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Be a responsible visitor to the National Forest

- To get the most out of your visit, please follow some simple rules:
Respect other people
Protect the natural environment
Enjoy the outdoors

Exploring the National Forest

Located right in the heart of the country, the National Forest embraces 200 square miles of the Midlands. It spans parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire, and aims to link the two ancient forests of Charnwood and Needwood.

After centuries of coal mining and clay extraction, the closure of the pits in the 1980s left a scarred and derelict landscape. Now, more than a quarter of a century later, millions of trees have been planted, breathing life into the landscape and its communities – turning a landscape from black to green.



To find out more about the National Forest and how you can get involved, visit: nationalforest.org

- @NatForestCo
@the.national.forest
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The National Forest Company
Charity No. 1166563
National Forest Company, Enterprise Glade, Bath Yard, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 6BA



Medium
8 miles
(13km)

Silver circuit

A circular walk created to mark 25 years of the National Forest, taking in Needwood forest and the Trent valley.



Walking in the National Forest



There are hundreds of miles of paths and trails to explore in the National Forest, and plenty of places accessible for all ages and abilities. Grab your walking boots, your trainers or your dog and head out into the woods for a walk or a run, or try your hand at orienteering or geocaching.

Follow gentle trails through vibrant young woodlands and nature-rich ancient forests. Discover more about the area's heritage or just let a canal towpath take you to the nearest pub lunch.



Walking highlights



Barton Marina

Situated on the Trent and Mersey canal, the Marina is home to over 300 narrow boats. Woodland covers much of the 90 acre site, intersected by a network of paths and bridges. There are plenty of walks to explore and a variety of wildlife to watch and enjoy. Barton Marina hosts a range of retail shops, restaurants, a pub and a cinema.

bartonmarina.co.uk

Needwood Forest

An area of ancient forest characterised by areas of parkland and wood pasture. Parkland is a planned landscape and consists of grasslands with scattered trees. Wood pasture is the result of a grazing regime where a number of trees have been allowed to reach maturity. Many of the trees are very old 'veterans' and support a wide range of other species within their trunks, branches and canopy. The Dunstall estate, a 400 hectare agricultural and residential estate within Needwood Forest, showcases this landscape.



Tatenhill Lock

Tatenhill Lock is one of 76 locks on the 93-mile Trent and Mersey Canal. The canal was designed by James Brindley and completed in 1777 to carry industrial goods. It was the first long distance canal and connects the Bridgewater Canal at Preston Brook with the Trent Navigation at Shardlow. Once a busy trade route, the canal today is a popular leisure route for boaters and walkers.

Off route highlight

Sinai Park House is an historic site with commanding views over the Trent valley. With its own holy spring, it has been a Roman outpost, a medieval manor with a hilltop moat; a 14th-century monastery and a hunting lodge. Sold as a Co-op farm in 1905, it is now a family home and undergoing restoration. It occupies one end of the Tatenhill ridge, with Battlestead Hill at the other end, reputed to be the site of a bloody battle between the Angles and Danes.





Silver circuit

 **Medium length**

Distance: 8 miles (13km)
Time: Allow 3.5 hours.
Path type: Unsurfaced paths, tracks, farmland and woodland trails. Stiles. Sturdy footwear recommended.
Use with map OS Explorer 245 The National Forest
Start at: Barton Marina, Lichfield Road, Barton-under-Needwood, DE13 8DZ.
OS Grid Ref: SK197181
Latitude: 52.760299
Longitude: -1.7084062
what3words: /// introduce.remodels.trades

Map Key

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------|
|  | Trail route |  | Point of interest |
|  | Footpath |  | Parking |
|  | Bridleway |  | Bus stop |
|  | Permissive path |  | Pub |
|  | Road |  | Café |
|  | Woodlands |  | Shop |
|  | Rivers and ponds |  | Public toilets |
|  | Buildings |  | Cinema |
|  | Waypoint |  | Sports ground |

1 Start in the car park next to the Waterfront pub at Barton Marina. Follow Marina Walk between the canal basin and the pub, keeping the shops and cafes on your right. Turn right through the archway and cross the road. Walk along across a second car park and pick up the footpath to cross the bridge ahead of you. Follow the path across the bridge, passing several sports fields on your right, to reach Thomas Russell Junior School.

2 Pass the school and then turn right, walking round the village pond to reach an access road. Turn left and, with the pond on your left, walk for 130m to reach the road. Turn right along Effinch Road and continue on to the mini roundabout junction with Main Street. The Three Horseshoes pub is on your right.

3 Turn left along Main Street and follow it for 300m. At the Co-op, turn right along Crowberry Lane. Head straight ahead past the village hall and follow the footpath through three gates/stiles across fields forming part of the **Dunstall estate**, until you reach a large, solitary fingerpost.

4 From the finger post, follow the bridleway straight ahead and uphill, with a hedged plantation on your left, until you reach a wooden gate. Go through the small wood to a second gate and then head across an open field, under overhead lines. *There is a lovely view of Dunstall church and hall away to your right.* Head for an obvious gap in the hedge and descend to a wooden gate to a track.

5 Cross the access road to Smiths Hill Cottages and go through a metal gate. Follow the track ahead for 225m until you meet a surfaced track, marked by a veteran oak tree. Turn right down the track (keeping the fence on your left) over a cattle grid, past Old Hall to reach its drive. Cross the drive and go over a stile. Head across the field, keeping to the right of a fenced ditch, and head for a gate at the top right hand corner of the field. Go through the gate and over a stile to reach the road.

6 Cross the road on the sharp bend and go over the stile next to a metal gate. Follow the footpath, following the hedge on your right, across the fields. Shortly after a small stile, follow the hedge round to the right and gently down to cross two stiles over a stream.

7 After crossing the second stile, head diagonally up the field past four oak trees, bearing to the right of Highlands Park Farm, which is prominent on the skyline. As you reach the corner of the field, exit through the double gate and turn left on the track and go between the farm buildings.

8 Just before the last barn, and before you reach the drive, turn right to reach another double gate. Walk diagonally through the yard to the metal gate. Go across the field beyond, heading towards the cottage with a balcony in the bottom right-hand corner of the field, passing a small pond on your right. Continue on to cross a stile ahead of you. Follow the alley to the right of the cottage, through a gate to reach the road.

9 Turn left and then immediately right down Cuckoo Cage Lane. Follow the lane to "Rockets Oak" house and turn right down the green lane. Follow the green lane through two metal gates to an open field. Head across a field to a small metal gate in the hedge. Continue along the bridleway alongside the hedge on your left, through a further metal gate and descend steeply into Tatenhill to a gate opposite the Old Rectory.

10 Turn left along Main Street and, after about 300m, you will reach a small stone well and bench on your right. Turn right here and follow the **National Forest Way** on the grassy footpath uphill (**NOT** the tarmac drive!) to a kissing gate. Go through the gate and follow the path straight ahead, keeping to the left of the overhead line.

11 Bear right through a large metal gate with a wooden gate attached on its left. Continue ahead on the low path, leaving the **National Forest Way** as it bears left up to **Battlestead Hill**, with the stream on your right. Keep ahead until you rejoin the **National Forest Way**, just before you reach a wooden gate. Go through the gate and follow the path to reach the road by a colourful sandstone rock face.

12 Cross Tatenhill Lane at Branston Road and follow the footpath on the other side, keeping the stream on your right. Cross a bridge, then turn left. Go through a gate and follow the clear wide path past the fishing lakes for about 1.2km until you reach Tatenhill Lock on the Trent & Mersey Canal.

13 Turn right, now leaving the **National Forest Way**, and follow the towpath alongside the canal for 1.1km until you reach Bridge 36 over the canal. Cross over the bridge and continue along the towpath on the other side, passing under two roads, until you reach the next canal Bridge 38 at Barton Turn. Leave the canal here by turning right over the bridge.

14 Follow the road for 300m before turning left into Barton Marina. Go down the drive to the Waterfront pub in front of you, and the end of the walk.

This walk was created in 2016 to celebrate 25 years of the National Forest. The National Forest contains over 400 woodlands new and old; wonderful places on the doorsteps of those who live here. The Forest continues to develop, and transforms lives and the landscape where people live, work and visit.
Find out more: nationalforest.org