

12 FREE things to do in North West Leicestershire

1 Agatha Christie Exhibition, Snibston - until 10th July 2011
An extensive private collection of Agatha Christie memorabilia comprising of photographs, posters, theatre programmes relating to this internationally famous crime writer. In the Community Gallery which is FREE entry. Entry to Fashion Gallery is FREE for two hours before closing time on WEDNESDAYS only.

2 Himalaya Centre Twycross Zoo - all year round
A spacious 300 seat all-day restaurant with views overlooking the Snow Leopard exhibit. Visitors can enjoy great value traditional and global cuisine watching these fascinating cats. Café Tibet serves speciality coffee, tea and snacks.

3 Sence Valley Forest Park, Ibstock - all year round
Walk or cycle around what was once an open cast mine transformed now into a beautiful 460 acre Country Park. Lakes, wildlife and birds in abundance and plenty of picnic tables. Trails suitable for all abilities. Dog friendly. Disabled parking, toilets available.

4 Donington le Heath Manor House, Nr Coalville - all year round
A delightful medieval house dating back to 1280 set within 17th century style gardens filled with flowers, herbs, an orchard and a maze. Exhibitions and displays all year round. Stairs to first floor unsuitable for visitors with mobility issues but a photographic tour and audio guides are available. Tea shop on site.

5 Moira Furnace Canal Walk, Moira - all year round
Walk or cycle along the re-watered stretch of the Ashby Canal. FREE parking available at Moira Furnace. Childrens' play area, craft shops, café and toilets on site.

6 Conkers Circuit, Moira - all year round
A circular route ideal for all users and ages including walkers, cyclists and, in part, horse riders, includes selected loops for people wanting a shorter stroll. Attractions along the way include Conkers Waterside and Discovery, Sarah's Wood, the National Forest Youth Hostel and Moira Furnace. The Circuit joins the Sustrans National Cycle Network and links to the Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail running to the village of Measham.

7 Staunton Harold Estate - all year round
Walk around this beautiful area of North West Leicestershire, (Free guide available from Ashby Tourist Information Centre and the Ferrers Centre at Staunton Harold.) FREE Parking. Ferrers Centre for Arts and Crafts, tearooms. National Trust Church (entry fee applicable).

8 North West Leicestershire Museums
North West Leicestershire has a diverse selection of award winning museums many of which have FREE entry. For further details and opening times contact Ashby Tourist Information Centre.

9 Cloud Trail, Worthington - all year round
Worthington to Melbourne Railway Section. Access points suitable for cycles, horse riders, pushchairs and pushed wheelchairs. FREE Parking at Worthington. For a FREE leaflet contact Ashby Tourist Information Centre, details below.

10 Breedon Church - all year round
A notable landmark standing on the summit of a 55 metre limestone knoll once the site of an Iron Age Fort and Saxon Priory. The Church contains elaborate 16th Century memorials and unique 8th Century Saxon carvings. The Saxon carvings also include 'The Breedon Angel' (and its recent replica), probably the oldest in Europe. Prior arrangements have to be made to see the original. FREE Parking and entry to Church. Also in Breedon village is Breedon Roundhouse and Breedon Priory Shopping Complex including a garden centre, craft shops and tearoom.

11 Moira Furnace Canal Walk, Moira - Saturday 11th June 2011
A new 'Charity Fun Dog Show'. The show starts at 12 noon until 2pm. Free to spectate. Bring your picnic blankets and chairs. More information at www.glebevonwood.com under 'Events'.

12 Hicks Lodge National Forest Cycle Centre, Moira, nr Ashby-de-la-Zouch - all year round
Pump up those tyres and saddle up! The new National Forest Cycle Centre will be open for business on Wednesday 1 June. The trails are perfect for family and novice cycling, with plenty of opportunities for youngsters to hone their skills. There is also a new café and the bike hire and repair shop. The £1.5 million project features a stunning glass and timber building that uses the latest environmentally-friendly technology. More information at www.visitnationalforest.co.uk