

Tour dates

Tours start from 10am on all days.

Easter Monday, 22 April, last tour starts 2pm

Bank Holiday Monday, 6 May, last tour starts 2pm

Bank Holiday Monday, 27 May, last tour starts 2pm

Saturday 27 July, last tour starts at 12pm

Saturday 17 August, last tour starts at 3pm

Thursday 19 September, last tour starts at 4pm

Saturday 21 September, last tour starts at 4pm

Saturday 28 September, last tour starts at 4pm

Tower tours will run on the hour, first tour 11am, last tour 3pm, except when restricted further by times stated above. Max. 15 people per Tower Tour. Booking is advisable by emailing events@southwellminster.org.uk stating your party size and preferred time.

The Historic Chapter Library, rarely open to the public, will also be open to visitors on the three Bank Holiday Mondays above between 10.30am – 3pm. So come in and view this hidden piece of history that few get to see.

Duration

Full tours, which include The Archbishop's Palace and gardens will take just over 1 hour.

Separate Bell Tower tours will take approximately 1 hour.

Prices

Did you know, it costs over £3,000 per day to keep the Minster open.

A £3 donation would be most welcome to help with the running costs of the Minster to help keep it open for future generations, although there is no obligation.

Bell Tower tours - £6 adults, £3 children (aged 14 and under and must be accompanied by an adult) Please note that children must be aged 7 or over for the Bell Tower tours.

Big Day Out



BBC Radio Nottingham's Big Day Out returns on Sunday 28 April. We'll be offering free Bell Tower tours and free tours of The Archbishop's Palace, including the magnificent State Chamber and gardens. Tower Tours run at 12pm, 1pm and 2pm. Due to limited tour sizes, booking is essential. Please book by emailing events@southwellminster.org.uk with your party size and preferred time.

Why not stay around for Evensong at 3.30pm (finishing at 4.15pm) and listen to the Cathedral choir sing? So come along and enjoy the spectacular majesty of one of Nottinghamshire's most iconic and historically important buildings.

 Follow us on Facebook @SouthwellMinster

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For more information:

www.southwellminster.org

Call 01636 812649

Or visit the **Information Desk** in the Minster

Open Days 2019

Special tours of

Southwell Minster and The Archbishop's Palace



Join us in Southwell in the heart of Nottinghamshire and discover a thousand years of history at Southwell Minster and The Archbishop's Palace. Come with us one of our amazing guided tours, led by our highly trained guides, as we explore the history behind two of Nottinghamshire's most iconic buildings. From Saxon beginnings to the modern day, there's something for everyone to enjoy at Southwell Minster. Highlights include the world famous 'Leaves of Southwell' in the Chapterhouse, regarded as some of the most impressive stone carvings in all of Europe, vivid stained glass windows, stunning wood carvings, and the majestic State Chamber in The Archbishop's Palace where King Richard I, Cardinal Wolsey, King James VI of Scotland and King Charles I all visited.

Separate tours of the Bell Tower are also available, where you'll be taken on a voyage of discovery to learn the fascinating history behind the bells, regarded as some of the best in the country and which bell ringing teams from far and wide come to visit. If you're lucky, and the weather is good, we can even take you out onto the Minster roof where you'll be mesmerised by 360 degree panoramic views where on a clear day you can even see Belvoir Castle some 20km away as well as surrounding towns and villages such as Newark and Upton!

Whilst here, why not take in the stunning gardens or stop off at the Refectory for lunch or tea and cake?

Our fully trained guides are on hand to answer all your questions so come along for a fun and fact filled trip for all the family. Why not make a day of it and explore the rest of Southwell – there's plenty of shops and restaurants, not to mention walking trails and a thriving marketplace on Saturdays to keep the whole family happy.



The Chapter House

Home of the famous 'Leaves of Southwell', with many wonderful stone carvings of leaves, berries and creatures to explore. Can you find the Green Men?

The Crossing

Press the button to light up the Saxon Minster floor hidden beneath the Pews. The floor is over 1,100 years old!



The Archbishop's Palace and Gardens

Follow the footsteps of Cardinal Wolsey and Charles I and visit the State Chamber

The Quire

Explore the ornate Early English architecture with its many decorative carvings



The Sanctuary

Learn about the stained glass in the East Window and its connection with the French Revolution

The Nave

Hear about the Normans who invaded England in 1066. They started building here just 42 years later



Did you know:

- ✿ A great fire in 1711 destroyed the Nave roof and brought the great bells crashing to the ground on of all days... 5 November!
- ✿ There are numerous wood carved mice to be found throughout the Minster by the renowned carver Robert 'Mouseman' Thompson— can you find them all?
- ✿ 900 years ago stone was being carried by ox and cart from Mansfield, through the then Sherwood Forest to build the church you see today. As Sherwood Forest was the Royal Hunting Ground, special permission had to be obtained from the King!
- ✿ Scottish Parliamentary troops stabled their horses in our Nave during the English Civil War and smashed all the windows in the Chapter House
- ✿ You can see the old Saxon church floor hidden beneath the Pews - press a switch to light it up
- ✿ Our new extension, the Quire, is over 800 years old and full of wondrous stone and wood carvings showing faces, animals and creatures
- ✿ You can see four spectacular stained glass windows, by the altar, that were originally in the Temple Church of Paris where Marie Antoinette was imprisoned during the French Revolution. It is believed she would have prayed daily in front of these windows with the imprisoned King Louis XVI
- ✿ Our Chapter House, home of the famous 'Leaves of Southwell', has many wonderful stone carvings including a very unusual merman (not mermaid!), faces of the Master Mason responsible for building and the money lender who financed it as well as mythical creatures including dragons and basilisks. If you do visit, ask to be shown the two wild pigs eating acorns that are hiding away – you'll never find them otherwise! A real hidden gem!

