



Castle  
HOUSE

HEREFORD'S HISTORIC CITY WALK

**1** Turn right out of Castle House and go down St Ethelbert Street, named after the Saxon King who was beheaded in 792 by Offa, King of Mercia.

Cross the street passing the narrow East Street, a typical 'Behind-the-Wall Street', part of the defences of the old Saxon city. **2** On your left is Chandos House, the townhouse of the first Duke of Chandos, Lord Lieutenant and MP for Hereford in 1698 and famous for being Handel's patron. **3** Turn left into St Owen Street, site of one of six of the old city fortress-style gates, removed between 1782-1798, and St Owen's Church, demolished during the siege of Hereford in 1645.

**4** Note the large town houses and the Town Hall, where Queen Victoria's youngest child Beatrice, Princess Henry of Battenburg, laid the foundation stone in 1902. The War Memorial opposite, by L W Barnard, was erected in 1921. Built in 1815, The Shirehall, designed by Sir Robert Smirke (architect of the British Museum), has a grim history. Public hangings took place outside when it was a prison and the cells still remain. In one of the court rooms, there is an original hook where the judge would hang his black cap before pronouncing the death sentence. It is still in use as a Crown Court today.

The statue outside the Shirehall is of Sir George Cornwall Lewis (1806-1863), MP for Hereford 1847-1852. He was Chancellor, Home Secretary and Minister for War (1861-63) under Lord Palmerston, who unveiled it in 1864.

At the end of the street is St Peter's, a collegiate church founded in 1073, rebuilt 300 years later and restored by the Victorians. The interesting wooden choir stalls originate from St Guthlac's Priory. The Revd. John Venn was a vicar here in the 19th century and there is an exhibition in the church about his welfare work for the City's poor.

**5** The Old House, built in 1621, was part of Butchers' Row (the meat market). It is a well preserved, half-timbered Jacobean building used by butchers, ironmongers and bankers during its existence. In 1816, most houses in the row were

demolished leaving the Old House, which is now a museum.

The lifesize bronze of a Hereford Bull by Brian Alabaster was commissioned in 2011 by local benefactor Clive Richards, as a thankyou to the City.

**6** Markets featured heavily in High Town and still do. On the far right of the square is the Butter Market, built in 1810 and enlarged in 1861, when the original Elizabethan market hall was taken down.

**7** Turn left opposite the Butter Market to access Church Street (Cabbage Lane) towards the Cathedral. This was where the vegetable markets were but today it is an array of independent shops and galleries. **8** Many of the buildings are timber-framed including the Old Mayor's Parlour, where there is an ornate decorative plaster ceiling with the original Arms of Hereford, from Norman times. Number 20 has a medieval hall. During the 19th and 20th centuries, it was occupied by the Cathedral's organist and frequented by Sir Edward Elgar, who wrote several major works in a specially designated 'composing room'.

Other interesting buildings close by are the 14th century All Saints Church and the 1830s St Francis Xavier. Built in Doric style, the latter holds the relic of St John Kemble, the 18th century saint.

Walk into Cathedral Close where there are many canons' houses and **9** a bronze of Sir Edward Elgar and his Sunbeam bicycle, 'Mr Phoebus', by sculptor Jemma Pearson. It was unveiled by Dame Janet Baker in 2005. Look for the inscription on the saddle.

On your left is Harley House which has medieval cellars and later renovations. The famous naturalist Dr Henry Graves Bull lived here from 1818 to 1885. Harley Close, around the corner, is where the pioneer photographer, archaeologist and ley lines theorist Alfred Watkins (1855-1935) lived.

**10** Go past Hereford Cathedral School's Old Deanery, through the Cathedral gates into Castle Street, where you will find more interesting and historic buildings before returning to the hotel.