

Pilgrims, Mice & Kings

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to walk in the footsteps of the Mayflower Pilgrims or live like a King?



 1 to 2 Day itinerary

 Independent traveller

 Suitable for groups

 Starts in Nottinghamshire

 Rail access to some destinations

East Midlands, Doncaster

 Sheffield Airport, Manchester & all London airports

1620—2020
Mayflower
400™

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Whether you're visiting for the day, on a flying visit or have time on your hands; Nottinghamshire's Pilgrim Country, which is huddled between three counties, embraces the very essence of the journey the founding fathers took in 1620.

Tour Highlights:

- Visit All Saints Church at Babworth and hear about the discovery of the hidden Chalice and Geneva Bible; search for the famous Mousey Thompson Mayflower Mouse and discover an array of wildlife, flora and fauna, following in the footsteps of the Pilgrims.
- Explore the Market Town of Retford and visit Bassetlaw Museum.
- View the Pilgrim 400, a new variety of apple at the historic 'Pinfold', the home of Leading Mayflower Pilgrim, William Brewster, and the church, where he was thought to have been baptised in the picturesque village of Scrooby
- Enjoy afternoon tea at Hodsock Priory, one of Nottinghamshire's most historic and unique country houses. Take a photo tour of the beautiful grounds and explore this privately-owned corner of England with a member of the family who lives there.
- As an addition, Live like Royalty, and experience the grandeur of life in a Stately Home, with an exclusively bespoke, overnight stay in one of Hodsock's splendid rooms, enjoy a candlelit dinner by a roaring fire, take an evening walk by the lake, or simply immerse yourself in a book from the beautiful South facing library.

Day 1

Pilgrims, Mice and Kings

Retford, on the main trainline from London, is a short distance from all featured destinations.



Hodsock Priory

Babworth Church

Dating back to the 15th Century, All Saints Church in the quintessentially English hamlet of Babworth, is the spiritual home of the Mayflower Pilgrims, the early settlers of Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The country lanes are lined with Evergreens bursting with wildlife. Small paths and winding tracks take you to the little church, hidden amongst some of the area's oldest trees. All Saints Church is particularly special and is one the prettiest settings in North Nottinghamshire; it was here that preacher Richard Clifton was Rector from 1586 to 1605. The 1950s saw the discovery of Clifton's ceremonial Chalice and Geneva bible that were concealed away in a sealed crypt.

This wonderful Church also houses the world-famous mouse carvings, by Robert (Mousey) Thompson, a treat to find as they are hidden amongst the hand-crafted furniture in the chancel and sanctuary.

Experience

Listen to the story of how one young boy discovered the crypt where the Chalice and Bible were found, and view replicas of those historical findings. Search for the hidden Mayflower Mice, explore the beautiful woodland setting and walk along the Pilgrim Way.



Find All Saints' famous mouse carvings



Reford Town Hall in the Market Square

East Retford

The small, and attractive Market Town of East Retford in North Nottinghamshire is one of the oldest boroughs in England and is steeped in history and local folklore, from the notorious Highwayman, Dick Turpin, to the founders of the New World. Retford flourished when the Great North Road was rerouted through the town in 1766, the market square became a hive of activity, with its scores of public houses and inns, attracting a bustling passing trade. The arrival of the railway and the Chesterfield Canal saw many changes, and by the 20th century the population had significantly increased. This lovely town continues to grow and flourish with its eclectic choice of bars, cafes, restaurants, galleries, theatres and shops.

Experience

Visit Bassetlaw Museum's new pilgrim gallery and learn about the history of local life and the Pilgrim Story. View the impressive Georgian architecture, and the French Romanesque inspired design of the impressive Town Hall. Also don't forget to visit the centre for rural life within the museum.

Accommodation

Hodsock Priory

Historic English country house. Bespoke accommodation packages available for those on Pilgrims, Mice and Kings Tour.

www.hodsockpriory.com

t: 01909 591 204

West Retford Hotel

18th Century Manor House in the historic market town of Retford.

www.westretfordhotel.co.uk

t: 01777 706 333

Kings Park Hotel

Kings Park Hotel and The Old Police Station Restaurant & Bar has emerged from what was once the town's Police Station.

www.kingsparkhotel.co.uk

t: 01777 948 680

Ye Olde Bell Hotel & Spa at Barnby Moor

Beautiful 17th century 4 star hotel.

www.yeoldebells-hotel.co.uk

t: 01777 705 121

Lunch & coffee stops

Torworth Grange

Torworth Grange Café Restaurant serves a delicious selection of cooked meals as well as light bites and freshly made cakes.

www.torworthgrange.co.uk

t: 01777 816 439

Pilgrim Fathers Inn, Scrooby

A cosy traditional pub situated in the picturesque village of Scrooby.

t: 01302 710 740

The White Swan, Blyth

www.whiteswanblyth.co.uk

t: 01909 591 222

The Red Hart, Blyth

www.redhart.co.uk

t: 01909 591 221

The Angel Inn, Blyth

www.theangelinnblyth.co.uk

t: 01909 591 213



Parish church of St Wilfrid's, Scrooby

Scrooby

The historical village of Scrooby, once the seat of the Archbishops of York at Scrooby Manor, was also the home of William Brewster, member of the separatist congregation and passenger who sailed on the Mayflower, alongside the other Mayflower Pilgrims from the area. It's a lovely village with lots of historic buildings and an ancient 'Pinfold' which is located by the side of St. Wilfrid's Church, and is now home to the newly discovered variety of Apple, the Pilgrim 400. (The Pilgrim Fathers Inn offers a variety of refreshments).

Experience

Visit the "Pinfold" and learn of the new commemorative Pilgrim 400 apple. Visit the church, where William Brewster was said to have been baptised.

Hodsock Priory

Hodsock Priory is situated near the historical village of Blyth on the Nottinghamshire/South Yorkshire border, and has been the Buchanan family home for nine generations. Stunningly beautiful, and rich in heritage this exclusive Stately home offers a glimpse into a life of aristocracy and grandeur.

The impressive and striking gatehouse, dating back to the 16th century, is one of only three surviving Tudor brick buildings in the county of Nottinghamshire and has seen many Royals passing through. The main house is spectacular, with its beautiful panelled rooms, delightful Library and magnificent Pavilion. Enjoy splendid views across the landscaped gardens, from a stylish and contemporary Bar which leads onto the Italian Terrace.

The Priory offers superb accommodation; luxurious suites in the main house and superb five-star apartments in the Courtyard. Perfect to extend your stay, discover Pilgrim Country at its best!

Hodsock gardens are a true hidden gem, the woodland walks are carpeted with Snowdrops in February; April and May bring spectacular displays of Bluebells and on selected days the woodland walk is open to the public to admire the impressive sea of colour. There is an abundance of wildlife at Hodsock: Kestrels, Buzzards, Green Woodpeckers and Owls are regular sightings and Kingfishers have also been seen around the lake and stream.

Experience

Take a tour the house and hear a member of the family's historical stories about life in a stately home. Explore the stunning landscaped gardens with a guided photo tour. Enjoy delicious Afternoon Tea in one of the delightful rooms, or outdoors on the Italian Terrace overlooking the lake.



Enjoy a relaxing stay at Hodsock

You may wish to extend your tour with a bespoke overnight stay at Hodsock Priory. Experience a candlelit dinner, lunch or morning coffee. (Additional cost applies).

The Pilgrim 400 Apple Story



The special Pilgrim 400 apple

This humble, yet very special Apple is set to make its mark on British Heritage and culture, in commemoration of the Mayflower Pilgrims. The King of all fruits, the beautiful 'Pilgrim 400', is a new variety, discovered and cultivated by Nottinghamshire horticulturalist, writer and presenter, John Stirland.

In 2015, John Stirland had the idea to celebrate the Mayflower 400 anniversary in a significant way. During his time as a BBC Radio gardening advisor, he discovered a seedling in a garden in Southwell, Nottinghamshire, the home of the Iconic Bramley Apple; which coincided with the development of a new commemorative 'Mayflower' apple in Devon.

The Pilgrim 400 is a multipurpose variety, with a deliciously sweet taste and a crunchy texture, perfect for all manner of culinary delights, either cooking or eating.

A number of these exquisite trees are to be planted in various locations along key destinations of the Mayflower Pilgrim Trail and can be viewed on this tour.



A great tribute to mark the occasion

With Extra Time...

If you've got some spare time, why not explore more of what our remarkable region has to offer? There is even more heritage and history just waiting to be discovered, plus a range of idyllic towns and villages sure to please those seeking a little retail therapy.



Clumber Park

Guided Tours

Take a guided Mayflower Pilgrim Walk with successful Author and Photojournalist, Sally Outram. Follow in the footsteps of the Mayflower Pilgrims with a selection of circular walks which follow the Pilgrims Trail. The routes explore historic sites which are associated with the Pilgrims. Visit tranquil, quintessentially English villages, rivers and canals, see an abundance of wildlife, flora and fauna. (Additional cost applies). For more information and to book, please contact Sally Outram on **07986 011 903** or visit sallyomedia.com



See the best of our wonderful county

Sherwood Forest

Known almost globally; Sherwood Forest is undoubtedly a national treasure and is famously associated with the world's most notorious and legendary outlaw, Robin Hood.

Sherwood Forest was once a Royal hunting ground which provided entertainment for Kings and nobility from across Europe. The forest has been a settlement since the last Ice age, and has seen countless changes through time, with many a tale to be told by the hundreds of giant oak trees which scatter the forest. Now a RSPB national nature reserve with almost 1,000 oak trees, the forest attracts visitors from all over the world, and the iconic Major Oak is worth visiting, let your imagination run wild! (Car parking fees apply).

Find out more at www.mayflower400uk.org



The Legendary Sherwood Forest

Clumber Park

Discover the beauty of Clumber Park; belonging to the National Trust, the estate covers over 3800 acres of parkland, farmland and woodlands, also boasting the longest double avenue of Lime Trees in Europe, stretching over 2 miles.

The Walled Kitchen Gardens are a pleasure; built in 1772 to supply the Dukes of Newcastle with vegetables and fruit, it is now home to the National Collection of apple varieties, including the new variety 'Pilgrim 400', and over 130 varieties of rhubarb! The 19th century glasshouses and palm house grow plants and produce all year around, offering glorious displays. Home grown produce is also used in the Garden Tea Room, where a variety of food and drinks are served. The beautiful lakeside provides stunning views and breath-taking walks. (Entry fees apply).



Clumber Park is well worth a visit

Creswell Crags

One of Nottinghamshire's jewels in the crown, this striking and impressive limestone gorge is honeycombed with caves taking you back to prehistoric times. Ice age tools and remains have been found here and it's one of the most important archaeological sites in the UK.

There are regular cave visits and the on site museum hosts many displays and exhibitions throughout the year, taking you on a natural history journey through time. A superb café with far reaching views, serving a variety of tasty treats and refreshments is also available.



The breathtaking Creswell Crags

