

Heritage Stroll & Coffee Shop Hop to the University of Leicester

Start location: Leicester Museum & Art Gallery, 53 New Walk, Leicester, LE1 7EA

Finish location: University of Leicester Library, main campus off University Road, LE1 7RH.

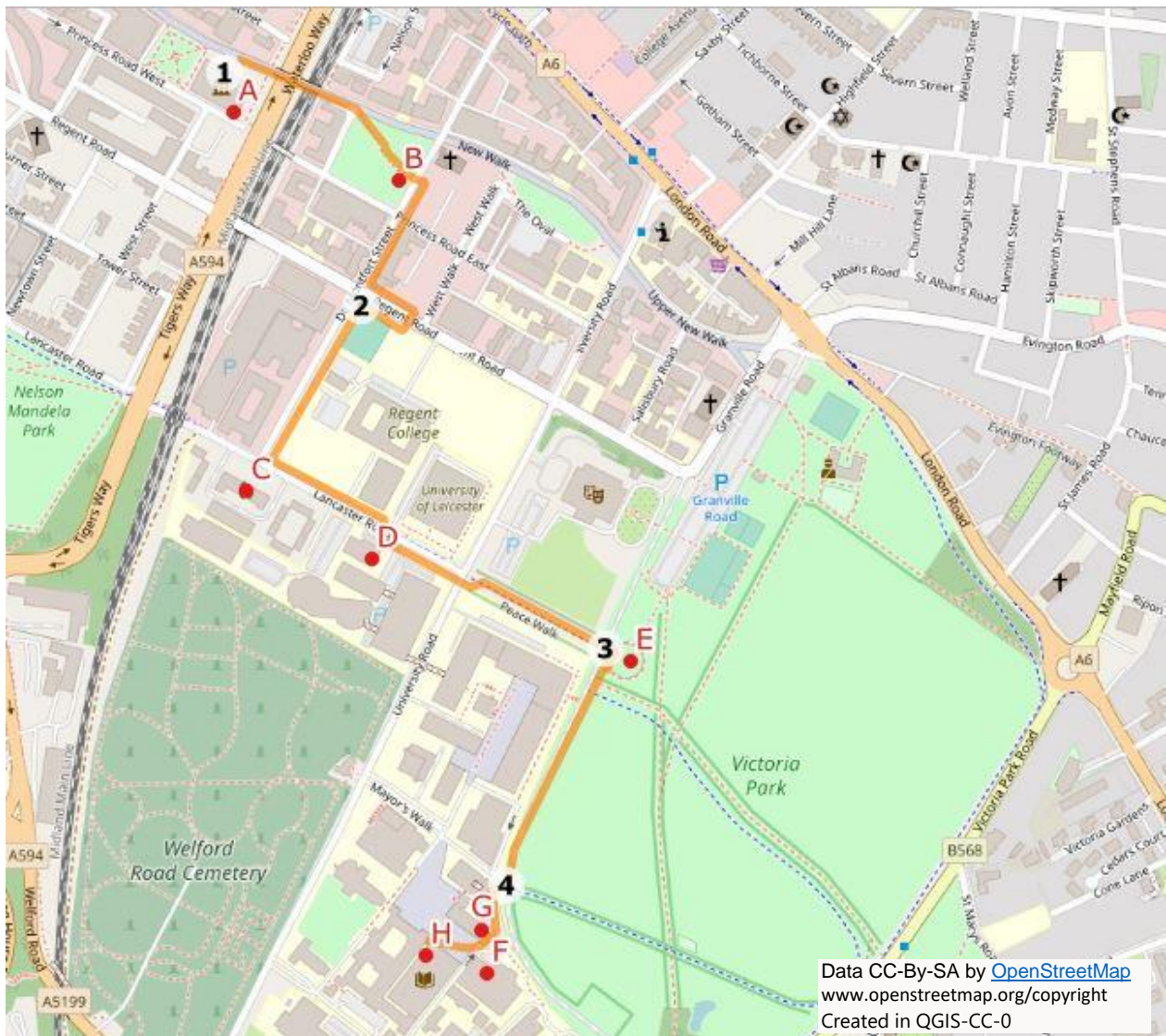
Time taken: 45 minutes including information stops (steady, pace). Allow extra time for cafe stops.

Distance: 1 miles, 1.6 km

Linear route.

Accessible walk.

Description: A unique opportunity to knit together three of Leicester's notable arts, culture and heritage exhibition and collection centres, all with their own coffee shops, and two with their own gift shops. Follow this trail which takes you from Leicester Museum and Art Gallery (LMAG), via the Attenborough Arts Centre to the Archives and Special Collections of the University of Leicester Library.



- Main route
- Alternative route
- 1 Stage / waypoint
- Point of interest

More routes in Leicester at: www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/walks



Useful information:

Toilets are available in the Leicester Museum & Art Gallery, Attenborough Arts Centre and the David Wilson Library. Check websites for opening hours.

[Leicester Museum & Art Gallery](#)

[Attenborough Arts Centre](#)

[David Wilson Library](#)

Travel

Start and finish locations are close to public transport hubs. To help plan your journey by public transport, on foot, by bike or by car visit the [Choose How You Move journey planner](#).

Safety tips:

- Take care crossing roads. Use pedestrian crossings where present, especially at main junctions.
- Watch for cyclists, as this route includes some shared space and crosses cycle lanes. Cycling is prohibited on New Walk, but please be aware that you may still encounter some there.
- The footway may be uneven or narrow in places.

Route directions:

Walk starts: Leicester Museum & Art Gallery (LMAG), 53 New Walk, Leicester, LE1 7EA

1. Starting at LMAG, which opened in 1849, see the museum **[A]** at which a young David Attenborough would present the fossils he had found in rural Leicestershire for identification, and where he was enchanted by stuffed versions of many of the (live) animals he would go on to spend a lifetime filming. Walk up the hill to take in a short stretch of the kilometre-long New Walk, which has been a haven for pedestrians since 1785.

Soon, you'll reach a green space to your right - this is De Montfort Square. Walk across it to the statue **[B]** of Arnesby's Robert Hall (1764 - 1831). A Baptist minister, Hall was an outspoken advocate of freedom, whether freedom of the press, freedom from corruption, or the freedoms associated with human rights. From the statue, cross De Montfort Street with care then turn right, crossing Princess Road East and Regent Road (for safe crossing, use the pedestrian crossing to the left, opposite WQE College, then resume).

2. Continue to amble gently downhill on De Montfort Street to the end where **[C]** the Fire Station by local architects A.E. & T. Sawday, comes into view. Opened on Lancaster Road in 1927, the Central Fire Station was one of the most advanced Fire Stations in the country, and in 2010 was comprehensively refurbished to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

From the Fire Station, turn left to walk up Lancaster Road to find Attenborough Arts **[D]** on your right. Cross the cycle lane and road with care, or use the crossing a little further on at the top of Lancaster Road. After free entrance to an exhibition or two, the coffee shop and a perusal of local artists' wares in the gift shop, continue heading up Lancaster Road, across University Road and through the iron park gates to Peace Walk, with Edwin Lutyens' imposing Arch of Remembrance **[E]** on the near horizon.

The Arch of Remembrance was built as a memorial to those who died during the First World War. The architect, Lutyens, was appointed by the Imperial War Graves Commission and involved in the design of other memorials, including The Cenotaph in Whitehall, London. He also designed the gates in Victoria Park - a memorial dedicated to Lady Kate North, a prominent figure in Leicester's voluntary war effort.

3. At the top of Peace Walk, turn right along the western flank of Victoria Park which, until 1883, was the city's race course. As you progress, the tall buildings of the University campus come into view. Beyond the grey concrete of the Charles Wilson building and the Attenborough Tower (resembling a cheese grater), look further ahead to the modern red-brick and glass of the Engineering Building **[F]**. Designed by the firm Stirling and Gowan, the building is an international icon, and has recently been conserved.
4. At the bollards on the right, leave Victoria Park and follow the road left onto the University of Leicester campus. Ahead to the left is the Engineering Building and to the right is the slate roof and beige brickwork of the Attenboroughs' childhood home, College House **[G]**.

Follow the road past College House and bear right towards the steps and ramp which lead up to the sleek glass front of the David Wilson Library **[H]**. The café is on the left as you enter the Library, while Archives and Special Collections is in the basement.

You are welcome to visit Archives and Special Collections at any time, but will need to make an appointment if there are specific items from the collections you want to see.

The walk finishes here.

Acknowledgements: Route created by staff at the University of Leicester.