



Attractive Tudor Houses along Friar Street

Round the corner at College Green is Edgar Tower, built on the site of Worcester castle's original gatehouse. It is currently partially under wraps, with restoration work due for completion in 2016.

A short walk away, Friar Street is the heart of the Tudor city. Several timber-framed buildings survive, including the Tudor House which has served as a workplace for weavers, a tavern, a Second World War air-raid warden's office and an early 20th-century school clinic. Also of note is the National Trust-owned Greyfriars' House. A former merchant's dwelling, it was saved from the wrecking balls that flattened many Tudor buildings in the 20th century. Guided tours of the house and its gardens are available.

ROYAL OCCASION

Parallel to Friar Street, the High Street is home to the Guildhall. One of the finest Queen Anne buildings in England, its ornate facade features symbols of Worcester's Royalist allegiance. Statues of Charles I and Charles II adorn the entrance, while Cromwell's sculpted head is nailed by the ears above the door. The Tourist Information Centre is located here, and the Grand Italianate assembly room is open for visits.

Continue down the High Street and you come to another grand statue of one of England's finest classical composers, Sir Edward Elgar, who was born just outside Worcester at Broadheath. He stands gazing beyond Worcester's cathedral to his beloved Malvern Hills. The cathedral, overlooking the Severn, is undoubtedly the city's crown jewel. Badly damaged during the Civil War, several periods of restoration followed, the most extensive being carried out by the Victorians.

This past year the cathedral has featured in the celebrations of the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta by King John. The king was buried in the cathedral on his death in 1216 and the marble sculpture on his tomb, said to be a true likeness, is England's oldest royal effigy. The king's will and other artefacts of the period are on display in the cathedral's medieval library.

Also buried here is Arthur Tudor, the eldest son of Henry VII, who married Catherine of Aragon in 1501. Unfortunately, he died the following year at the age of 15, paving the way for the accession of his younger brother, who became Henry VIII in 1509. The same year, the widowed Catherine became the first of Henry's six wives.

The best views of the cathedral are from the river. The attractive west end looks out



"...between 1790 and 1820 half of Britain's glovers were based here"

against a cathedral backdrop. Or back across the bridge, alongside the Severn, is Worcester Racecourse, the home of summer National Hunt horse racing. In fact, if you're looking for cultural, historical or sporting entertainment, Worcester should be your source.

Above: New Road – the home of the Worcestershire County Cricket team

Left: drumming up support for the Worcestershire Soldier Exhibition

across a grassy bank to the water, where a large flock of swans can often be seen gliding back and forth. However, one of the best vistas is upstream, from Worcester Bridge, the city's only road crossing over the river.

Another prominent landmark near the cathedral is Glover's Needle. A spindly spire atop a tower standing in a riverside garden, it is all that remains of a church built in the mid 18th century and demolished in the 1940s. Its name recalls the city's once-famous glove-making industry, which reached its peak between 1790 and 1820, when half of Britain's glovers were based in and around Worcester.

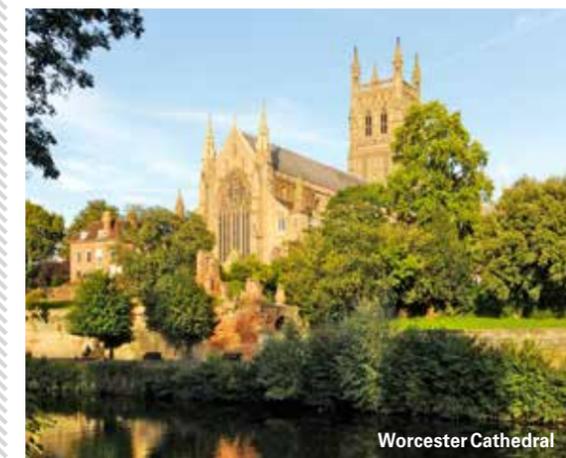
North of Foregate Street station, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum is well worth a visit. Among the many interesting objects on display are dinosaur prints, a baby polar bear and a large sturgeon caught in the Severn at Worcester in 1835. There are frequent temporary exhibitions, plus a permanent installation entitled 'The Worcestershire Soldier', bringing to life the 300-year history of county regiments.

Sports enthusiasts will also be drawn to events in the city. Worcestershire County Cricket Club is home to one of the most beautiful grounds in the country at the western end of Worcester Bridge,

INFORMATION

For your visit to Worcester, stay at Malvern Hills Caravan Club Site – for the most up-to-date details, see The Club website. Alternatively, turn to page 142 of the *Sites Directory & Handbook 2015/16*. To book, call 01342 327490 or see caravanclub.co.uk/searchandbook.

Malvern Hills is about 11 miles from Worcester. There are several car parks around the city centre (rates vary). Alternatively, you can take a train from Great Malvern (about six miles from site) to Worcester Foregate Street. Journey time is 12 minutes.



Worcester Cathedral

Worcs for me!

Don Jolly explains why Worcester is the perfect destination for a short caravanning break

Right: work on the city's present Guildhall started in 1722

Below: The Commandery



On the banks of the River Severn, Worcester is famous as the site of two Civil War battles. The first – more of a skirmish – took place at Powick Bridge in 1642 and resulted in a Royalist victory. However,

in the war's final melee in 1651, 28,000 Parliamentarians had their revenge, defeating Charles II in his attempt to regain the crown by force. The king spent the following nine years in European exile until the restoration of the monarchy following Cromwell's death.

You can learn more about Worcester's role in the war at The Commandery, the Royalist headquarters during the final battle. The building, which stands beside a bridge over the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, is believed to originate from 1085, though most of what you see dates from around 1460.

During its lifetime it has served as a hospital, a merchant's home, a school for blind boys and a print works. One of its main sights is the painted chamber in which you will find fascinating

WORCESTER FACTFILE

1. Worcestershire Sauce maker Lea & Perrins has its factory in the city.
2. Areas of the city's medieval centre were demolished in the 1950s and '60s.
3. Every three years, Worcester becomes home to the Three Choirs Festival.



religious wall paintings dating from the 15th century.

Nearby is the Museum of Royal Worcester, housed in what was the Royal Worcester porcelain factory (established in 1751 and closed in 2009). Items on display span the factory's 258-year history – you can also see craftsmen demonstrating their skills.