

Larkin Trail

Philip Larkin, one of the 20th-century's greatest poets, was a Hull University Librarian from 1955 until his death in 1985. The Larkin Society helped to establish a dedicated trail in 2011.

Allow: 3 hours

Accessibility:

Pavements throughout, some are cobbled. There are several public toilet stops en route. Check for accessibility at individual stops.

Trail hack #1:

Make sure you get a photo with the poet himself inside Paragon Station, where his statue stands on the concourse.

Trail hack #2:

Why not visit a bookshop along the way and check out some of Larkin's poetry? Try JE Books on Hepworth's Arcade, close to Trinity Square.

Larkin developed a well-documented affinity for Hull and its 'different resonance'. It's where his genius blossomed. In his early days in the city, he notoriously - and plenty of people in Hull never forget! - described Hull as 'a dump' but he soon found that its distinctive atmosphere, people, and geography were inspirational.

His famous collection 'The Whitsun Weddings' (1964) begins with his beautiful evocation of journeying to Hull and beyond, 'Here'. 'I like it here', he said, - which, given Larkin's limited range of expressed enthusiasm, is almost as good as it gets.

Each site has a particular relevance to Larkin the man and the poet: pubs where he enjoyed jazz, houses where he lived, his workplace, the village where he is buried, buildings directly related to poems.

It begins at Hull Interchange where three markers, as well as Martin Jennings's iconic statue of the poet, cluster as a sign of the importance that the site has for the poetry.

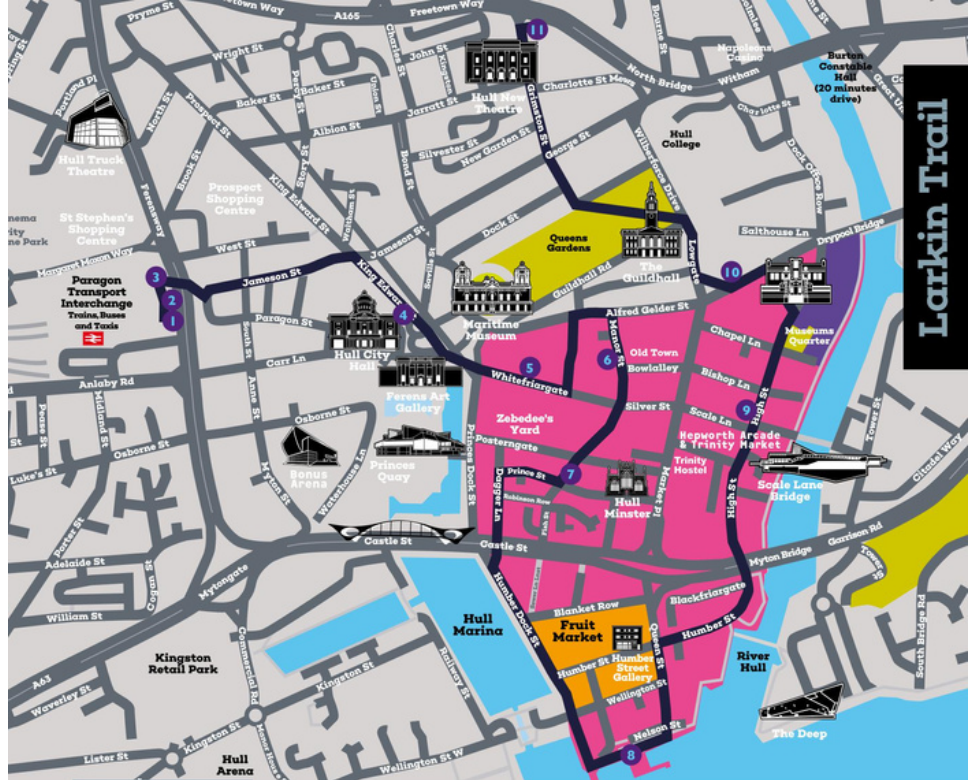
The trail then heads onto other city centre venues he frequented - from the City Hall he visited and performed at, to Ye Olde Black Boy, one of his favourite pubs. The trail finishes at the Hull History Centre - where you can learn lots more about Larkin and his works.

If you'd like to find out more about the trail and download longer versions of the trail brochure, go to <http://www.thelarkintrail.co.uk/>, a very rich website for Larkin enthusiasts and those new to this complex individual.

If you want to find out more about the poet and the man, visit the Philip Larkin Society website www.philiplarkin.com

- 1 - inaccessible within the Royal Station Hotel
- 9 - Missing (Awaiting replacement)
- 10 - Only accessible during business hours

Larkin' out on the Larkin Trail



KEY:

- 1** Royal Hotel
Larkin enjoyed many a visit and would often lunch in its subterranean restaurant.
- 2** Royal Hotel
Larkin's poem 'Friday Night in the Royal Station Hotel' was first published by the Sheffield Morning Telegraph, and later in his collection High Windows.
- 3** Inside Paragon Interchange
Larkin captured one of his more memorable departures from Paragon Station in his celebrated 1958 poem, 'The Whitsun Weddings'.
- 4** The City Hall
Here he could indulge his passion for jazz as the venue played host to many of the greats. Some of Larkin's own work was performed here too, as he
- 5** Whitefriargate & Marks & Spencer
A little way down, on your left, you reach Marks & Spencer - Larkin's 'Large Cool Store'. You can find a copy of his poem 'finished in a terrific hurry' inside the shop just by the lift.
- 6** Land Of Green Ginger
In the days when Larkin frequented this area most pubs closed at 10.30pm and streetlights in some parts of the city centre were then switched off, by 10.45pm.
- 7** Trinity Square
This is an area with which Larkin was very familiar.
- 8** The Pier & Waiting Room
Larkin's trips would have been on one of the three paddle steamers that went back and forth to New Holland in Lincolnshire from the 1930s and 40s until the opening of the Humber Bridge in 1981.
- 9** High Street & Ye Olde Black Boy
One of Larkin's favourite pubs. Here in 1977 he gave a talk on clarinettist Pee Wee Russell and played a selection of his records to the Hull Jazz Record Society.
- 10** The White Hart
Another of the Old Town pubs favoured by Larkin.
- 11** Hull History Centre
Offers a wonderful opportunity to discover more about Larkin