



AllWays Traveller

King Richard III and Leicester, UK

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The reality behind the man that was Richard III

The remains of King Richard III, England's last Plantagenet king, were found at the site of the Greyfriars church in Leicester.

The find has sparked a renewed interest in a monarch vilified by William Shakespeare.

Richard III was on the English throne for two years, (1483 to 1485) and was the last king of the House of York and the Plantagenet dynasty.

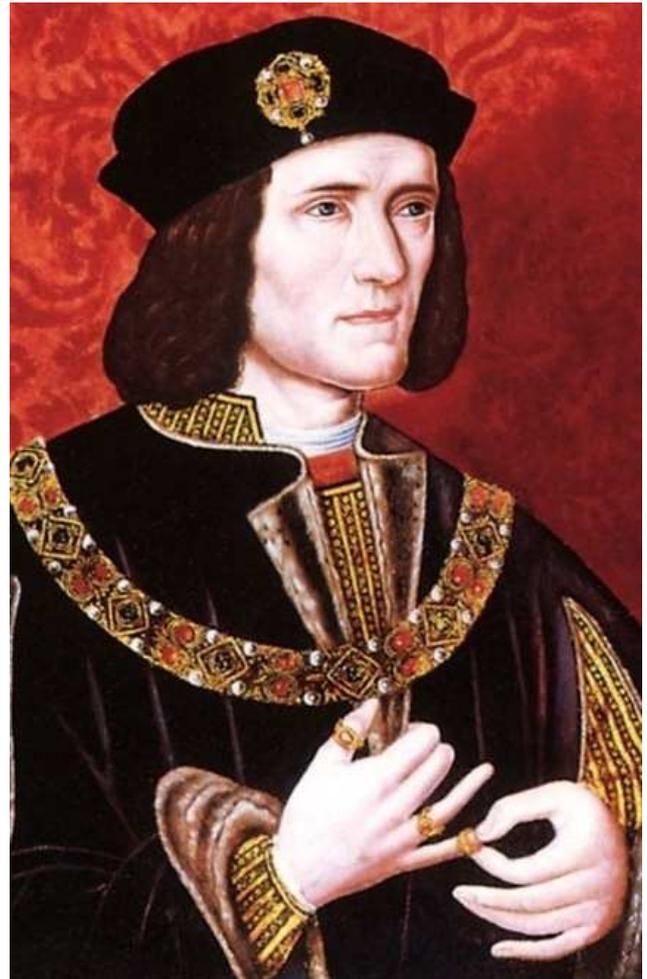
His death during the Battle of Bosworth, the last English king to fall in battle, effectively ended the Wars of the Roses (between the Houses of York and Lancaster), and is often regarded as the end of the English Middle Ages.

The victor Henry Tudor was later crowned King Henry VII.

The whereabouts of Richard's body, after the battle, remained a mystery until discovered by archaeologists from the University of Leicester in 2012.

Ashley Gibbins

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www.le.ac.uk/richardiii

The Richard III trail

There is now a growing traveller interest in taking the Richard III trail to Leicester that can take in a visit to *Leicester's Search for a King*, at The Guildhall, a guided tour, Blue Badge Guide walking tours of the city with a Richard III theme and a trip to the battlefield site.



An independent impression of Richard III

Richard's skeleton discovered after 527 years



It has long been believed that the body of Richard III was taken from the battlefield at Bosworth and buried in the Greyfriars.

This was a Franciscan monastic community, established in Leicester in the mid-13th Century and demolished during the dissolution of the monasteries in the late 1530s.

It was not until the excavation of a car park, in 2012, in the area thought to be the Greyfriars site that a skeleton was found which proved to be that of Richard III.

That it was Richard's remains was proven beyond doubt by DNA from the skeleton, which matched that of two of Richard's family descendants.

This supported radiocarbon dating and an examination of the skeleton which showed signs of deformity and 'battle' scars.



The king's final resting place

Plans are now well advanced for a formal burial of the King, in Leicester Cathedral, during 2014.

www.le.ac.uk/richardiii



Discover Leicester's search for King Richard III

Travellers wishing to discover more about Richard III can spend a few days in Leicester and the surrounding area and visit the sites that have played such a pivotal role in the history of England.

www.goleicestershire.com/short-breaks/richardiii.aspx#shortbreak

While in Leicester

The Richard III 'experience'

Richard III exhibition: Leicester's Search for a King The Guildhall, Leicester

The Guildhall, which dates back six hundred years and is one of the best preserved timber framed halls in the country, is staging an exhibition detailing the archaeological dig at Greyfriars.

Richard III Guided Walking Tours

Blue Badge Guide walking tours of the city with a Richard III theme are now available.

www.visitleicester.info

The Battle of Bosworth site



Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and Country Park Sutton Cheney, Nr. Market Bosworth, Leicestershire

The Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre has an interactive exhibition telling the story of this all-important historical watershed and invites you to explore the weaponry, armour and strategy used on 22 August 1485.

www.bosworthbattlefield.com

Donington le Heath Manor House

Built in about 1280, the Manor House is one of the few domestic 13th century buildings to survive.

Fully restored in the Tudor and Stuart period style, its upstairs bedroom contains the bed in which King Richard III slept when staying at the White Boar Inn in Leicester, the night before his death at Bosworth.

www.leics.gov.uk/donington



AllWays traveller and the International Travel Writers Alliance

Ashley Gibbins



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The International Travel Writers Alliance

www.itwalliance.com

The International Travel Writers Alliance is the world's largest association of professional travel journalists.



Ashley is Chief Executive of the International Travel Writers Alliance and Managing Editor of *AllWays traveller*