Leicestershire
Vintage Inns Leicestershire Collection

From sleepy rural villages and areas of truly outstanding natural beauty such as Charnwood, to vibrant urban centres and contemporary culture, Leicestershire has much to charm, excite and intrigue the visitor.

In Loughborough, you’ll find a town with a wealth of historic buildings and museums that tell the human story of how Charnwood developed. And nearby are the bustling cities of Nottingham and Leicester, each with their own eclectic mix of culture and heritage.

Our Vintage Inns Collection of pubs is no less distinctive, including charming thatched hostelries whose stones uphold the weight of centuries, and more recent arrivals on the scene. All have beautiful rolling countryside on the doorstep and a warm welcome within – with delicious food, choice ales and good wines to tempt the visitor to stay a little longer and get the full flavour of the area.

It is not unusual for pubs to undergo a name change but The Quorndon Fox, formerly The Double Necked Swan, may have a unique claim – its home village also changed its name from Quorndon to Quorn.

The Red Cow, a rare treasure in the heart of the countryside, is a charming thatched inn of great character, dating to the 1650s. Its name is related to a rhyme based on old English legend. At The Badger’s Sett at Cropston, you’ll find a Victorian pub built just for visitors coming to enjoy the countryside around the newly built reservoir.

Take a little time to savour this distinctive part of Britain, and let Vintage Inns be your host for the journey.

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The distinctive outlines of The Packe Arms promise a special experience – not just good food and drink, but also distinctive surroundings in which to enjoy them.

The pub takes its name from the Packe family, a respected Victorian dynasty of land-owners from Leicester. It was Charles James Packe who lovingly restored The Packe Arms in the 1800s – you can see the date stone above the front entrance’ which reads 1831, C.J.P. During the 18th century, the pub was known as The Marquis of Granby, a military hero of the period.

Hoton is a small rural village and you can quickly get a feel for the area on one of the many walks from the pub. Across the Rempstone Road is a footpath leading to a variety of walks to either Wymeswold, Stanford upon Soar, or circumnavigating the Wymeswold Airfield which was used for training bomber crews in World War Two.

Loughborough has a wealth of historic buildings and many museums. The Italianate style Town Hall was originally built as the town’s Corn Exchange in 1855.

The oldest structure in Market Square is the drinking fountain marking the arrival of the first piped water supply. The Market Square gained a controversial sculpture in 1997 – The Sock - celebrating the wool and hosiery industries, so vital in Loughborough’s early industrial development.

The John Taylor Bellfoundry Museum contains a record of bell making from the earliest times, and The Carillon, built as a war memorial in 1922, has a wealth of military exhibits. Charnwood Museum depicts the history of the Charnwood area, with special attention to the Charnwood Forest and its unique character.

On the outskirts of Loughborough is the Great Central Railway offering an eight-mile steam train journey along the route of the last main line to be built in England.

To find out more about The Packe Arms, and the great variety of attractions in this area of Leicestershire, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/thepackearmshoton

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Packe Arms
Rempstone Road, Hoton, Loughborough, LE12 5SJ
Tel. 01509 889106

For a great day out...
• Take morning coffee or tea with us at The Packe Arms.
• After a stroll around Hoton, return to us for a great lunch.
• Continue your adventures among the many museums of Loughborough.
Standing on what was a smallholding, The Grange Farm is typical of how many traditional British pubs evolved, tied closely to the land, and the change from agriculture to industrial activity.

Most smallholdings brewed ale to satisfy their own need and some made the short step to selling any excess, to then becoming the village pub. The Grange Farm has come a long way in 150 years, and now delicious food and tasty wines have been added to the range of well kept ales on offer.

Oadby is near Leicester Racecourse, and the University of Leicester Botanic Gardens, home to several national collections. And there’s more to be learned about the local textile industry at the Wigston Framework Knitters Museum.

Leicester offers many sights - you can see evidence of the Roman occupation at the Jewry Wall. There’s a museum containing fine Roman relics, including the Peacock mosaic pavement.

The Guildhall is a Grade I listed building, incorporating the Mayor’s parlour, civic murals, old town library and cells. At Abbey Pumping Station you’ll see massive steam engines, and exhibitions.

The Newarke Houses – made up from two Jacobean houses – is a museum recounting the social history of Leicester from the 16th century to the present. And at Belgrave Hall and Gardens you’ll find a delightful Queen Anne house with rooms reflecting the later Victorian and Edwardian eras.

Coming up to date, the state of the art Curve Theatre in the heart of Leicester’s cultural quarter features a stunning glass façade. In true theatrical spirit, huge steel doors can be lifted to reveal the stage action to the world outside.

The National Space Centre is dedicated to exploring the wonders of the universe, and no visit would be complete without seeing Leicester’s Asian Quarter which offers an unrivalled range of food, fashion and jewellery.

A good day out might include…

• A stroll though the botanic gardens in the morning.

• A terrific lunch at The Grange Farm.

• An afternoon seeing a few of the attractions Leicester can offer.

For more information about The Grange Farm and the many things to do and see in the area, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/thegrangefarmoadby
Countless guests have been welcomed through the doors of The Quorndon Fox over the past two and a half centuries, so it’s a pub where they know just about all there is to know about traditional British inn-keeping.

There’s always a range of mouth-watering dishes available, a stock of well kept ales and delicious wines, and a good roaring fire when the weather turns nippy. There is even a square tower at the end of the pub gardens, said to be a lookout for approaching guests so food could be prepared in good time.

The Quorndon Fox has long played a central role in village life. Originally The Double Necked Swan, which opened in 1740, it takes the town’s former name. In 1889 Quorndon became Quorn because of frequent confusion with nearby Quarnon.

Being at the heart of rural Leicestershire, the village is surrounded by beautiful rolling countryside and the area retains much of its distinctive Charnwood character. The name Quorndon is said to derive from the old English *cweordun*, meaning a hill where millstones are quarried – this is an ancient volcanic area known for its Mountsorrel granite.

Quorn station is one of the principal stops on the Great Central Railway. A delightful village, Quorn’s famous sons include Hugo Meynell, a ‘tally-ho’ fox-hunter of the 18th century, and DH Lawrence frequented the village in the early 20th century during a short and unsuccessful engagement to a local woman. There are several noteworthy ecclesiastical buildings in the village, including St. Bartholomew’s Church.

Nearby Loughborough has much for the visitor - a wealth of historic buildings and many museums. The Carillon, built as a war memorial in 1922, which has a wealth of military exhibits, and the Charnwood Museum, are must sees for those wanting to know more about the history and people of the area.

For more information about The Quorndon Fox and this delightful area of Leicestershire, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/thequorndonfoxloughborough

Take a day to explore...

• Learn more about fascinating Charnwood with a visit to Loughborough.

• Join us at The Quorndon Fox for a delicious meal.

• Take the afternoon to get out and about in the glorious countryside.
The Red Cow inn is a rare treasure to be found in the heart of the rolling Leicestershire countryside. It’s a charming thatched pub with rooms and of great character, and a terrific spot to enjoy some good traditional British pub fayre.

The pub’s origins reach back over a span of nearly four centuries to the 1650s, when it was a very small inn trading in a row of cottages and probably serving local farm workers. The name is related to an old rhyme, possibly based on an old English legend:

The old red cow, Which never did low,  
With coat as soft as silk. Come in, if you please,  
And sit down at your ease, And taste her nut brown milk

This is an attractive area with plenty for the visitor to see and do. For those wishing to stretch their legs, there’s a good walk from the pub of around three miles leading through attractive countryside to the old village of Braunstone.

Braunstone Park’s open spaces are a popular local attraction. Close by, St Peters Church and Church Fields can be found, a rural and tranquil spot with close historic associations to the park.

Leicester rewards the visitor with many interesting sights and attractions, both historic and modern. These range from the Jewry Wall and its associated museum containing fine Roman relics, including the Peacock mosaic pavement, to the National Space Centre, dedicated to exploring the mysteries of the universe.

The Curve Theatre, right in the heart of Leicester’s cultural quarter features a stunning glass façade. In true theatrical tradition, it has huge steel doors which can be lifted to reveal the stage action to the world outside. And no visit to the city would be complete without seeing Leicester’s Asian Quarter which offers an unrivalled range of food, fashion and jewellery.

Here’s a good idea...

- Enjoy a great morning in Leicester before coming for a meal in the country at The Red Cow.
- Explore the many delightful walks in the area.
- Come back to The Red Cow to compare notes with friends over a really great dinner.

Red Cow
Hinckley Road, Leicester, LE3 3PG
Tel. 0116 2387878

To find out more about The Red Cow and the many things to see and do in this unique area, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/theredcowleicesterforesteast
The countryside around Cropston Reservoir could scarcely be made more attractive, except by the provision of a pleasant warm pub from which to see it – and here, The Badgers Sett finds itself perfectly placed to provide such a service.

Formerly The Reservoir Inn, the pub’s builders knew they were onto a good thing – The Badger’s Sett is a destination in its own right, offering a peaceful retreat deep in the heart of rural Leicestershire.

A good, solid traditional British inn of considerable character, its original features have been retained, including roaring log fires by which to relax after a day’s walking. All year round the pub is a base for ramblers, and there are plenty of walks to be enjoyed from the pub doorstep.

A stroll around the reservoir is easy going - leave the pub car park and take the southern side; at the end of the reservoir head into Bradgate Park and Old John Tower, a late eighteenth century folly reputedly built on the site of a windmill owned by ‘Old John’. It’s no more than a two-story castellated tower and arch, but is nonetheless picturesque. This part of Leicestershire is dotted with many ancient ruins such as Ulverscroft Priory and Kirkby Muxloe Castle.

Cropston Reservoir was built in response to the cholera epidemics of 1831 and 1848, to provide clean drinking water to a growing population. Then, as now, the project was many years in the planning and ran seriously over budget, eventually opening in 1870.

Cropston is in Charnwood Forest, an upland area of outstanding beauty and of geological interest, with many scattered woodlands and open areas where the natural rock breaks through. Beacon Hill is considered to be one of the finest viewpoints in Leicestershire, with stunning panoramas over miles of unspoilt country.

For a cracking day in Leicestershire...

• Join us at The Badger’s Sett for morning tea or coffee to ‘set’ you up for the day.

• After enjoying a local stroll in Bradgate Park, return to us for a great lunch.

• Explore the delights of Charnwood or head for the city attractions of Leicester.

For more information about The Badger’s Sett and the many things to do around Cropston, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/thebadgerssettcropston