



displays to entertain all ages.)

2. Walk down Upper Long Leys Road, looking out for a sight of 18th Century Ellis windmill on your right. When you reach busy Yarborough Road, turn left and cross the pedestrian crossing to reach Alderman's Walk, opposite. Go down this footpath, with the vast open stretch of West Common on your right. Cross Saxilby Road and continue along the footpath on the other side, next to Carholme Golf Course.

3. You will emerge on the Fossdyke. Turn right and walk along the path, admiring the bright canal boats. After about a mile you will pass a favourite rest stop: the whitewashed Pye Wipe Inn. After the Inn, and as you leave the city further and further behind, the Fossdyke path becomes steadily more tranquil and picturesque, with willows weeping over and wild flowers at your feet.

4. The next built up area you'll reach is the Burton Water Marina, with its ranks of blue and white boats. Look out for a sign on the right, declaring 'boaters welcome' and indicating the way to the family-orientated Woodcocks Pub, with its big adventure playground.

5. Continue past the pub (northeast) to reach a road. Turn right to reach a roundabout, and then left to reach a bigger roundabout on the A57. Cross over, and walk down peaceful Fen Lane, which is directly opposite. There are pretty lakes surrounded by silver birch trees to divert you along this stretch. Turn right along a bridleway above the bank of the attractive, tree-lined Catchment Drain waterway, enjoying views across to Lincoln Cathedral.

6. Cross the A57 and continue to follow the water's edge, under the A46 bridge until it meets the Fossdyke. Turn left here and pass the golf course again. Follow the Fossdyke path all the way into Lincoln. The water widens at Brayford Pool, a marina with waterfront cafes, and a pleasant place to enjoy a latte and rest your feet.

7. Continue to follow the water until you emerge on High Street. Turn left, walk underneath the medieval Stonebow, and continue uphill. The aptly named 'Steep Hill' leads the way to the entrance to the Cathedral,

Walking in Lincolnshire

... follow a route each month to enjoy the beauty of our countryside.

The historical sites of Lincoln and the Fossdyke

Words and Photographs: Sarah Stirling

This is a must-do walk for locals and visitors to Lincoln alike, which samples the highlights of the city's history and beauty. You'll start at Lincoln Castle, end at the Cathedral and enjoy a long, leisurely stroll through picturesque countryside around the ancient Fossdyke Navigation canal in between.

DIRECTIONS

1. Walk north from the car park, with the towering Lincoln Castle walls on your left. Following the sign for the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, continue along Burton Road to reach a junction with Upper Long Leys Road. (The museum lies a few steps further along Burton Road and offers social history

castle and tourist information centre. Continue uphill along Bailgate. Turn left onto Westgate and follow the castle wall back to the car.

POINTS OF INTEREST

The Fossdyke is thought to be the oldest canal in England: cut by the Romans in AD 120. The canal links the Rivers Witham and Trent and is 11 miles in length. It was reputedly used by the Normans to carry stone to build the Cathedral.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral is 900 years old, and reveals stunning architecture inside and out. Don't miss the 13th Century Angel Choir, the Cloisters and the Chapter House. There are guided tours and regular exhibitions. Concerts of orchestral, choral or organ music are performed most weekends. Tel: (01522) 544544.

LINCOLN CASTLE

A magnificent Norman castle, which was founded by William the Conqueror in 1068. Inside there are law courts and a Victorian prison, containing waxworks showing the conditions in which prisoners were kept. The Lincoln Magna Carter is also on show, and there is a gift shop and café. Tel: (01522) 511068.



Distance: 8 miles
 Typical time: 3-4 hours
 OS map: Explorer 272 (Lincoln); Landranger 121 (Lincoln & Newark on Trent)
 Start and finish: Westgate car park (pay and display).
 Getting there: Lincoln's nearest motorway is the M180, J4. Lincoln Central Railway Station is on St Mary's Street, twenty minutes walk from Lincoln Cathedral. There is also a bus station a few yards away on Melville Street.
 Refreshments: There are plenty of coffee shops and lunch options in Lincoln centre. The Pye Wipe Inn or the Woodcock, both situated along the Fossdyke, offer picturesque rest stops. On the last leg, enjoy a latte on Brayford Pool waterfront before the climb up Steep Hill, or try a cone of freshly-made ice cream from the famous Ice Cream Parlour on Bailgate.

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