

Shopping & Markets

Leominster is home to a plethora of independent shops, ranging from butchers and greengrocers to clothes and gift shops.



In 2016, the town was runner up in the Great British High Street Awards "Rising Star" category and achieved Gold for its social media campaign. The town is well known for its great number of antiques shops and markets, regularly featuring on TV shows such as BBC's Bargain Hunt. Many of these are based within extraordinary buildings which have a charm of their own and are well worth a look.

A weekly general market takes place in Corn Square on a Friday and a Farmers Market on the second Saturday of the month. Specialist markets take place on occasion, including the annual Leominster Food Fayre in September and Victorian Street Market in December.

Historic Leominster

Leominster is situated in the rolling countryside of North Herefordshire, and lies in the beautiful and historic borderlands of England and Wales known as the 'Marches'.

The town itself is an ancient one, having established itself around the great Anglo-Saxon abbey, founded in 660 AD.

The first recorded name was "Llanlienni" a Welsh name meaning the Church in a Place of Streams. Renamed by the Saxons, after Leofric, Earl of Hereford and husband of Lady Godiva. It appears as "Leofminstrein" in the Domesday Book.

Leominster prospered in the medieval period. The town's wealth arose primarily from the wool trade, owing to the quality of the wool of its local Ryeland Sheep. The fleeces came to be known as "Lemster Ore", meaning Leominster Gold.

Much of the town centre still retains its medieval and Tudor flavour – narrow streets and half timbered houses, whilst Church Street and Etnam Street boast gracious terraces of the Georgian period.



The Priory Church

A nunnery in 660 A.D, the Priory Church was rebuilt as a monastery in the 12th century.



The oldest part of the church is the majestic Norman nave, built in the early 12th century. The unique tower has work of early Norman, Transitional, Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular periods. The reformation of 1539 led to partial destruction and in 1699, the church was badly damaged in a fire. Major restoration was carried out in 1891. Inside are many fine features, including England's last used ducking stool (1817).

The Priory is a wonderful Grade 1 listed building and is usually open to the public from 9 -4pm unless there is a private service on. The Priory Church hosts the annual Medieval Pageant in March and the Apple Fair in October.

How to get here

Leominster is situated on a crossroads of the A44 and A49 and within an hour's drive of the M5 and M50.

Local buses connect from Ludlow and Hereford and the nearest National Express stop is Hereford. Leominster is on the "Marches" railway line between Cardiff and Manchester and has a regular hourly service. For connections to London, change at Hereford or Newport (S. Wales). Nearest airports are located at Birmingham, Cardiff, Bristol and Manchester.



Leominster Shopmobility is situated in Central car park. Tel: 01568 616755

Leominster is also 'Dementia Friendly', a 'Fair Trade' and a 'Walkers are Welcome' town that is 'Dog-Friendly'.

All further details can be obtained from Leominster Tourist Information Centre at :

11 Corn Square, Leominster,
Herefordshire HR6 8YP

01568 616460

reception@leominstertourism.co.uk

Opening daily Monday to Saturday
9.30 - 4 (winter) 9.30 - 4.30 (summer).

www.leominstertourism.com

Grange Court

Grange Court is a Grade II* listed timber framed building, built in 1633 by John Abel, the King's Carpenter.



This richly carved structure was originally the Town Hall and was situated at the junction of Burgess Street and Broad Street. The ground floor was open and was used as a market.

By the mid 19th century, the building was proving a traffic hazard and was dismantled. In 1859 the building was bought by John Arkwright and rebuilt at its current location on the Grange, becoming a private house. Grange Court became council offices in 1938 and in 2008 was sold to its current owners, LARC for £1. Today it is a community, heritage and enterprise hub and is open to the public from 10 am to 4pm.

It hosts panels of recent stitch work that depict the history of the town.



Leominster Town Map

Your guide to Leominster town centre & its plethora of perfect pursuits





Leominster Country

Leominster Museum

Situated in Etnam Street, Leominster Museum tells the story of Leominster and its people from pre Roman times to the present day.

The collection comprises artefacts, pictures, photographs, postcards and documents, including a selection of works by noted local artist John Scarlett-Davies. Leominster Museum is open between Easter and October.

Leominster in Stitches

Leominster in Stitches is a local community group who try out different styles of embroidery and sewing.

Their projects can be seen throughout the town, including embroideries telling the history of Leominster on display at Grange Court. A separate leaflet is available in the TIC.

Leominster in Bloom

Since 2004 a team of dedicated volunteers has brought the community together by providing floral displays that have won six "Heart of England in Bloom" gold awards and numerous special commendations.

Their projects have left a legacy of various murals, sculptures and floral displays in the town including 'Lady Baa Baa' the Ryeland sheep statue and Mr Granger, the friendly giant who mows the lawn on the Grange.

The Black & White Village Trail

The Black and White Village Trail is a 40 mile, circular car trail exploring the extensive Tudor villages to the west of Leominster.

These picturesque villages are home to hundreds of timber framed buildings, many of great age. A separate leaflet is available from Leominster Tourist Information Centre, with detailed driving instructions and information about places to visit.

