

# South Midlands Heritage

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**Tour Leader: John Upton**

**Saturday 17th to Monday 19th May 2025**

A 3-day fixed-base tour of 40-50 miles a day based in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Each day we will stop off at a different English Heritage attraction, either at or around lunchtime. We'll be on quiet country roads as much as possible, enjoying the rolling countryside of Worcestershire and Warwickshire.

## Itinerary

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### **Saturday 17th May 2025 The Tithe Barn**

A loop to the south west of Bromsgrove to just beyond Worcester

- Route distance: 80.0km
- Route altitude gain: 800m
- Accommodation: Bromsgrove Travelodge
- Meals: Self-Catering

### **Sunday 18th May 2025 Kennilworth Castle**

A loop to the east, through countryside and quaint villages

- Route distance: 82.0km
- Route altitude gain: 780m
- Accommodation: Bromsgrove Travelodge
- Meals: Self-Catering

### **Monday 19th May 2025 Witney Court**

A loop to the west through more beautiful countryside

- Route distance: 66.0km
- Route altitude gain: 860m
- Accommodation: n/a
- Meals: Self-Catering

# Dates and Prices

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## Cost

- Land only price: £130

## Payment Schedule

A deposit of £50 per person is required as soon as possible once the Tour Organiser has confirmed your booking, with the final balance to be paid by 13-Apr-2024

Price includes:

- Admissoin to attraction: Kennilworth Castle and Witney Court. The Tithe Barn is free.
- 2 nights' (Saturday and Sunday) accomodation
- Inside overnight bike storage

Price does not include:

- Any meals
- Any travel expenses
- Travel Insurance
- Single room supplement - £60

## Cancellations

Written Notice Received	Cancellation Charge
13-Apr-2025	£50 (deposit)
14-Ap-2025 to departure	Full price of tour

The price of £130 is based on a minimum number of 5 people taking part in the holiday. If there are insufficient bookings by Sunday 13th April 2025, we will contact you and return all monies paid.

# Holiday Information

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## Accomodation

- Bromsgrove Travelodge. No frills, but the beds are comfy!

## Rooms

- All the rooms I have booked are twins. If you pay the supplement, you will get a twin to yourself, though I will swap it to a double if I can.

## Nature of the holiday

- A three day long weekend break which is fixed-base, i.e. no need to carry luggage each day.
- Most of each day will be spent cycling. People will be expected to ride at their own pace and often in loose groups, at around 10-12 mph on the flat, slower up hills, usually meeting up at cafes for lunch and refreshment breaks.
- It is expected that you may want to stop for photographs, look at the view or explore some local object and this is okay. You are on holiday.
- Inevitably, parts of the route are hilly and there is no back-up vehicle, so you do need to be fit to get the most out of this tour. It is essential to get out on your bike and do some 20-30 mile rides before the tour starts. There are some descents too, so you should be able to negotiate these safely. Please note it may not always be possible to follow the itinerary exactly due to road works or weather etc, as things do not always go as planned. In these circumstances, you will be advised of alternative arrangements. I will not always be at the front of the group but may be anywhere within it, as circumstances require, so you will need to be aware of the route each day. This information will be given to you before, or at the beginning of the holiday, and again at daily briefings.

## Rest day

- None.

## Roads used

- Mainly quiet country roads and minor urban roads. There are occasional short stretches on 'A' roads, but they are not fast as well as being few and far between.

## Route sheet / Maps

- No route sheets will be provided as such, just print the maps as you see fit.
- GPX files will be provided the week before the start.

## Group information

- The maximum group size will be 12, the minimum 4.

## Weather and Clothing

- Hopefully sunny! Suggest cycling top and shorts, with a lightweight waterproof. However, if the forecast looks inclement, a more substantial waterproof and gloves would be a good idea.
- You will obviously need clothes for the evening, but what you bring is up to you.

## Food

- Breakfast: On Saturday, you will be expected to have eaten by the time you arrive. On Sunday and Monday, we will stop in local cafes as there is no breakfast served at the Travelodge (though you can get a "breakfast on the go" if you like).
- Lunch: Cafes or restaurants

- Dinner: There is a Miller and Carter next door to the Travelodge, as well as a pub which serves food and an Indian restaurant both within 1/2 mile. For those who wish to dine with the group, we will like to go to one of these on the Saturday and Sunday evenings.

### Cycles and Equipment

- Any sort of bike, though ideally a touring bike. I suggest slick tyres (i.e. NOT heavily treaded mountain bike tyres). It is nearly all paved and any parts that are not well maintained, I would happily take my 25mm tyred road bike.
- I heavily suggest at least one spare innertube. I will carry basic general tools and a basic 1st aid kit, but I suggest you also bring a small 1st aid kit and any tools that are specific to your bike. A water bottle should suffice as we are stopping every 10 miles or so, but bring another if the forecast is hot or you like to drink a lot!
- You should ensure your bike is well maintained, paying particular attention to wheels, tyres and brakes. A low (easy) bottom gear is useful on hills and although it is not a particularly hilly route, Worcestershire is certainly full of rolling countryside.
- Mudguards are optional, but if it is wet then it's not so much fun cycling behind someone without them!
- A lock will be useful, but it is unlikely we will be leaving our bikes for longer than it takes to have coffee and cake.
- Emergency rations e.g. energy bars are good to have and I suggest a map or some means of navigation.