

# Richard III Visual Story



## What you might see

Approaching from the road, you will notice a set of stairs leading up to the city walls. You will have to climb these stairs to get to the admission and shop area. The stairs are very steep and you might have to wait at the bottom if people are using them to come down. There is a handrail for you to use on the right hand side as you go up the stairs.



At the top of the steps you are greeted with two choices - you can walk the city walls to your left or enter the Richard III Experience on your right.

As you walk in to the museum, you will be greeted by our friendly staff - they will either be positioned behind the admissions desk or in the shop area. You can identify them by the uniform they wear.



If you have pre-booked a ticket, the admissions desk will already have your name written down and they will issue you your ticket. If you don't already have a ticket, you will need to buy one here.

Once you have your ticket, you will be advised to go through the archway in front and to go up the stairs. There are two floors of exhibition space above the admissions area. To experience the museum as it was intended, you will have to go all the way to the second floor and work your way down.





A suit of armour is in the middle of the room and some helmets on the back wall. You can try these helmets on after you've seen the top floor. You will also hear a video playing in the right hand cell, this video tells you the story of the discovery of Richard III in a council car park in Leicester in 2012. You can watch this video when you've seen the top floor – be careful of the stairs when you do.



At the back of the room, you will see three wooden doors - you will find another set of stairs through the door on your left – be careful as you go up as these are slightly uneven.



On the top floor:

On the top floor you will see a tent on the left hand side, this is the “Horrible Histories” tent and you can watch clips of the Television show using the wireless headphones above the television screen. There is also some “playmobil” in the tent for visitors to play with and a wooden jigsaw to play with and a wooden jigsaw to recreate next to the tent.



In the middle of the room we have a television screen- this shows a video describing the battle of Towton (supposedly England’s bloodiest battle). The video lasts for 30 minutes and tells the story of the battle, why it was fought and what happened. If you want to restart the video to watch from the beginning, there is a button to press. A note for the squeamish- the video can be quite vivid when describing some of the battle injuries.



Behind the television screen you can see a replica of one of the weapons used at Towton – a mace in a glass case.

In the right hand corner you'll see a game- this is for visitors to play, similar to snakes and ladders. There are two knights on horseback and a big dice to play it.



In the left hand corner, we have some stones from the remains of a 15th century chapel. There is a barrier to stop people from damaging the stones. Please respect this barrier.

We also have some archaeological finds from the battle of Towton, found by metal detectorist Simon Richardson which are really interesting to have a look at- you can find some information boards on the front of the case.





Around the room there are panels – these panels tell the story of the Wars of the Roses – why it began and what it meant for the country as well as for York. If you read these panels, the story continues on the next floor down the stairs.



As you go down the stairs, remember they are very steep and winding.

On this floor there are 2 medieval prison cells, the doors don't lock any more but you can go inside them - be careful if you do as the doorways are very low and you may have to bend to enter - look out for the medieval toilet!



As mentioned before, in the cell on the right there is a video playing. This video tells the story of Richard III's discovery in Leicester. This video is very interesting to watch but do be aware that there are steps leading down to the fire exit very close to the door.

As you look around the room, you will see there is a fireplace on the right hand side. This would have enabled the soldiers stationed there to keep warm and would have acted as a light source too (electricity hadn't been invented in medieval times!).



In the centre of the room there is a full suit of armour – the glass panel on the back tells you what each part is called- unfortunately, this is for display only but you can try on the helmets on the right hand side of the room- they are heavy though. There is also a television screen showing how a knight would put on his armour- there isn't any audio but it is very interesting to watch.



When you have finished in this room, you will need to go back down the stairs to the admission and shop area.

## What you might hear and touch:

Monk Bar is a very quiet building although you can sometime hear cars and traffic passing underneath. You may touch; metal helmets, suits of armour, a wooden jigsaw and stone walls.

We do have radiators in the building but it still can get quite cold during the winter time so you might want to wrap up warm.

