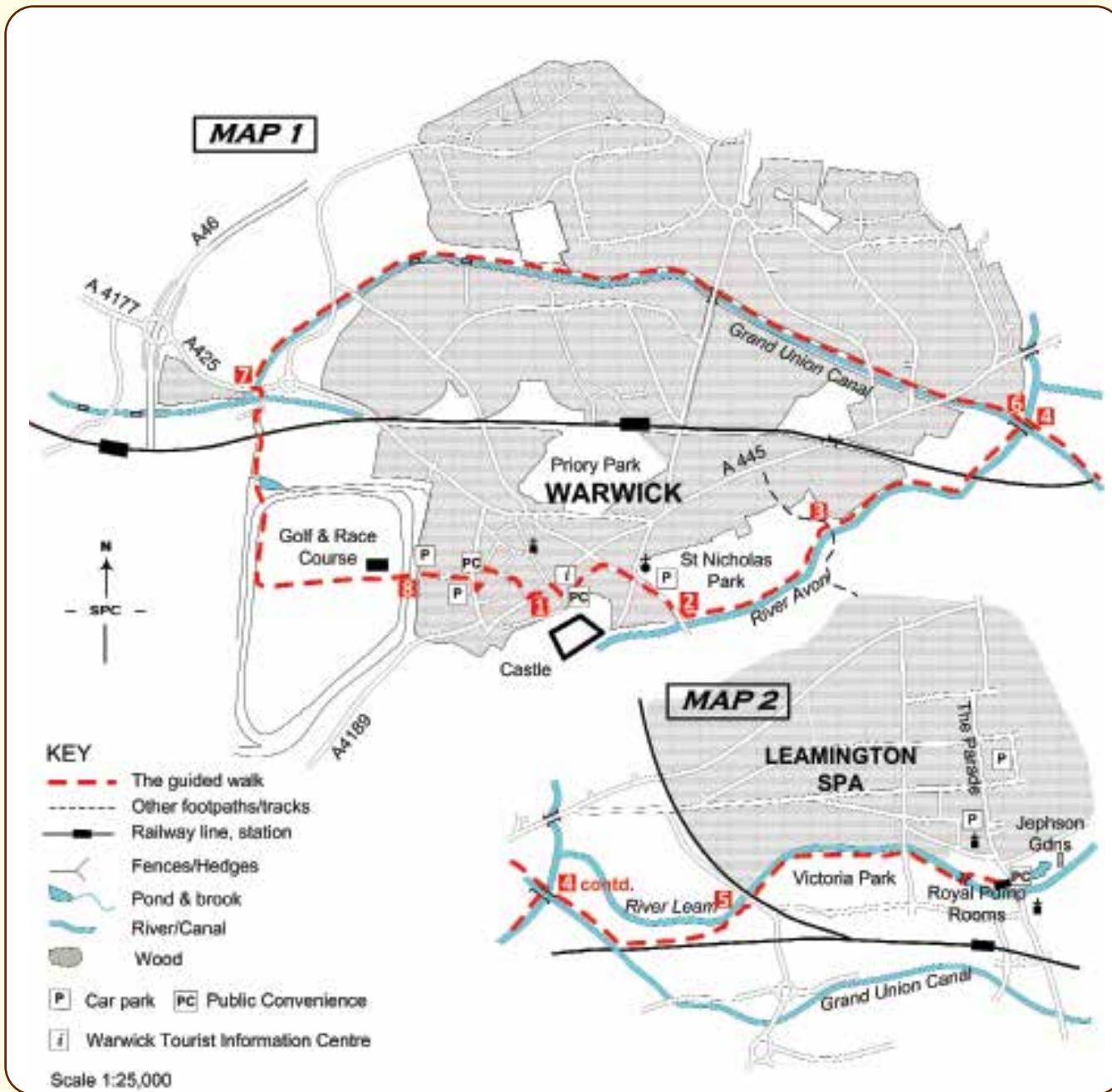


WARWICK

Rivers and Canal Walks

Enjoy a 5 mile riverside and canal circular walk around Warwick or a 2¾ mile walk to Leamington Spa



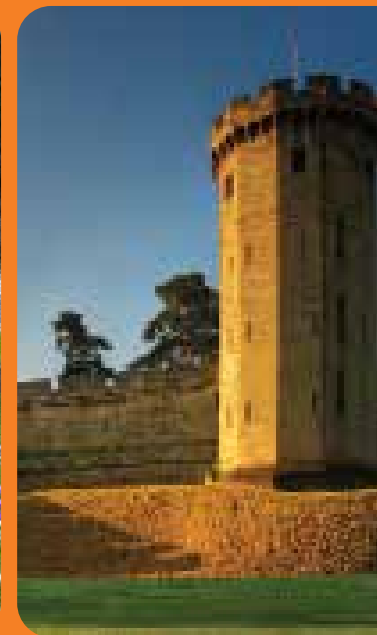
Warwick Tourist Information Centre

The Court House, Jury Street,
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A 5 mile circular walk around Warwick and a 2¾ mile walk to Leamington Spa.

1. Start either walk from the Visitor Information Centre and turn left at the corner of the Court House and walk along Castle Street. At Castle Lane turn left and continue to then turn right along Castle Hill. Cross Mill Street and at the pelican crossing cross the road, turn right and continue to the River Avon Bridge. Before taking the fence gap left you may wish to continue to the centre of the bridge and enjoy the view of the river and Castle.
2. From the road take the steps and follow the footpath right then left at the boat house. Continue along the footpath at the side of the River Avon. The river is 85 miles long from its source at Naseby in Northamptonshire to its confluence with the River Severn at Tewkesbury. On its course to the Severn its catchment area extends 1033 square miles.
3. After crossing the footpath at the Sea Scouts HQ continue along a grassy bank and the drop down and continue along the riverside path. After a short distance, pass a barrier and continue through an area where the going can be quite soft in the winter. The path continues under the railway bridge of the Birmingham - Marylebone line then passes the National River Authorities flow measuring station. This station continuously records the volume of water flowing along the river. Through the trees, on the left, is a Tesco store but between 1920 and 1973 it was the site of the Avon Power Station. The power generated here provided electricity for a tramway and the local area. A look along the rivers edge reveals some significant

civil engineering which would have been part of the power stations structure. The next bridge is the aqueduct carrying the Grand Union Canal, from the underside of which cascades a continuous overflow of water. Go under the canal and turn left and follow the path to a flight of stairs then climb to the canal towpath. This is the middle of what is a 5 mile flat section of the canal, 25 miles from its start in Birmingham and 120 miles from its end in London.

To follow the **Circular Walk** turn right along the towpath and continue at no. 6 direction below.

4. To continue to Royal Leamington Spa turn left over the river and continue to the abutment of the aqueduct over the railway and take the path left alongside the railway. The path winds across the open land before squeezing between Leamington's water reclamation works and the River Leam. The 'Leam' is approx 30 miles long from its spring at Helidon in Northamptonshire to the River Avon.
5. Cross Prince's Drive and the path continue under the railway viaduct. This railway line connects Leamington with Coventry, providing a connection from the Midlands and the North to Oxford and also the south coast. Continue following the path alongside the Leam, and through Victoria Park. Take the under pass and continue down the steps or follow the ramp and turn left over the footbridge into the Royal Pump Room Gardens. In Leamington you can visit the Pump Room, Jephson Gardens and its Temperate House and explore the rest of the town. To return to Warwick catch the G1 bus service from any of the bus stops along the left side of The Parade.

6. **To continue the circular walk**, on Map 2 follow the tow path east, as the canal gentle winds past Tesco and the northern suburbs of the town. Depending on the time of year the canal may be busy with holiday hire boats and the wharfs of Warwick and Kate Boats are the own's contribution to this industry. The stretch of flat canal ends with two locks close together, at the second is the Cape of Good Hope Pub. Passing it is not a problem but getting to it, although not as challenging as the southern ocean passage, does require crossing the lock gates if you wish to enjoy its hospitality.
7. At the third bridge after the pub take the steps to the Birmingham Road. Cross the road and turn left and right into Budbrooke Road. Cross the bridge over the Saltisford Arm of the canal. Continue to the junction with Wilmhurst Road and take the footpath left, between the fences. Cross over the railway bridge and continue via a barrier straight ahead through a gate to the racecourse. Duck under the rails, cross the track and turn right between the race track and the edge of the golf course. At the footpath marker post turn left along the side of the golf course.
8. Pass the Club House and continue across the race track and car park into Linen Street. Climb the hill to reach and turn right along Bowling Green St. Cross the road at the pelican crossing turn left along Market Street passing the Bus Station. At the Market Place, to return to the start, turn right into Swan Street and left back along Jury Street.

Surveyed and written by local resident Stephen Cross