



## Robin Hood in Nottinghamshire – 2 Day Tourist Itinerary

### Your Outlaw Encampment

First select a base for your two-day Robin Hood trail. Are you a countryside or a city lover?

Escape to the countryside and stay close to Sherwood Forest, with its woodland hideaway cabins, cozy farmstays and camping grounds

<https://visitsherwoodforest.co.uk/stay>

Or choose from hotels a-plenty in the bustling Midlands city of Nottingham

<https://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/stay>

### Hit The Trail

On day one, we'll explore legendary Sherwood Forest. On day two we'll explore the city. Day one today – so don your walking shoes.

#### DAY ONE

First stop – the **Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre in Edwinstowe**. Here the RSPB look after over 900 ancient oak trees and rare lowland heathland, in one of the oldest surviving parts of Sherwood Forest. If you're driving from Nottingham, set your SatNav to NG21 9RN and head north out of Nottingham.

If travelling from Nottingham by public transport, take the Sherwood Arrow bus service from Nottingham's Victoria Centre bus station and ask the driver to drop you at the Centre.

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/east-midlands/sherwood-arrow>

At the Centre, find out about the nature of the Forest, grab a snack or browse the shop. More info here: <https://www.visitsherwood.co.uk/plan-your-visit> Then head out on one of the short and easy paths, to get a taste of the oak and birch woodland where Robin Hood is once said to have poached the 'King's Deer.'

From the Centre, stroll a few hundred yards in to the village of Edwinstowe and look for the spire of **St Mary's Church**. This is where Robin Hood and Maid Marian are said to have wed. If you're lucky, the church will be open and volunteers will show

you it's interior. If not, continue along the High Street to the library. Outside stands a bronze statue commemorating the lovebirds. Why not take **lunch** in one of the pubs or cafes of this friendly forest village?

One of the earliest Robin Hood ballads was "Robin Hood and the Monk." A couple of miles away at **Rufford Abbey**, lived real medieval monks. Today the ruined abbey forms the backdrop to a pleasure park with lake, gardens and woodland.

To get there either hop back on the Sherwood Arrow and ask to be dropped at Rufford Abbey gates (make sure you check the bus is heading in the Nottingham direction, *not* north to Worksop) or set your satnav for NG21 9DF. Look out for the entrance signs directly off the A614 road to Nottingham.

Keen walkers can walk from Edwinstowe to Rufford Abbey by road. The distance is roughly 2 miles, and you can pick up the Sherwood Arrow bus at Rufford Abbey gates if you're returning to Nottingham (always check timetable before planning your walk.) Ask an Edwinstowe local to point the way.

Spend 2-3 hours exploring the park – it's free to enter (small car park charge for cars) and there's a choice of eateries.

## DAY TWO

Today we're hunting for Robin in the urban setting of Nottingham city.

Begin your search at the **gates of Nottingham Castle**. The original medieval castle, visited by the medieval kings and queens of Robin Hood's day, was destroyed by fire, but the castle gatehouse still remains. Grab a photo posing in front of the bronze Robin Hood statue. The castle is in the closing phases of a major restoration project, due to complete in 2021, which will create a new Robin Hood gallery. Check the website for latest re-opening news: <https://www.nottinghamcastle.org.uk/>

In the Old Market Square, after admiring the fine Art Deco architecture of the Council House, take a peep into Exchange Arcade, a gallery of shops to its rear and look up. Can you spot the 1928 murals featuring Robin Hood? They were painted by artist Noel Denholm Davies.

You'll find plenty of coffee houses and eateries for lunch.

After your pitstop, head into the Lace Market – once noisy with the industry of Nottingham's lace factories, today a tranquil backwater. Visit the fine 15<sup>th</sup> century **Church of St Mary's**. It's open most weekdays, but even if you can't tour the interior, sit in the churchyard and admire the place Robin Hood where Robin Hood is said to have visited and prayed. The ballad "Robin Hood and the Monk" tells the tale:

Robin Hood came to St. Mary's, having not been to mass for a fortnight.

He was noticed by a monk who had previously been robbed by the hooded man who reported him to the Sheriff of Nottingham.

Robin tried to escape and actually broke his sword over the Sheriff's helmet. He was dragged off and incarcerated.

After a coffee in one of the local cafes, now it's time to meet Robin Hood. Book a **"Robin Hood Town Tour"** with award-winning local guide Ezekiel Bone - in costume and character as the famous outlaw. <https://www.ezekialbone.com/robin-hood>

### **More To Explore**

Two days on the Robin Hood trail has probably whetted your appetite to explore further in Robin Hood country. Check out these websites for more suggestions of places to see, things to do, and locations to stay:

Sherwood Forest and surrounding countryside: <https://visitsherwoodforest.co.uk>

The city and county of Nottinghamshire: <https://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk>

### **Check Before You Travel**

Opening times of all attractions are subject to change, particularly in the wake of Covid 19 closures during 2020.

Please check latest information on bus routes and opening times direct with the operator.

We also recommend carrying an ordnance survey map if intending to explore off waymarked routes within Sherwood Forest - mobile reception can be poor in some areas.

The Sherwood Forest Trust cannot be held liable for any losses or inconvenience caused by failure to take the above precautions before travelling.