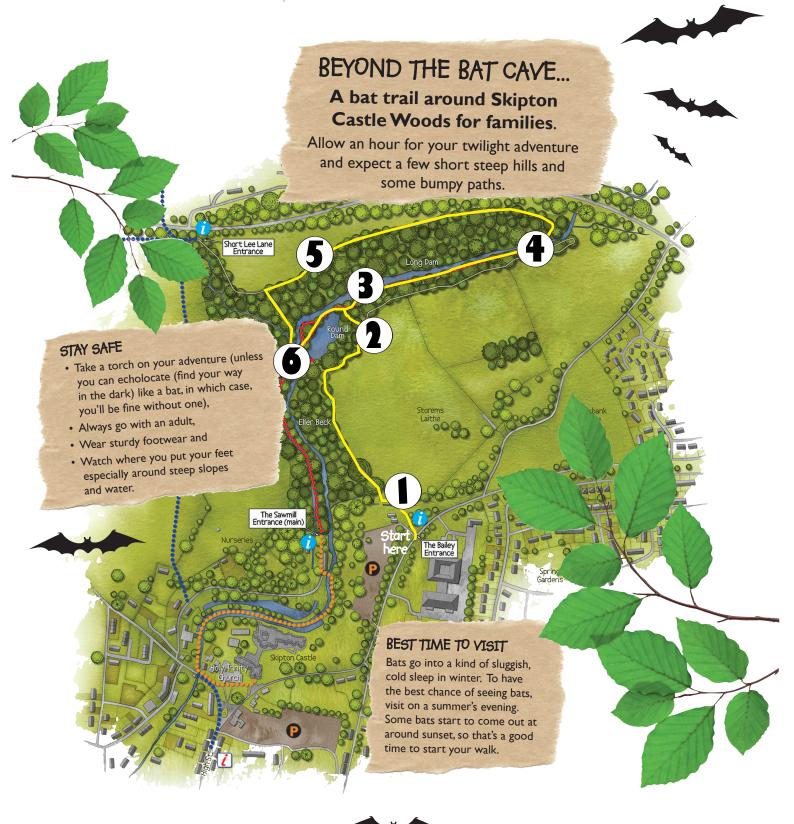
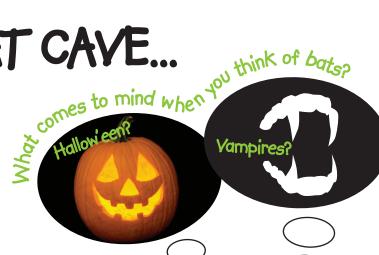


Skipton Castle Woods bat trail



BEYOND THE BAT CAVE...

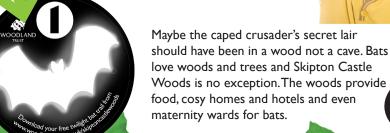
Skipton Caste Woods is great to visit in the day, all year round. But come at twilight and you're bound to glimpse some of its more intriguing and unique nocturnal residents.



Skipton Castle Woods is home to

species of bat!

Follow the numbered glow-in-the-dark signs around the woods to uncover more about these curious woodland residents.



love woods and trees and Skipton Castle Woods is no exception. The woods provide food, cosy homes and hotels and even bat cave?

Batman in his

All our UK bats are insectivores (eat insects) so sorry, no gruesome blood sucking! Broadleaved woods, like this one, are home to more types of insects than other types of woodland. So that means more yummy dinners for bats. No wonder they like it here.

Pipistrelles are our commonest bat and the best bet for spotting. As these tiny bats dart through the night sky they can catch up to 3,000 insects in one night. All that flying gives them a big appetite!

The water at Skipton Castle Woods is like a giant buffet counter for a special kind of bat called Daubenton's. Keep an eye out for a bat acting like a mini hovercraft, zigzagging over the water. They fly very low and catch insects with their feet.

Noctules visit these woods and are one of the UK's biggest bats. They like to live in trees. Can you spot any holes where Noctules might sleep? Don't disturb them though - all our bat species are protected by Law.

You can't see very well at night, but bats use their super ears to find their way. Bats make shouting sounds and listen to the echoes (echolocation) that return to help them find things. Natterer's bats like the edge of woods where the trees meet farm land. They use their very quiet echolocation to find their favourite foods; midges, moths and wasps.

As you walk back through the woods, stay alert and don't forget to look up. Brown long-eared bats (yes, they have really big ears!) love woods like these. They fly in and around the trees in a slow, fluttery way. Sometimes you can even see them hovering and picking insects off leaves and bark.









