

# Pilgrim Roots

The Pilgrim's Journey - from rural England towards a life in the New World.



Boston Stump

## What's included:

-  3-4 Day itinerary
-  Starts in Worcestershire
-  Independent traveller
-  Suitable for groups
-  Tour guide advised
-  Rail access to some destinations
-  London Plus
-  East Midlands, Doncaster Robin Hood Airport, Manchester & all London airports

What was it that persuaded an unlikely band of men, women and children to undertake a perilous journey to the new world? Sharing ideas along the Great North Road and worshipping in secrecy, the Separatists' world felt increasingly precarious. Discover the deep devotion and dogged determination of those early Separatists in their search for freedom and peace that finally led to the Mayflower voyage.

## Tour Highlights:

- Visit the historic town of Droitwich Spa, birthplace of Mayflower Pilgrim, Edward Winslow.
- Explore the 'Faithful City' of Worcester and its magnificent Cathedral.
- Discover the ancient English villages and churches of Babworth, Scrooby and Austerfield where the influential Pilgrims, William Bradford and William Brewster shaped their beliefs.
- Visit Gainsborough Old Hall, one of the best preserved medieval manor houses in England.
- Walk the cobbled streets of historic Lincoln, see the precious 1215 Magna Carta whose influence is seen in the Mayflower Compact and the American Bill of Rights.
- Visit Boston Guildhall and the cells where the fleeing Separatists were held and tried.

1620—2020  
*Mayflower*  
400™

Steering our future,  
inspired by the past.

# Day 1

## Edward Winslow's Droitwich Spa & Worcester

Droitwich Spa is located south-west of Birmingham with easy access by train from Birmingham. Explore the charming spa town of Droitwich Spa.



St. Peter's Church, Droitwich Spa

### Droitwich & Worcester

The story of Edward Winslow, born in Droitwich in 1595, is one of adventure and achievement. He is the only Plymouth colonist of which there is a contemporary portrait (in Pilgrim Hall, Plymouth, Mass). Explore this charming spa town with its lovely "black and white" buildings which lies south-east of Birmingham and is a good base for exploring the Heart of England. Visit St. Peter's Church and the Winslow memorial.

Travel the short distance south to the historic City of Worcester and its magnificent Cathedral. Winslow was educated at the Cathedral school for five years before he was apprenticed to a London printer.

Another son of the city was the celebrated composer of "The Graduation March", Edward Elgar.

The city saw the first and last battles of the English Civil War in the 15th century. Worcester is renowned as 'The Faithful City', being the last city to support King Charles II in the Battle of Worcester, fought in 1651 against Oliver Cromwell during the English Civil War.

### Tours & Guides

Discover History  
[www.discover-history.co.uk](http://www.discover-history.co.uk)  
Worcester Walks  
[www.worcesterwalks.co.uk](http://www.worcesterwalks.co.uk)

### Accommodation

Overnight Worcester, suggested hotel  
**Stanbrook Abbey**

### With extra time

From Worcester drive to Hereford Cathedral and see the wonderful Mapa Mundi, dating from c1300 and the largest medieval map known still to exist.

# Day 2

## Pilgrim Roots:

### Scrooby, Babworth, Austerfield, Gainsborough

Retford and Doncaster are on the main trainline from London. Time permitting - extend to two days.

Gainsborough Old Hall



**Discover the roots of the Pilgrims in the villages and towns of Nottinghamshire where future leaders of the Plymouth Colony and signatories of the Mayflower Compact, William Brewster and William Bradford lived, worked and worshipped. A tour guide is advised for this part of the itinerary. Check accessibility of churches before travelling.**

### Retford Town

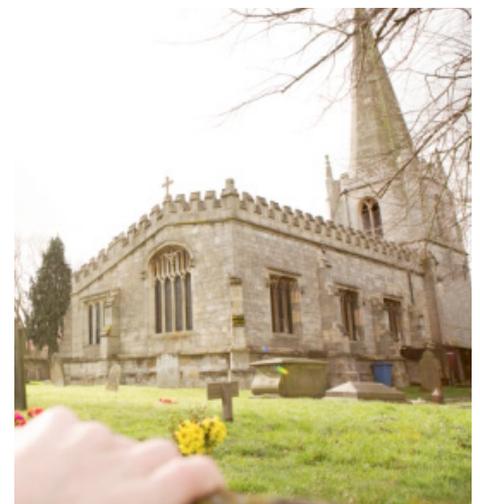
Begin your day in Retford town (with a mainline railway station). Visit the Bassetlaw local history museum and Retford Hub before driving onwards to the Pilgrim towns and villages.

### Babworth Church

Closely connected with the origins of religious separatism this is where Richard Clifton was parson from 1586 until 1605 and where items, including a silver chalice and Geneva bible with annotations from 1603 have been found. The Great North Road can be seen here as a track.

### St. Wilfrid's Church, Scrooby

Brewster had long been attracted by separatism and was fined for non-attendance at St. Wilfrid's Church where he was likely baptised and married. Visitors are able to sit in the original wooden pews.



St. Wilfrid's Church, Scrooby

## The Manor House, Scrooby

The former home of William Brewster where the Scrooby Separatist congregation met in secret. Now a private home (there is a viewpoint on Station Road).

The Pilgrim Fathers Inn Scrooby makes a good lunch or coffee stop.

## St. Helena's Church, Austerfield

William Bradford, the second Governor of the Colony was born in the village of Austerfield and baptised in St Helena's Church in the font which can still be seen today. Austerfield Study Centre is adjacent to the church. 'Butten Meadow' is named after Butten who sailed on the Mayflower but did not live to reach the New World. A Delft tiled mural commemorates Butten. Nearby Bawtry is a 12th Century ancient port and today is an attractive market town with places to eat, shop and stay.



Sue Allan,  
All Saints' Church, Babworth

## Gainsborough Old Hall

A fine example of a large timber framed medieval manor house, the Hall was home to the Hickman family who were sympathetic to the Separatist movement and allowed regular meetings to be held here. John Smyth preached at the nearby

All Saints church before fleeing to Amsterdam along with non-conformist Thomas Helwys who was raised in nearby Nottingham and with whom he created the Baptist denomination.

Time permitting, visit All Saints Church and the John Robinson Memorial Church here. Now a URC church built by the Congregational church in 1897. Robinson was the 'Pastor of the Pilgrims' and led them in Leiden.

## Immingham

The Scrooby Separatists fled to Holland from Immingham Creek where you can visit the Monument in Pilgrim Park and, in nearby St Andrew's Church, the grave of Francis Hawkin who died before the boat departed.

Also nearby:

## Doncaster

Where it is thought William Brewster went to school. Doncaster has a range of facilities and services and is well known for its horse racing.

## Epworth

Whilst in the area visit the fine Queen Anne style Epworth Old Rectory, childhood home of John and Charles Wesley, leaders of the 18th century Methodist Revival movement.

## Lunch & Coffee Stops

The attractive towns of Bawtry and Retford offer a range of cafes, tea rooms and restaurants.

**The Pilgrim Fathers Inn, Scrooby** is a traditional Inn offering lunches and drinks.

**Ye Olde Bell at Barnby Moor** – a famous old posting house ideal for lunch stops. Groups welcome.

**Gainsborough Old Hall** has a café for lunches and light refreshments. Groups welcome.

## Tours & Guides

### **Pilgrims & Prophets**

Christian Heritage Tours – individually designed to suit your needs

[www.pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk](http://www.pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk)

### **Mayflower Maid**

Guided tours with historian Sue Allen who exclusive rights to access to the grounds of Scrooby Manor, William Brewster's home. [www.mayflowermaid.com](http://www.mayflowermaid.com)

## Accommodation

**Ye Olde Bell at Barnby Moor.** Groups welcome.

**The White Hart Hotel, Boston.** Groups welcome.

**The Separatist Inn, Torworth.** Six Mayflower themed bedrooms.

## With extra time

- Visit Newark and learn of England's Civil War and the Mayflower Pilgrims who returned to their home country to fight in it. Learn of later religious radical, William Booth, founder of the world-wide Salvation Army.
- Visit Nottingham, a cosmopolitan city home to Robin Hood and England's oldest pub.
- Visit the seaside resort of Cleethorpes and the Fishing Heritage Centre at Grimsby

# Day 3 Pilgrim Roots & Magna Carta:

## Lincoln And Boston – Lincolnshire

From the nearby city of Lincoln (40 mins drive) travel onwards to Boston (60 mins drive) from where the Separatists made their first attempt to escape to Holland.



Boston's historic market place

## Lincoln City

Explore the cobbled streets of the historic city of Lincoln, see Lincoln Castle, home to 1215 Magna Carta, and visit the magnificent Lincoln Cathedral, once the tallest building in the world.



Boston Guildhall where the Pilgrim Fathers were held and put on trial.

## Boston Guildhall & Market Town

In the Autumn of 1607 Brewster, Bradford & other Separatists made their first attempt to escape to Holland in search of religious freedom from a point close to Boston, Lincolnshire. They were betrayed and arrested.

Visit Boston Guildhall where the Pilgrims were held and tried - you can still see the cells they were held in and visit the memorial to their courage at Scotia Creek. This market town with a sweeping market place is rich in heritage.

Known as the "Stump", St Botolph's Church also has significant American connections - it was from here that the Rev John Cotton attracted people from far and wide to hear his sermons challenging the established church and inspiring the later 1630s migration of some 300 Bostonians to America. This group of powerful and educated individuals shaped the colony and established the first American school, the Latin Free School, based on the original Boston Grammar School.

## Lunch & Coffee Stops

### **Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa.**

Groups welcome. Between Lincoln & Boston steeped in history this timber framed hotel is the perfect lunch stop.

**The White Hart Hotel Boston** offers lunches and coffee stops.

## Tours & Guides

**Blue & Green Badge** guides available on request.

Tours of the **Boston Guildhall & Boston Stump** available (pre-booking required).

**Lincoln – Hidden Lincoln** provide tailor made walking tours.

## Accommodation

**The White Hart Hotel, Boston.**

**Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa.**

## With extra time

From Boston head south into Cambridgeshire and visit the historic city of Cambridge. Many of the Separatists were graduates of Cambridge University including William Brewster and John Smyth.

## You may also like:

Follow the Pilgrims flight from Scrooby and Gainsborough to **Leiden in Holland**, the tolerant city where they spent 12 years after they fled England. Ferries leave from Hull to Rotterdam and Harwich to the Hook and flights to Amsterdam from all airports indicated.

- Explore the **Port of Harwich** in Essex where the Mayflower ship was built.
- Discover **Rotherhithe and Southwark** now a historic and cultural hub
- Explore the port towns of **Southampton and Dartmouth** where the passengers sought distraction and comfort while the Mayflower and Speedwell ships were prepared for their voyage.
- Follow in the Pilgrims' footsteps to **Plymouth**, stand on the Mayflower Steps from where the Saints and the Strangers finally embarked on their perilous adventure on 16 September 1620.

## Events:

### West Lindsey Churches Festival

94 churches provide a celebration of Lincolnshire's rich, ecclesiastical and architectural heritage. **May every year.**

### Illuminate

Mayflower destinations commemorate Thanksgiving each year with a light inspired event, 'Illuminate'. **November every year.**

Find out more at

[Mayflower400UK.org](http://Mayflower400UK.org)

