

## **Living and working in the Midlands!**

### **Areas we cover from the Leicester Branch:**

Leicester/ Leicestershire- Primary, Secondary and SEN

Coventry/ Warwickshire- Primary/ Secondary and SEN

### **Why choose Leicester?**

For those considering relocating for work, Leicester is a fantastic and diverse city which is full of surprises!

Leicester itself isn't just a city at the heart of England; it's also a central point for discovering diverse culture, rich history, bustling activity and natural beauty.

With a population of more than 300,000, Leicester is the largest city in the East Midlands and the tenth largest in the country.

Leicester is world-famous for the discovery of King Richard III's remains; its rich, vibrant and varied cultures; world class sport offerings and an unrivalled comedy festival.

It is also a historic meeting place. For centuries people of different races and cultures have gathered in Leicester, creating a rich and unique heritage. This diversity continues today, and continues to enrich city life.

Leicester is famous for its diversity and as a result there are dozens of festivals that run throughout the year. It's fair to say our city knows how to party. The Caribbean Carnival is said to be the largest in the UK after Notting Hill, but where we really have bragging rights is the way Leicester marks Diwali.

Compared to many cities here and abroad, Leicester's living costs are quite low. In fact, Leicester is consistently rated as one of the most affordable places in the UK.

Maybe you're thinking of moving to Leicestershire for university? Do it! With three world-class universities in Leicestershire and with over 65,000 students combined, it's safe to say Leicester welcomes students! On this note, The University of Leicester is one of the UK's leading research and teaching universities with over 25 years' experience offering high-quality distance learning courses. If you are looking for a role within the Education sector including Teaching, maybe Leicester could be the ideal location for you!

## Key facts about Leicester:

1. Leicester is at the intersection of two major railway lines—the North/South Midland Main Line and the east/west Birmingham to London Stansted Cross Country line; as well as the confluence of the M1/M69 motorways and the A6/A46 trunk routes.
2. Jamie Vardy's having a Party! Leicester City Football Club won the Premier League title in 2016. Leicester won the 2015–16 Premier League, their first top-level football championship. They are one of only six clubs to have won the Premier League since its inception in 1992.
3. King Richard III's remains were found buried under a carpark back in 2014. Leicester have now opened a King Richard III Visitor centre, where visitors are given the chance to learn about the Battle of Bosworth and how betrayal led to the king being cut down in the thick of battle, while defending his crown and his return to Leicester.
4. Did you know that the English language we use today actually originated in Leicester?
5. **Leicester Tigers are the most successful English Rugby Club!**  
**The city's Rugby team, Leicester Tigers, are officially the most successful English Rugby club since the introduction of the league in 1987. The team holds the record for English champions, winning the league 10 times. They last won the Premiership title in the season of 2012-13.**
6. **Leicester Market is the biggest outdoor, covered market in the whole of Europe**
7. **Shop 'til you drop!** Central Leicester has two primary shopping "malls" – Highcross Leicester and the Haymarket Shopping Centre: The Haymarket Shopping Centre was opened on the site in 1974, and was the first to be built in the City, with parking for up to 500 cars on several levels; two levels of shopping and a bus station, and it is also the site of the Haymarket Theatre. Highcross Leicester opened in 2008 after work to redevelop "The Shires Centre" was completed at a cost of £350 million (creating 120 stores, 15 restaurants, a cinema, 110,000 m<sup>2</sup> of shopping space).
8. **Leicester hosts the largest Diwali celebrations outside of India.**  
**Up to 35,000 people attend the switch-on of the lights on Belgrave Road every year, and even more attend the Diwali day celebrations throughout the city.**
9. **Leicester is one of the oldest cities in the UK, with a history stretching back over 2,000 years.** The Romans encountered a native Iron Age settlement in Leicester, which is thought to have developed in the 2nd or 1st centuries BC. Meaning Leicester is older than Jesus!
10. First broadcast way back in 1967, **Radio Leicester was Britain's first ever local radio station.**

## Why Coventry/ Warwickshire:

Coventry is a city and metropolitan borough in the West Midlands, England.

Historically part of Warwickshire, Coventry is the 9th largest city in England and the 12th largest in the United Kingdom. It is the second largest city in the West Midlands region, after Birmingham.

According to the University of Warwick's population report in 2014, the city was inhabited by 337,428 people. There is no need to wonder that it is called as the 2nd largest city in the county of West Midlands!

Coventry and Warwickshire are home to 2 fantastic Universities- Coventry University is the UK's 13th best University (The Guardian University Guide 2019) and have a gold award for Teaching Excellence (TEF 2017). With 29,000 students from over 50 countries, Coventry University is a diverse campus in a multicultural and welcoming city.

The University of Warwick is a 'Russell Group' university that consistently ranks among the best in the UK. It is situated around three miles outside the centre of Coventry, on the edge of Warwickshire. Warwick Arts Centre is in the middle of the campus and is one of the UK's largest visual and performing arts complexes outside of London, offering theatre, film, music, art and dance.

### Key Facts about Coventry and Warwickshire:

1. Coventry is 19 miles (31 km) East-Southeast of Birmingham, 24 miles (39 km) Southwest of Leicester, 11 miles (18 km) North of Warwick and 95 miles (153 km) Northwest of London.
2. **William Shakespeare** was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England on **April 23**, 1564. He most likely attended King Edward VI Grammar School in Stratford, where he learned Latin grammar and literature.
3. The grass next to Coventry University's admin block is full of tombstones. A church used to stand there but the gravestones cannot be removed as it is classified as sanctified ground.
4. Highfield Road - former ground of Coventry City Football Club - was the **English league's first all-seater stadium** (the first all-seater in all the UK was Aberdeen's Pittodrie Stadium), while Coventry City Football Club produced the first ever match programme.
5. **Remember, remember, the 5th of November...** Many of Warwickshire's grand houses, such as Coombe Abbey, Clopton House, Coughton Court and Baddesley Clinton, are linked to the Gunpowder Plot of 1605.
6. **The Italian Job's car chase scene** involving Minis was filmed in huge sewer pipes at Stoke Aldermoor, in September 1968.
7. Coventry was voted **second-best city in the UK** for young adults in 2013.
8. In 2009, students at Coventry University reported that Coventry was the third cheapest city in the UK for cost of living. The average cost of a pint in a Coventry pub was £2.15 and the average cost of accommodation was £50 a week.
9. According to Warwick University, Stratford-upon-Avon is the **2nd most popular tourist destination in the UK**.
10. Hidden attractions off-the-beaten-track include the **Rollright Stones** in south Warwickshire - a Neolithic stone circle erected more than 4,000 years ago, and

thought to be even older than Stonehenge. In June 1978, scenes for the **Doctor Who** story The Stones of Blood were filmed there.

**Making the most of your experience!**

[www.visitleicester.info](http://www.visitleicester.info)

<https://www.visitengland.com/things-to-do/warwickshire>

<http://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/welcome-to-warwickshire/>