



Leicester  
your guide to  
city centre

things to look out for  
in the city centre...

This year's venue, the beautiful art-deco Athena, sits in Leicester's Cultural Quarter. Once the centre of the city's textile and shoe industry, the area is now a thriving hub for creative industries and has plenty of independent bars, restaurants and cafes. The award-winning, biennial **Bring the Paint Street Art Festival** is centred on this area – look out for some of the murals created during the inaugural 2017, and 2019 festivals.

The discovery of the grave of Richard III in 2012 followed by Leicester City Football Club's remarkable Premier League success has firmly put Leicester on the map as a great place to visit.

The last English king to die on the battlefield, archaeologists discovered a skeleton that, through DNA matching, was confirmed to be that of Richard III. The car park under which he lay undiscovered, for over 500 years, has now been transformed into the King Richard III Visitor Centre. The monarch was reburied in nearby Leicester Cathedral where his tomb takes pride of place, together with two new stained-glass windows commemorating his life.



A stone's throw from the Cathedral, the Guildhall is one of the best-preserved timber-framed halls in the country, dating back over 600 years. It started life in 1390 as a meeting place for the Guild of Corpus Christi but has since been used as a town hall, a theatre, a police station and a school. It's now a museum and event space – and a perfect oasis of medieval England right in the middle of the city.

New Walk is a unique green walkway that stretches south from the city centre. It was laid out in 1785 along the course of the Via Devana, the Roman Road from Leicester to Colchester. It is lined with elegant Georgian townhouses and leads to the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery and on to Victoria Park.

Further afield, but not to be missed, Leicester's famous Golden Mile lies about a mile north-east. This stretch of Belgrave Road is lined with a glittering array of shops, authentic restaurants, chaat houses and lassi bars. The brisk 20-minute walk from the venue will help you work up an appetite. Look out for the imposing bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the junction of Belgrave Road and Donaldson Road.

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getting around...

By bike and on foot

The Athena Conference Centre is a pleasant ten-minute walk from the railway station (see orange route on the map overleaf). There is plenty of cycle parking close to the venue.

Guided walk and ride

**Ride Leicester** and **Choose How You Move** will be leading a guided walk and ride allowing delegates to visit some of the exciting new infrastructure developments in Leicester. Electric bikes will be available on request or you can use your own bike.



**Do you know who serves Leicester's best coffee, bakes the best pie, or blends the best lassi? Why not share your local knowledge with us on Twitter?**

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**Key**

- Route to venue (foot & bike)
- Guided walk - Squares of Leicester
- Guided bike ride
- Pedestrianised street
- Cycle parking near venue
- Landmark building
- Restaurant areas



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