

# HULL

# THE LARKIN TRAIL



**Distance** 3 miles

**Time** 2.5 hours

**Level** easy

Philip Larkin was an English poet, novelist, and librarian. After graduating from Oxford University in 1943, Larkin became a librarian and during the next thirty years worked at the University of Hull, where he produced the greater part of his published work. He is therefore synonymous with Hull and this specially selected trail, seen through his eyes, will show you the diverse landscapes which Hull has to offer.

**For more information on Philip Larkin please visit [PhilipLarkin.com](http://PhilipLarkin.com)**

Philip Larkin, one of the 20th-century's greatest poets, was Hull University Librarian from 1955 until his death in 1985. The Larkin Society helped to establish a dedicated trail in 2011. Larkin developed a well-documented affinity for Hull and it's where his genius blossomed.

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.



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**1 & 2 Royal Hotel** Larkin enjoyed many a visit and would often lunch in its subterranean restaurant. 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 was commissioned to write the words of a cantata composed by Anthony Hedges to celebrate the opening of the Humber Bridge.

**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.



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**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

For an opportunity to download short and longer versions of the trail brochure, go to [Thelarkintrail.co.uk](http://Thelarkintrail.co.uk) a very good website for Larkin enthusiasts and those new to this interesting individual.

