

# Park and Spa

## 1. Brunswick Square

The development of Brunswick Square began in 1825 on a site just south of the ancient City walls. Royalist artillery was stationed here for the bombardment of Gloucester during the Civil War siege of 1643.

## 2. Christ Church

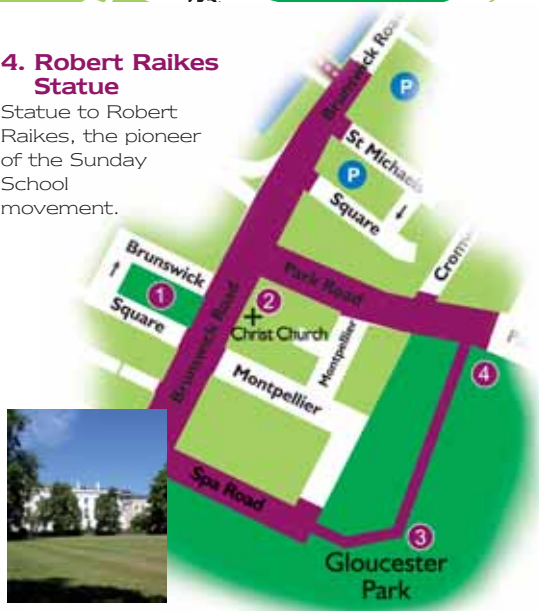
The Church was built to serve the expanding population of the Spa and was built by Thomas Rickman and Henry Hutchinson in the neo-classical style. In 1865 the church was enlarged then in 1899 – 1901 the original façade and bell turret were removed and replaced with a Romanesque type front.

## 3. The Park

Gloucester Park was created from the Spa pleasure grounds laid out in 1815. In 2005/06 Gloucester Park had a £1.28 million refurbishment.

## 4. Robert Raikes Statue

Statue to Robert Raikes, the pioneer of the Sunday School movement.



# Eastgate Street

## 1. Market Portico

Entrance portico of the former Eastgate Market, originally situated just west of its present site, dismantled in 1969 and rebuilt in 1973, an exuberant Victorian monument to the earth's abundance.

## 2. Guildhall

Late 19th century, Renaissance style building on the site of the original Bluecoat School, one of the City's oldest schools, founded by a wealthy native in 1666.



white street façade but still the finest galleried courtyard inn of its age in England.

## 2. The Cross and St Michael's Church Tower

The cross has been Gloucester's focal point since its origin; here was the entrance to the Roman Forum, which extended beneath Southgate Street, and from Saxon times the junction of the City's four main streets.

## 3. 26 Westgate Street

Georgian street façade, but behind it is the City's finest timber-framed building. Access by side door to narrow alley, the medieval Maverdine Lane. A 16th-century four-storey elevation with carved overhangs and rich original detailing.

## 4. College Court and St Michael's Gateway

Site that inspired illustrations for Beatrix Potter's Tailor of Gloucester. The gate, in the late Perpendicular style, is to the lay cemetery within the St Peter's Abbey precinct. To the right of the gate can be seen part of the original abbey wall.



# Potter and Pilgrims

## 1. New Inn

Built as an inn by St Peter's Abbey c.1440 to accommodate pilgrims visiting the shrine of Edward II. At the time of completion it was the largest inn in the county, which held over 200 people. Remarkably intact behind the black and



# GLOUCESTER



## Via Sacra Self Guided Walks



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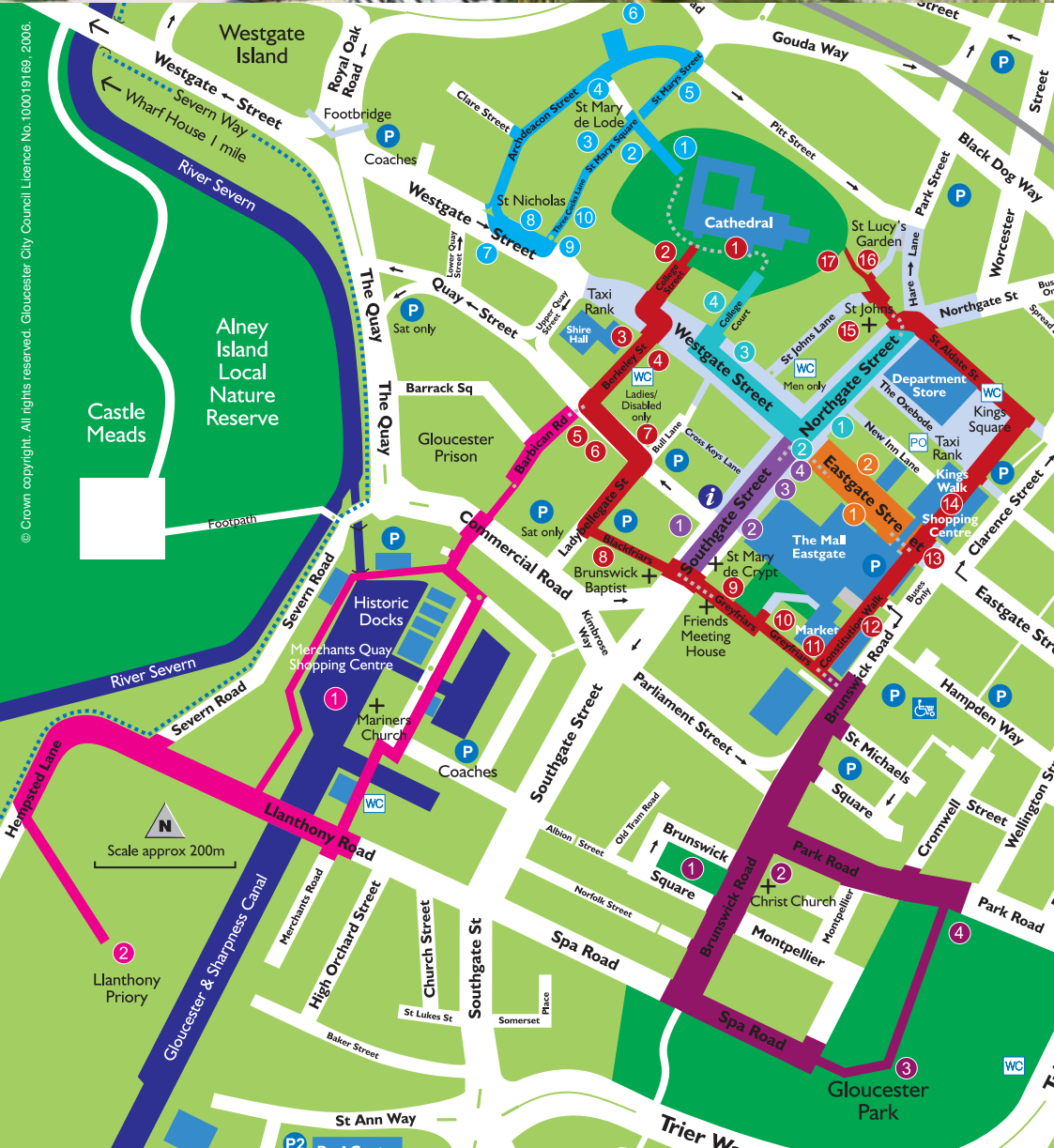
# Walk through the past!

Discover Gloucester's unique history with the Via Sacra, a circular walk around the City. The route approximately follows the lines of the City walls and is recognised by the pattern of dark paving in the footpath passing many of the City's historic buildings. The walk starts and finishes at the Cathedral and takes about an hour to walk.

As well as the main Via Sacra route we have added a few little detours to take in more hidden historical gems. Simply follow the marked circular routes on the map and they will eventually bring you back to the main Via Sacra walk. You may want to do them all in one day or why not mix and match the routes and create a number of different walks.

**We hope you enjoy the walk.**

*Gloucester City Council would like to thank Phillip Moss of Gloucester Civic Trust and the Gloucester Pride Group for their support of this leaflet.*



## Via Sacra Walk

- 1 Cathedral and Cathedral Close
- 2 King Edward's Gate
- 3 Shire Hall – Sir Robert Smirke 1816
- 4 The Fountain Inn
- 5 Bearland House
- 6 Bearland Lodge
- 7 Ladybellegate House
- 8 Blackfriars
- 9 St Mary De Crypt Church and School
- 10 Addison's Folly
- 11 Greyfriars Friary
- 12 City Museum and Art Gallery
- 13 Eastgate & City Wall
- 14 The Bastion
- 15 St John's Church
- 16 St Lucy's Garden
- 17 Entrance to Cathedral Way

## Martyrs Walk

- 1 Parliament Room
- 2 St Mary's Gateway
- 3 Bishop Hooper's Monument
- 4 St Mary de Lode Church
- 5 St Mary's Street
- 6 St Oswald's Priory
- 7 Folk Museum
- 8 St Nicholas Church
- 9 Cherubs from Booth Hall
- 10 Statue of King Charles II

## Monks and Maritime Walk

- 1 Gloucester Docks
- 2 Llanthony Secunda Priory

## Old Father Time and the Bell Walk

- 1 Robert Raikes House
- 2 Emperor Nerva Statue
- 3 9 Southgate Street
- 4 5 Southgate Street

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- 2 Christ Church
- 3 The Park
- 4 Robert Raikes Statue

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- 2 Guildhall

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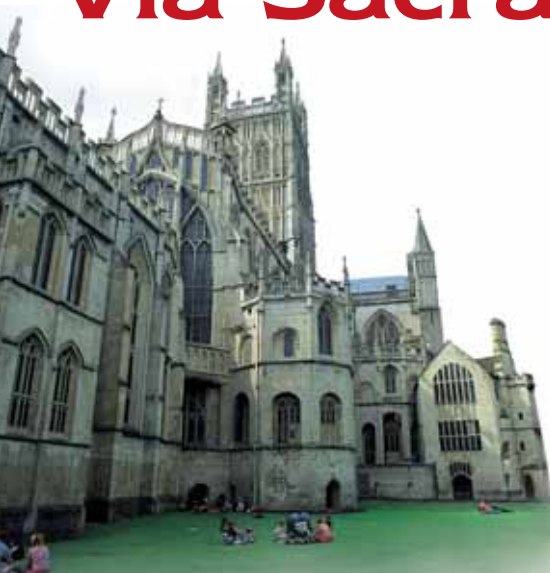
To help children enjoy the walks, pick up a copy of the Via Sacra Self Guided Walks for Children. *Subject to availability*







# Via Sacra Walk



### 3. Shire Hall – Sir Robert Smirke 1816

The central Ionic portico formed part of the original Shire Hall building designed by the architect, Sir Robert Smirke, in 1816. The grand entrance is said to be styled on the temple that stands on the River Illissus in Greece.

### 4. The Fountain Inn

The 17th-century building with garden courtyard occupies the oldest known pub site in Gloucester. Brewing was first recorded here in the early 14th century.

### 5. Bearland House

Dignified townhouse built in the 1740s by William Jones, a distinguished Gloucester attorney. The ornamental façade is complemented by a forecourt and fine wrought iron railings and gate.

### 6. Bearland Lodge

A very attractive early 18th-century house with an interesting pediment above the façade.

### 7. Ladybellegate House

A fine town house built in 1705. The Raikes family came to live here in 1732 and remained for many years. The interior contains some of the City's most ornamental plasterwork.

### 8. Blackfriars

13th-century church and cloister buildings which form part of the best preserved Dominican Friary in Britain. Guided tours are available at weekends during the summer.

### 9. St Mary De Crypt Church and School

The plan of the church is Norman, though the structure is mainly Perpendicular style with some 13th-century features. Gloucester's famous 18th-century preacher George Whitefield delivered his first sermon after ordination in 1734. The school, built onto the north of the church, dates from 1539 with a stone street façade and brickwork at the back.

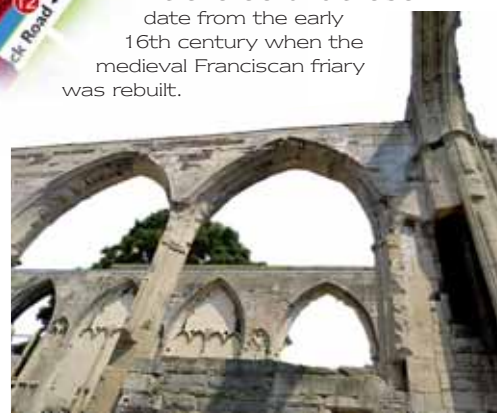


### 10. Addison's Folly

Built in 1864 in memory of Robert Raikes by a local solicitor, Thomas Fern Addison.

### 11. Greyfriars Friary

The standing remains of the nave and north aisle date from the early 16th century when the medieval Franciscan friary was rebuilt.



### 12. City Museum and Art Gallery

Treasures from all over Gloucestershire reveal the county's early life – dinosaur bones, unusual Roman remains and the amazing Birdlip mirror, to name but a few! Regular special exhibitions, activities and events take place and admission is free.

### 13. Eastgate & City Wall

Remains of Gloucester's successive Roman, medieval and post-medieval East Gates. Free tours of the East Gate are available during summer months from the City Museum.

### 14. The Bastion

Roman city wall showing the meeting-point of stretches built in the 3rd and 4th centuries. The 4th-century build has lower courses of massive blocks of stone and small rectangular 'putlog' holes on the inside, where the horizontal staging of the builders' scaffolding was set.

### 15. St John's Church

On the site of one of the City's ten parish churches of pre-Norman-Conquest date. The tower and truncated spire are 14th century, the rest of the building mainly early 18th century with fine internal details.



### 16. St Lucy's Garden

The garden was the north-east corner of the St Peter's Abbey precinct. The only surviving piece of the precinct east wall can be seen in the corner of the garden behind the Northgate Hall. The north wall, which is better preserved, runs along Pitt Street.

### 17. Entrance to Cathedral Way

The last lap of the Via Sacra leading to the East window of the Lady Chapel.



### 1. Cathedral and Cathedral Close

Twelve acres of historic Gloucester, which has remained largely unchanged for the last 200 years. There has been a religious house on this site since 679AD and the present building was begun in the 11th century. Guided tours and guide books are available from the Cathedral.

### 2. King Edward's Gate

Entrance from the main street of medieval Gloucester to St Peter's Abbey. The body of King Edward II was received here by the Abbot for burial after the King's murder at Berkeley Castle in 1327.







## Martyrs Walk

### 1. Parliament Room

Late 15th-century half-timbered hall at first floor level, set in 13th-century stone building where Richard II held his parliament in 1378. The building formed part of the domestic ranges of St Peter's Abbey and was perhaps the Abbot's Hall.

### 2. St Mary's Gateway

The western entrance into the St Peter's Abbey precinct. The houses either side are on the line of the precinct wall. This can be seen in places in St Mary's Street and Three Cocks Lane.

### 3. Bishop Hooper's Monument

19th-century memorial to Gloucester's martyred second bishop, set up on the site where he was burnt at the stake for his Protestant faith in 1555.

### 4. St Mary de Lode Church

'Lode' means watercourse, possibly here the stream which supplied St Peter's Abbey – the Cathedral – with water before flowing into the now vanished eastern channel of the Severn just to the west of the church. The church tower and some internal details are Norman, the rest early 19th century.

### 5. St Mary's Street

The street – medieval Wateringstrete – approximately follows the line of a ditch or watercourse outside the precinct wall of St Oswald's. The cottages are early 16th century.

### 6. St Oswald's Priory

The standing remains originated as the north wall of Aethelflaed's Free Chapel Royal, founded in 909. One large round-headed arch is Saxon, the others are of the 12th and 13th centuries. The ruin has been in its present state since the 1643 bombardment.



### 7. Folk Museum

99 Westgate Street. The museum houses an 18th-century pin factory together with a popular Victorian schoolroom.

### 8. St Nicholas Church

Structure of Norman date and later. The truncated leaning spire in the Perpendicular style is one of the City's most handsome landmarks.

### 9. Cherubs from Booth Hall

18th-century carving of the City Arms on wall of modern building; preserved from Booth Hall, the medieval ancestor of the modern Guildhall, which was situated beside the present Shire Hall and demolished in 1957.

### 10. Statue of King Charles II

Carved in 1662 by Stephen Baldwyn and set up in the Wheat Market in Southgate Street. It was removed in the middle of the 18th century and re-discovered in 1945, in a garden at Chaxhill near Westbury-on-Severn.

## Monks and Maritime Walk

### 1. Gloucester Docks

In 1580, Queen Elizabeth I granted Gloucester the status of a Port, allowing direct trade with foreign ports. Trade continued to grow over the next two centuries and in 1793, the Act of Parliament for the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal was passed.

The superb collection of warehouses within the docks owe their existence to the corn trade of the 19th century, when huge quantities of wheat, oats, barley and maize were shipped into the port from Ireland,

North Europe, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Other highlights within the docks include Mariners Chapel built in 1894 and the Dry Docks which were first commissioned in 1818 and are still working today. Guided walks of the docks are available at the weekends throughout the summer.



### 2. Llanthony Secunda Priory

Parks and ruins of Llanthony Secunda Priory, a priory of Augustinian canons. The church was built within sixteen months and the priory was completed in 1150.



## Old Father Time and the Bell Walk

### 1. Robert Raikes House

A fine late 16th-century timber framed house with 18th-

century additions to its rear. The interior is still impressive. Robert Raikes a pioneer of the Sunday School movement, lived here from 1768 to 1801.

### 2. Emperor Nerva Statue

Nerva, a distinguished lawyer, was over 60 years of age when he was proclaimed Roman Emperor in 96AD. When he died in 98AD it was said nobody could have done more for the Empire in such a short time.

The Roman City of Gloucester was known as Colonia Nerviana



Glouvenis and its people would have felt highly honoured that their town carried his name.

### 3. 9 Southgate Street

A Jacobean timber-fronted house built by Thomas Yate, Apothecary. (Yate was distantly related to the Berkeley's but their town house was in College Green.)

### 4. 5 Southgate Street

Clockmaker's shop with chiming clock of 1904. The chimes are attended by the figures of an Irishwoman, John Bull, Father Time, a Scotsman and a Welshwoman.

For more information on the history of Gloucester, why not purchase a copy of Historic Gloucester by Philip Moss. This illustrated guide to Gloucester will enlighten you further about Gloucester and the important and sometime troublesome part it has played in English history. This is available from Gloucester Tourist Information Centre, 28 Southgate Street, Gloucester. Tel: 01452 396572.