

Suggested itineraries

Here is a selection of ideas for great days out in The National Forest & Beyond area - guaranteed to entertain all age groups and interests.

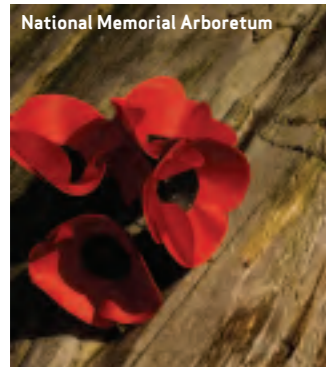
If you would like any help putting together a tailor-made itinerary for your group or advice on venues suitable, contact the Tourist Information Centres. See page 28.

Echoes of the past

Calke Abbey is a truly unique country house preserved by The National Trust to reflect the 20th century decline that many grand houses faced.

There is a large restaurant at Calke Abbey but if you prefer an additional stop-off for lunch, why not try **Barton Marina**, just off the A38.

National Memorial Arboretum is a peaceful place which contains more than 100 woodland gardens and sculptures including the award-winning Armed Forces Memorial.



National Memorial Arboretum

Railway buffs

The **Battlefield Line Railway** runs from Shackerstone via Market Bosworth to Shenton and is the last remaining part of the former Ashby & Nuneaton joint railway.

Stop for a bite of lunch at nearby **Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre** and Country Park.

Next stop is the award-winning heritage railway, **The Great Central**, where you can take a train ride, explore the stations and get up close to the engines.



Great Central Railway

Ingenuity of the industrial past

Learn about the history of brewing at **Marston's Brewery** and the **National Brewery Centre** in Burton upon Trent.

Sharpe's Pottery Museum in Swadlincote traces the history and importance of the pottery industry to this area. Enjoy home-made cakes in the tea-room.

Snibston's colliery tours reveal mining memories. It also houses the largest fashion gallery outside London reflecting the importance of Leicestershire's textile industry.



Model of Burton upon Trent at the National Brewery Centre

Grand houses and castle ruins

Built in 1745, **Catton Hall** has a fascinating history and collection of pictures, furniture and memorabilia.

Byrkley Garden Centre is set within the original walls of a vast kitchen garden from **Byrkley Lodge**. Its large restaurant provides a welcome stop.

The beautiful 11th Century **Tutbury Castle** has stunning views over the Dove Valley and was the former prison for Mary Queen of Scots.



Catton Hall

Environment, Woods & Wildlife

Themed around life in a British woodland, **Conkers** offers miles of trails, hands-on experiences, the brilliant Barefoot Walk and ranger activities.

Just off the A42, **Appleby Inn** is a handy lunch-stop en-route to Twycross and caters for small and large groups.

Twycross Zoo cares for around 1,000 animals, mainly rare and endangered species. Watch the snow leopards from the **Himalaya Visitor Centre**.



Twycross Zoo

Active & Leisurely

Get to the heart of the Forest learning ancient woodland crafts with **Greenwood Days** or survival skills with **Woodland Ways**. A brilliant experience!

Enjoy lunch in the Alpine Restaurant at **Swadlincote Ski & Snowboard Centre** overlooking the slope. You'll definitely be tempted to have a go on the toboggan run!

Archery, birds of prey displays, cycle hire, crazy golf and strolling through the sensory garden and woodland are some of the many activities at **Rosliston Forestry Centre**.

Groups visiting Rosliston Forestry Centre can stay on site in the fully accessible timber lodges nestling within the woodland.

Blooming Lovely

Stroll through the formal gardens at **Melbourne Hall**, once home to Victorian Prime Minister, William Lamb.

Soak in the atmosphere of the **John Thompson Inn**, a traditional brewery and pub, with extensive gardens set in idyllic countryside besides the banks of the River Trent.

With expert gardeners on hand to help, **Planters at Bretby**, can provide ideas for seasoned gardeners or those just looking for inspiration.



Melbourne Hall

Wet Weather Days

Book on to one of the fascinating colliery tours led by former miners who once worked down the pit - now the site of award-winning attraction **Snibston**.

Based at the 13th century Donington le Heath Manor House, the **Classics Tea Room** offers great food in a historic setting.

See the world's largest collection of Formula 1 racing cars at **Donington Grand Prix Collection** with over 120 cars, depicting motor sport history from the early 1900s to the present day.

Other wet-weather options: Calke Abbey, Conkers, National Brewery Museum and Marston's Brewery.