

Be Safe

To enjoy your bicycle ride to the full, we suggest you follow our safe cycling code...

- 1 Wearing **bright clothing** makes you more visible to motorists.
- 2 Signalling clearly lets other cyclists, pedestrians and motorists know your intention. **Be Aware and Be Alert.**
- 3 Wearing a **helmet** helps protect you against head injury.
- 4 Is your bike safe? - Check the **brakes, wheels, tyres** and **lights**. If in doubt, consult a bicycle mechanic.
- 5 Carry a **tool kit, puncture repair kit, spare inner tube** and **loose change** in case you need to use a public payphone.
- 6 It is a good idea to carry a **first aid kit** and some **identification**. Let somebody know your planned route and when you expect to return home - just in case!
- 7 On busy, narrow or twisty roads, it is safest to **ride in single file**. Always give yourself enough time to finish the routes before it gets dark.

Cycle Training is available from Warwickshire County Council's Road Safety Section.

Tel: 01926 412776



How to get here

Easily accessible from the M40, M42 and M5 motorways, Alcester is 22 miles south of Birmingham and 8 miles west of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Alcester lies in the heart of England. A small, friendly market town, it is also ideally situated for discovering Shakespeare's Stratford and touring the Cotswold countryside. Horse racing takes place at Stratford and nearby Cheltenham and the historic castles of Warwick and Kenilworth are both within easy driving distance.

For details of attractions accommodation, events and other guides contact Stratford Tourist Information Centre.

Telephone: 01789 293127 or 0870 1607930

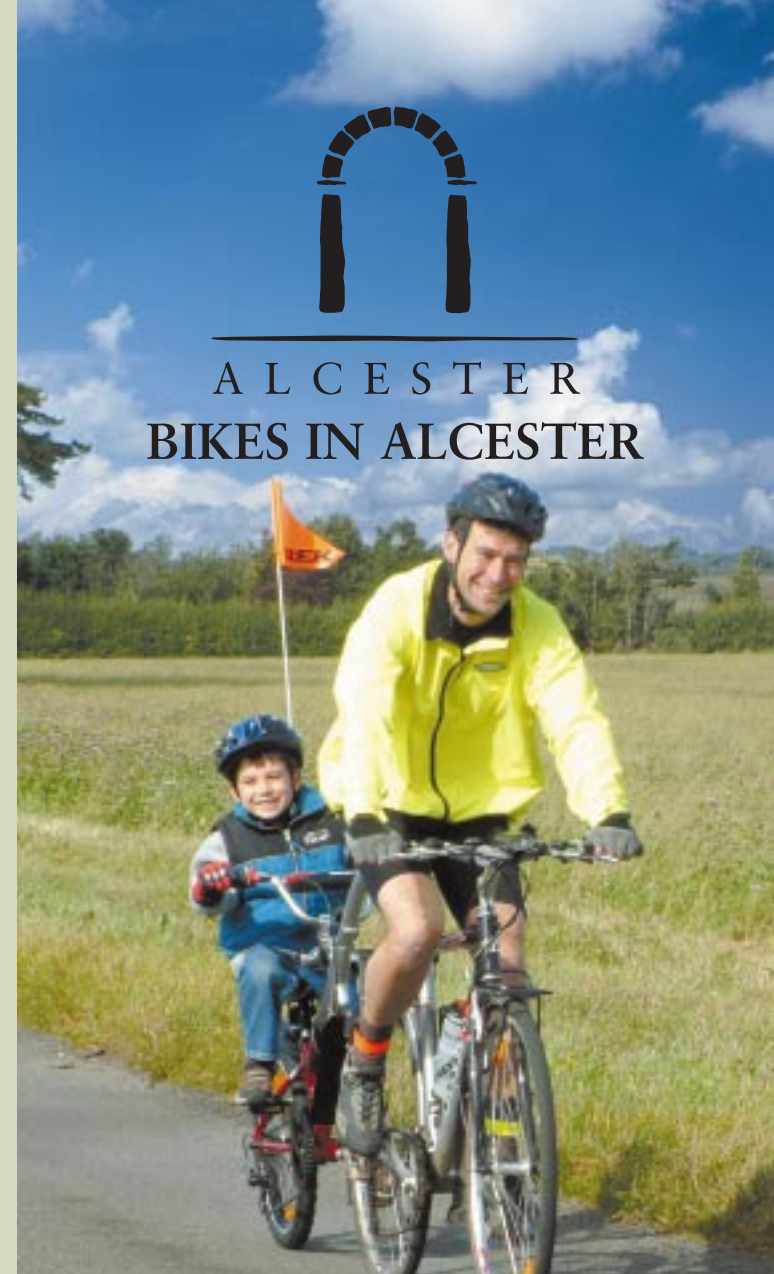
email info@shakespeare-country.co.uk

or visit website www.alcester.co.uk for local information.

This cycle trail guide has been published with the joint cooperation of the following organisations:

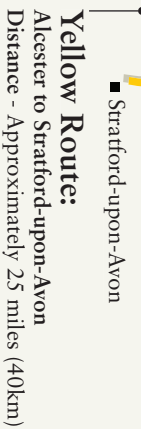


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BIKES IN ALCESTER THE ROUTES IN BRIEF



History and culture

Alcester has the atmosphere of a quintessential English market town, an architectural gem with a lively community feel. Situated where the River Alne meets the River Arrow, its mediaeval street pattern survives almost intact, along with many ancient buildings including the 17th century Town Hall and the Parish Church of St Nicholas with its 14th century tower.

Alcester first finds a place in written history during the Roman occupation. You can find out more by visiting our 'Roman Alcester' museum in the centre of the town.

We enjoy bringing our history to life through annual events that attract visitors from far and wide. Join us at the Pancake Race in February, Town Crier's competition in Spring, Mediaeval Street Market in June, 'Mop' Fair in October or at the Folk, Beer and Arts Festivals, the parades, concerts and markets throughout the year.

Alcester has an ancient manorial Court Leet, which dates from about 1272 and is responsible for many colourful events during the year. Come and meet the High Bailiff, the bread-weighers, ale tasters and the brook looker!

In the summer the town bursts into colour with thousands of flowers planted by Alcester in Bloom volunteers. Alcester has won numerous awards including the prestigious Overall National Winner in the Britain in Bloom competition.

Shopping

Shopping in Alcester is a blend of old and new. Explore the unusual and delightful shops and experience the old world charm of yesterday's relaxed shopping, from fine antiques, fabrics and other specialist retailers, to fresh foods.

Eating and drinking

Alcester offers a variety of pubs, restaurants, tearooms and take-aways in venues from the relaxed and cosy to the modern and vibrant.

Attractions

Near the town are two fine historic houses open to the public; Ragley Hall, home to the Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford and Coughton Court, the home of the Throckmorton family, now owned by the National Trust. Visit these houses and their wonderful gardens set in beautiful surroundings.

Exploring our countryside

Explore the surrounding countryside and villages by foot, bicycle, car or even hot air balloon! The best way to start is to follow one of the walks, cycle routes or leisure drives which link interesting sites and places to eat and drink.

Alcester also forms part of the 'Heart of England Way', 'Arden's Way' and 'Monarchs Way' making it a natural destination for walkers. Also, National Cycle Route 5 passes only a mile north of the town.

Somewhere to stay

Hotels, B&B's, holiday cottages and a campsite provide a warm welcome in surroundings to suit you.

Accessible Alcester

We want to make Alcester accessible for all, including those with disabilities. The town centre is flat and compact, with a large car park immediately adjacent to the town centre.

NEED TO HIRE A BIKE?

CYCLE HIRE AVAILABLE FROM GREIG CYCLE CENTRE
KINWARTON ROAD, ALCESTER
TEL: 01789 400037