journey. Staff can help plan your journey, book tickets and make reservations; they can also assist at stations, with anything from boarding and alighting trains, changing platforms to finding your seat.

To book assistance call National Rail Enquiries on **08457 48 49 50** who will connect you to the correct train company Passenger Assistance team on your route.

**Other guides available**

NewcastleGateshead

Bath

Visit Brighton

**National Accessible Scheme**

Hotels that are rated suitable for one or more of the below have been independently assessed against demanding criteria.

**Guests with hearing loss:**

If you have a slight hearing difficulty, are deaf, wear a hearing aid, or have hearing loss.

**Visually impaired guests:**

If you have difficulty reading small print, are registered blind, have poor sight or a visual impairment.

**Older and less mobile guests:**

If you can climb a flight of stairs, but banisters or grip handles would make it easier.

**Part-time wheelchair users:**

If you have problems walking or can walk a maximum of 3 steps, or need to use a wheelchair some of the time.

**This guide is available in PDF, large print Word document and audio formats at VisitEngland.com/accessforall**

**A limited number of printed copies are available for those who cannot access the guides online. Email qad@VisitEngland.org**

**or call 0207 578 1454 to request a copy.**