

York Book of Ideas - 2019

Welcome to the York Book of Ideas, a press pack with a difference.

This pack has been put together to provide inspiration for journalists and travel writers who are looking for fresh ideas and reasons to write about York. You may already know that York offers over 30 visitor attractions from the world famous JORVIK Viking Centre to the National Railway Museum (the largest railway museum in the UK), as well as a vibrant year-round festival programme and superb shopping.

And of course, York is a historical gem, but it is much more than that – it is a vibrant, changing city which appeals to culture vultures and thrill seekers, to couples looking for a relaxed escape as well as those looking for fantastic nightlife within walking distance of their hotel. It is a small city with so much packed in, much of which has already been written about, but with a huge amount more remaining to be discovered. We hope this pack will help you inspire your readers and viewers to choose York for their next adventure.

2019 will be an exciting year for York with the return of the Shakespeare's Rose Theatre – Europe's first ever Pop-Up Shakespearean theatre, events to celebrate the 100 years anniversary of the iconic Betty's Café Tea Rooms, the opening of the new cookery school at The Grand Hotel & Spa York, and much more...

We hope you enjoy your stay in York – the Original City Adventure - and we'd be delighted to assist you with your accommodation arrangements and York Passes so that you can get a feel for the city and the full York experience.

We look forward to welcoming you soon!

With best wishes,

Kay, Katie and Ana in the communications team.

News for 2019

Betty's Café Tea Rooms – celebrating 100 years of tea and cake

In 2019 Bettys celebrates a rather big birthday: 100 years of delighting customers with delicious handmade cakes, mouth-watering chocolates and aromatic, exclusive coffees and fine teas.

The Bettys story began in 1919 when a young Swiss Confectioner, Frederick Belmont, left the Swiss Alps and travelled to England with the dream of creating his own business. The beautiful countryside and sweet clear air of Yorkshire reminded him of his native Switzerland and in 1919 he opened his first Bettys Café Tearooms in the fashionable spa town of Harrogate. The combination of exquisite Swiss confectionery, Yorkshire warmth and hospitality and the elegant surroundings proved an instant success.

One hundred years later and Bettys has grown to become a treasured and iconic Yorkshire business, a destination venue known and loved all around the world. Today there are six Bettys, all in Yorkshire, each completely different, with its own very distinct personality and character. Annually around a million people a year visit Bettys Café Tearooms and many more shop online to enjoy Bettys delicious specialities at home.

Throughout 2019 Bettys will celebrate this landmark birthday a series of 14 events in their six Yorkshire branches, including talks from their archivist and talks from family members, and they will be holding new celebratory cookery school courses too. Bettys will also launch new products and celebrate those they're most famous for, so look out for new versions of some of their best-loved treats. They will be releasing souvenir gifts, with a specially commissioned artist illustration, a series of short films and, later in the year, a new book about their history. They will also be launching a digital timeline and a very special memory hub, inviting customers and fans to share their Bettys stories and traditions.

275th anniversary of York Theatre Royal

#onlyinyork

York's historic Theatre Royal will be celebrating its 275th anniversary year in 2019. The building, which dates back to the 18th century, is a patchwork quilt of many periods – originally built over a 12th century hospital with changes over the years giving the theatre a Georgian interior, Victorian façade, 1960s poured concrete addition and now the recent transformation of the Grade II listed Theatre Royal into a building fit to serve a 21st century audience with improved access and flexibility.

Events/activities include:

A Royal tour of theatre history: *Take a trip through time to discover hidden history and backstage secrets*

Discover how one of the oldest working theatres in the country was transformed into a building fit to serve a 21st century audience.

See a rare 18th century folly backstage and a Roman well beneath the stage.

Hear about the medieval hospital remains that lie beneath the theatre.

Find out why the stage is called a deck and why the theatre boxes faced the audience rather than the stage.

Learn how much was paid in 1769 for the 'Royal' patent.

Enjoy tea and scones at the end of the guided tour.

Visitors can take a trip back in time to uncover the backstage secrets and hidden history of York Theatre Royal, one of the oldest working theatres in the country. The revamped Backstage Tour now comes with afternoon tea and scones at the end of the 75-minute tour led by one of the expert guides. Characters visitors will 'meet' on the tour include Thomas Keregan and his wife Elizabeth who established the theatre in 1734 on a converted tennis court before opening a theatre on the present site a decade later. Another key figure in the royal history is Tate Wilkinson, who became the theatre manager in 1762. He was not only a shrewd businessman, but also an eccentric and extravagant theatre-lover who ordered lavish costumes that were unsuitable for productions but gave him so much pleasure from "the pure enjoyment of the finery."

Visitors will see what's become known as the Fire Place on the back wall of the theatre where actors and other theatricals have etched their names in the stone over the years. This rare 18th folly was the arched entranceway to gardens adjacent to the theatre that were lost in expansion plans. Underneath the stage is a well thought to date from Roman times. Work in the 1960s saw concrete pillars formed to evoke a medieval hospital in an extension, while the most recent £6m improvement saw the stage reconfigured and front of house areas improved and made more accessible. Hopefully the theatre's ghosts won't put in an appearance during the tour. The Grey Lady was a nun who was bricked up in a windowless room after falling in love with a nobleman. Then there's The Dandy, the ghost of the 18th century actor who, mortally wounded in a sword duel in the street, staggered back to the theatre and died in the wings.

Tours take place on Fridays and Saturdays. Check the website for details.

New Cookery School at the Grand Hotel & Spa

Opening March 2019

#onlyinyork

A new cookery school is scheduled to open in March 2019 at the luxurious The Grand Hotel York, located a few minutes' walk from York station. Described as 'a place to relax, have fun, make friends, and learn something new', this new culinary venture promises to cook up a storm in the north.

Sessions will range from £65 for a half-day to full day courses from £145 led by expert tutors. Guests will learn how to prepare authentic dishes, with fresh local produce at the heart of each creation. As well as corporate days, there will also be academy classes for those looking to advance their skills. Even the kids will have an opportunity to get involved with bespoke classes during the holidays.

Perfect for developing cooking knowledge or to spend time with friends or family, the classes will be designed to appeal to all abilities, from novice to Nigel Slater.

Cleveland Way National Trail 50th anniversary

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Cleveland Way, the nation's favourite national trail and to celebrate, the North York Moors National Park is hosting a series of events, walks, talks, competitions and exhibitions, including a Cleveland Way dedicated Walking Festival in May 2019, 109 Miles exhibition at the gallery with artist in residence Debbie Loane, a new film about the trail and a photography competition. The Cleveland Way was the second National Trail to open and launched on 24 May 1969. It runs for 109 miles in a horseshoe loop across much of the North York Moors National Park between Helmsley and Filey. The coastal Cleveland Way follows part of the England Coast Path, which will be 2,795 miles (4,500km) long when it is completed in 2020.

Outline details are here with more information to follow www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/clevelandway

70th anniversary of National Parks (1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act)

2019 is the 70th Anniversary of National Parks (the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act which led to the creation of National Parks and National Trails). As National Trails were developed from the same Act, North York Moors National Park are intending to build in 70th anniversary messaging as part of this activity. More details to follow soon...

Whitby Abbey (English Heritage) £1.6 million reinvestment (re-opening spring 2019)

A £1.6 million reinvestment programme will see improvements to three key areas whilst also benefitting from a newly designed museum, interpretation located at key points around the site and the addition of a small coffee shop. Throughout the open green spaces of the headland, cultural and historical information, which will appeal to all ages, will be strategically placed to tell the alluring story of Whitby Abbey throughout its diverse and fascinating history. The new museum space will provide an opportunity to learn more about rich history of the abbey. The new exhibition draws on the atmosphere of the abbey to create a sense of drama. It will include playful elements of surprise and delight to engage in audiences of all ages; spanning the period from early Bronze Age through to occupation of the Cholmley family. Beautifully lit displays will house rare and internationally significant collection objects. Work is due to started on 5 November 2018 and will run until the spring of 2019. <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/whitby-abbey/>

New Community Stadium for York

Opening in Summer 2019 is a brand new addition to York's sporting offer with the 8,000 all-seat community sports stadium which will be home to York City FC and York City Knights. The site will feature an IMAX cinema with 13 screens, five restaurants and up to three new retail outlets. There will also be a gym, a swimming pool, dance studio, climbing facilities and a sports hall.

NEW Events and Festivals

Biggest Outdoor Ice Trail in the UK is back for February

(New date Sat 2 Feb 2019)

#onlyinyork

The York Ice Trail will return in February. With 50 frozen creations made from crystal-clear ice depicting myths and legends, from a Phoenix to Thor's Hammer these enchanting sculptures will transform the historic city of York ahead of the Chinese New Year celebrations.

In China the phoenix is known as a messenger of happiness and it was once believed to only appear during times of peace and prosperity. To bring cheer to the dark winter months, a mythical phoenix will be carved live for the public to watch, bringing happiness to thousands of visitors during what has become one of York's most popular events.

Visitors can enjoy live ice carving and try their hand at sculpting the ice with interactive sculptures on Parliament Street including a carving wall. There'll be a hero camp at Middleton's Hotel, including Iron Man and Groot sculptures. Thwaite's horse and cart will be making an appearance too. As in previous years a live carving session in St Helen's Square will offer the chance to see the skill behind the icy creations.

Follow the Vikings Roadshow

Saturday 2 March

The Follow the Vikings Roadshow is a Creative European Project of the European Union that celebrates the cultural and historic impact of the Vikings. This collaboration of artists from all over Europe includes actors, musicians, dancers and filmmakers to create a visual celebration of Viking heritage. Performed live at 11 significant Viking locations over a two-year programme, which began in August 2017, each show is unique; adding a spectacular and complimentary pan-European experience to an already existing Viking events programme. York is the only city in England where this will be performed.

The creative producer is Craig Morrison and professional choreographer is Anna Katrin Granhus who is touring with the production. The production includes specialists drawn from the local region including make-up artists, musicians and dance professionals.

The Roadshows are more than just a performance by a visiting troupe of artists. They support the development of new or enhanced career skills for professional artists. They champion artists to work in international co-operation and open opportunities to internationalise their careers. There are also opportunities for local communities to acquire new skills that can be used to further their careers in whatever artistic field they wish to pursue.

The first Roadshow was held in Warsaw (Poland) in August 2017. Since then, it has travelled to Avaldsnes (Norway), Copenhagen (Denmark), Dublin and Waterford (Ireland), Catoria (Spain), Gunners Gard (Sweden), Harstad (Norway), and Shetland (Scotland), with the final 2019 shows will be in York.

Aesthetica Future Now Symposium

7 – 8 March 2019

#onlyinyork

Organised by Aesthetica, one of the leading publications for art, design and photography, highlighting some of the most important artists at work today, both established and emerging, through detailed features and stunning imagery. The magazine includes in-depth coverage of new exhibitions and artists, photography and film, making it a go-to-guide for all art and culture lovers across the world.

Addressing themes in today's artistic climate through lectures, panel discussions and portfolio reviews, the Future Now Symposium 2019 considers the arts ecosystem within a broader social context. It establishes a place for the exchange of ideas, offering support, talent development and networking opportunities. Welcoming speakers from some of the UK's leading art organisations, publications and galleries, Future Now gives attendees the opportunity to meet those who are shaping the art world today.

60009 Union of South Africa to visit North Yorkshire Moors Railway

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway is delighted to announce its curtain raiser for 2019 will be the visit of 60009 Union of South Africa next Spring. Passengers will be able to travel behind the iconic A4 Pacific, designed by Nigel Gresley, from Grosmont to Pickering during its week-long visit.

Union of South Africa services will depart at 9:30, 12:40 & 15:40 from Grosmont Station on 30 & 31 March, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7 April 2019

The LNER Class A4 steam locomotive was built in Doncaster in 1937. She is one of six surviving Gresley A4s, and is currently operational and mainline certified until April 2019 when she will be permanently withdrawn. Their streamlined design made them instantly recognisable, and one of the class, 4468 Mallard, holds the world record as the fastest steam locomotive.

Shakespeare's Rose Theatre – returns for 2nd year with new plays....

This thrilling theatrical experience returns to York in 2019. Europe's first ever pop-up Shakespearean Theatre came to York in June 2018 and will once again be constructed in the city. Shakespeare's Rose Theatre houses an audience of almost a thousand people, positioned across an open-roofed yard and three tiered balconies. Inspired by the original and legendary Rose Theatre in London, which was built in 1587, the Elizabethan-style theatre will reappear beside the iconic, 13th Century Clifford's Tower in the heart of historic York.

The season will begin on Tuesday 25 June and run through until Sunday 1 September 2019. Four of William Shakespeare's plays, across the genres, will be performed in repertory in the 10-week season in Summer 2019: Hamlet, The Tempest, Twelfth Night, and Henry V.

The Bloom! Flower & Produce Festival

22 – 23 June 2019

#onlyinyork

Following on from the success of the inaugural flower festival, a Bloom! legacy-orientated project will take place over the summer of 2019. This 'off-shoot' of the original festival will focus on more tangible and (semi)permanent displays and installations. Split into three distinct activities this is designed to both beautify the city and help spark an interest in horticulture.

1. BLOOM Garden – May

This first piece of activity will take an unused piece of land in the city centre and transforming it into a garden that all can enjoy.

2. Flower & Produce Show – June

Taking place on Parliament Street, this event will be similar to the one that took place in 2018, with a real community element at its heart. Local horticultural groups are invited to bring along their best growing and produce efforts to be shown and prizes won.

3. BLOOM Beautification Programme, in association with The BID

A series of installations across the city centre and the wider York area. These will include hanging baskets and other activities to 'beautify' the city with flowers over the summer months. This will have a strong ecological-angle and more details will be released soon.

More information to follow closer to the date.

Countryfile Live heads to Castle Howard

15 – 18 August 2019

With over 250,000 people having visited BBC Countryfile Live at Blenheim Palace since 2016, the event linked to the BBC's flagship rural affairs programme has announced a second venue for 2019. Castle Howard, near York, will host the first Countryfile Live event to be held in the North.

Castle Howard, widely recognised as 'Brideshead' in adaptations of the Evelyn Waugh novel, will host many of the much-loved Countryfile Live attractions on its 1000 acre site including Passion for British Livestock, the Wildlife Zone and most importantly, The Craven Arms.

For the first time BBC Countryfile Live will venture North. The event will include a range of features including the Village Green, the Countryfile Experience featuring the programmes presenters, the Wildlife Zone, Farming in Acton and Passion for British Livestock. The new event will represent the best of the northern countryside and celebrate regional farming. It promises to be one of the summer's best days out.

NEW Exhibitions

The York Helmet – the best surviving Anglian Helmet in Europe

Yorkshire Museum: Until late January 2019

#onlyinyork

One of York's greatest treasures has returned to the city midway through a national tour which has already seen it viewed by more than 50,000 people.

The York Helmet, the best surviving Anglian Helmet in Europe, has been on display at Nottingham Lakeside Arts and The Atkinson, Southport, as part of the Yorkshire Museum and British Museum exhibition Viking: Rediscover the Legend.

It is now back on show at the Yorkshire Museum for a limited time before the exhibition goes to Norwich Castle Museum in February 2019.

The York Helmet is one of the most iconic objects ever found in York and the tour of Viking: Rediscover the Legend is the first time it has been on show outside of York and London.

When All is Quiet: Kaiser Chiefs in Conversation with York Art Gallery

December 14 – March 10

#onlyinyork

In this new and experimental exhibition at the York Art Gallery, Kaiser Chiefs explore the boundaries between art and music. Using their position as pop musicians as a starting point, Kaiser Chiefs have chosen to rethink sound as a medium, inviting visitors to join them in exploring the edges between music, art, creation and performance.

To do this they have:

- Brought together works by internationally regarded sound artists which have resonated with the band while on their travels and inspired them to look at sound in new ways
- Created a silent gig - using light and colour and projected lyrics to create an immersive environment that offers visitors a reconfigured experience of a live music show.
- Selected a "set list" of songs in response to works from York Art Gallery's collection that reference creation, production or performance.

It will be supported by a programme of events, workshops and performances as well as working with an artist in residence to explore the creative process of making music.

Savage Satire: From the pen of James Gillray at Fairfax House
Squabbles with European neighbours will be brought to life in this exhibition
February – June 2019

#onlyinyork

James Gillray, savage satirist, cruel cartoonist and biting political commentator, wielded a power with his pen that few could match in Georgian Britain. His grotesquely exaggerated and wicked caricatures mercilessly ridiculed and poured scorn on politicians, celebrities and royalty alike. The visceral and subversive nature of Gillray's Georgian humour knew no bounds. From the underbelly of British life and the cut-throat business of politics, through to nationalistic squabbles with European neighbours and intensifying notions of 'Britishness', all offered a rich seam for Gillray to prod and poke fun at. 200 years on, his often acidic, sometimes gruesome, but always sharp and sophisticated satires have never been more amusing or relevant.

Drawing on an extraordinary collection of Gillray's works, *avage Satire* draws many parallels between the world of James Gillray and today's current affairs.

Breaking the Mould: The Story of Kit Kat (Coming Spring 2019)
New Exhibition at York's Chocolate Story

#onlyinyork

For over 80 years, the humble Kit Kat has been a staple part of lunchboxes and break times across the planet. In the UK alone, 564 Kit Kat fingers are consumed every second. That works out at over 1 billion a year!

In 2019, York's Chocolate Story will explore its origins and impact in their new exhibition.

Discover why Kit Kats are so popular in Japan, and why American bars have a unique taste all of their own. Find out how many are produced in York on a daily basis, and why a long-forgotten club in London helped inspire a radical change in confectionery.

One of the most iconic chocolate bars in the world, Kit Kat has become a universally-recognised symbol of York's sweet ingenuity.

Aesthetica Art Prize – York Art Gallery
7 March – 31 July 2019

Hosted by Aesthetica Magazine, the Aesthetica Art Prize is a celebration of excellence in art from across the world. It offers both emerging and established artists the opportunity to showcase their work to a wider audience, and further their engagement with the international art world. The award attracts thousands of entries in a range of innovative media from locations as diverse as Australia, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA.

Ruskin, Turner and the Storm Cloud: Watercolours and Drawings

York Art Gallery

29 March to 23 June 2019

Humans' relationship with the environment and questions about mental health will be explored through the watercolours and drawings of two of the most celebrated artists of the 19th Century in this major new exhibition. To celebrate Ruskin's 200th birthday, 'Ruskin, Turner & the Storm Cloud: Watercolours and Drawings' considers the eloquent critical relationship John Ruskin (1819-1900) had with the landscapes of J M W Turner (1775-1851).

Through new research, it will reveal Ruskin's response to Turner's vision, together with his own experience of close looking at weather patterns, mountains and the built environment.

For the first time, this exhibition brings together works from York Art Gallery and partner Abbot Hall, with substantial loans from national and regional collections and new commissions by contemporary artists. The exhibition book will also explore these themes through multiple lenses, in a collection of new essays by artists, climate change scientists, art historians and curators.

As well as a dozen works by Turner and more than 40 by Ruskin, the exhibition will also include art by their contemporaries such as Constable, John Inchbold and Hubert Herkomer.

Contemporary artist Emma Stibbon RA, has been commissioned to create a contemporary response to the concerns raised by Ruskin. In the summer of 2018 she retraced his steps, travelling to Chamonix to draw and photograph the glaciers around Mont Blanc. Through powerful, large-scale pencil drawings, she reflects on the effects of climate change on Alpine landscapes treasured by Ruskin and Turner.

The Lost Words, Inspired by... gallery, The Moors National Park Centre

15 June – 29 July 2019

The Lost Words is a unique collaborative project between award-winning author Robert Macfarlane, and acclaimed artist and author Jackie Morris, in response to their belief that nature is in retreat from our children's stories and imaginations following the removal of many words such as heather, bluebell, otter and kingfisher from the Oxford Junior Dictionary.

On tour from Compton Verney, the exhibition presents a series of acrostic poems and accompanying illustrations that conjure the beauty of nature, for visitors of all ages. The exhibition at the Inspired by... gallery, run by the North York Moors National Park, is the only Northern England venue to host this touring exhibition. An accompanying series of workshops, talks, activities and events will run alongside the exhibition.

Nicolas Poussin's "The Triumph of Pan" travelling the UK in 2019

On display at York Art Gallery

12 July – 22 September 2019

Nicolas Poussin's *The Triumph of Pan*, a much-loved work from the National Gallery's Collection, is travelling the UK in 2019. The three venues for the National Gallery Masterpiece Tour 2019 are Victoria Art Gallery, Bath; York Art Gallery; and Auckland Castle, part of The Auckland Project, County Durham.

York Art Gallery will display the masterpiece from 12 July until 22 September 2019, while works from our collection by masters such as Dughet, Bernini, Domenichino and others will be brought together to explore the life, career and legacy of Poussin as well as the mythological characters he depicts.

The Georgian Edit: Cutting-Edge Fashion, Then and Now at Fairfax House

July – December 2019

Georgian Fashion: extravagant, excessive, often extreme but always exciting. The eighteenth century was an era of radical styling, bold design, vibrant colour and innovative cut, when fashion went to uncharted heights and brought theatre and fantasy into the 'everyday' life of Britain's fashion-addicted society.

In the world of Georgian fashion, towering hairstyles met outlandishly high heels, daringly wide hooped petticoats matched impossibly exaggerated silhouettes and decadently rich fabrics went hand in glove with luxuriously embroidered detailing. As this country carved its own distinct sartorial identity and British tailoring led the world, trend-setters and pioneers of fashionable innovations and excesses were feted like superstars.

Bringing together historic costume and the collections of leading contemporary fashion designers, ***The Georgian Edit: Cutting-Edge Fashion Then and Now***, reveals the inspiration and influence that eighteenth-century art and fashion has exerted on today's generation of ground-breaking designers – showcasing the dramatic, sumptuous and highly evocative ways in which modern designers have responded to this iconic era.

Magic & Mystery at Barley Hall

Throughout 2019

#onlyinyork

Magic and Mystery is a new exhibition at Barley Hall that explores the often fine line between science, religion and magic in medieval society.

Galleries invite visitors to explore the role of magic in the everyday lives of people living in the Middle Ages. Displays investigate the individuals pronounced in written records as witches and wizards; the 'science' of magic, alchemy and experimentation; protective charms and forecasting the future through prophecies and dreams.

Using both archaeological and documentary evidence from the period, Magic and Mystery showcases a thought-provoking and often misinterpreted feature of medieval culture.

This new exhibition will transport visitors back to a time of superstition, strange remedies and fantastical beliefs. Barley Hall is a medieval town house, once home to the Priors of Nostell and a Lord Mayor of York. Until the 1980s the building was hidden under the relatively modern facade, only when it was going to be destroyed was the structure discovered and its rich history uncovered. The oldest parts of Barley Hall date from about 1360.

Key festivals and events for 2019

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| January | |
| 26 – 27 January | York Residents Festival |
| February | |
| 2 February | York Ice Trail |
| 14 February – 28 April | Vikings: The Shield Wall Saga |
| 20 – 27 February | 35th JORVIK Viking Festival |
| 15 February – 3 March | Dark Skies Festival |
| March | |
| 2 March | Follow the Vikings Roadshow |
| 7 – 8 March | Aesthetica Future Now Symposium |
| 15 – 31 March | York Literature Festival |
| 25 – 31 March | York Fashion Week |
| April | |
| 6 – 7 and 13 – 14 April | York Open Studios |
| 17 April | Hallé Orchestra performs Parsifal at York Minster |
| 18 – 21 April | York Easter Festival |
| 2 – 22 April | Great York Bunny Search |
| 19 – 21 April | York Chocolate Festival |
| May | |
| 31 May – 2 June | Eboracum Roman Festival |
| June | |
| 4 – 16 June | York Festival of Ideas |
| 8 – 9 June | York Taster Festival |
| 25 June – 1 September | Shakespeare's Rose Theatre |
| July | |
| 5 – 28 July | The Great Yorkshire Fringe Festival |
| August | |
| 15 – 18 August | Countryfile Live heads to Castle Howard |
| September | |
| 20 – 29 September | York Food and Drink Festival |
| October | |
| 24 – 30 October | Northern Lights returns to York Minster |

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| November | |
| 6 – 10 November | Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF) |
| 14 November – 23 December | York Christmas Festival |
| 16 November – 31 December | A Victorian Christmas at York Castle Museum |
| December | |
| 12 & 13 December | The York Minster Christmas Carol Concerts |

York Residents Festival: 26 – 27 January 2019

York Residents' Festival is a chance for local people to explore the city and be a tourist for the weekend – for free! Organised by Visit York in partnership with the City of York Council, this annual Festival is the city's way of saying a huge 'thank you' for the warm welcome the residents of York give to York's 7 million visitors. It's a great way to discover York's visitor attractions for free and wine and dine using many discounted offers. This year people will have the chance to explore behind the scenes at places not usually open to the public and take advantage of some great dining offers.

#onlyinyork 35th JORVIK Viking Festival: 20 – 27 February 2019

Hailed as one of the largest festivals of its kind in Europe and distinguished by a focus on authenticity, JORVIK Viking Festival is a citywide celebration of York's unique Norse history that draws more than 40,000 visitors annually from across the globe. Inspired by the ancient Viking celebration of 'Jolablot' - a Norse festival that heralded the end of winter hardships and the coming of spring - a 1,000 year old tradition long forgotten until York Archaeological Trust, the owners of JORVIK Viking Centre, brought it back to life in the 1980s.

Since then the city has witnessed such drama as the fall of great kings, the end of the world, victories of infamous warriors and the dawn of the Viking period in England through an exciting programme of events including battle re-enactments, lectures, guided tours, encampments and much more, offering visitors the chance to immerse themselves in the story of our shared Norse heritage. As well as this, the festival operates an extended Fringe Programme which sees partners throughout York creating their own Viking-inspired events and offers.

JORVIK Viking Festival 2019 will take place across two weeks from the 20th to the 27th of February to accommodate the variation in Half Term weeks for schools in different parts of the country and ensure that as many families as possible are able to experience this unforgettable event.

Dark Skies Festival – North York Moors National Park: 15 February – 3 March 2019 In the 50th anniversary year of the Apollo 11 landing on the moon (July 20 1969)

The North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales are a stargazer's paradise, with some of the best night skies in the country. Building on the success of the 2018 Dark Skies Festival, 2019 is even bigger with headline acts and film premieres already lined up between 15 February and 3 March 2019.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing the Dark Skies Festival 2019 will focus on the lunar satellite. From moon gazing events and planetariums to exhibitions and photography workshops, visitors will discover the thrills, fun and fascinating science that makes up the night sky.

The Festival will be launched by Tim O'Brien's talk 'Our Place in the Universe' at Castle Howard on Friday 15 February. Events and activities will be taking place all over the moorland, coast and Howardian Hills. As well as some of the incredibly successful events from previous years, such as stargazing at our three Dark Skies Discovery Centres, ghost walks on the coast and night zips at Dalby Forest, new events for this year include: Ale and Astronomy evenings at Whitby Brewery, film screenings of Saving the Dark, and Whitby and the Cosmos Exhibition.

Check the website for more events details.

#onlyinyork Aesthetica Future Now Symposium: 7 – 8 March 2019

Addressing themes in today's artistic climate through lectures, panel discussions and portfolio reviews, the Future Now Symposium 2019 considers the arts ecosystem within a broader social context. It establishes a place for the exchange of ideas, offering support, talent development and networking opportunities. Welcoming speakers from some of the UK's leading art organisations, publications and galleries, Future Now gives attendees the opportunity to meet those who are shaping the art world today.

York Literature Festival: 15 – 31 March 2019

Celebrating the written and spoken word in one of the UK's most beautiful cities. The aim of the festival is to deliver a high-quality literature festival for the general public in York and the North East while also providing a showcase for local writing talent.

York Fashion Week: 25 – 31 March 2019

York Fashion Week is back for its second year. Join us for seven days of runway shows, live windows, workshops and exhibitions – to truly celebrate fashion. Last year welcomed 3000 guests, and we expect even higher numbers this year as we welcome designers and brands from across the UK. From high street brands and independent retailers, right through to international designers – York Fashion Week is the perfect celebration of fashion, style and creativity.

York Open Studios : 6 – 7 and 13 – 14 April 2019

York Open Studios is a not-for-profit organisation run by a committee of volunteers for the benefit of York residents, artists and visitors. Open over two weekends in the spring, we aim to promote, celebrate and encourage participation in the visual arts. York Open Studios offers the chance to visit artists and makers in their own studios and workshops, discover their passions and inspiration, share their knowledge and support their engagement with the local community. With studios, workshops and exhibitions open all over the city, York Open Studios has become a major event and over the years has introduced hundreds of artists to the public.

Hallé Orchestra performs Parsifal at York Minster: 17 April 2019, 7:30pm

Sir Mark Elder conducts the world renowned orchestra in Wagner's final masterpiece, which re-tells the ancient story of Parsifal, a 'holy fool' made wise through pity and redeemed by a simple act of compassion. The performance will feature the prelude to Act 1 and Act 3. Heard in York Minster during Holy Week, as part of the Ryedale Festival, this will surely be an unforgettable performance. www.ryedalefestival.com

York Easter Festival: 18 – 21 April (includes Great York Bunny Search... 2 – 22 April)

York has so many activities for all over the Easter Holiday, from egg hunts, special exhibitions and workshops to outdoor activities. York Minster is the perfect backdrop to experience the spiritual side of Easter. With a list of concerts and choral music as well as Easter services visitors will have a truly inspiring Easter experience. The Great York Bunny Search is a family friendly activity planned for the Easter holidays next year—a trail around the city in search for the hidden bunnies. More information to follow closer to the date.

York Chocolate Festival: 19 – 21 April

This Easter themed weekend will give visitors a delicious chocolatey experience in preparation for the main Food and Drink Festival taking place in autumn.

#onlyinyork Eboracum Roman Festival: 31 May – 2 June 2019 Yorkshire Museum & York Museum Gardens

After the two consecutive years of success the Eboracum Roman Festival will return to York with a packed programme of displays, exhibits, events and activities suitable for all ages. There'll be military parades, siege weapon demonstrations and guided walks. A Roman camp in the Museum Gardens will showcase domestic Roman life and there'll be stalls selling themed gifts. The Yorkshire Museum is home to some of Britain's most significant Roman treasures, and there'll be activities and workshops in the museum throughout the festival.

York Festival of Ideas: 4 – 16 June 2019

York Festival of Ideas will explore 'a world of wonder' through a packed programme of inspiring events for all ages and interests this summer.

One of the largest free festivals in the UK, the award-winning Festival has become a key fixture in the city of York's cultural calendar.

Running from 4 to 16 June 2019 under the banner of *A World of Wonder*, the Festival will offer over 100 free events, including talks from world-class speakers, exhibitions, theatre, music, films, guided walks, family-friendly activities and workshops.

Last year's festival was enjoyed by over 40,000 people and was the winner of the 2018 award for Outstanding Cultural Festival (Large) at the York Culture Awards. Headline events ranged from a moving performance of *The Mozart Question* in York Minster featuring Michael Morpurgo, to the

inspiring 'How to do good' philanthropy tour with Gavin Esler, to a prestigious BBC Radio 4 Reith Lecture with eminent historian Margaret MacMillan. Speakers included Shami Chakrabarti, Judy Murrery and Lord (Michael) Howard. Highlights for children ranged from a day of witchcraft and wizardry at a Harry Potter-inspired event to a journey to the furthest reaches of space at an astronomy day.

This year's headline speakers and exciting range of events will be announced in spring 2019. Events will include a family-friendly 'Explorers Day' and special Festival Focus Days on topics including artificial intelligence, the role of higher education in society, toleration, and British/French fashion and culture.

York Festival of Ideas is co-ordinated by the University of York and is a collaboration involving more than 120 local and national partners. Now in its ninth year, the Festival is built on a belief in the power of ideas and education to transform lives, and therefore promotes an accessible programme of events which aim to educate, entertain and inspire.

The Great Yorkshire Fringe Festival: 5 – 28 July 2019

Following a remarkable success, The Great Yorkshire Fringe festival is returning to the heart of Yorkshire this summer for its Fifth Birthday from the 5th to 28th July, the festival will fill the historic city centre of York with comedians, musicians, theatre, cabaret and magic. A family friendly festival for arts lovers, food and drink enthusiasts, as well as residents and visitors, young both in body and soul. The main body of the festival will take place from 18 to 28 of July 2019, a concentrated period celebrating all things fringe. For more information and updates throughout the year visit www.greatyorkshirefringe.com

York Food and Drink Festival: 20 – 29 September

York Food and Drink Festival will offer day and evening events from wine tastings, talks and food tastings to cookery demonstrations and hands on workshops in some of the city's iconic historic buildings. At the St. Sampson's Square visitors and residents will be able to participate in food and cocktail demonstrations, hands on workshops and speciality tastings. While the Parliament Street will offer the best shopping opportunities for locally produced foods, and some fantastic street food.

Before the big event, the **York Taster Festival will take place from 8 – 9 June 2019**. An assortment of cuisines from Jamaican to Thai, Greek to Indian, will be available to sample during the York Taster Festival – better known as the little sister of the York Food and Drink Festival. Taster might be small, but is still filled with a myriad of different flavours to try.

Northern Lights returns to York Minster: 24 – 30 October 2019

Back by popular demand, the Northern Lights sound and light installation will again transform York Minster's cavernous Nave this October. Designed by artists from double Guinness World Record winning company The Projection Studio, the piece takes inspiration from the Minster's medieval stained glass and architecture. It premiered to sell out audiences in summer 2018 and promises to be one not to miss for autumn 2019.

#onlyinyork Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF): 6 – 10 November 2019

The BAFTA-Qualifying Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF) is organised by Aesthetica, an international art and culture publication. The festival was launched in 2011 and takes place annually across York. ASFF champions outstanding filmmaking talent and expands audience choice by showcasing 300 stunning films from across the world in 15 of the city's most iconic venues. The films span a diverse range of genres, including advertising, animation, artists' film, comedy, dance, documentary, drama, experimental, fashion, music video and thriller. 2019 will be the festival's ninth year and will be celebrated with an even bigger programme of film and networking opportunities that make the festival a must-attend event for all filmmakers and film fans.

A Victorian Christmas at York Castle Museum: 16 November – 31 December 2019

York Castle Museum

Visitors can take a stroll over the cobbles of the twinkling Victorian street during Christmas season and experience the magic and festive traditions of days gone by. All are invited to journey back in time to discover how Christmas would have been celebrated 150 years ago on York Castle Museum's enchanting Kirkgate; the ideal backdrop for a month of Christmas festivities, music and cheer.

The York Minster Christmas Carol Concerts: 12 & 13 December 2019

See the York Minster Choir perform a mixture of classical and popular festive music, join in with Christmas carols and enjoy seasonal readings by celebrity guests, all in the awe-inspiring setting of the cathedral's Nave. The concerts are the most popular event in the Minster's calendar and offer the perfect start to the festive season.

York Christmas Festival: 14 November – 23 December

York St Nicholas Christmas Festival takes place annually, now extended to run from mid-November to 23rd December. Includes the popular St Nicholas Fair in Parliament Street, with extended opening times. Snug wooden chalets, dressed with pretty garlands and twinkling lights will line Parliament Street and extend into St Sampson's Square. Adding to the festive atmosphere, stallholders will be selling a range of gifts including jewellery such as Whitby jet, ceramics, homewares, crafts and Yorkshire produce such as locally made wines and cheeses.

Magic York

With a history spanning 2,000 years York is full of myths and magic. Throughout the centuries characters from alchemists to witches are said to have passed through the city. Below is the roundup of magical locations and experiences visitors can sample in York.

Starting from **Shambles** - city's most famous street which dates back to the fourteenth century and is said to be an inspiration for the film depiction of Diagon Alley, the magical shopping location from

the wizarding world of Harry Potter. The street is now home to four different mystical outlets including the **World of Wizardy** and **The Boy Wizard** selling everything a wizard fan could possibly need and want and is proving popular with the fans of the magical franchise from around the world.

Shambles is also a host of **The Shop That Must Not Be Named** - original and premier shop specialising in officially licensed Harry Potter merchandise which has recently expanded. There's magical wares, an amazing selection of wands and friendly wizarding staff, who know everything you could ever want to know about the Boy Who Lived and his world.

Another magical gem is **The Potions Cauldron**, an old-fashioned apothecary shop, which offers specially-concocted drinks including Serpents Venom Poison, Basilisk Blood and Elixir of Love (the first person to sniff it will fall in love with the nearest wizard). The store also features a 6,000 piece Lego Hogwarts castle and a bubbling cauldron. Visitors can also mix their own magical potions and become a trainee of the mystical character Phileas Phials.

The new '**Magic and Mystery**' exhibition at **Barley Hall** explores the often fine line between science, religion and magic in medieval society. Visitors can find out about those who were outcast as witches and wizards, explore the 'science' of magic and alchemy and how such individuals used protective charms and forecasting to foresee the future through prophecies and dreams. Using both archaeological and documentary evidence from the period, Magic and Mystery showcases a thought-provoking and often misinterpreted feature of medieval culture.

Those visitors who prefer to explore on foot, can embark on the **Wizard Quest** – fun and interactive walking tour for all ages. With potions, magical creatures and an important mission, quest participants will discover magic in the streets of York. Tours run from March - September on Thursday and Friday evenings. Each tour begins at lasts around 45 minutes, starting at King's Square (at the end of Shambles).

To complete a mystical trip to the city, visitors can stay at the recently opened **Enchantment Chamber**. This unique self-catering accommodation includes a bed chamber complete with an unconventional four poster bed, realistic open fire, real wood flooring and is furnished with an eclectic collection of magical artefacts from the wizarding world. The apartment is located within the walls of the historical city with ease of access to other magical locations.

Book lovers York

The saying goes, you can't judge a book by its cover, but a novel way of learning about York is through its rich literary connections. Visitors are invited to explore York – the birthplace of **Daniel Defoe's world-famous character Robinson Crusoe**.

While walking the over 2000 years old medieval city walls visitors can hear the bells of the iconic York Minster, just as Grace Trewe did in '**Times Echo**' by **Pamela Hartshorne**. York Minster's library is also one of the oldest in the country, it includes the **York Gospels** – over a thousand years old and still used today. Stained-glass windows were also the medieval equivalent of a book, making stories from the Bible accessible for their congregations – and York Minster's **Great East Window** is the largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the country, a masterpiece in glass and stone depicting the beginning and end of all things.

From York Minster, visitors can take a stroll down Stonegate, one of York's prettiest streets, where the first two volumes of Sterne's landmark '**Tristram Shandy**' were printed, and look out for the printer's **Red Devil** which sits on number 33, a former printers, and serves as a lasting reminder of when Stonegate was famous as a centre of books and publishing in the 16th century.

In York visitors can follow in the footsteps of the Henry VIII royal progress to York, and see the sights that remain a reminder of the turbulent history at what is left of St Mary's Abbey in York Museum Gardens, as depicted in **CJ Sansom's historical mystery 'Sovereign'**, the third novel in his 'Matthew Shardlake Series'.

The riverside view of the city that opens up to the eyes of all from the Skeldergate bridge was described in great detail by **Wilkie Collins, a friend of Charles Dickens, in his novel 'No Name'**.

In the city that is home of Kit Kat and Chocolate Oranges visitors can immerse themselves in the stories of '**The Sweethearts, York's Chocolate Girls**' by **Lynn Russell and Neil Hanson** by joining the tasty guided tour at York's Chocolate Story.

Famous English author **Kate Atkinson** was born in York and many of her characters have a connection to the city. **Ruby Lennox from 'Behind the Scenes at the Museum'** was inspired from one of York's most visited museums – York Castle Museum, while the fictional detective **Jackson Brodie from 'Started Early, Took My Dog'** was rather fond of Betty's Tea Rooms, where visitors can still enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea with a side of a delicious fat rascal.

Two major literary events take place in York every year: the **National Book Fair** (13 - 14 September 2019) and the **York Literature Festival** (15 – 31 March 2019) attracting local, national and international crowds.

For many years York has inspired and attracted many authors, including **Charles Dickens, Virginia Woolf and Bronte sisters**, and it continues to do so even now. **Matt Haig** – a bestselling author of 'Reasons to Stay Alive' and recently released 'Notes on a Nervous Planet' currently resides in York and many had luck meeting him in person at Waterstones book launch.

Culture York

York has been the cultural heart of England for over 2000 years. Complete with a year round programme of world-class festivals and events, there is something for every visitor at every corner of York.

The streets surrounding **York Minster, King's Manor and St William's College** are steeped in an unmistakably intellectual, academic atmosphere. This has been a place of historians, of archaeological and religious study, of choristers, of book publishing, of scholarly endeavour - for hundreds of years. While York's museums (**Yorkshire Museum and York Castle Museum**) display the city's wealth of historical and artistic treasures from Roman times to York's genteel Georgian days.

At **York Art Gallery** visitors can enjoy the remarkable collection of important European paintings spanning seven centuries, with works by Bellotto, Reynolds, Lowry, York-born William Etty and in 2019 it will also host the famous Nicolas Poussin's work "The Triumph of Pan". Newest addition to the museum is **the Centre of Ceramic Arts (CoCA)**, gallery home to a collection of more than 5,000

examples of British Studio Ceramics from throughout the twentieth century right up to the present day.

In York cultural offerings range from medieval music in the Minster to challenging drama, world music and innovative venues and showcases for new artists of all kinds. The packed programmes at the **Grand Opera House** and **York Theatre Royal** range from grand opera and classical ballet to Stomp and Soul Explosion. Concerts at the **National Centre for Early Music** feature folk, jazz, 20th century and world music. York Minster services and concerts, the annual York Early Music Festival and even the many buskers, including the winners of 2019 York Culture Awards – Hyde Family Jam, on York's streets all make York a perfect place for music lovers.

Events and festivals reflect the cultural nature of any city and York is no exception. **The Festival of Ideas** features more than enough talks and discussions on various topics from science and human nature to literature and history, with this year's theme being 'A World of Wonder'. Annual BAFTA accredited **Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF)** also takes place in York attracting local, national and international creators and film-enthusiasts.

Visitors are invited to spend their evening at **City Screen York**, one of Britain's Picture House cinemas. As well as screening arthouse, independent and quality mainstream films, **The Basement Bar** at the cinema hosts diverse music, poetry and comedy events plus a regular film quiz night (Friends, Harry Potter, etc.).

For those interested in modern avant-garde art pieces, **Art of Protest Gallery** is a place where the cultural production born of this reality break through to everyday conversations outside of the established art arenas. It pushes these conversations beyond the borders of country, religion, class and social media groups, and illuminates the common ground that we all stand on through the prism of visual culture.

Haunted York

York is a city with a dark past, its history is rife with tales of guts, gore, torture and ghosts. The International Ghost Research Foundation even declared York as the **most haunted city in Europe** due to its bloodstained history and over 500 hauntings within the ancient city walls.

Founded by Romans in 71AD the city's violent and volatile history – including Viking invasions, the Norman Conquest and the Civil War – makes its sinister legacy easy to understand. Sometimes it seems as though a ghostly figure with a score to settle is in residence in just about every street or ginnel.

The tale goes, in 1953 an apprentice plumber was installing a new central heating system in the cellars of the **Treasurer's House** when he suddenly heard a distant sound of a horn soon followed by a great carthorse emerging through the brick wall, ridden by a dishevelled Roman soldier. The ghostly battalion moved into a recently excavated area showing that they were walking on an old Roman road - the Via Decumana - buried 15 inches below the surface. Now all visitors are invited to explore the haunted cellars of the house.

More of an urban legend than a confirmed fact, **Mad Alice Lane** (now known as Lund's Court linking Swinegate and Low Petergate) was named after Alice Smith who lived in the lane until 1825. That

same year she was hanged at York Castle for the perceived crime of insanity, after murdering her husband for beating her remorselessly numerous times. Some say you can sometimes spot her face in one of the windows looking down over the lane. Now visitors can follow the modern day Mad Alice on **The Bloody Tour of York** to learn more about the gruesome history of the city.

Almost every historic theatre has a ghost story, and the Georgian **York Theatre Royal** is no different. It is said that a room behind the dress circle is haunted by the ghost of the Grey Lady - young nun who fell in love with a nobleman, but when soon found out was thrown into a windowless room that was bricked up with no escape. A gruesome tale, but apparently if the nun in her grey habit is spotted in the dress circle, it's a good omen for that night's production at the theatre.

It is believed that no less than 15 spirits haunt the unsuspecting **Golden Fleece pub**. The most notorious of them is the ghost of Lady Anne Peckett – once the wife of the Lord Mayor of York John Peckett.

While the Henry VII experience occupies **Micklegate Bar**, and **Bootham Bar** is on many tourists' photographs of York's medieval city walls – it wouldn't have been a popular photo opportunity in mid-14th and 15th centuries. These were the places where heads were impaled on spikes after hanging, drawing and quartering, which was the punishment for traitors and rebels. With the practice beginning in the late 13th century, it was the prime punishment for treason then regarded as the worst and most unnatural of crimes (in Dante's Divine Comedy, traitors are in the very lowest level of Hell).

November 5th marks the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot, a conspiracy to blow up the English Parliament and King James I in 1605. One of the notorious plotters was **Guy Fawkes** – born and raised in York. Today, the 5th November is known as 'Firework Night', 'Bonfire Night' or 'Guy Fawkes Day' and is still celebrated in England with fireworks and bonfires, on which effigies of the conspirator are burned.

Historic York

York has connection to many famous historical characters. The city was founded by romans and for a long time was known as **Eboracum**. Here is where **Septimius Severus** – the African-born Roman Emperor died in 211AD. Septimius was an intimate friend of Marcus Aurelius and Commodus. Some say he may have even had a part in Commodus' murder. Years later, in 306AD **Constantine the Great** – the first Christian Emperor was declared emperor in York, his **statue stands near the York Minster**.

After the Romans came **Anglo-Saxons** and the start of the 'Dark Ages'. The major figure of that period – famous scholar **Alcuin** was educated in York. 9th century started with Vikings overtaking the rule in York. **Eric Bloodaxe**, the Viking warrior and the King of York, ruled over **Jorvik** (Viking name for York) for 14 years until being expelled in 954 and later murdered. He was most certainly representative of the bloodiest characters in York's bloody history.

Middle Ages saw many famous characters to come out of York. **Gunpowder Plotter Guy Fawkes** was born and baptised in York. He was baptised at St Michael le Belfrey church in 1570, which still stands there, across the road from York Minster. Later, in 1958, **Margaret Clitherow** – wife of a Shambles butcher, was crushed to death for harbouring Catholic priests. Today her house is a shrine (located in the Shambles) and Margaret is revered as a martyr. Her hand, which was cut off after her death, is

kept in the **Bar Convent Museum**. The famous dashing highwayman, **Dick Turpin**, was imprisoned and stayed at the **Castle Museum** until being hanged at **York Racecourse** in 1739. And **George Hudson, the Railway King** was born near York in 1800 and was a Councillor, Alderman, Member of Parliament and Lord Mayor of York.

York's collection of curious objects demonstrates that little things say a lot. The fascinating facts they reveal speak volumes about the ancient city, which is home to many of the country's rarest treasures. **Tin of cocoa** found beside the frozen remains of **Captain Scott of the Antarctic's** survived one the world's most famed and daring expeditions. It is now back in the city it was made in and visitors can see it at **York's Chocolate Story**.

Yorkshire Museum is host to many historical objects including the most outstanding object of the Anglo-Saxon period to survive in Europe – **The York Helmet**. Dated to approximately 750 to 775AD, this iron and brass helmet was discovered when struck by the claw of a mechanical digger – luckily the operator stopped to check what had been hit. The York Helmet is at Yorkshire Museum until late January 2019 before it depart on a tour around UK's best museums. Another treasure of the museum is the **Middleham jewel and ring** – one of the finest pieces of Gothic jewellery found in Britain. It once belonged to the powerful Neville family of the Middleham Castle. A **Roman hairpiece** from the late 3rd to early 4th century can also be found here. This exceptionally rare hairpiece was discovered in York and probably belonged to a girl.

Another great artefact – **The Horn of Ulf** can be found in the **Undercroft of York Minster**. It was once given to the Chapter of York by a Viking nobleman called Ulf as a symbolic deed of trust. The large and ornate ivory horn together with the lands on which the Minster stands today. Another Viking artefact – the only known surviving example of a **Viking-age knitted sock** is on display at **JORVIK Viking Centre**, alongside a host of everyday items and relics that provide an unrivalled insight into Viking life.

The **National Railway Museum** houses the world's finest collection of royal carriages including **Queen Victoria's last surviving saloon car**. Built in 1869 this carriage is lavishly furnished and included luxuries such as an onboard toilet (which she never used).

Tasty York

Yorkshire folk take their food and drink seriously which is probably why Yorkshire now boasts the largest number of Michelin-starred restaurants than any other county in England outside of London. So it's no surprise that as Yorkshire's ancient capital, York flies the flag for good food and drink in the region.

One of York's 'Foodie Streets' is **Fossgate** – visitors will find a plethora of independent restaurants there. York is also home to one of the region's best food festivals. **York Food and Drink Festival** is an annual event taking place in September and is a massive showcase for the restaurants, hotels, shops and food manufacturing companies.

One of the iconic foods – **Yorkshire pudding** has previously been name Yorkshire icon (above York Minster and the Yorkshire Dales: Dalesman Survey 2014). The York Roast Company in York city centre offers a special internet sensation '**Yorkypud wrap**' that is essentially the Sunday dinner

wrapped in a Yorkshire pudding! Visitors can also join of the cooking classes in York and learn to make their own Yorkshire puddings.

York's world-renowned tea rooms **Bettys Café Tea Rooms** – are simply the place to sample a Yorkshire **Fat Rascal** and a 'proper' cup of tea. 2019 marks the 100 years anniversary of the Tea Rooms and there will be events throughout the year to celebrate the occasion. Another afternoon tea experience not to be missed is **Countess of York** - officially the UK's best **afternoon tea** (Visit England, 2017) inside a beautifully restored carriage at the **National Railway Museum**.

York's award-winning chefs include Roux-trained **Michael Hjort at Melton's** (also the person behind the Food and Drink Festival), **Andrew Pern at Star Inn The City** and **Tommy Banks at Roots** – York's first Michelin star chef's restaurant opened in autumn 2018.

Anyone who fancies a true gourmet pint should visit one of the many beer houses including the **House of Trembling Madness** (a medieval drinking hall) and **Stein Bier Keller** (German beer keller). Visitors can also take a tour of the local craft breweries with **Brew York**. While the wine enthusiasts can join wine tasting evenings at the **Pairings Wine Bar**.

You can often breathe in the scent of chocolate as you walk through the street, when it comes to chocolate, there really is no place like York. York's reputation as the city of chocolate dates back to the 20th century when two of the most famous names in chocolate set up shop: **Joseph Rowntree went on to create Kit Kat, Smarties and Aero, and Joseph Terry the Chocolate Orange and All Gold collection**. Today York's love of chocolate is as strong as ever and can be experienced in numerous attractions, restaurants and shops around the city. For real chocolate enthusiasts, there is an annual spring **Chocolate Festival** complete with a 'chocolate market' showcasing local chocolate makers' creations, and also chocolate tastings and workshops.

York's Chocolate Story is one of York's biggest visitor attractions celebrating the mouth-watering story of chocolate and confectionery in York. There visitors can discover chocolate's origins, how to make it and how to taste it like an expert. In 2019 new exhibition will tell the history of world's most famous chocolate bars – Kit Kat.

While in York, visitors can also embark on a **Chocolate Trail** – a sweet adventure with treats at every turn from chocolate-making workshop at **York Cocoa House** to **Goddard's House and Gardens** – home of Terry family. Leaflet can be picked up from the Visitor Information Centre. To complete the trail visitors can stay in York's only chocolate-themed hotel – **Hotel Indigo York**.

Film Lovers York

From beautiful countryside to medieval cobbled streets, York is a perfect backdrop to many movies and series. Starting from action-animated feature film 'Water Babies' (1978) filmed in York, the city continues to be a prime filming location even now.

One of the most beautiful stately homes – **Castle Howard** – can be spotted in '**Brideshead Revisited**' (1981, 2008) as well as '**Death Comes to Pemberley**' (2013) that also featured iconic **York Minster, St William's College, Treasurer's House, York Castle Museum and Harewood Castle**.

British biographical drama film **'Elizabeth'** (1998) also had some scenes filmed at **York Minster**, while another royal drama film **'Victoria'** (2013) once again went to **Castle Howard and Harewood Castle**.

Visitor's to York who arrive by train will most likely follow the footsteps of the famous boy wizard Harry Potter. Not many know that the scene at King's Cross from **'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'** (2001) where Harry is left alone on the pedestrian bridge was filmed in **York Railway Station**. Another interesting fact is that the film depiction of the **Diagon Alley** was inspired by the **Shambles** – one of oldest medieval streets in the whole of Europe.

Another film based on the fantastic novel by Susanna Clarke – **'Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell'** (2015) had some scenes filmed in **York Minster and St William's College**.

More recent films and series featuring York include TV Drama **'Gilfriends'** (2017) by Kay Mellor, continuation of the ITV drama **'Victoria'** (2016 – 2018), BBC drama **'Gentleman Jack'** (to premier in 2019) and the Bollywood action movie **'Commando 3'** (to premier in 2019).

Many famous actors were born or spent a great time of their lives in York, including **Dame Judi Dench** - one of the finest, best-known and best-loved English actresses. She was born in York in 1934 and attended the Mount School. Another familiar face is **David Bradley**, who most will know as the cadaverous caretaker **Argus Filch in the Harry Potter films**. David was born in York and had a glittering theatre career, he also played God in the 1976 **York Mystery Plays**.

The King of the Iron Throne **Robert Baratheon** – played by **Mark Addy** – was also born and bred in York. He is also known for his roles of the insecure security guard Dave in **'The Full Monty'** and Fred Flintstone in **'Flintstones in Las Vegas'**.

'Emmerdale' - the popular English soap television programme's star **Dave Glover** was also born in York in 1972. He also played the role of Dr Patrick Spiller in **'Casualty'**.

Visitors can not only learn the history of films and movie stars in York, but also enjoy a screening of recent and older movies in one of York's best movie theatres. **City Screen York** is one of Britain's Picture House cinemas. As well as screening arthouse, independent and quality mainstream films, the **Basement Bar** also hosts a regular film quiz nights. While the **Brandy Brown's Cinema** at 1331 is a luxurious attic cinema full of atmosphere with all of the mod cons. There are 18 fully reclining leather armchairs and several comfy beanbags. The cinema can also be hired out for private screenings.

Shopaholics' York

A centre of trade since Roman times, York still excels at providing retail therapy for shopaholics of every type. The range of unique independent and designer shops are intertwined with world-class attractions, pedestrianised streets and peaceful havens, so shopping and sightseeing are easily combined. Shops in the city centre boast an array of unique items from heraldic art to handcrafted souvenirs, unusual books, antiques and designer clothes.

The Coppergate Centre is the only shopping centre within the city walls, home to not only the JORVIK Viking Centre, but York's premier department store – **Fenwick**, which features a host of designer labels from MAC cosmetics to Mulberry and Vivienne Westwood. While just outside the city

is **McArthur Glen's York Designer Outlet** with over 120 stores with up to 60% off all the favourite brands, including Armani Collections, Coach, Mulberry, Levi's and Malton Brown.

Shambles is one of the best preserved medieval shopping streets in Europe and awarded the title of most picturesque street in Britain in the Google Street View Awards. Some of the beautiful old buildings still have exterior wooden shelves, reminders of when cuts of meat were served from the open windows.

Stonegate, connecting the Minster and St Helen's Square was originally named 'Via Pretoria' or principal road of Roman York. It is one of York's prettiest streets and boasts some fantastic medieval and Georgian architecture.

A stone's throw from the Minster is the **Swinegate Quarter** – former medieval swine-market and red light district made up of Little Stonegate, Back Swinegate and Grape Lane (once known as Grope Lane). Cobbled streets, snickleways, the city's oldest print works and the famous medieval Barley Hall add to its character.

Petergate - named after the Minster, which is dedicated to St Peter, started life as one of the main streets through a massive fortress housing 5,600 Roman soldiers in AD71. While **Goodramgate** dates back to the 14th century and is home to the oldest row of houses in York, and possibly the country.

Home to the fish market in medieval times and previously known as Tricksters Lane due to unscrupulous traders setting up shops there, **Fossgate** now is far more respectable, although retaining a certain bohemian charm. After a demolition of one of the pubs in 1960s mysterious tunnels were discovered and are believed to be the Roman Sewer System.

There are many shops every visitor must step foot in while in York. There is an array of antiques on offer including **Northern Antiques** specialising in quality antique pottery, porcelain, glass and silver. Occupying the Grade II 18th century former townhouse designed by William Etty is the **Red House Antiques Centre** with 10 showrooms on 3 floors, including a dedicated vintage room in the attic. **York Antiques Centre** has goods covering many periods from Ancient Rome to Georgian, Victorian, Edwardian, Art Deco through to contemporary.

Käthe Wohlfahrt is a year round shop where Christmas never ends. It features candles, Christmas tree decorations, nativity scenes and nutcrackers. All products are made from hand and with only limited numbers available, stock sells out very quickly. Perfect for unique gifts - **Stonegate Teddy Bears** features the ever popular Charlie Bear collection and the stunning Steiff range. **Yorkshire Soap Company** offers mouthwatering-looking soaps and bath bombs, while the 'sister' shop **The Imaginarium** is full of the most interesting and bizarre trinkets and decorations one could imagine. Much like at the Yorkshire Soap Company, one can feel like Alice in Wonderland after entering to the shop.

Minstergate Books is full filled with books and prints from country maps to the newest copies of number one crime thrillers. For art lovers **According to McGee** is a quirky art gallery offering works by local artists while **Art of Protest Gallery** is a space that facilitates urban contemporary dialogues on environment, consumption, identity and the global audience, inviting visitors to "disagree or not". To feed the inner gourmet, visitors can step foot into **Hairy Fig** - 'Purveyors of Fine Fodder' and a quirky deli with lots of local produce to buy. Chocolate lovers must not miss the **Monkbar Chocolatiers** – artisan chocolatiers where chocolates are made on the premises and customers can see the various stages of production.

Romantic York

York, with its cobbled streets and the smell of chocolate making in the air is the ultimate city of romance. W.H. Auden, who was born in York on 21 February 1907 wrote “**O’ Tell Me the Truth about Love**” and here is where one can hear all about it. Novelists, past and present, have taken York and its evocative surroundings as inspiration for their work. Within a short drive of the city lie the romantic **Yorkshire Moors** where **Emily Brontë** penned her novel ‘Wuthering Heights’, the story of unrivalled love between Cathy and Heathcliff.

Majestic and imposing, **York Minster** is the largest Gothic cathedral north of the Alps. Did any building in Britain ever inspire such feelings from the heart as this architectural masterpiece? The Duke of Kent married Miss Katherine Worsley here in June 1961; this was the first Royal wedding in York Minster since King Edward III married Philippa of Hainault there in 1328.

Almost half of all wedding ceremonies that take place in York are for couples who do not live here. This could be due to the fact that York has previously appeared in The Independent newspaper’s **50 Best Places in the World to be Married**. Civil weddings and partnerships in York take place in arguably some of the most romantic venues in the country – medieval guildhalls, unique attractions and stately homes. Nearly 1,000 civil weddings take place in York every year.

Railways are an important part of York’s heritage. The city boasts a beautiful, **Victorian railway station** – could there be a more slushy setting for farewells or reunions? York is also home to the world’s greatest **Railway Museum**. Here one can marry on the platform alongside beautifully restored royal carriages.

Two **Love Lanes** can be found in York, double the quota in most cities. One is behind The Mount, the other alongside the Ouse in Fulford. While **idyllic gardens** not only provide the perfect setting for one’s wedding pictures but be a perfect first date romantic walk location.

York is the **home of chocolate**, and what is a better way to say ‘I love you’ than with a handmade box of chocolates? One of the biggest **collections of Valentine cards** in the UK can also be found in the **York Castle Museum**. A thousand or more messages of love are in the archives – including possibly the oldest printed Valentine’s card in the world. This was published on 12 January 1797 by John Fairburn of 146 Minories, London.

Finally, according to the local superstition, kissing your partner below the **West Window of York Minster** will make you stay together forever. Beloved can look up at the window to see the heart-shape worked into the tracery, known as the **‘Heart of Yorkshire’**.