

Explore this historic city

Lancaster is a vibrant university city rich in cultural heritage. Its past comes to life with a tour of Lancaster Castle where you can discover stories of the Lancashire Witches who were imprisoned in its grim dungeons; find out about the castle's long-running history as a court and explore some of the grand rooms, visited by judges and royalty over the years.

Call in at the Maritime Museum on St George's Quay to find out about the maritime trade of Lancaster, the history of the Lancaster Canal and the fishing industry of the Lune Estuary and Morecambe Bay using sound, smells, reconstructions and audiovisuals!

Visit the City Museum to discover more about Lancaster's past from the time of the Romans to the present day, and trace the pedigree of the Lancaster Regiment from 1680 onwards at the King's Own Royal Regiment Museum. Regularly changing exhibitions, events and activities are also on offer.

Up the hill from Lancaster City Centre lies Williamson Park with its Butterfly House and Ashton Memorial, built in 1907 by the industrialist Lord Ashton as a tribute to his wife - the green-domed folly is visible from many points in and around Lancaster.

Contact **Lancaster Visitor Information Centre** to find out more about these attractions and others in the Lancaster, Morecambe and Lune Valley area.

01524 582394
lancastervic@lancaster.gov.uk
www.visitlancaster.co.uk

Other Walks and Tours of Lancaster

Tours of Lancaster Castle:

Open daily for guided tours from **10.30am** until **4pm**. (Court sittings permitting). **01524 64998**.

Civic Society Walks: City Walks take place on particular Sundays in summer and trace Lancaster's history on a 2-hour walk. Book your place at Lancaster Visitor Information Centre. **01524 582394**.

Cemetery Tours: Explore the heritage of the "Top Cemetery" on Quernmore Road. Third Sunday of the month, April to September. Meet at the main cemetery gates, off Quernmore Road, at **2pm**.

Grand Theatre Tours: Take a guided tour of the third oldest continually operating theatre in England and look out for the resident ghost! Places are limited so advance booking is recommended. **01524 64695**.

Lancaster Ghost Walks: Take a spooky, oil lamp-lit tour of Lancaster - if you dare! Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from 7pm, plus weekend daytime "Extreme" tours. **0191 4400078**,
enquiries@aloneinthedarkentertainment.com,
www.aloneinthedarkentertainment.com

Pick up a copy of the "Guided Walks and Tours" leaflet from **Lancaster Visitor Information Centre**, The Storey Creative Industries Centre, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1TH. Don't forget to ask at the Visitor Information Centre about the **Xplorer** card which allows a year's access to all the Lancashire Museums at a discounted rate. You can also pick up a free **Visit Card** which offers discounts on food, drink and entrance fees at a number of venues within the district.

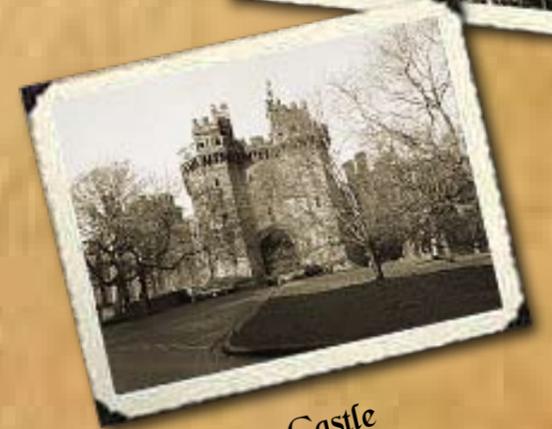
Places to look out for...



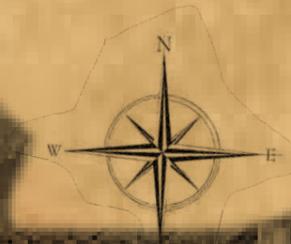
Ashton Memorial



Lancaster City Museum



Lancaster Castle



Hello and welcome to Lancaster

County town, former port, university city and Roman settlement!



1 Our walk begins at the Priory Church **1** which stands on Castle Hill within the site of the Roman fort. There is a separate guide to the Priory, and information panels will be found just inside the south door. Most of what we now see dates from the late 15th century but the tower was rebuilt in 1755, after its predecessor started to collapse. It is Lancaster's principal church and was until the 1750s its only one.

2 Facing the porch of the Priory is the Castle. **2** We are looking at the north side, which mostly consists of prison accommodation (now unused) built in the late 18th century; However, the large tower inside is the Lungess Tower or Keep, the oldest surviving part, dating from the mid-12th century. To the right can be seen the Shire Hall, a Gothic structure of about 1790.

3 Facing the main entrance of the Priory, walk to the left of the building, passing the clock tower. Follow the lane through a gateway and downhill. Carry on down the lane to St George's Quay and turn left towards the attractive Custom House **3** of 1764, now part of Lancaster Maritime Museum.

4 Turn around and walk back along the Quay, noticing on your right the amazing crooked house (no 23) and the many tall stone warehouses where cargoes were stored. Most of these date between 1750 and 1780. On your left is the Millennium Bridge **4** opened in 2001. This gives access to footpaths and cycleways linking Morecambe and Glasson Dock with the Lune Valley. A fine view can be had from the bridge.

5 Walk back off the bridge onto St George's Quay via the other fork and along the riverside path, turning right into Water Street just before Sainsbury's and cross over Cable Street (noting the Bus Station **5**, opened in 2001, and fine Georgian houses to your right), carrying on up Chapel Street to St John's Church **6**. The church was built in 1755, its tower being added thirty years later by Thomas Harrison. Although no longer used for church services, it is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust and is regularly used for concerts.

6 Keep to the right-hand side up Rosemary Lane (once 'Stinking Lane') until you reach the crossing at Stonewell. St Leonardgate branches off on the left and contains several fine Georgian houses and, further along, the Georgian Grand Theatre **7** built in 1782 and still a popular theatre. Turn right into Lower Church Street and walk up towards Penny Street.

7 Turn left onto the main pedestrianised shopping street, and walk up to the crossroads where Cheapside meets Penny Street and Market Street. This is Horseshoe Corner. **8** A horseshoe mounted into the pavement is claimed to mark the place where John O'Gaunt's horse cast its shoe. More probably it marks the site of a horse fair.

8 Carry on up Market Street, which may be a 12th century addition to the townscape, dating from after the first market charters of 1193 and 1199. It leads to Market Square, still after eight centuries the centre of social life in the city. It is overlooked by the impressive Old Town Hall **9** now the City Museum, built in 1783.

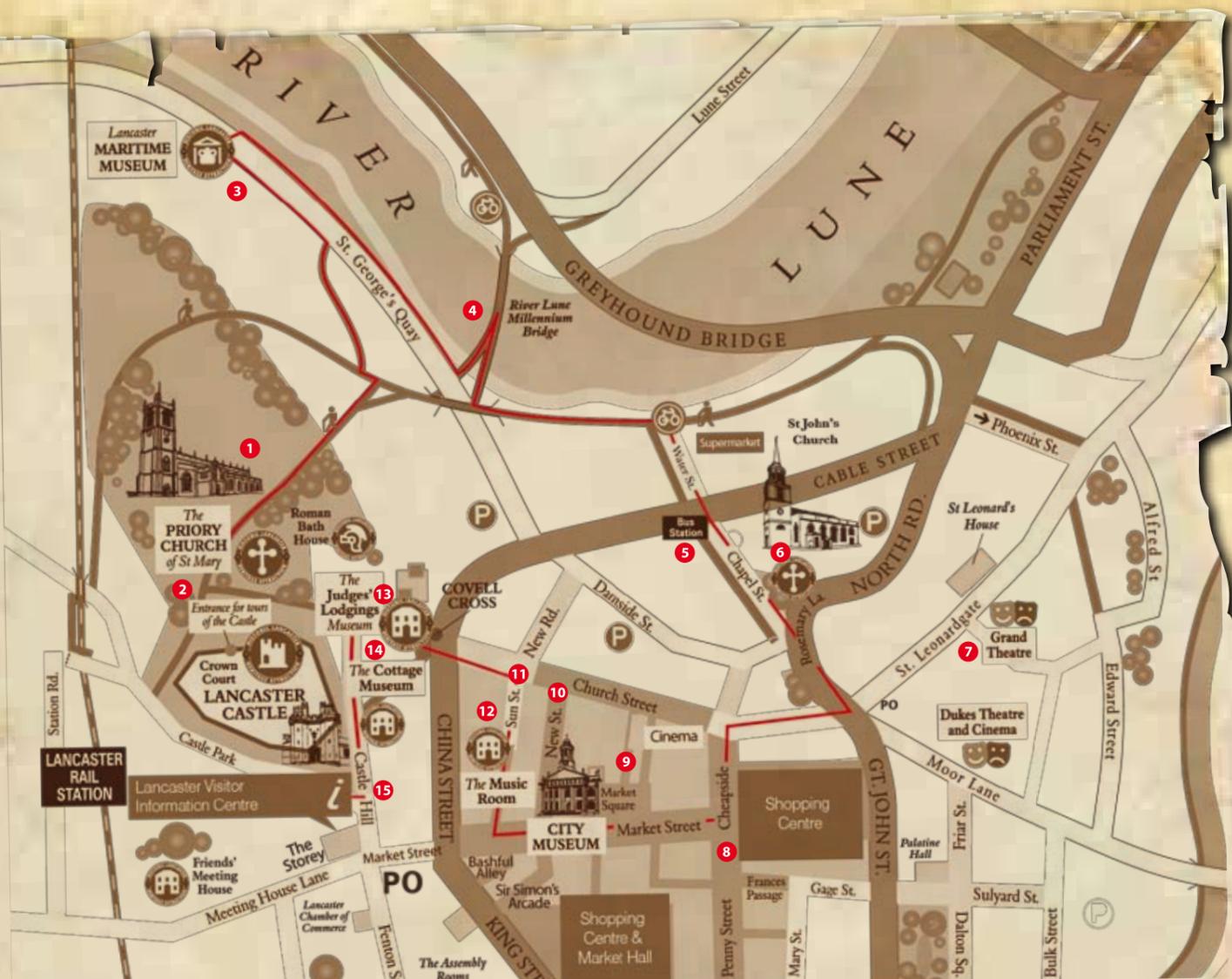
9 Behind the City Museum is New Street, "new" in 1747! **10** New Street Square was originally a part of the market place into which the old Town Hall projected. Parallel to New Street is Sun Street. Enter Sun Street by turning right into the ginnel behind Barclays Bank. **11** Sun Street was created in the 1780s and 1790s on what had been gardens. On Sun Street Square you can find the Music Room **12** a little gem of a summerhouse dating from about 1739, filled with superb plasterwork and now rented out as a self catering property by the Landmark Trust.

10 Exit Sun Street at the far end onto Church Street, the line of which follows that of the Roman Road issuing from the east gate of the original fort. A Roman road surface has been found in several places, two metres below the present surface. In Church Street are several important Georgian buildings such as no. 76, where Bonny Prince Charlie is believed to have stayed. At the head of the street can be found the Judges' Lodgings **13** now a museum featuring the famous Gillow furniture made in Lancaster. It was built in the 1630s as the house of Thomas Covell, Governor of the Castle.

11 Facing the Judges' Lodgings, take the left hand fork behind the building and continue up Castle Hill towards the castle itself. On Castle Hill can be found many attractive buildings including the Cottage Museum **14** of 1739 (number 15 Castle Hill) and the former Dispensary of 1785 (found at number 19). Facing the castle, you are looking at the "John O' Gaunt Gate". This actually dates from the early 15th century, after John O'Gaunt's death, and is meant to overawe by its size and strength.

12 A tower on the walls of the castle to the right of John O' Gaunt's Gate has older stonework than the rest of the wall. This is the Well Tower, sometimes known as the "Witches' Tower" because of a tradition that the famous Pendle Witches were held here.

13 Continue along Castle Hill with the castle on your right until you come to the side entrance of the Storey Creative Industries Centre with a door labelled "NICE". In here, you will see the NICE café / bar, perfect for a coffee stop. Lancaster Visitor Information Centre **15** is also situated within this building, where you can find further information, books and maps about Lancaster and the surrounding area and pick up your free "Welcome To Lancaster" pack.



Further Reading:

'Memories of Lancaster'
by Sharon Lambert

'Lancaster and District'
compiled by Susan Ashworth
and Nigel Dalziel

*'Thomas Cook Pocket Guide
to Lancaster'*

These books and more can be purchased from Lancaster Visitor Information Centre along with a range of gifts and souvenirs:

**The Storey, Meeting House Lane,
Lancaster, LA1 1TH**
www.shopccc.co.uk