



ENGLAND'S  
LITERARY  
GREATS

# Legendary tales for a modern-day adventure

## Nottingham

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





VISIT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



Robin Hood Statue

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://newsteadabbey.org.uk)

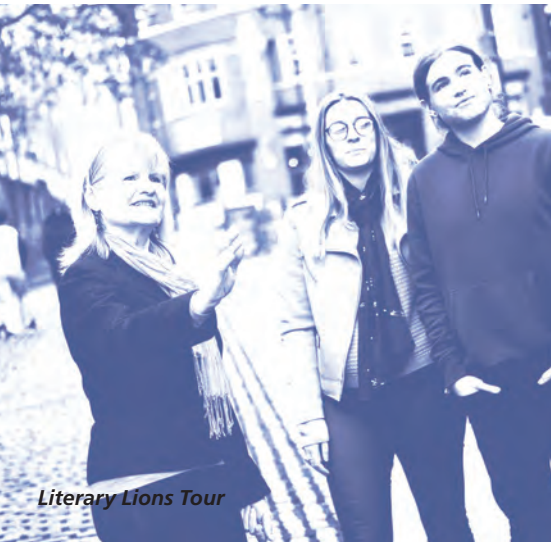


Sherwood Forest





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.

[ezekiabone.com](http://ezekiabone.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](http://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](http://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](http://newsteadabbey.org.uk)

## TOUR GUIDES

### Robin Hood Town Tours

Historical character-led walking tours of Nottingham and Sherwood Forest.

[ezekiabone.com](http://ezekiabone.com)

### Gold Star Tour Guides

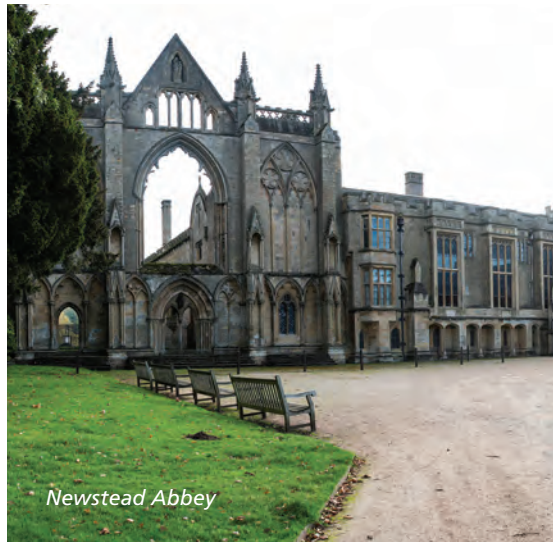
Literary themed and heritage walking tours.

[goldstarguides.com](http://goldstarguides.com)

### Cultural Heritage Tours

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

[culturalheritageuk.com](http://culturalheritageuk.com)



Newstead Abbey



Lord Byron tour of Newstead Abbey

## 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

## 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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](http://robinhoodnetwork.co.uk)

Email: [public.transport@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:public.transport@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)115 876 1303

## CONTACT VISIT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

[visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk](http://visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk)

Email: [marketing@visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk](mailto:marketing@visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)115 962 8300

## OTHER THINGS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO DO

### WOLLATON HALL

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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*