


Pilgrims' Journey

The Pilgrim's roots in Nottinghamshire & Lincolnshire.




 Day itinerary

 Independent traveller

 Suitable for groups

 Starts in Nottinghamshire

 Rail access to some destinations

 London Plus

 Tour guide advised

 East Midlands, Doncaster
Sheffield Airport, Manchester &
all London airports

Tours & guides

Pilgrims & Prophets - *Heritage Tours designed to suit your needs*

t: 07470 366 689
www.pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk

Mayflower Maid - *Guided tours with local historian Sue Allan*

t: 01673 878 398
www.mayflowermaid.com

Brackenbury's Britain - *Walking, guided, cultural, & bespoke tours*

t: 0330 660 0389
www.brackenburysbritain.co.uk

What was it that persuaded an unlikely band of men, women and children to undertake a perilous journey to the new world? Sharing ideas along the Great North Road and worshipping in secrecy, the Separatists' world felt increasingly precarious. Discover the deep devotion and dogged determination of those early Separatists in their search for freedom and peace that finally led to the Mayflower voyage.

Tour Highlights:

- Visit the historic town of Retford, site of early Separatist dissent.
- Find out more about the region's history at Bassetlaw Museum, St Swithun's Church and The Hub.
- Explore the town of Gainsborough and its magnificent Old Hall – one of the best preserved medieval manor houses in England.
- Visit Gainsborough's Heritage Centre and the United Reformed Church, built in memory of John Robinson – Pastor to the Pilgrims.
- Follow the Pilgrims Trail to discover the ancient English villages and churches of Babworth, Scrooby, Sturton le Steeple and Austerfield where the influential Pilgrims, William Bradford and William Brewster shaped their beliefs.



Day 1 North Nottinghamshire

Retford is on the main trainline from London.
Time permitting - extend to two days.



Discover the roots of the Pilgrims in the villages and towns of Nottinghamshire where future leaders of the Plymouth Colony and signatories of the Mayflower Compact, William Brewster and William Bradford lived, worked and worshipped. A tour guide is advised for this part of the itinerary. Check accessibility of churches before travelling.

Retford Town

Begin your day in Retford town (with a mainline railway station). Visit Bassetlaw Museum to discover more about the history of Retford and the Museum's Rural Heritage Centre to learn how the Separatists may have worked the land. A short walk away is the impressive St Swithun's Church which is also steeped in history. Just opposite is Retford Hub which boasts a dedicated Pilgrim Room that is well worth a visit (small charge applies), before driving onwards to the Pilgrim towns and villages.

Babworth Church

Closely connected with the origins of religious separatism, this is where Richard Clifton was parson from 1586 until 1605 and where items, including a silver chalice and Geneva Bible with annotations from 1603 have been found. The Great North Road can be seen here as a track.



Scrooby Manor House

St Wilfrid's Church, Scrooby

Brewster had long been attracted by and was fined for non-attendance at St. Wilfrid's Church where he was likely baptised and married. Visitors are able to sit in the original wooden pews.



St Wilfrid's Church, Scrooby

Scrooby Manor House

The former home of William Brewster where the Scrooby Separatist congregation met in secret. Now a private home (there is a viewpoint on Station Road). The Pilgrim Fathers Inn Scrooby makes a good lunch or coffee stop.

St. Helena's Church, Austerfield

William Bradford, the second Governor of the Colony was born in the village of Austerfield and baptised in St Helena's Church in the font which can still be seen today. Austerfield Study Centre is adjacent to the church. 'Butten Meadow' is named after Butten who sailed on the Mayflower but did not live to reach the New World. A Delft tiled mural commemorates Butten.

Nearby Bawtry is a 12th Century ancient port and today is an attractive market town with places to eat, shop and stay.

Lunch & coffee stops

The attractive towns of Bawtry and Retford offer a range of cafes, tea rooms and restaurants.

The Pilgrim Fathers Inn, Scrooby
A traditional Inn offering lunches and drinks.

www.pilgrimfathersscrooby.co.uk
t: 01302 714 271

Torworth Grange
A lovely café/restaurant overlooking lakes. Afternoon tea a speciality
www.torworthgrange.co.uk
t: 01777 816 439

Accommodation

Ye Olde Bell Hotel & Spa at Barnby Moor
Groups welcome.
www.yeoldebells-hotel.co.uk
t: 01777 705 121

West Retford Hotel
A Best Western Plus hotel.
www.westretfordhotel.co.uk
t: 01777 706 333

Muthu Clumber Park Hotel & Spa.
Situated just outside the Sherwood Forest
www.clumberparkhotel.com
t: 01623 835 333

With extra time

Visit Newark and learn of England's Civil War and the Mayflower Pilgrims who returned to their home country to fight in it. Learn of later religious radical, William Booth, founder of the world-wide Salvation Army.

Visit Sherwood Forest on the way to Nottingham, a cosmopolitan city and home to England's oldest pub.

Take a trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, a dynamic centre for conservation and welfare, the park has over 400 animals of 70 different species and is only 4 miles from Austerfield.
www.yorkshirewildlifepark.com

Day 2 Gainsborough

Gainsborough is the gateway to Lincolnshire. From here, travel on to Lincoln, Boston and Immingham.



Gainsborough Old Hall

Gainsborough Old Hall

A fine example of a large timber framed medieval manor house, the Hall was home to the Hickman family who were sympathetic to the Separatist movement and allowed regular meetings to be held here. John Smyth preached at the nearby All Saints church before fleeing to Amsterdam along with non-conformist Thomas Helwys who was raised in nearby Nottingham and with whom he created the Baptist denomination. Helwys later returned to London where incurring the wrath of the king died in prison.

John Robinson Memorial Church

Gainsborough's United Reformed Church was built to commemorate the life and works of John Robinson – the Pastor of the Pilgrims. Robinson was born in nearby Sturton-le-Steeple, and became the Pilgrims' leader in Leiden in Holland after their flight from England.

All Saints' Parish Church

Adjacent to the Old Hall, this is the church which John Smyth attended before he became a leader of Gainsborough's Separatists – and where his children were baptised. The church was also used as a school at the time of Smyth and Robinson.

Gainsborough's Riverside

Visit the historic riverside, where some of the Separatists' escaped by boat up the river Trent on their way to the river Humber.

Gainsborough Heritage Centre

Find out about the history of the town at Gainsborough's Heritage Centre (open Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays), including the town's industrial past and development.



Gainsborough Riverside

Lunch & coffee stops

Gainsborough Old Hall

has a café for lunches and light refreshments. Groups welcome.
www.gainsborougholdhall.com
t: 01522 782 040

Marshall's Yard

Shopping centre in Gainsborough has a choice of cafés and restaurants. Coach parking available.
www.marshallsyard.co.uk
t: 01427 810 706



Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough

Accommodation

Travelodge, Gainsborough.

New hotel in the town centre.
www.travelodge.co.uk
t: 01427 810 706

Hickman Hill Hotel

18th-century grammar school turned inn
www.hickmanhill.co.uk
t: 01427 613 639

Also nearby...

If you have extra time, why not visit some of the other places of interest in the local area and discover even more about the Pilgrims' Journey.



Visitors to Immingham Museum

Epworth

Whilst in the area visit the fine Queen Anne style Epworth Old Rectory, childhood home of John and Charles Wesley, founders of Methodism.

Lincoln

Explore the cobbled streets of the historic city of Lincoln, see Lincoln Castle, home to the 1215 Magna Carta, and visit the magnificent Lincoln Cathedral, once the tallest building in the world.



The historic city of Lincoln



Boston's historic market place

Boston

From the nearby city of Lincoln travel onwards to Boston (60 mins drive) from where the Separatists made their first attempt to escape to Holland.

Immingham

The Scrooby Separatists fled to Holland from Immingham Creek where you can visit the Monument in Pilgrim Park and, in nearby St Andrew's Church, the grave of Francis Hawkins who died before the boat departed attempt to escape to Holland.

With extra time

Visit the seaside resort of Cleethorpes, Immingham Museum and the Fishing Heritage Centre at Grimsby.

From Lincolnshire head south into Cambridgeshire and visit the historic city of Cambridge. Many of the Separatists attended Cambridge University including William Brewster, John Robinson and John Smyth.



Boston stained glass window

Events:

West Lindsey Churches Festival

94 churches provide a celebration of Lincolnshire's rich, ecclesiastical and architectural heritage. May every year.

Open Churches Weekend

Churches in North Nottinghamshire welcome visitors for a special open weekend. July every year.

Chesterfield Canal Walking Festival

Guided walks through the picturesque countryside of North Nottinghamshire and on into Derbyshire. September every year.

Wolds Walking Festival

Not far from Gainsborough, join walks across the East Midland's only Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Lincolnshire Wolds. Late May / early June every year.

Illuminate

Mayflower destinations commemorate Thanksgiving annually with a light inspired event, 'Illuminate'. November every year.

Find out more at www.mayflower400uk.org

