ENGLAND'S LITERARY GREATS

Legendary tales for a modern-day adventure

Nottingham

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England's literary heritage has produced a wealth of authors, books and characters that are known and adored throughout the world. The celebrated works of England's literary greats are endless and over the years both the stories and their authors have attracted an abundance of visitors to the country.

From stepping into the landscapes that inspired these authors and following in the footsteps of much-loved characters, to getting immersed in the scenery that became the settings for film and TV adaptations, England's Literary Greats presents ideas and itineraries from the tales of Nottinghamshire to inspire your next visit to England.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Discover Robin Hood's Nottingham**
- **Nottingham Castle**
- **Sherwood Forest and the Major Oak**
- **Lord Byron and Newstead Abbey**
- **Wollaton Hall, the setting for Wayne Manor in The Dark Knight Rises**

Robin Hood Town Tour

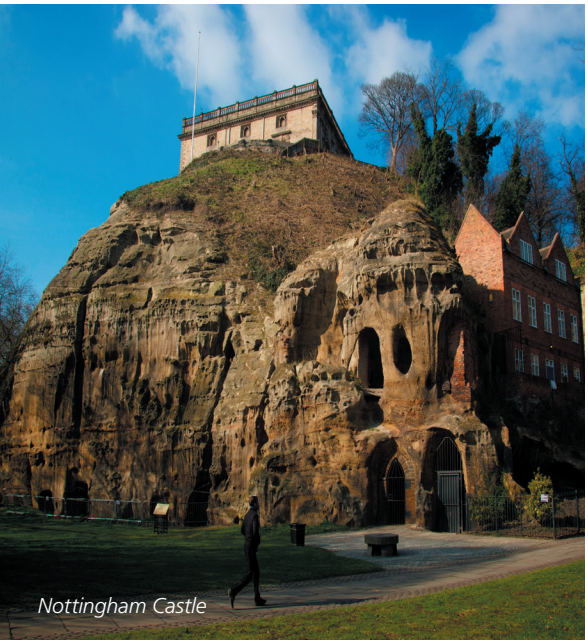
Robin Hood Statue

VISIT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Legendary folklore and modern charm collide in Nottingham and Sherwood Forest. A destination known throughout the world as the home of outlaw hero Robin Hood – a character whose well-loved tale has been retold over 800 years through medieval ballads, literature, television, film and theatre.

Explore a cosmopolitan city infused with enchanting history and surrounded by grand countryside estates. Discover scenic landscapes which inspired famous literature, from Lady Chatterley's Lover to Peter Pan, and take a look at the fascinating lives of Nottingham's rebel writers, such as Romantic poet Lord Byron.

Two-day itinerary example



Nottingham Castle

DAY ONE

ROBIN HOOD TOWN TOUR

With unrivalled knowledge and gripping storytelling, the charismatic Ezekial Bone presents an award-winning tour in the guise of Robin Hood. Explore the sites of this dynamic city, hear the tale of Robin Hood come to life, and learn about numerous significant events in British history that took place in Nottingham.

ezekialbone.com

NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

Perched on a cliff overlooking the city, the tale of Robin Hood runs deep at this historic site. Embarking on a new chapter in its 1000-year history, a major redevelopment of Nottingham Castle sees state-of-the-art, interactive exhibitions in the brand new Robin Hood Gallery. Pose for a photo by the iconic Robin Hood statue, admire views from the Castle turrets, and descend into the caves below for a real flavour of Nottingham history.

nottinghamcastle.org.uk

Note: Nottingham castle will re-open in 2020 following a £29.4m re-development. If you are planning a trip before this time, refer to the 'Other things you might like to do' section for alternative options.

DAY TWO

SHERWOOD FOREST

Take an adventure to what is perhaps the most legendary woodland in the world, Sherwood Forest, and explore the true territory of Robin Hood. Visit the famous Major Oak tree, where Robin and the Merry Men are said to have hidden out, try your hand at archery and other outdoor activities, or learn about the variety of local wildlife in this site of scientific interest.

visitsherwood.co.uk

NEWSTEAD ABBEY

One of Britain's greatest poets, the 'mad, bad and dangerous to know' Lord Byron, spent much of his childhood in the gorgeous grounds of Newstead Abbey. Wander the grand gardens and romantic ruins of this estate, take a tour of Byron's home to learn about his sensational life story, admire the resident peacocks as they stroll by, and find yourself lost in inspiration.

newsteadabbey.org.uk

Cultural Heritage Tours at Sherwood Forest

Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem pub

Literary Lions Tour

RECOMMENDED TOURS

ROBIN HOOD TOWN TOUR WITH LUNCH AT ENGLAND'S OLDEST INN

Explore Nottingham's rich history and spectacular sites on the Robin Hood Town Tour before heading to Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, which is built into the cliff on which Nottingham Castle stands. Enjoy a hearty pub lunch and pint of ale in the Trip's cosy cave dining area while Robin entertains with more compelling tales from the city's history.

ezekialbone.com

THE LEGEND OF ROBIN HOOD AND SHERWOOD FOREST

Get double the adventure on this two-day tour, which combines the Robin Hood Town Tour and further exploration of the legend with expert guides, Cultural Heritage Tours. Take in the modern culture and impressive history of Nottingham on day one before you are guided through the landscapes of the Sherwood Forest area, including a visit to Robin's legendary hideaway, on day two.

culturalheritageuk.com

LITERARY LIONS AND LACE MARKET AFTERNOON TEA

Be captivated by tales of the great writers and famous fictional characters born in Nottinghamshire on this Gold Star Guides tour. Delight in afternoon tea at the sumptuous Lace Market Hotel, which boasts elegant dining and views of several notable historic sites.

goldstarguides.com

BYRON TOUR OF NEWSTEAD WITH AFTERNOON TEA

Take a tour of the beautiful Newstead Abbey with Lord Byron himself as he lets you in on secrets from his scandalous life. The lavish lifestyle is sure to inspire guests, who can then indulge in a traditional afternoon tea in the Victorian Kitchen or Garden Room.

newsteadabbey.org.uk

TOUR GUIDES

Robin Hood Town Tours
Historical character-led walking tours of Nottingham and Sherwood Forest.

ezekialbone.com

Gold Star Tour Guides
Literary themed and heritage walking tours.

goldstarguides.com

Cultural Heritage Tours
Historical walking tours and coach tours of Sherwood Forest and its surrounding landscapes.

culturalheritageuk.com

Brackenbury's Britain

Cultural specialists providing personalised tours which could include a visit to the home of, and sites relating to Lord Byron.

brackenburys britain.co.uk

TOUR DISTANCES AND DRIVE TIMES

Nottingham – Sherwood Forest
22 miles | 50 mins

Sherwood Forest – Newstead Abbey
14 miles | 20 mins

Newstead Abbey – Nottingham
11.5 miles | 30 mins

Lord Byron tour of Newstead Abbey

DISTANCES AND JOURNEY TIMES TO NOTTINGHAM

London
127 miles | 90 mins by rail | 2 hrs 50 mins by road

Oxford
100 miles | 2 hrs 30 mins by rail | 2 hrs by road

Stratford-upon-Avon
68 miles | 2 hrs 30 mins by rail | 90 mins by road

York
85 miles | 2 hrs by rail | 1 hr 50 mins by road

Edinburgh
280 miles | 4 hrs 30 mins by rail | 5 hrs by road

FOOD AND DRINK

YE OLDE TRIP TO JERUSALEM

Built into the cliff on which Nottingham Castle sits, England's oldest inn serves traditional and modern home cooked food, with tours of the cellars and caves available by prior arrangement.

HART'S RESTAURANT

Set in an enviable position just minutes away from Nottingham Castle, Hart's offers exquisite fine dining and traditional afternoon tea, with only top-quality ingredients served.

FOREST LODGE HOTEL

An 18th century coaching inn located in the pretty village Edwinstowe, just a few minutes' walk from Sherwood Forest. Dine in the homely bar with open fires or its beautiful restaurant.

FOX AND HOUNDS

A traditional family owned English country pub serving real ales, home cooked British food and world tapas. Just a ten-minute drive from Newstead Abbey.

PLACES TO STAY

HART'S HOTEL

Contemporary style and comfort await just a few minutes from Nottingham Castle, with stunning views over the Park Estate and secluded gardens to relax in.

LACE MARKET HOTEL

A sophisticated boutique hotel in the elegant heart of Nottingham's historic Lace Market and Creative Quarter, complete with a traditional pub and tasteful fine dining restaurant.

COLWICK HALL HOTEL

A historic manor once home to the family of Lord Byron. Just a few minutes' drive from the city centre, today it offers a select number of luxurious suites and refined dining.

FOREST LODGE HOTEL

This 18th century coaching inn and family business in Edwinstowe is just minutes from Sherwood Forest and has been lovingly refurbished to offer comfort and class.

COACH PARKING

There are allocated coach drop-off and pick-up points in Nottingham city centre. Several car parks with coach spaces are available to pre-book.

robinhoodnetwork.co.uk
Email: **public.transport@nottinghamcity.gov.uk**
Tel: **+44 (0)115 876 1303**

CONTACT VISIT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/group-travel
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Tel: **+44 (0)115 962 8300**

OTHER THINGS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO DO

WOLLATON HALL

Just a few miles out of the city, this grand Elizabethan stately home features Nottingham's natural history collection, rolling parkland with roaming deer, and was featured as Wayne Manor in the 2012 Batman epic, The Dark Knight Rises.

D.H. LAWRENCE BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

Visit this quaint miner's cottage 10 miles north-west of the city to discover the landscapes and culture that inspired Lawrence's works, including his controversial novel, Lady Chatterley's Lover.

THE NATIONAL JUSTICE MUSEUM

Explore jail cells in caves, be put on trial in the grand courtroom, and learn about crime and punishment throughout the centuries at one of Britain's most haunted buildings.

CITY OF CAVES

Descend beneath the streets of Nottingham to find out why residents built over 800 caves under the city and how they were used over hundreds of years.

THE SCHOOL OF ARTISAN FOOD

Set in the grounds of one of Nottinghamshire's former ducal estates, visit The School of Artisan Food on the stunning Welbeck Estate to enjoy courses in everything from patisserie baking to cheese making.

EDEN HALL DAY SPA

Escape to this 19th century manor house for a serene getaway. Indulge in luxurious treatments, sumptuous food, and excellent spa facilities in stunning surroundings.

AQUA SANA SPA

Take a luxurious getaway in the heart of Sherwood Forest and revitalise the body and mind, with over 25 different spa treatments and the option of an overnight stay.

ALSO NEARBY

CHATSWORTH

One of England's most treasured stately homes, this impressive 500-year-old mansion was featured in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice and was the filming location for Mr Darcy's Pemberley in the 2014 film adaptation.

37 miles northwest of Nottingham

HARDWICK HALL

Established by the remarkable Bess of Hardwick, this Elizabethan house was featured as Malfoy Manor in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows and is now operated by the National Trust.

24 miles north of Nottingham

LINCOLN

Home to a traditional castle, a stunning cathedral and the Magna Carta, visitors may have spotted picturesque views of Lincoln in the film adaptation of the Da Vinci Code.

40 miles northeast of Nottingham

VISIT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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