

# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S CIVIL WAR TRAIL

ING CHARLES

**IN NOTTS WE LOVE TO MAKE HISTORY** 

160,000 TROOPS. 1,000s OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LIVES TAKEN.

33 MONTHS OF TURMOIL, 1 TURNING POINT IN HISTORY

WELCOME TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S CIVIL WAR STORY

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** played a pivotal role during the tumultuous years of the English Civil War as King Charles I's Royalist army and Oliver Cromwell's Parliamentarians fought to control the country.

Charles fled London and headed north where he resided in Nottingham to recruit followers. During the 17th century, the most important routes north took travellers via crossings over the River Trent at Newark and Nottingham.

Newark's imposing castle fortress, occupied by the Royalists at the time of the Civil War, controlled the bridge and therefore held an important strategic position for the town as the crossroad between the north and south.

Both towns witnessed ferocious battles and conflict spread throughout the county. Lives were turned upside down as peaceful communities became scenes of violent clashes between opposing armies.

The Royalists' defeat led to the execution of Charles I and the exile of his son Charles II in 1651. This marked a turning point in history because the Monarchy could not govern without Parliament's consent.

## IN NOTTS WE LOVE TO SHOW YOU THE SIGHTS

ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE TRAIL TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE

Tel: 0115 8761400

tours available on request.

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**DINING OPTIONS** -

www.nottinghamcastle.org.uk

Destroyed following the Civil War

museum and art galleries. Civil War

#### THE UK'S FIRST NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE

Tel: 01636 655730 www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com Learn about this deadly conflict and discover the role Nottinghamshire played in one of the country's historic turning points.

NEWARK CASTLE

Tel: 01636 655765 www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ newarkcastle A free attraction comprising of ruins

and beautiful grounds on the banks of the River Trent.

### ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE

Tel: 01636 812649 www.archbishopspalacesouthwell.org.uk Dating back to the 1360s, with ties to many key historical events

Southwell Minster Tel: 01636 812649 www.southwellminster.org A 13th century Minster with rich architecture and naturalistic carvings.

Entry fees apply to some attractions, pre-booking may be necessary. tact individual venues for information on prices and opening times

THE CIVIL WAR began when Charles I raised the Royal Standard in Nottingham Castle. The Royalists initially held the town - but after Charles left to gather supporters, the Parliamentarians took control of the Castle. In 1643, the Royalists established themselves at nearby St Nicholas' Church and bombarded the Castle. Ye Olde Salutation Inn was used by both sides to recruit soldiers, while Weekday Cross, now home to Nottingham Contemporary, had a munitions store.

EARLY AUGUST 1642 25TH AUGUST 1642 Charles I reaches Nottingham

Charles I's second attempt to raise the Royal Standard in Nottingham. This marks the start of the Civil War 27TH - 29TH FEBRUARY 1643 First siege of Newark



22ND AUGUST 1642 Charles I raises the Royal Standard at Nottingham Castle but fails to rally support

#### ANUARY 1643 Shelford, Thurgarton, Norwell, Wiverton and Belvoir garrisoned for the King

Newark was a Royalist stronghold and as the town's population grew with the King's troops, fierce battles were fought at the Castle and other key sites. Newark came under siege from the Parliamentarians in 1643, 1644 and 1645-46 and as the fighting raged, the population suffered disease and famine. Today visitors can see landmarks associated with the conflict, as well as the National Civil War Centre.

In May 1646, Charles I left Newark for the town of Southwell disguised as a clergyman. He spent a night at the Saracen's Head - then named the King's Head - before visiting the Archbishop's Palace to strike a deal with the Scottish Commissioners who then handed him over to the Parliamentarians, effectively ending the Civil War.

www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/civil-war. -00

# THE CIVIL WAR TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER 1643

21ST JUNE 1643

**Royalist attempt** 

on Nottingham

Royalist forces establish control of St

Parliamentarians five days later

Nicholas Church before it is destroyed by

21ST MARCH 1644 Prince Rupert relieves Newark



Second siege of Newark

29TH FEBRUARY 1644 OCTOBER 1645

King Charles at Newark; guarrel with Prince Rupert

DECEMBER 1645 Third siege of Newark

#### **TRAVEL INFORMATION** NOTTINGHAM TO NEWARK BY CAR - 40 minutes via A46. Distance: 22 miles. BY TRAIN - Trains operate from Nottingham Station to Newark approximately every hour with East Midlands Trains. Journey time is approximately 25 - 35 minutes. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE BY BUS - The Fosseway Flyer, operated by Marshalls, departs from Friar Lane, Nottingham to Newark Bus Station. Buses run every hour, Mon - Sat (less frequent Sunday service). Journey time is approximately 50 minutes. and now a ducal mansion, home to a For general travel and tourism information contact Nottingham tourism centre on Tel: 08444 77 5678 NEWARK TO SOUTHWELL BY CAR - 20 minutes via A617 & A612. Distance: 10 miles. BY BUS - Mansfield Move, operated by Stagecoach, departs from Newark Bus Station to Southwell, Church Street. Buses run hourly Mon - Sat, no service on a Sunday. Journey time approximately 25 minutes. For general travel and tourism information contact Newark tourism centre on Tel: 01636 655765 Southwell to Nottingham www.kneadpubs.co.uk/our-pubs/ BY CAR - 30 minutes via A612. Distance: 15.5 miles. BY BUS - Pathfinder 100 operated by Nottingham City Transport, departs from Church Street, Southwell to King Street, Nottinghan Buses run every 30 minutes Mon - Sat and hourly on a Sunday. Journey time approximately 50 minutes. For general travel and tourism information contact the Southwell tourism centre on Tel: 01636 819038 For information on travelling to Nottinghamshire please visi www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/travel

Car parking charges may apply at each destination. There is no train station at Southwell town centre All public transport is subject to change and seasonal timetables.

### THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE TOWNS AND THE SIGNIFICANT ROLES THEY PLAYED



### 5TH MAY 1646

Charles I surrenders to the Scottish forces in Southwell He is taken to nearby Kelham Hall where he is held prisoner for several days before being held in other parts of the country and his eventual beheading in January 1649

WARD

1640

APRIL 1646 Charles I tries to keep Newark as his fortress

8TH MAY 1646 Newark surrenders by order of Charles I

# Nottingham

#### **1. Nottingham Castle**

The castle was occupied by both the Royalists and Parliamentarians during the Civil War. It held a strong strategic position on top of Castle Rock. The royal standard was initially raised here before being raised again on Standard Hill. Today there is a plague commemorating Charles I raising the standard at the castle.

#### 2. Standard Hill

It was here that the Royal Standard was raised by Charles I, marking the start of the Civil War. Today there is a plaque on Standard Hill to remember this historic event.

#### 3. St Nicholas Church

In September 1643, the church was held for five days by the Royalists, who used the church spire as a lookout point during their sieges on the castle. However, the church was destroyed during the sieges and the current church was later erected on the same site.

### 4. Ye Olde Salutation Inn

Used as a base to recruit soldiers for both sides in the war. It briefly became known as the Soldier and Citizen in the war at the order of Oliver Cromwell but was restored to its original name in 1660 upon the return of the monarchy.

#### 5. Nottingham Contemporary

The site of the Nottingham Contemporary would have been the city's commercial centre and site of the old town hall during the Civil War. At this time, the town hall was used as a store for munitions and supplies.

# Southwell

#### **19. Saracen's Head**

Named after the sword used to behead Charles I, this is the building where he stayed after he fled Newark disguised as a clergyman.

#### **20. Southwell Minster**

The Minster suffered terrible damage in the Civil War and was plundered for valuable materials. It was used as a place to store horses and military supplies.

#### 21. Archbishop's Palace

The Palace was used as a base for the Scottish Army in 1645. Charles I was taken to the Archbishop's Palace after he gave himself up to the Scots in Southwell to strike a deal with the Scottish Commissioners. However, they later handed him over to the Parliamentarians for a substantial fee.

# Newark

#### 6. Newark Castle

The castle houses the best preserved Norman Gatehouse in Britain. Under the archway, the stonework is still blackened from gunpowder used by the Parliamentarians in 1646 when attempting to destroy the castle.

#### 7. Curtain Wall, Riverside

COLLIN STREET

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CASTLE BOULEVARD

BROADMARSH BUS STATION

CANAL STREET

BUS STO 

BUS STOP

NOTTINGHAM TRAIN STATION

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Walk around the side of the Gatehouse to the riverside. Here you will see circular depressions in the wall caused by Parliamentary cannons known as Robinettes. These would have been fired to stop people unloading boats from the river.

#### 8. Millgate Otter Park

This would have been the site of many of the mills on the banks of the River Trent. The river generated power for the mills to help with production. This area was inhabited by the poorer classes and they would have lived in severe poverty, with disease and plague rampant.

#### 9. The Prince Rupert

Originally a merchant's house which provided accommodation for soldiers during the civil war. It would have been roughly 200 years old at the time of the conflict.

#### **10. Governor's House (Greggs the bakers)**

Originally a merchant's house, but used as the Governor's House in the Civil War. The timber frame on this building denoted high status and a position of privilege. Its location was perfect; close to the military headquarters and also the church, which was used not only for worship but also as a lookout point.

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NEWARK SOUTHWELL



NEWARK CASTLE

NOTTINGHAM

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#### **11. Plague on Natwest Bank**

The site of Hercules Clay's House - the Mayor of Newark in the Civil War. Clay had several premonitions of his house being destroyed and as a result, moved his family to a safer location. His house was in fact destroyed after he moved his family out - a lucky escape for the Mayor.

#### **12. The Old White Hart**

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The oldest surviving pub in Newark, it was used as a billet for soldiers in the Civil War. The building dates back to the 14th century and its colourful timber frame makes it instantly recognisable and unique in the town.

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#### 13. National Civil War Centre



The National Civil War Centre, new for 2015, houses exhibitions and tells the story of the Civil War and Newark's role within the conflict with interactive exhibits and artefacts donated by local people.

#### 14. St Mary Magdalene Church

Used as a lookout point and place of worship in the Civil War, this was a key location in the town. The hole in the church spire is said to originate from a cannon shot by Parliamentarian forces in 1644. Inside the church, you will find a plaque dedicated to Alderman Hercules Clay as well as a crypt which houses church silver. In the church yard, a monument tells the names of officers killed in various sieges of Newark.

#### **15. Charles | Coffee House**

Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I, staved here when visiting Newark. The building shows evidence of 15th and 16th century architecture in its construction.

#### 16. Cafe Amore

This building was also used as a merchant's house and a billet for soldiers during the Civil War conflicts. The building's history dates as far back as 1337.

#### 17. The Wharf

The curved stone wall in place today, follows the same line as the original town wall towards the castle. This wall would have formed a key part of Newark's inner defences in the Civil War.



#### 18. The Queen's Sconce

One of a pair of earthwork fortifications erected to defend the town's northern and southern approaches from parliamentary forces.





Before you embark on your Civil War Trail around Newark, be sure to download the Civil War Trail App. Experience the Civil War using augmented reality on your smart phone wherever you see the smart

phone icon on your map.

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