

Newstead Abbey Walks



Historic House and Gardens
The ancestral home of poet Lord Byron



POINTS OF INTEREST

Byron's Oak: Although it is just an ivy covered stump today, this is all that remains of an oak tree planted by the poet Byron in 1798.

The West Front & The Abbey: The priory of St. Mary of Newstead was founded by King Henry II in about 1163. It was used as a home for Augustinian Canons until the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII in 1539.

The Cannon Fort: A mock fort built c.1750 and restored in 1986. Built for the fifth Lord Byron. This fort was built as an eye catcher to be seen across the lake and also as a mooring for the ship which the fifth Lord Byron kept for entertaining his friends with mock naval battles.

Boatswains Tomb: Byron had a beloved Newfoundland dog named Boatswain (pronounced Bo-sun), who died in 1808. Boatswain was buried at Newstead Abbey and has a monument larger than his master's. The inscription, from Byron's poem Epitaph to a Dog, has become one of his best-known works.

The Monk's Stew Pond: The Stew Pond is believed to have its origins as a monastic fishpond possibly reshaped later by the Byron's. At its north end is the site of St Mary's Well, marked today with a stone slab.

MAP



NEWSTEAD ABBEY SELF GUIDED WALKS - All walks are waymarked

Walk 1 Garden Walk (distance 380 metres / 0.22 miles, around 30mins)

Start at the cafe marked **A** and turn left and continue along the gravel track towards point **F** with the Byron Oak on your left, the Japanese Gardens, Garden Lake and Cedar Tree on your right. On reaching the gate at point **F** you can either retrace your steps back to point **A** or continue to point **E** then follow the Long Walk.

Walk 2 Cannon Fort Walk (distance 1000 metres / 0.6 miles, around 50mins)

Start at the cafe marked **A** and turn right through the disabled parking area heading towards **B**, turn left and up the grassy bank towards the lake and the waterfall. Continue 200m passing the waterfall on your left. At the waymark **C** turn right onto the unsurfaced path with Upper Lake on your right. Continue along the wooden boardwalk then turn right through the trees then sharp right again and continue straight on and follow this path down a set of wooden steps to the Cannon Fort at point **J**. Retrace your steps back to the cafe at point **A**.

Walk 3 Short Walk (distance 1,400metres / 0.87 miles, around an hour)

Start at the cafe marked **A** and turn right through the disabled parking area heading towards **B**, turn left and up the grassy bank towards the lake and the waterfall. Continue 200m passing the waterfall on your left. At the waymark **C** turn left cross the road onto the gravel track and go through the kissing gate into the field known as Hawks Lawn. Continue for 500m across the field keeping the trees and hedge line on your left to **D**, through the kissing gate then across the wooden footbridge over the River Leen. Bear left through the clearing in the wooded area and through the kissing gate **E** into the field at the side of the Japanese Gardens, with the garden waterfall on your left. Continue straight ahead and bear left for 150m to the gate on your left at **F**. Through the gate, continue along the gravel track for 350m back to the cafe at **A** passing firstly the Japanese Gardens and Garden Lake on your left, the Byron Oak on your right and Ancient Cedar tree on your left.

Walk 4 Long Walk (distance 2,550 metres / 1.6 miles, around 2 hours)

Start at the cafe marked **A** and turn right through the disabled parking area heading towards **B**, turn left and up the grassy bank towards the lake and the waterfall. Continue 200m passing the waterfall on your left. At the waymark **C** turn left cross the road onto the gravel track and go through the kissing gate into the field known as Hawks Lawn. Continue for 500m across the field keeping the trees and hedge line on your left to **D**, through the kissing gate then across the footbridge over the River Leen. Bear left through the clearing in the wooded area and through the kissing gate **E** into the field at the side of the Japanese Gardens, with the garden waterfall on your left. Continue straight ahead and after 60m bear right through the kissing gate into Paradise Field. Continue diagonally across the field for 430m keeping the trees and hedge line on your right to **G**. Through the kissing gate and turn left and continue along the tarmac track for 730m to **H**. Turn left at the waymark and head downhill along an unsurfaced path through the trees keeping the cricket pitch and pavilion on your left, through the low wooden fencing to **I** and then continue along the gravel path with the Priory, the walled gardens and Abbey on your left as you make your way back to the cafe at **A**.

Experience the romance and mystery of Newstead Abbey, a beautiful historic house set in a glorious landscape of gardens and parkland within the heart of Nottinghamshire, once home to the poet Lord Byron.

Newstead Abbey still retains its idyllic charm and it's easy to see how it inspired Byron to write some of the most romantic poetry of his time. Not only was he 'mad, bad and dangerous to know', but Byron was a poet, scholar, freedom fighter, athlete and lover. He lived at Newstead between 1808-1814. The Abbey still retains the original medieval cloisters, one of only a handful of surviving examples left in the whole country. Today, visitors can see Byron's private apartments as well as letters, objects and furniture that belonged to him. The West Front is the original façade of the old priory church and dates back to 1274. Weathered by the elements, damaged by Civil War and surviving earthquakes, the West Front still stands today and retains its romantic appeal.

THE FACTS

Area: Newstead Abbey NG15 8NA

Maps: OS Landranger 120, OS Explorer 270

Travel information: Newstead Abbey is located 12 miles north of Nottingham on the A60 and is also close to Junction 27 of the M1. If coming from the M1, follow the signs for Sherwood Forest until you see the brown signs for the Abbey. The postcode for your sat nav is NG15 9HJ. For all travel information www.traveline/info Tel: 0871 200 22 33

Terrain:

Garden Walk – gravel track, suitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters, prams.

Cannon Fort Walk - gravel and tarmac tracks, unsurfaced paths, uneven ground, slight gradients and expect muddy conditions especially in winter, unsuitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters, prams.

Short Walk – gravel and tarmac tracks, grass fields, uneven ground, slight gradients and expect muddy conditions especially in winter, unsuitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters, prams.

Long Walk – gravel and tarmac tracks, unsurfaced paths, grass fields, uneven ground, slight gradients and expect muddy conditions especially in winter, unsuitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters, prams.

Refreshments: There is a cafe and toilets located at point **A**.