

The Heritage Trail – 13 miles

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The Good Cycling Code

- *Be courteous! Give way to pedestrians*
- *Remember that some people are hard of hearing or visually impaired. Don't assume they can see or hear you.*
- *Carry a bell and use it.*
- *Where there are wheelchair users and horse-riders please give way.*
- *Follow the country code. Respect other land management activities, such as farming or forestry and take litter home.*
- *Keep erosion to a minimum if off road.*
- *Be self sufficient – in remote areas carry food, repair kit and waterproofs*
- *Be safe, wear a helmet and cycle within your capabilities*

Happy Cycling!

Route: Ashby de la Zouch, Donisthorpe, Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail, Moira, Boothorpe, Blackfordby, Smisby, Ashby de la Zouch

Distance: 13 miles

Start/Finish: Ashby de la Zouch

The historic market town of Ashby de la Zouch has a wide range of specialist shops, museum, ancient castle ruins, places to eat and leisure facilities. Ashby is a unique stop over for anyone interested in exploring historic towns and local culture.

St. Helens Church – built in the 15th century by Lord Hastings. The Church contains wonderful stained glass windows and also boasts a rare finger pillory, believed to have been used to punish those misbehaving in the church.

Ashby Museum - is in the same building as the Tourist Information Centre and Library on North Street. In 2006, Ashby de la Zouch Museum was awarded a grant of £425,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). It contains a model of Ashby Castle amongst other things of interest including the new Zouch and Hastings Gallery retells the history of Ashby de la Zouch from ancient times up to the present day.

Ashby Castle (English Heritage) One of the most impressive medieval castles in the Midlands with an annual programme of events.

Royal Hotel and Bath Grounds – Ivanhoe Baths were built here in 1822. Designed in Grecian style by Robert Chaplin, they were once popular destinations for 'Picnic Parties' organised by Thomas Cook in 1849. The baths were closed in the 1880's and were sadly demolished in 1962.

Hood Park Leisure Centre – indoor sports, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, refreshments, play area.

- 1 Start at South Street car park near Ashby Castle and follow the road down South Street. At the bottom of South Street turn left into Station Road and follow this main road out of Ashby and turn right down Willesley Road (signposted Donisthopre). Take in the view of Willesley Wood on your left (also an attractive area for walks).
- 2 Continue along Ashby Road into Donisthorpe passing Oakthorpe Picnic Area on your left (take care over the speed humps) go straight over the cross roads and just after passing a Cemetery on your right turn right into Donisthorpe Woodland Park signposted Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail. Follow the Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail (Blue Arrows) until the end of the trail (Navigation Inn on your left).
Stop Off: Along this route you can stop off at the Moira Furnace or Conkers. Both are unique visitor attractions with refreshment areas and cycle parking.

Moira Furnace: An early 19th century iron-making furnace. There are displays and stories of former inhabitants. Limekilns, craftshops, tea room, boat trips, play area.

Conkers: A mix of indoor and outdoor interactive experiences. Enjoy sculpture trails, assault course and adventure playground. Take a train ride to the events area and the canopy walk. Restaurant facilities and cycle parking. Allow a minimum of 4 hours when visiting Conkers.
- 3 At the end of the Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail turn right onto the main road and continue along the former B5004 turning right at the next T-junction into Reservoir Hill (signposted Measham). After half a mile turn left into Feanedock Covert and cycle along the bridleway until you reach Boothorpe Hall on your left. Just after passing the hall, turn right where the road forks and cycle into Blackfordby. At the bottom of Boothorpe Lane turn right into Buff Lane (Butt Cottage opposite) and then turn left into Main Street.
Stop off: In Blackfordby there is a lovely beer garden at the Bluebell Arms or rest on the wooden seat outside the church which offers fine views over the village.
- 4 Cycle up Main Street, passing the village hall and Bluebell Arms on your right, Climb the hill; passing the Black Lion pub on your right and continue ahead along Heath Lane. When you reach the next junction, turn right onto the A511 (signposted Ashby) and next left down another Heath Lane (signposted Calke – Brown and White sign).
- 5 Continue along Heath Lane and turn right for Smisby Village down Forties Lane. Turning left at the church (signposted Ashby) you will then pass the Smisby Arms which will be on your left.
Stop off: Bluebell Arboretum which is half a mile from Smisby village. The 15th century village church which inspired Sir Walter Scott has some fine panelling which comes from Ashby Castle. The ancient village lock-up is another feature of this quaint village.
- 6 Turn right at the next junction onto former B5006 signposted Ashby. Continue to Ashby down Smisby Road, The Callis, Derby Road, Bath Street and left into South Street and back to where you started. Don't forget to explore the wonderful delights of Ashby de la Zouch.



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