

# The Great Malverns : 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Ivel Valley long weekend  
to the Malvern Hills



## Great Malvern

Malvern is largely Victorian but its roots go back much further. Iron & Bronze Age forts and tracks run along the hills. Malvern was just a collection of small cottages until the Middle Ages. The oldest parts of the town can be seen around the Priory Church which was founded in 1085 when Benedictine monks settled here and built a Priory, which was a daughter house to Westminster Abbey.

Great Malvern originated as a spa village with therapeutic qualities attributed to its springs. It was the Georgian and Victorian popularity of taking the spa waters that transformed Malvern into a "Water Cure" town. Doctors, Gully and Wilson brought hydrotherapy – the water cure – from Austria and built the first water cure house in 1845. The growing influx of visitors necessitated accommodation, information and social recreation to rival centres such as Bath and Cheltenham. You can no longer take the water cure in Malvern but many of the impressive buildings remain today.

Popularity in Malvern continued to grow even after the "water cure" had declined. George Bernard Shaw and Edward Elgar brought Malvern into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with their music and theatre festivals held in the Winter Gardens. Today there is a new theatre complex in the old Winter Gardens; the old Iron Age tracks leading to St. Ann's well and onto the hills are still walked by visitors; cars as well as people now traverse Belle Vue Terrace. The delight of Malvern today is still its beauty, its glimpse of past Victoriana including many working gaslamps, its stunning views of the Severn Valley and exciting music and theatre.

It is 110 miles to Malvern from Bedford, taking 2½ hours to drive according to AA  
Contact information:

Antony – 07857 890829

Roy – 07784 208997

# The Great Malverns : 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Day 1: Great Malvern – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October – 1:30pm - 6 mile Circular walk**

We start the weekend by meeting at Priory Road carpark in Great Malvern which is adjacent to Priory Park and the Leisure Pool. The walk meanders upwards to St Ann's Well for a rest, then around Table Hill and End Hill before descending to North Malvern. There are wonderful views to the west, north and east along the way. From here we follow tree lined avenues through Malvern and show you many properties of historic interest heading back to the carpark.

**Explorer Map 190 Grid Ref: SO 778 457 Postcode: WR14 3DS**

St Ann's Well



Not long after the Battle of Hastings, St Wulstan, the Bishop of Worcester, encouraged a monk, called Aldwin, to found a monastery in what was then Malvern Chase. The Priory was built on land which belonged to Wesminster Abbey, and having allegiance to Westminster, there were altercations between the Priory and the Bishop of Worcester over the years. It is reported that in 1286 the Archbishop, the King and even the Pope were involved in these disagreements. During the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VIII plundered the Priory of cash and by 1539 the Malvern monks surrendered their lands and buildings. Lack of money continued to be a problem for maintenance and it wasn't until the Industrial Revolution that restoration began.

Great Malvern Priory



Meet at the Priory Road, Pay & Display car parks in Great Malvern

Priory Road North: WR14 3DS  
Parking charges:  
£2 - 4 hours, £3 All Day

Priory Road South: WR14 3DS  
Parking charges:  
£2 - 4 hours, £3 All Day

Walk starts at 1:30 pm

# The Great Malverns : 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Day 2: Great Malvern – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October – 09:30am –

7 mile or 11 mile Linear walks to Ledbury (and bus/train return)

Like yesterday, we start the walks at Priory Road carpark in Great Malvern. The shorter walk catches the 09:45 train to Colwall Stone, to walk the Malvern foothills and Ridgeway to Eastnor Park and Ledbury. The long walk ascends Worcestershire & Herefordshire Beacons traversing the Malvern Hills before descending to Eastnor Park and into Ledbury. Both walks return from Ledbury Railway station (¾ mile north of the town centre) either by bus (675) or by train.

Explorer Map 190 Grid Ref: SO 778 457 Postcode: WR14 3DS



Eastnor Castle



Ledbury

Ledbury is one of England's text book market towns, full of timber-framed buildings. The 17th century black & white Market Hall, which had originally served as a grain store dominates the town centre and is supported on pillars of chestnut. It was completed in 1653 by John Abel, the Kings carpenter, another fine example of black & white architecture is The Feather's Hotel on the High Street. Church Lane is a much photographed cobbled medieval street containing the Heritage centre, Butchers Row Folk Museum and the Painted Room leading to a fine Parish Church. Eastnor Castle is a magnificent Georgian Castle dramatically situated in the foothills of the Malvern Hills surrounded by a beautiful deer park, lake and arboretum.



Market Hall - Ledbury

Meet at the Priory Road, Pay & Display car parks in Great Malvern

Priory Road North: WR14 3DS

Parking charges:

£2 - 4 hours, £3 All Day

Priory Road South: WR14 3DS

Parking charges:

£2 - 4 hours, £3 All Day

Walk starts at 09:30 am

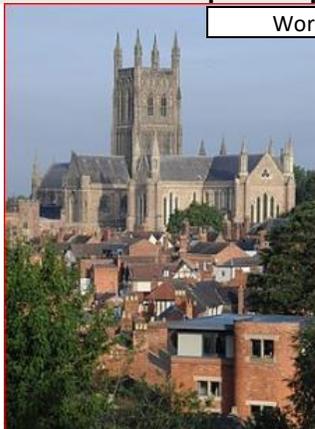
# The Great Malverns : 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Day 3: Great Malvern – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October – 09:30am –

7 mile or 11 mile linear walks from Worcester (and bus/train return)

As before, we start both walks from Priory Road carpark in Great Malvern to catch the 10:14 train to Worcester Foregate Street. Both walks visit Worcester Cathedral and then along the Severn Way to Temeside Caravan Park where they separate. The short walk leads to Powick Bridge and back on the Monarchs Way to Worcester, returning by train or bus (44). The long walk continues onto Malvern, visiting Stanbrook Abbey and the Morgan Car plant on the way.

**Explorer Maps 190 / 204    Grid Ref: SO 778 457    Postcode: WR14 3DS**



Worcester



Worcester is best known for its magnificent Cathedral but is also famous for the renowned Worcester Porcelain and the most picturesque cricket ground in the country. The Battle of Worcester took place on 3rd September 1651 and proved to be the final action of the English Civil War. Charles II, at the head of a mainly Scottish army, was attempting to regain the throne - lost when his father Charles I was executed. Support for the king was strongest in Scotland, and the Royalist commander David Leslie had gathered an army of some 14,000 to fight the cause. Marching south through England the Scottish Royalist army were perceived as an invading force and failed to gather the extra support expected, so by the time they reached Worcester they were overwhelmed by the 28,000 strong New Model Army of Oliver Cromwell.



Great Malvern Station

Meet at the Priory Road, Pay & Display car parks in Great Malvern

Priory Road North: WR14 3DS

Parking charges:  
£2 - 4 hours, £3 All Day

Priory Road South: WR14 3DS

Parking charges:  
£2 - 4 hours, £3 All Day

Walk starts at 09:30 am

# The Great Malverns : 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## Day 3: Great Malvern – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October – 7:30pm – Evening Meal

Our evening meal has been arranged at the Abbey Hotel, Abbey Road, which is next to Priory Church in the centre of Great Malvern. They have limited parking but there is ample parking thereabouts. Pre-order from the buffet menu handed out before the holiday begins.

**Explorer Maps 190   Grid Ref: SO 775 458   Postcode: WR14 3ET**



The Abbey Hotel and garden stand on the site of ancient monastic buildings. After the monastic community was disbanded during Henry VIII's reign, the Priory Church and Priory House were bought for £20 by villagers. The rest was acquired by Sir John Knotsford in 1545. Around 1600 the Priory's residence was replaced by a large three-storey stone house named Abbey House. When the Water Cure was brought to Malvern by Dr Wilson in 1842, the number of visitors put pressure on lodgings in the area. So, in 1848, after failing to sell Abbey House to the Parish for £3,000, William Archer had it demolished and built in its place the present Abbey Hotel. Emperor Haile Selassie stayed there while in exile after Italy invaded Eritrea in 1935. During WW2, Abbey Hotel was first commandeered by the Ministry of Information, who held secret meetings in what is now the Shaw Suite. The building also acted as the headquarters of Belgian refugees before being taken over by the RAF. The Abbey was later extended to accommodate more guests and provide extra conference and banqueting facilities. Today the Priory Church and Gateway (now the Malvern Museum) are all that remain of the old Benedictine monastery.

Park in Priory Road as before or considerably in side streets around the Hotel

Priory Road North & South: WR14 3DS

Parking charges:

£2 - 4 hours, £3 All Day

# The Great Malverns : 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Day 4: Elmley Castle – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October – 10:30am – 7 miles

The last day walk starts at the church in Elmley Castle; eastwards from Malvern through Upton over Severn and according to the AA it is a 45 minute journey (and on the way home). Park considerably in the village. The circular walk takes us onto the Bredon Hill escarpment which offers commanding views across the Vale of Evesham to the north, the Severn Valley to the west and the Cotswolds to the east and south. Spectacular 360 degree views on a clear day.

**Explorer Map 190 Grid Ref: SO 982 411 Postcode: WR10 3HS**



Bredon Hills

The Bredon hills are mentioned in a poem of A. E. Housman's anthology - A Shropshire Lad:  
In summertime on Bredon,  
The bells they sound so clear,  
Round both the shires they ring them,  
In steeples far and near,  
A happy noise to hear.



Elmley Castle is a 45 minute drive from Malvern, just over the M5 off the A46 to Evesham.

Park nicely in the village around the inn or at the limited space Picnic site east of the village.

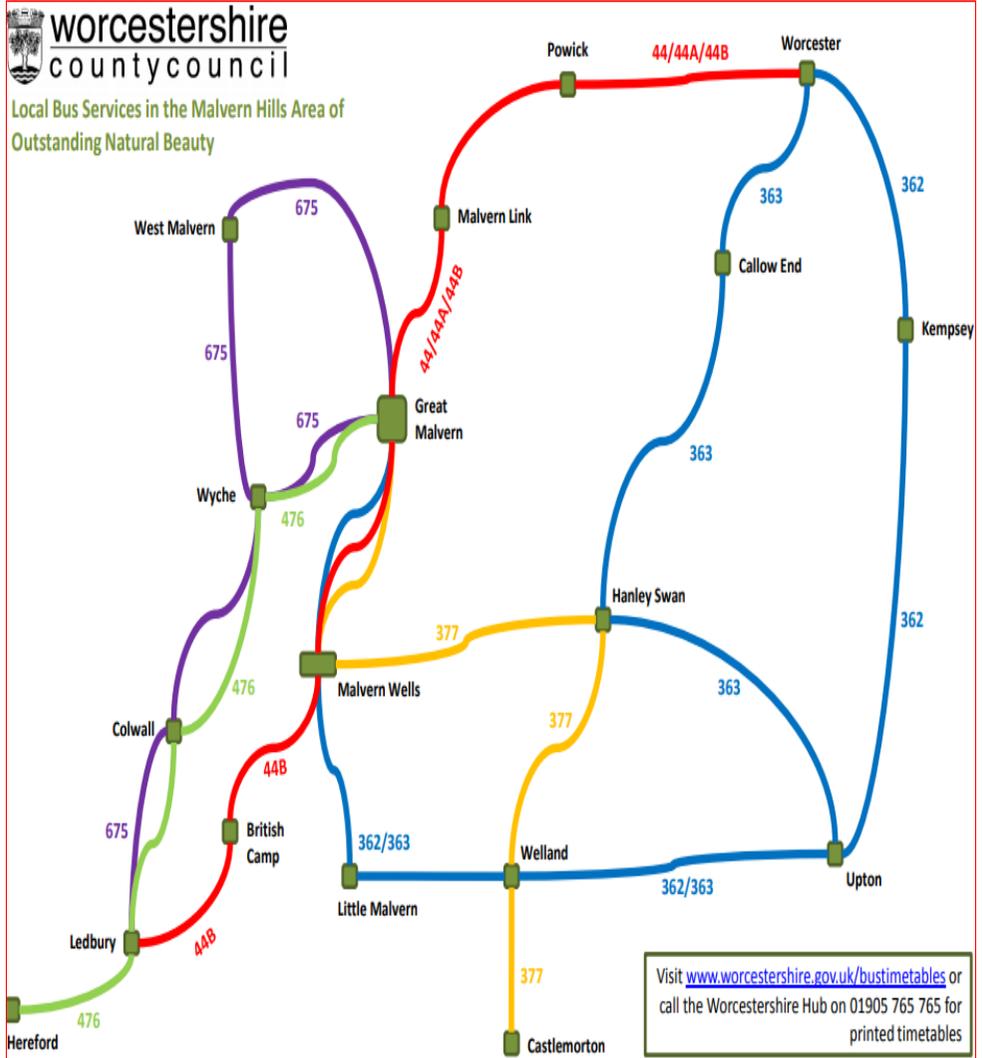
WR10 3HP

Parking: Free All Day

Start at 10:30am – From church

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## Bus routes in the Malvern area



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19:30	Fork Buffet Option 1 (2019)	<p>Bread Rolls Selection of Salads</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Choose from 3 Main and 2 Side dishes - £25</p> <p><b>Meat Dishes</b>            Chicken supreme wrapped in streaky bacon in a wild mushroom and tarragon cream sauce with Parmentier potatoes (GF)            Coq au vin with creamed potatoes (GF)            Steak and Ale pie with creamed potatoes            Slow pan roasted chump of lamb served with roasted new potatoes, rosemary and garlic (GF)            Lamb rogan Josh with basmati rice (GF)            Chicken jalfrezi with basmati rice (GF)            Lasagne with garlic bread            Beef bourginon and creamed potatoes (GF)            Pork goulash with rice (GF)</p> <p><b>Fish Dishes</b>            Roasted salmon with sauce vierge, new potatoes and chives (GF)            Haddock loin with sautéed spinach and caper butter sauce with potatoes (GF)            Plaice fillet stuffed with salmon and dill mousse in a white wine sauce and new potatoes (GF)            Sea bass fillet with sautéed pak choi and stir-fried vegetables and noodles</p> <p><b>Vegetarian Dishes</b>            Vegetable curry with rice (V,GF)            Vegetable lasagne with garlic bread (V)            Roasted vegetable moussaka (V,GF)            Cheese tortellini with purple sprouting broccoli, cherry tomato and parmesan (V)            Spinach and ricotta cannelloni (V)            Wild mushroom stroganoff with spinach and rice (V)</p> <p><b>Vegan Dishes</b>            Sweet Potato, butternut squash and chick pea tikka masala, with braised rice (V,VE,GF)            Moroccan cous cous stuffed bell pepper (V,VE)            Falafel bolognese, with spaghetti (V,VE)</p> <p><b>Sides options</b>            Potato and celeriac gratin (V,GF)            Sautéed green beans with garlic and red onion (V,GF)            Buttered broccoli (V,GF)            Peas and chantenay carrots (V,GF)            Roasted new potatoes with rosemary and garlic (V,GF)            Steamed new potatoes (V,VE,GF)            Parmentier potatoes (V,VE,GF)            Roasted root vegetables (V,VE,GF)            Carrots and Garden Peas (V,VE,GF)            Sauteed ifne beans and red onions (V,VE,GF)</p> <p><b>Fresh Fruit Platter</b>            Selection of Desserts</p> <p>(V) Vegetarian            (VE) Vegan            (GF) Gluten free</p>
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