

# Midlands Castles

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**18th - 19th June 2022**

A weekend break of around 50 miles a day, taking in a handful of castles to the east of Birmingham, starting and finishing in the city centre



## Itinerary

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### **Saturday - Birmingham to Market Bosworth**

Meet at New Street station at 09:30. Head out of Birmingham along well-surfaced canal towpaths to the outskirts of Birmingham, then on to Tamworth for lunch with an optional

look inside the castle (entry fee £10). Then head to Ashby de la Zouch for a look around the ruins, before heading on to Bosworth Hall Hotel where we will stay overnight and have dinner. Morning and afternoon coffee stops if time allows. Aim to be at the accommodation by 5pm. Tamworth Castle: <https://www.tamworthcastle.co.uk/> Ashby de la Zouch castle: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/ashby-de-la-zouch-castle/> Bosworth Hall hotel: <https://www.britanniahotels.com/hotels/bosworth-hall-hotel-spa/history>

- Route distance: 72 km
- Route altitude gain: 600 m
- Accommodation: Hotel

### Sunday - Market Bosworth to Birmingham

Head south west to Astley to look around the castle site, before heading on to Kenilworth. We will have lunch there, with an optional look inside the castle (entry fee £12.60) before heading back to Birmingham. The route from the edge of the city will be largely traffic free, taking advantage of the Cole Valley cycle route and canal towpaths. Morning and afternoon coffee stops if time allows. Aim to be back at New Street by 6pm at the latest.

Note: It is likely we will not be able to enter Astley castle: there are open days throughout the year, but these are not published yet. However, there are trails around it so we will be able to look at the exterior and explore the site.

Astley Castle: <https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news-and-events/visiting-landmarks/visiting-astley-castle/>

Kenilworth Castle: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenilworth-castle/>

- Route distance: 85 km
- Route altitude gain: 800 m
- Accommodation: N/A
- Meals: (B)



# Dates and Prices

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## Cost

- Land only price: £75.0

## Payment Schedule

A deposit of £10 per person is required as soon as possible once the Tour Leader has processed your Booking Form (see below), with the final balance of £65 per person to be paid by 14th June 2022

Price includes:

- 1 night's bed and breakfast. Note this is for 1 person in a shared room. Single rooms are available for an additional £45 each
- Secure overnight bike storage
- Bikexplore costs

Price does not include:

- Travel to and from Birmingham New Street
- Single room occupancy supplement (£45)
- Any food or meals with the exception of Sunday's breakfast
- Entry to Tamworth or Kenilworth Castles (Ashby and Astley are free)
- Any other personal expenses
- Travel Insurance

## Cancellations

Should you be forced to cancel your booking for any reason you must notify us in writing. Cancellation charges are as follows:

Written Notice Received: Cancellation Charge:

- 16th June 2022: £10.0

# Holiday Information

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## Accommodation

- Bosworth Hall Hotel

## Rooms

- Twin rooms unless you pay the additional £45 supplement, in which case single rooms. Both are subject to availability

## The nature of the holiday

- 2 day weekend break

## Rest Day

- None

## Roads used

- Canals and cycle paths through Birmingham. Nearly all the rest are quiet country roads, though there are one or two short stretches on 'A' roads

## Route Sheets

- Will be provided in the week before the tour

## Group information

- Up to 10 people

## Weather and Clothing

- Hopefully sunny! Suggest cycling top and shorts, with a lightweigh waterproof

## Cycles / Equipement

- Any sort of bike, though ideally a touring bike. No suspension required, suggest slick tyres (i.e. NOT heavily treaded mountain bike tyres).  
One or two spare intertubes. The leader will carry basic general tools and a basic 1st aid kit, so anything on top of those specific to you and your bike.

## Maps

- Links to the online maps will be provided in the week before the tour, from where GPX files can be downloaded