

Leicester migration



1968-1972

- The later arrival of Asians from East Africa marked a substantial time in Leicester's migration history; East African Asians now constitute the dominant sub-group in the Leicester Asian community.
- Their arrival also demonstrated the difference in culture from their predecessors; namely that the majority of East African Asians were refugees and involuntary migrants.
- In 1972 General Idi Amin of Uganda began to expel the country's Asian population as part of his 'Africanization' policy, which also seeped into neighbouring countries in the region, namely Kenya.
- As a result, from 1968-1978, Leicester received more than 20,000 displaced East African Asians, more than anywhere else in the country.
- The emergence of the Belgrave, Melton Road and Rushey Mead parts of the city as areas of mainly South Asian settlement can be attributed to this arrival.

1991

- In 1991, civil war broke out in Somalia when the president, Siad Barre, was overthrown, leading to a state of clan warfare. From refugee camps in the neighbouring countries of Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti, many Somalis came to the UK. This attracted many other Somalis from around Europe, from countries such as the Netherlands, France, Germany or Scandinavia
- The Somali community is the second largest migrant community in the UK. Leicester's Somali immigrants started arriving in large numbers in 2001, and the city now has the largest Somali population outside London, making up about 5% of Leicester's total population. They currently live mainly in the Belgrave St Matthews, Highfields, Beaumont Leys areas of Leicester.

2004

- Since Poland became a member of the EU in 2004, the numbers coming from Poland to the UK have grown exceptionally. Mainly economic migrants in search of opportunities not to be found in Poland.

2005-2010

- The Portuguese community is relatively new to Leicester. Between 2005 and 2010. The local authority notes that there are currently two such communities in Leicester. The first are migrants from Portugal, and the second are migrants from Daman, a Portuguese colony situated on the west coast of India. Whilst these latter individuals and families are Indian, their passports are Portuguese. Portugal is a fairly stable country, with an imperial past, which has recently been suffering a series of economic difficulties. Migrants to Leicester from Portugal are generally economic migrants, seeking career advancement or further opportunities. A predominant number of migrants from Daman have settled in the Belgrave area of Leicester.