Leicester is a vibrant, modern city. Founded in Roman times (and with the remains of its Roman baths still evident in the city centre), Leicester was an important medieval market town and became, in the modern period, a thriving industrial centre specializing in textile production. Leicester industrialised, traded with the world, attracted waves of immigrants from rural areas and from countries near and far, and was transformed from a small market town to a large multicultural city. It forms an appropriate backdrop to the overall theme of the conference.

What makes Leicester the ideal location for a conference focusing on “globalization, immigration and transformation” is its ethnic mix. Leicester Clock Tower

In the mid to late twentieth century the city welcomed refugees from the conflicts in Europe, and then, during the post-war period, large scale immigration from Ireland, South Asia, Uganda, Kenya, and the Caribbean. Leicester is now the most ethnically diverse city in the United Kingdom.

Globalization, immigration, transformation

Leicester is easily accessible by road (the M1 motorway passes close by) and rail (frequent services to and from London and the north). The nearest airport is Nottingham East Midlands (16 miles), with Birmingham (35 miles), Manchester (69 miles) and London Heathrow (85 miles). There are direct rail links to Stansted, Luton and Gatwick airports.

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Diwali

The weather in Leicester in January is chilly, but not excessively so, with an average high of 7 degrees Celsius (45 degrees F) and low of 1 degree C (34 degrees F), with an average of 4.3 cm rain (1.7 inches) during the month. January days can be brilliantly sunny and cold, or dull, gloomy and mild, and sometimes both in the same day.

WHAT MAKES LEICESTER THE IDEAL LOCATION FOR A CONFERENCE FOCUSING ON “GLOBALIZATION, IMMIGRATION AND TRANSFORMATION”? ITS ETHNIC MIX.

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You are warmly invited to Leicester, England for the 46th annual Society for Historical and Underwater Archaeology Conference, January 9–12 2013.

Leicester offers the visitor fantastic shopping, sightseeing and dining opportunities (you should certainly try one of its many Indian restaurants). Leicester’s rich heritage of excellent food and drink is a product of its diverse population. Local foods include Stilton cheese, Melton Mowbray pork pies, and the best samosas this side of India.

The Conference reception will be at the wonderful Snibston Discovery Centre, where you can explore 500 years of technological innovation, see a working beam engine and use block-and-tackle to pick up the iconic British Mini automobile with only your own body strength.

Trips and tours will include Stratford-upon-Avon and a performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company; Ironbridge, the cradle of the Industrial Revolution; Elizabethan stately homes; a visit to the Royal Dockyard and historic ships at Portsmouth, and many others.

Leicester makes an ideal base for an independent vacation before or after the conference. It is centrally located, only 75 minutes by train from central London and yet within easy reach of the natural beauty of the Charnwood Hills, the Peak district and a host of charming market towns.

The conference will be based at the University of Leicester, which consistently features in the UK top 20 and in the top two per cent of world universities. The School of Archaeology and Ancient History is one of the UK’s largest and most highly-rated, and incorporates the Centre for Historical Archaeology, Britain’s only dedicated research center for the discipline.

Delegates will be offered a range of hotel accommodation nearby. There are options for all pockets and tastes from the luxurious Victorian Mercure Hotel to charming local ‘Bed and Breakfasts.’

Please join us for a pie and a pint next year!