

A trail of Robin Hood

8 Edwinstowe Church



In the heart of Sherwood Forest, Edwinstowe is known as Robin Hood's village. The Church of St Mary was built around 1175 and is reputedly where Robin Hood and Maid Marian married. In the centre of the village there's a statue of Robin proposing to Marian.

9 Major Oak



Robin and his outlaws gathered at the Major Oak to plan their ambushes. The hollow trunk of the Oak also provided the men with a place to hide from the Sheriff of Nottingham.

10 Wellow Church



St. Swithun's Church dates back to the 12th Century so is the same building that Robin would have known. Robin is said to have made his bow staves from the ancient yews in the courtyard.

7 King John's Palace



King John's Palace, Kings Clipstone, was a royal hunting lodge named after the monarch due to his frequency of visits. The site was originally a chapel built by King Edwin (the namesake of Edwinstowe). Robin and his men are said to have liberated the prisoners in the dungeon.

6 Thieves' Wood



It's said that at Thieves' Wood, Robin Hood and his men drove away a particularly nasty band of robbers who had been harassing the villagers of nearby Ravenshead.

5 Fountain Dale



Near Blidworth, Fountain Dale was once the site of a holy well. It is said that it was here that Robin Hood first met Friar Tuck. Robin Hood is also thought to have met Little John nearby.

4 Blidworth Church



Will Scarlet, Robin Hood's friend and nephew is said to be buried in the churchyard. His grave is marked by a fragment of the Old Church and several yew trees. Some believe that Blidworth was also home to Maid Marian.

3 Robin Hood Hill



Legend has it that Robin Hood concealed his stolen loot here in Oxton. Robin Hood's Pot is a barrow upon the mound known as Robin Hood Hill. Many Roman coins have been found in the barrow.

1 Newark Castle



King John died here in 1216. Legend has it that Friar Tuck poisoned King John in revenge for the murder of Maid Marian. This 12th century castle stands on the banks of the River Trent in award-winning grounds. Guided tours are available.

2 Southwell Minster



One of the pagan symbols carved into the Minster is of the 'green man' – an early interpretation of what Robin Hood might have looked like. The Norman Nave is one of the finest in England and the Chapter House carvings are renowned. Guided tours are available.



Robin Hood Tour of Newark and Sherwood

1 Newark Castle – King John died here in 1216. Legend has it that Friar Tuck poisoned King John as revenge for the murder of Maid Marian.

The Castle, which was built in the 12th Century stands proudly on the banks of the River Trent and is said to have the finest gatehouse in England. The grounds have a Green Flag Award and guided tours of the Castle are available. **Please enquire at Newark Tourist Information Centre on 01636 655765.**

Newark Tourist Information Centre is based in the Gilstrap Centre in the Castle grounds. Here you will find the Newark Castle and Conflict exhibition where you can learn about the history of the Castle and Newark's Civil War Heritage. **Open 10am–4pm (October to March) and 10am–5pm (April to September)**

Newark is a pretty market town. Its most famous period in history was during the Civil War when it was a Royalist Stronghold and withstood three sieges. There is an attractive cobbled market place surrounded by a range of shops and excellent places to eat.

You may also wish to visit the Newark Millgate Museum, housed in a Victorian Warehouse on the banks of the River Trent. The museum has fascinating displays and exhibitions, along with a cafe and gift shop. **Open every day 10.30am–4.30pm. Free admission. 01636 655730.**

Next Stop: Southwell Minster

On your way into Southwell, you will pass a village called Upton. Upton Hall is a magnificent Grade II* listed Georgian Mansion and home to the British Horological Institute, where you will find a fascinating collection of clocks and watches. **Group visits/tours are available by prior arrangement. 01636 813795.**

2 Southwell Minster – One of the Pagan symbols carved into the Minster is of the 'green man', an early interpretation of what Robin Hood might have looked like.

Southwell Minster is rich in historical interest. The Norman Nave is one of the finest in England and the Chapter House carvings are world renowned. Guided tours of the Minster are available by prior arrangement. There is a visitor centre with a shop and refectory. **Free admission. www.southwellminster.org.uk, 01636 812649. Open daily 8am–7pm (Closing at dusk in winter)**

Also in the Minster Centre is the Tourist Information Centre where you can gather a range of information for your visit. **Open 10am–4.30pm Monday to Friday, 10am–4pm Saturday and 11am–2pm Sunday. 01636 819038.**

On the A612 from Newark to Southwell is 'The Workhouse'. This National Trust property is the best surviving 19th Century workhouse, offering visitors the opportunity to explore its history and discover the stories of those who lived and worked there. **Open Wednesday to Sunday from March 3rd to October 31st 2010, 12noon–5pm. 01636 817260**

Next Stop: Oxton

3 Robin Hood's Pot – Legend has it that Robin Hood concealed his stolen loot here.

Oxton is a small village, approximately five miles from Southwell. Robin Hood's Pot is a barrow upon the mound known as Robin Hood's Hill. Many Roman coins have been found in the barrow. To the north of Oxton is Oldox Camp – one of the largest remaining Iron Age Hill Forts in Nottinghamshire.

Next Stop: Blidworth

4 Will Scarlet's grave – Blidworth Churchyard

The present church dates back to 1739, although the tower is from the 15th Century. Will Scarlet, Robin Hood's friend and nephew is said to be buried in the churchyard. His grave is marked by a fragment of the Old Church and several yew trees.

Some also believe that Blidworth was home to Maid Marian.

5 Fountain Dale, near Blidworth –

Once a site of a Holy-well, it is said that Robin Hood first met Friar Tuck here, where he tended the nearby chapel and shrine. Robin Hood is also thought to have met Little John for the first time nearby.

6 Thieves' Wood, near Blidworth –

Robin Hood and his men are said to have driven away a particularly nasty band of robbers who had been harassing the villagers of nearby Ravenshead.

Next Stop: Blidworth

7 King John's Palace – Originally a Royal Hunting Lodge

King John's Palace was a Royal Hunting Lodge, named after the monarch due to his frequency of visits. The site was originally a chapel which was built by King Edwin of Northumbria (from whom, nearby Edwinstowe was given its name). Robin Hood and his men are said to have entered the palace and liberated the prisoners from the dungeon.

Next Stop: Edwinstowe

On your way to Edwinstowe, why not stop off at Vicar Water Country Park or Sherwood Pines Forest Park?

Vicar Water Country Park is an 80 hectare park with large fishing lake, small pond for model boats and a variety of wildlife. The Green Flag Award winning park is perfect for walking, cycling, fishing and horse riding. The Sustrans National Cycle Route 6 runs through the park and there are footpath and bridleway links to Sherwood Pines Forest Park. **Open daily dawn until dusk. 01623 466340.**

Sherwood Pines Forest Park is the largest area of woodland in Sherwood Forest and is an inspiring place to get out into the countryside. There are fantastic walks, play areas and cycle routes to ensure you have a great day out. Cycle hire is available. **Open 8am–10pm (April to September), 8am–6pm (October to March) www.forestry.gov.uk, 01623 822447.**

8 St Mary's Church – It was at the door of St Mary's that Robin Hood and Maid Marian wed.

The village of Edwinstowe lies in the heart of Sherwood Forest and is known locally as Robin Hood's village.

The Church of St Mary was built around 1175 and is reputedly where Robin and Marian married. In the centre of the village you will also find a statue of Robin Hood proposing to Maid Marian.

Edwinstowe is also home to the Sherwood Forest Art and Craft Centre, just a few minutes walk from the heart of the village. Home to local artists and craftspeople, visitors can buy original and unique pieces including paintings and prints, photography, textiles, blown glass, fossils, card making, copper work, candles, ceramics and jewellery.

The Art and Craft Centre has a cafe and a quiet lounge with Wifi access. **The Centre is open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am–5pm (April to September) and Wednesday to Sunday, 10am–4pm (October to March) Some studios do open on days when the centre is closed. www.sherwoodforestartandcraftcentre.co.uk.**

Next Stop: The Major Oak, Sherwood Forest

Only a couple of miles from the centre of Edwinstowe is the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre. Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve, once a royal hunting forest is the legendary home of Robin Hood. The 450 acre site has around 900 veteran oak trees, including the ancient Major Oak.

9 The Major Oak – Legend has it that Robin Hood and his outlaws gathered at the Major Oak to plan their ambushes. The hollow trunk of the Oak also provided Robin and his men with an excellent place to hide from the Sheriff of Nottingham.

The Major Oak is estimated to weigh around 23 tonnes. Its trunk has a circumference of 10 metres and its branches spread over 28m. The famous tree is now surrounded by a fence to protect its roots and is being supported by steel poles.

A few minutes' walk from the Major Oak is the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre. At the Visitor Centre, you will find Robin Hood's Sherwood Exhibition, visitor information, shops, the Forest Table restaurant and marked trails around the reserve. **The Visitor Centre is open daily 10am–5pm (April to October) and 10am–4.30pm (November to March) 01636 823202.**

Each year, Sherwood Forest hosts the Robin Hood Festival. The 2010 family festival is August 2-8. Visitors can see jousting, falconry, open air theatre, strolling players, mediaeval craftsmen and more.

Nearby is the National Trust's Clumber Park with miles of paths and cycle routes through picturesque parkland. There is also a spectacular walled kitchen garden and woodland play park. Cycle hire is available. The park is free to enter although there is a vehicle charge of £5. **01909 544917.**

Thoresby Park Courtyard is not too far away. Set in the imaginative conversion of the Old Stables Courtyard, it now offers a diverse range of retail, cultural and arts activities, cafes, artist studios, theatre, gallery and regular events in the surrounding parkland. **The Courtyard is open daily 10.30am–5pm. 01623 822365. www.thoresby.com**

Next Stop: Wellow Church

10 Wellow Church – Robin Hood is said to have made his bowstaves from the ancient yews in the courtyard.

St. Swithun's Church dates back to the 12th Century and so it is the same building that Robin would have known, despite being restored in Victorian times.

Wellow is best-known for its Maypole which stands in the centre of the village - It is one of the few permanent maypoles left in the country. Wellow hosts its Maypole celebrations each Mayday

Not far from Wellow is Rufford Abbey Country Park. The park has a 25 acre lake and the remains of a small Cistercian Abbey.

Please check opening times with attractions prior to travelling. Newark and Sherwood District Council cannot accept responsibility for the quality of service at any attraction.



This map shows the main route of the Robin Hood Trail by road. Please check with individual attractions for detailed addresses.

Please allow a minimum of half a day to complete the route. For places to eat on the way, please download the 'Eat' Guide for details of eating places throughout the district.

Want to stay in Robin Hood Country? Download the 'Stay' Guide for details of quality accommodation. And for further attractions in the area, please download the 'See and Do' guide for listings of places to visit for all the family.

Please visit www.visitnewarkandsherwood.co.uk for further details.

The Tourist Information Centres:

Newark TIC: Gilstrap Centre, Castlegate, Newark. Tel: 01636 655765 *Open 10am-5pm*

Ollerton TIC: Sherwood Heath, Ollerton Roundabout, Ollerton. Tel: 01623 824545 *Open 10am-5pm*

Southwell TIC: The Minster Centre, Church Street, Southwell. Tel: 01636 819038 *Open 10am-5pm*