

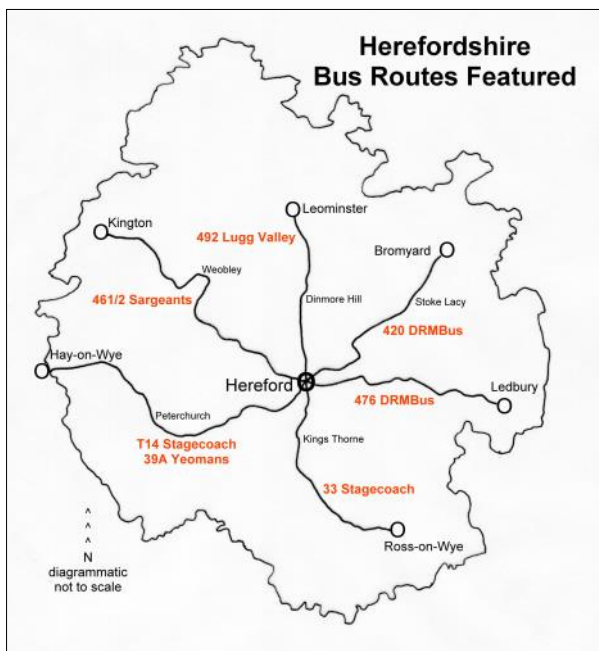
Explore the Magic of Herefordshire



BUS IT...FREE TRAVEL ON BUSES AT WEEKENDS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

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In a county of farmsteads, orchards and characterful villages there's no better way to take in the views than on the bus, views across to the majestic Malvern Hills, or westwards to the high border ridges of Wales. So, why not take a trip out to one of Herefordshire's market towns this weekend... you'll see some of the finest half-timbered settlements in the land, churches and castles amid rolling pastures and hills crowned by mixed woodlands.



Whatever, the season you can sit back and enjoy a scenic ride out, perhaps stop off for lunch in a village pub or café or visit a local attraction. Thanks to an imaginative initiative by Herefordshire Council bus rides for those who usually pay fares on board are free. We have listed a few places you can visit this autumn and winter,

chosen because they have all year attractions and opportunities to enjoy local food and drink. **Give the bus a try!**

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New members welcome - contact railfh@aol for details

RBfH cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies in this leaflet.

Bromyard

The bus leaves Hereford via hay meadows watered by the River Lugg and then through a gently rolling landscape to Stoke Lacy, the home of Wye Valley Brewery (www.wyevalleybrewery.co.uk) before reaching Bromyard beneath the Downs.

The town is nestled around St Peter's Church, dating from Norman times, but thought



to have been built on a Saxon foundation. A good way to explore the history of the town and its half-timbered and Georgian buildings is to walk the Bromyard Town Trail. This can be downloaded from www.VisitBromyard.org.uk.

Tourist Information is available at the Heritage Centre, Rowberry Street and there are cafes, pubs and a hotel open at weekends.

Suggested times to travel

420 Bus DRMBus (www.drmbuses.com)

Hereford (St Peters Square) to Bromyard (Pump Street)

Saturday 0855, 1055

Sunday 1055

Return from Bromyard (Pump Street)

Saturday 1140, 1430, 1700

Sunday 1440

Hay-on-Wye via the Golden Valley

The haunting views of the Black Mountains, much loved by authors such as Bruce Chatwin and Owen Sheers, can be



enjoyed throughout the journey. The bus rises over Stockton hill into the Golden Valley by the villages of Vowchurch, Peterchurch and Dorstone, good places to walk on the Herefordshire Trail and all with pubs for refreshment. Hay-on-Wye

itself lies just across the border in Wales, a leading book town and with a major restoration of Hay Castle currently taking place. Hay is also the home of the famous Hay Literary Festival. Always plenty going on and places for refreshment. There is a Tourist Information Centre in Oxford Road.

Suggested travel times:

T14 Stagecoach South Wales (www.stagecoachbus.com)

39A Yeomans (www.yeomanscoachholidays.com/Bus-Timetables)

Hereford (Railway Station) to Hay-on-Wye (Oxford Road)

Saturday T14 0805, 1150, 1355

Sunday 39A 1015, 1315

Return from Hay-on-Wye (Oxford Road)

Saturday T14 1244, 1704

Sunday 39A 1125, 1455, 1725

Kington via Weobley

Travel via the quaint village of Mancel Lacy to one of the county's loveliest of settlements, Weobley which has a rich collection of half-timbered houses and lots of interesting features. Take a look at the old castle mounds and the parish church, both are five minutes' walk from the centre. There are cafes, restaurant and pubs offering refreshment in the village, before travelling on to the small market town of Kington.

This border town has a local history museum and local artisans provide a showcase of their fine work at Marches Makers and there are often events in town-check out www.kingtontourist.info for details or call into the tourist information office in Church Street (April to October). A 20 minute walk takes you to Hergest Croft gardens open to the end of October and again in the Spring.



Suggested travel times:

461/2 Bus Sargeants (www.sargeantsbros.com)

Hereford (Railway Station) to Kington (Mill Street Car Park)
with some journeys through to Llandrindod

Saturday 0900 and then hourly

Sunday 1100, 1400

Return from Kington (Mill Street Car Park)

Saturday 1150 and hourly

Sunday 1250, 1550

Ledbury

With views over to the wooded slopes of Woolhope Dome and across the to the Malvern Hills it is a pleasant journey through to Ledbury. The area is known for the growing of hops and fruit orchards and autumn is often the best time to view over the hedgerows. You might also catch sight of the old hop kilns preserved on several farms near the route.



Ledbury has much to offer the visitor with its old market house standing grandly on stilts amid the bustle of the square, often with stalls on a Saturday. People love to walk along the medieval Church Street a narrow thoroughfare packed with cafes, museums and one of Ledbury's popular pubs leading to the town's impressive church.

This is a town of literature, poets and philanthropy with names such as Browning, Masefield and the Dymock poets associated with the area. It hosts an annual poetry festival, but there's a Ledbury Benches Poetry trail which you can enjoy all year. Do not miss the Masters House, restored as a community resource centre, hosting exhibitions from time to time.

476 Bus DRM Buses (www.drmbuses.com)

Hereford (Country Bus Station) to Ledbury (Market House)

Saturday 0830, 1015,1215,1415

Sunday 1015,1215

Return from Ledbury (Memorial)

Saturday 1310, 1505, 1710

Sunday 1310,1510

Leominster via Dinmore Hill Arboretum

One of Herefordshire's all-time favourite places to visit is the exquisite arboretum at Dinmore Hill. Managed by Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and New Leaf, this magnificent collection of rare and exotic trees is a great place to visit whatever the weather. There's a café and shop on site as well as a superb children's play area and many woodland walks so it is spot on for the kids.

Leominster is a lovely old market town known for the production of Ryeland wool in past centuries. A short stroll from the Corn Square leads to the historic Grange and



Leominster Priory, two of the town's main attractions. You might also look into the Leominster Museum in Etnam Street which provides a fascinating insight into past life hereabouts. The centre of town has about 200 listed buildings so it delightful to wander

around the shops and those with an interest in antiques will be sure to make their way to Broad Street.

Suggested Bus Times

492 Bus Lugg Valley Motors

(www.yeomanscoachholidays.com/Bus-Timetables)

Hereford (Railway Station) to Leominster (Bus Station)

Saturday 0845,1045,1245,1445

Sunday 1045,1245,1445

Return from Leominster (Bus Station)

Saturday 1200,1400,1600

Sunday 1200,1400,1600

Ross-on-Wye

The double deck bus climbs up to Kings Thorn where on a clear day you'll see over to the Garway Hills and be able to pick out the distinctive shapes of the Sugar Loaf and Skirrid mountains beyond. It passes through fruit growing country to the Wilton Bridge over the River Wye and into Ross.

The town has been involved in tourism for over two centuries



when painters and poets interested in nature, known as the Picturesque, started their Wye Tour by boat from here. The historic market house is home to *Made in Ross*, where artists and craftspeople display their work. It is also where you can pick up a leaflet for the

Vintage shopping trail. If you have time take a walk up to the church of St Mary the Virgin and onward to the Prospect public garden where there are excellent views over the Wye valley. There are, of course, plenty of places for refreshment in the town.

Suggested Bus Times

33 Bus Stagecoach West (www.stagecoachbus.com)

Hereford (Railway Station) to Ross-on-Wye (Cantilupe Street)

Saturday 0845 and hourly from then onwards

Sunday 1045,1245,1445,

Return from Ross-on-Wye (Cantilupe Street)

Saturday 1045 and hourly until 1645,1845

Sunday 1145,1345,1545,1745