

# Motorcycle Museums Tour, Britain



**VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS**

Maps Show You Where... We Show You Why!

# Table of Contents

[Cover](#)

[Tour Summary](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Tips](#)

[Chapter 1 - NMM: The Legends Live On](#)

[Chapter 2 - Sammy Miller Museum](#)

[Chapter 3 - London Motorcycle Museum](#)

[Chapter 4 - Other Museums](#)

[Maps](#)

[Author Biography](#)

[Publisher](#)

# Tour Summary

Britain has a proud heritage when it comes to motorcycles. For six decades, its manufacturers produced the best-built, fastest bikes in the world. Explore this fascinating history beginning with the days when motorcycles were just bicycles with gas engines attached. This tour visits three major motorcycle museums in England: the National Motorcycle Museum - the world's largest - at Birmingham, the Sammy Miller Museum (started by the trials champ) in New Milton, and London Motorcycle Museum, which specializes in Triumphs. Each museum has rare one-of-a-kind and vintage motorcycles. Gentlemen, start your engines!

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

# Introduction





A German, Gottlieb Daimler, may have invented the first gas-powered motorbike, but it was the British who latched onto this invention and carried it to new heights.



For more than six decades, the British were the first with new, innovative technologies that made motorcycles run faster and better. But British manufacturers grew too complacent and lost their edge. By the 1970s, Japanese manufacturers overtook them to make the best-selling motorcycles in the world.



Today, only one British manufacturer-- Triumph--survives among the dozens that once ruled the world. And another, Royal Enfield, moved its manufacturing operations to India a few decades ago at a time when the Indians were buying more Royal Enfields than the English were.



But Britain's rich motorcycle heritage lives on in the many motorcycle museums scattered throughout the United Kingdom.





This tour visits three of those museums: the National Motorcycle Museum , the Sammy Miller Museum, and the London Motorcycle Museum. The tour begins in the West Midlands, birthplace of the British motorcycle industry.



We'll go first to the National Motorcycle Museum near Birmingham. Not only is it the biggest motorcycle museum in England, but with more than 850 bikes, it's the largest in the world.



From there, we'll head down to the Sammy Miller Museum a few miles outside of Southampton. Sammy is considered the greatest trials rider of all time. If you don't think so, check out his trophy case.



Besides early motorcycles, his museum contains not only motorcycles he designed, developed, and/or rode, but also a wonderful collection of motorcycle memorabilia. This is the only museum we'll visit that displays motorcycles made in other countries.

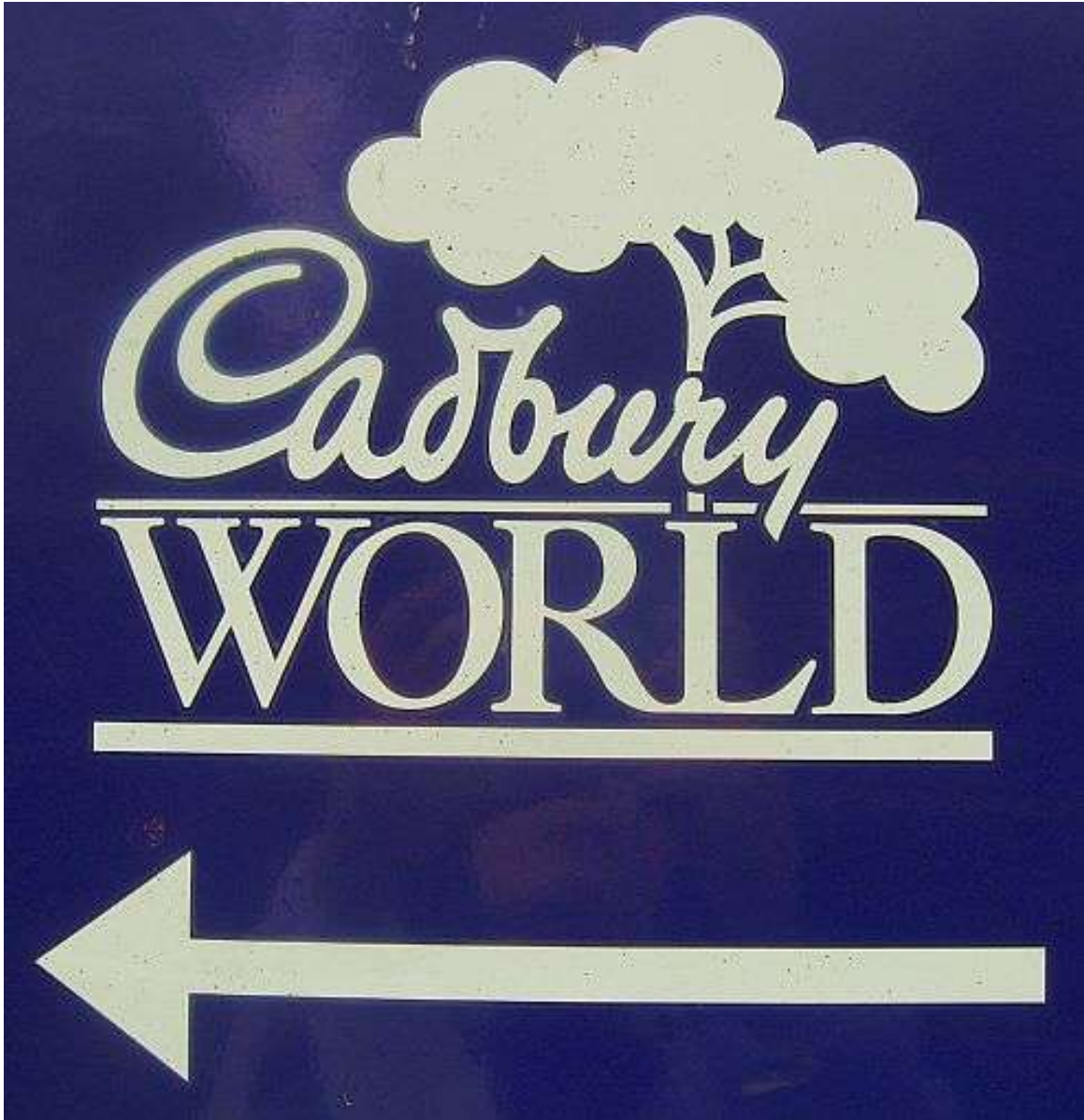


The last museum we'll visit is the London Motorcycle Museum, located in the quiet London suburb of Greenford. It is a strictly volunteer-run museum that specializes in Triumphs.



Bike enthusiasts with limited time could visit the National Motorcycle Museum on a long day trip from London. But the Birmingham area has so much to offer visitors, it's

recommended that travelers spend a few days there to visit other motorcycle venues and other attractions.



Birmingham is a lovely city, said to have more canals than Venice. And the canals extend well beyond the city. Stratford-upon-Avon is but a short ride away for Shakespearean fans. And visitors who are



chocoholics can get their daily fix on a tour of Cadbury World in Bourneville, a 10-minute train ride from Birmingham's New Street Station.



And, of course, London is London. There's so much to see and do in the English capital, it would take many, many visits to even make a dent in the list.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)