



equestrian
TRAIL



SADDLE UP: A guide for all horse enthusiasts

Our guide will be useful for those who live within the district as well as visitors. It's designed to show the wealth of things to do, from carriage driving to polo, international show jumping, horse trials, riding schools and the all important aspect of the horse world; horse rescue.



CARRIAGE DRIVING

DK Carriage Horses, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, near Grantham
01949 358695/ 07862260229
www.dkcarriagehorses.co.uk

Try a spin around the quiet lanes near Belvoir Castle for a really special treat. Delightful countryside looks even better from behind a pair of Danny and Sarah Kendle's Hungarian greys or their two spectacular black Gelderlander carriage stunners. DK Carriage Horses supplies horse-drawn carriages for weddings, funerals and special occasions, providing a bespoke service for all occasions, plus carriage driving training and teaching for all abilities.



Danny and Sarah are also happy to take people out for a taster drive or lay on a special treat with some bubbly! Former Head Coachman of the Household Cavalry Regiment, Danny has more than 14 years' professional coach and carriage driving experience. Competing at both national and international level, he has undertaken a wide and varied catalogue of carriage driving work from military parades, weddings, funerals, film and commercial work to charity coaching marathons over large swathes of the UK - all to the highest military standards of tradition, etiquette and style.



TOP SHOWJUMPING

Arena UK Limited, Allington Lane, Allington, Grantham, NG32 2EF
www.arenauk.com

Arena UK is one of the UK's top equestrian centre, sited near Grantham, directly accessible from the A1 just north of Grantham and nestling in over 500 acres with fully licensed bar and restaurant.

It plays host to many British Show Jumping Association regional and national championships, showing and dressage. September's Annual Festival of Show Jumping (19 - 25) attracts over 1500 competitors from all over the UK plus top international competitors and offers a prize fund of over £175,000. The Grand Prix with a first prize of £20,000 is the highest first prize currently available in Great Britain, with a total prize fund of £60,000.



GO RACING?

There are a number of excellent racecourses within easy reach of Burghley – both for flat racing and National Hunt.

Huntingdon

Highlight of the local jumps season is Huntingdon's Peterborough Chase, a Grade 2 race run in December.

Past winners read like a who's who of steeplechasing. The most successful horse in the race's history is Edredon Bleu, who won four consecutive runnings between 1998 and 2001. Wayward Lad (1981, 1983), Travado (1993, 1995) and Racing Demon (2006, 2007) are the only other multiple winners of the race. Choose from 18 Huntingdon race meetings from a Family Day or a Beer Festival in October, November's ladies day and a popular Boxing Day meeting. The course also stages a number of outdoor events, from horse and car shows to team building and conferences. It's easily reached direct from the A1, close to its junction with the A14. <http://huntingdon.thejockeyclub.co.uk/>



Leicester

Leicester Racecourse is a dual Flat and National Hunt venue located in the East Midlands, hosting 32 race meetings throughout the year. It hosts many special events, such as the LOROS charity fund-raising raceday, and switches from flat to NH in November. It's also an outstanding venue for conferencing, weddings and so much more, with the Kube event space ideal for large scale exhibitions and events.

Leicester Road, Leicester LE2 4AL

<http://www.leicester-racecourse.co.uk/>

Southwell

The course stages both flat and jumps meetings - on both all-weather and turf surfaces - plus a series of special meetings. Southwell will always be associated with female jockey Hayley Turner, who grew up locally and had her first job in racing with a trainer based adjacent to the track. The course, which stages a Ladies Day, Special Family Day and antiques fairs, is off the A46 road between Newark and Southwell.

Occupation Lane, Rolleston NG25

www.southwell-racecourse.co.uk



Nottingham

This popular racecourse on the eastern edge of Nottingham, close to Notts County Cricket Club, regularly attracts runners from Newmarket and is a great jockey-spotter. Its racing is now restricted to flat racing but it has a turf surface.

Colwick Park, Nottingham, NG2 4BE

<http://nottingham.thejockeyclub.co.uk/>

Market Rasen

Market Rasen, set in the heart of the Lincolnshire Wolds just outside the town, offers a beautiful setting to enjoy a day at the races with views of the surrounding countryside.

The racecourse holds various events throughout the year. This September, the Prelude Raceday and Beer Festival will be held on the 24th with a seven race card as well as the chance to try delicious local beer. <http://marketrasen.thejockeyclub.co.uk/>



HORSE TRIALS

For horse trials enthusiasts September means only one thing: The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials at Stamford. As one of the world's top events, Burghley stages two days of dressage, followed by Saturday's exciting cross country across beautiful parkland and a final day's show jumping. Trade stands are a draw in themselves, with a specialist food area amidst some 600-plus retail outlets. www.burghley-horse.co.uk

Belton Horse Trials at Belton House near Grantham also attracts international competitors and stages the Grantham Cup.



... TAKE A LOVELY HACK OUT OR BOOK A LESSON FOR THE KIDS

The area has some excellent riding schools in lovely countryside offering a safe environment for all levels of riding.

The Paddocks Riding Centre

This small friendly yard to the north west of Grantham offers a personalised equestrian experience for the adult rider on schoolmaster horses. Learn to ride, return to riding, take group lessons, private lessons or a safe hack out on grass margins.

A Racewood trot simulator, belonging to Kesteven Rideability RDA group, is particularly useful for learners to acquire the basics of rising trot in a safe, controlled situation

Lodge Farm, Frieston Road, Hough on the Hill, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG32 2BE
<http://www.thepaddocksridingcentre.co.uk/>
07732 418848

Bulby Equestrian Centre

This is kids' pony heaven, with Pony Club, regular events, lessons, visitors like the Cranwell Bloodhounds and loads of activities in a safe, well managed environment. All ages are welcome, though, whether for a private lesson, learning to ride or a hack out in glorious south Lincolnshire countryside.



Bulby, Bourne, South Lincolnshire, PE10 0RU
www.bulbystables.com
01778 591186 Mob: 07483 139232

Uffington Riding Stables

Specialists in children's riding lessons, with group or private lessons available for children from three years old. The stables also cater for adults of all abilities and have a range of horses and ponies available to suit all levels of riders. It's the perfect place to learn to ride, or even revisit a childhood hobby as an adult.

In addition to private and group lessons, hacks in the local countryside can be organised after an initial assessment of riding ability.

01780 754044
www.uffingtonridingstables.co.uk
Essendine Rd, Uffington, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4SR

Elms Farm, Caythorpe

Look no further for quality, fun and enthusiastic riding lessons for all capabilities of rider – with a free no obligation 15 minute first lesson!



Elms Farm has a large selection of quality riding school ponies and horses and there are never more than four in a group lesson. Children over five only. For those inevitable rainy days there is access to the indoor school, meaning lessons go ahead all year round.

It also caters for birthday parties and all ponies are available to hire on competition days, so even if you do not own a horse or pony you are still able to compete! It's also fortunate to have brilliant local hacking. Caythorpe is on the A607 between Grantham and Lincoln (close to the polo at Leadenham!)

Amy – 07791934738 | Tom – 07867360201
www.elmsfarmec.com
Frieston Heath Lane, Caythorpe, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG32 3HD



FANCY A CHUKKA?

Leadenham Polo Club, The Manor, 1 Church End, Fulbeck Road, Leadenham, LN5 0PX
01400 318006
www.leadenhampoloclub.com

Leadenham Polo Club opened in 2007 with the aim of providing quality facilities and ponies to those both looking to take up the sport from scratch and also for those who have been playing for many years. The club is located south of Lincoln on the A607.

It has a purpose-built laser levelled field that has won the reputation of being amongst the finest in the country. Its ponies, which were brought over from Argentina both for teaching and competitive polo, are also highly sought after throughout the polo community.

There is an on-site clubhouse with overnight facilities which welcomes guests from all over the UK.

Leadenham teaches riding for polo up to chukka standard and beyond. Lessons are ideal for those wishing to learn the game and make regular progression but only have a short space of free time.



VISIT A HORSE CHARITY

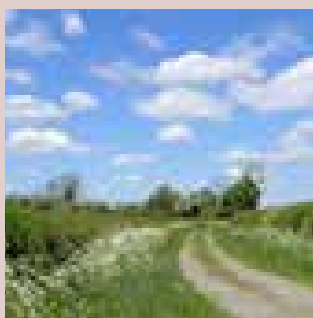
Bransby Horses, Bransby, Lincoln LN1 2PH
01427 788464
www.bransbyhorses.co.uk

Bransby Horses is one of the UK's largest horse charities and offers not only a safe haven for horses, ponies and donkeys but also a fantastic day out for visitors.

Founded in 1968 in Bransby, nine miles north of Lincoln, the centre rescues, rehabilitates, re-homes or acts as a retirement centre for horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. It also runs a rescue centre in Herefordshire.

Visitors can expect to see around 300 four-legged residents and the new Bransby Visitor and Education Centre is open to the public every day from 10am – 4pm. The Horses' Feedroom Cafe has delicious food and there is a gift shop. Bransby is entirely reliant on public donations.

Entry and parking is free



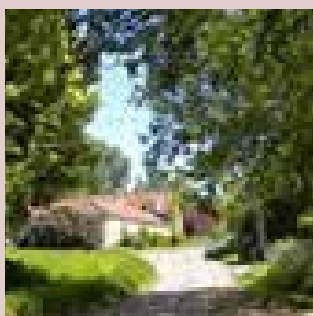
...OR A REALLY GREAT WALK / RIDE

The BHS Paralympic Legacy Access Project has mapped a brilliant route connecting villages to the east of Grantham.

It follows quiet roads and tracks around some of the district's delightful stone villages, country pubs and through countryside teeming with wildlife.

This route is particularly simple and offers the opportunity to ride or drive in the countryside while keeping close to those able to assist from the ground. The route, which meanders along gentle undulating country lanes and tracks, can easily be divided into a number of shorter sections dependent on the distance you wish to ride. It is recommended that walkers / riders follow the directions shown on the map below.

<http://www.bhs.org.uk/access-and-bridleways/carriage-driving/route-9-south-west-lincs>



Grantham itself is within easy reach of National Trust and private properties available to view, such as Belton House, and Woolsthorpe Manor (National Trust and birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton), Harlaxton Manor (University of Evansville), and Belvoir Castle. Grantham has historic connections as the birthplace of former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher, and as the town where Isaac Newton was educated.

Full accommodation guide www.southwestlincs.com



Produced by South Kesteven District Council