



RAIL Trails



Image by Coventry City Council

Coventry's Historic Centre

Vibrant Coventry... England's 9th largest city is known for its industrial past (think cars, bicycles and ribbons), Lady Godiva, and of course the devastating bombing in WWII which practically destroyed **St Michael's Cathedral**. Coventry, today is a city of unsung art and culture.

This trail covers all of the major sites packed into the centre of the city focussing on the heritage and history Coventry still puts on display.

Make time for a short diversion, about half way round the trail, at the **Canal Basin** where you can explore canal heritage, find quirky crafts in the renovated warehouses, try your hand at paddle boarding, or simply take a break by the water.

But don't stop there! Coventry rewards the inquisitive, there's plenty more to discover from quirky shops, to artisan cafes, with arts and sculpture on almost every corner!

Further Information:



Visit www.visitcoventry.co.uk for more on Coventry, including full listings of places to visit, where to eat and other inspiring ideas.

www.shakespeares-england.co.uk has information on the wider area.



Coventry is on the West Coast mainline between London Euston and all points North. It also sits at the convergence of branch lines to Nuneaton and Leamington.

Trains run hourly to Leamington via Kenilworth, Nuneaton via Bedworth and more frequently to Birmingham International and the stops in-between.

Refreshments, toilets and ATM's are available.

Want More?

This is just one of a range of 36 self-guided walks from railway stations in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.



Discover the Heart of England by rail at: www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails



Design by: www.blackspiraldesign.co.uk



RAIL Trails



Discover The Heart of England by Rail



Coventry

Image by Neil Catley / Coventry City Council

1.5 Hours 3 Miles Easy

Start: Coventry Finish: Coventry

Get intimate with vibrant Coventry... This trail will get you up close and personal with this unsung city of history, art and culture.

www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails

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Trail Highlights...



Image by Coventry City Council

A. Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

The cultural hub of the city. Visit for free. Immerse in arts, history and culture. A selection of permanent galleries and temporary exhibition spaces, ongoing workshops and events. Worth an extra hour or three!

www.theherbert.org



B. Old Windmill

Grade II Listed, 15th-century building with a history going back to around 1451 when it was constructed around the trunk of a tree. One of the oldest pubs in Coventry. Serves food as well!

www.facebook.com/TheOldWindmill.Coventry



Image by Coventry City Council

C. Holy Trinity Church

Coventry's answer to the Sistine Chapel! The most impressive wall painting remaining in an English church was painted by Coventry's medieval artists around 50 years before Leonardo da Vinci painted The Last Supper!

www.holytrinitycoventry.org.uk



Image by Coventry City Council

D. Coventry Cathedral

THE place to visit, both the evocative ruins destroyed in the Blitz and the Sir Basil Spence-designed modernist masterpiece of Coventry Cathedral. Climb the 180 steps of the spire for top notch views!

www.coventrycathedral.org.uk

Did you know?



All modern bicycles are descended from John Starley's Rover safety cycle, invented in **Coventry** in 1885. Keep your eyes peeled for the memorial on the trail!

Also recommended...



Image by Coventry City Council

E. Coventry Transport Museum

The largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles in the world. Tells the story of a city which changed the world through transport. Houses 14 galleries crammed full of everything on wheels!

www.transport-museum.com



Image by Coventry City Council

F. FarGo Village

A repurposed industrial space for a community of creative folk & businesses. A one stop hub for independent shopping, food & drink (including Twisted Barrel brewery & taphouse), handcrafted arts and crafts and a full-on events programme.

www.fargovillage.co.uk



Coventry's Historic Centre

Trail Directions

- Exit the station and walk ahead towards the city centre along a wide pedestrian boulevard. Pass a red brick tower block on your right and keep straight on over the ring road. On reaching Friars House, a tower block with blue glass windows, go left over a zebra crossing and keep straight along paths, passing just left of a statue of a horse, to reach the Starley memorial (erected in 1884)
- Go half left from the memorial towards the red brick Queens Road Baptist church. Keep right of the subway leading to the church to reach a turning circle at the end of a road. Turn right down this road, which is Queen Victoria road. Keep straight on at a junction then on reaching Iceland on the right turn left in front of the blue old Ikea building for a short distance then turn right in front of the Skydome. Keep straight on past the Odeon on your left to reach Spon Street.
- Turn right along Spon Street taking time to admire the collection of historic buildings. If you are thirsty you may wish to do more than just admire the architecture of the famous Old Windmill pub! A little further on at Court 7, look for the entrance to Coventry Watch Museum just down to the right, which is worth a visit. Continue straight on to pass the impressive ancient St John's church.
- Immediately beyond the church turn left along Hill Street. Pass the interesting buildings of Bonds hospital on the left then take the second right turn along Ryley Street. Keep straight on past the Premier Inn, cross the road and keep straight on along Lamb Street. After about 100 metres, opposite the 2nd streetlight on the right, go left on a path and up steps. Bear right and continue between two extremes of Coventry's history - the old City wall on your right and the ring road on your left. Keep straight on to cross Bishop Street and go under the Canal Basin bridge. Keep ahead alongside the ring road until you reach a roundabout on the left.
- Go right a short distance down Tower Street then left up Henry Street. Bear right at the end and continue with the ring road on your left to reach Cook Street gatehouse. Go left a few paces then right to follow iron railings and a garden to your right. After about 50 metres go left a few paces then right up steps and across a long blue glass bridge. Look left halfway along and you will see another gatehouse and some more of the old city wall. Eventually drop down to the pedestrian area under the Whittle Arches in front of the Transport Museum.
- Go to the Frank Whittle statue at the far end of the Whittle arches and walk in the direction he is looking - passing just left of Sainsbury's and up into Priory Place. On reaching a water feature turn left, passing the Priory Undercroft on your right. Keep straight on over a steep cobbled street and continue with the huge chancel wall of the new cathedral looming above you to the right. Turn right immediately beyond to reach the St Michael and Devil statue at the cathedral entrance.
- Keep straight on past the chancel of the old cathedral and immediately beyond it turn right along Bayley Lane. (The Herbert



Museum and Art gallery is just to the left) Follow Bayley Lane - one of the most impressive stretches of cobbled street left in the country. Pass St Mary's GuildHall on the left then at the crossroads turn right along Cuckoo Lane in front of the old County Hall. (Now a pub.) Pass the chancel end of Holy Trinity church on your left and turn left immediately beyond along Priory Row.

- As you continue along Priory Row look right down into the Priory Gardens where you will see the remains of Coventry's original Cathedral. Beyond them, notice the beautiful old cottages. Turn left past the entrance to Holy Trinity church then go half right past Primark on your right to find the Lady Godiva statue in the centre of Broadgate.
- Go to the far left corner of Broadgate, turn left then immediately after the National Westminster bank, (a lucky survivor of the blitz), turn right along GreyFriars Lane. Pass Ford's Hospital on your left and keep straight on across the road to pass immediately left of the Christchurch spire.
- Turn left along New Union Street for a short distance, cross the road at the Zebra crossing and go straight on up through the Manor Yard and keep ahead through the arch in Cheylesmore Manor. Slight right to follow road past car park and new build blocks to reach back of Friars House on right. Pass to the left of Friars House to the wide Boulevard, turn left to retrace steps to the station.

Did you know?

In the 1960's it was realised more historic buildings in the city had been destroyed by town planners since the war than were destroyed by bombs during the war. As a result a number of buildings were moved and re-erected on **Spon Street**, giving it its unique character!

Want an online map?

Scan the QR code or [visit explore.osmaps.com](http://visit.explore.osmaps.com)



Ready for another Trail?

Discover more at www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails

