York became the Chocolate City! Love affair with all things sweet; hear first-hand the story of York’s chocolate history, as well as tasting some mouth-watering journey on which you’ll experience all York’s chocolate heritage at York’s Chocolate Story on King’s Square. Take a guided tour and follow a story on one of York’s Cocoa Houses. Inside you’ll find unique sweet and savoury chocolate treats; also on the menu are chocolate making workshops and chocolate demonstrations.

1. VISIT YORK INFORMATION CENTRE
Begin at the VIC, with splendid views of York Minster. The Minster was the only free trade area in the city in the 18th Century drawing international confectioners to this area. Drop into York Cocoa House on Blake Street - a loving recreation of one of York’s Cocoa Houses. Inside you’ll find unique sweet and savoury chocolate treats; also on the menu are chocolate making workshops and chocolate demonstrations.

2. MANSION HOUSE
Stroll along to St Helen’s Square, where you can still see what was an elegant Terry’s Chocolate Shop; the name is still quite visible. Terry’s original factory lay behind the shop which now houses Carluccio’s. Betty’s Café Tea Rooms on the corner, another celebrated name in confectionery, has been handcrafting the finest chocolates for nearly 100 years, using rare Venezuelan criollo beans for their rich flavour.

3. YORK’S CHOCOLATE STORY
Make your way to newly restored Mansion House, opening late 2017. In 1914, the Lord Mayor sent a bar of Rowntree’s chocolate to every York soldier fighting in the Great War – one of the original tins with the chocolate bar still inside is on display. Joseph Terry was Sheriff of York in 1870 and Lord Mayor four times.

4. ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Call in at All Saints Church on Pavement for some quiet reflection and gaze at the stained glass window, commemorating Mary Ann Craven of confectionery fame and paid for by her children. To the right, is the JORvik Viking Centre, located in Coppergate on the original site of Mary Ann Craven’s factory.

5. 28 PAVEMENT
Stop at 28 Pavement (Pizza Hut). This was the Rowntree’s store established by Joseph Rowntree senior. In 1858, the team of apprentices working in the Rowntree’s grocers included famous names such as Mr George Cadbury, alongside J.S. Rowntree. Don’t miss the Civic Trust Blue Plaque. Head through the Shambles past Monkbar Chocolatiers, specialising in artisan chocolates.

6. FAIRFAX HOUSE
Experience Fairfax House, which houses the exceptional Noel Terry collection of English furniture and clocks from the family home, Goddards on Tadcaster Road. The collection was given to York Civic Trust in 1980 following his death – Noel was great grandson of Joseph, founder of the Terry confectionery business.

7. MERCHANT ADVENTURERS’ HALL
The Merchant Adventurers’ Hall is home to The Company of Merchant Adventurers, which controlled trade and industry in York. As a woman, Mary Tuke could only join the guild as the daughter or widow of a member. Mary was neither and as a result was fined and threatened with court action, but ignoring their opposition she went on to be one of the founding figures of York’s chocolate legacy.

8. WALMGATE & FOSSGATE
Onto Fossgate, where Mary Tuke’s original grocer’s shop once stood and where the Rowntree dynasty had its roots when apprentice and Mary’s fellow Quaker Henry Isaac Rowntree acquired the Cocoa business from her descendants. Today the street is choc full of independent delis and restaurants and is also home to Hotel Indigo, which offers delicious chocolate themed stays in its luxurious bedrooms.

9. CASTLE MUSEUM
Arrive at York’s renowned Castle Museum and check out the city’s sweet past and many of the brand names that made York world famous for confectionery. Step back in time at the Terry’s sweet shop, the Cocoa Temperance Room and the famous cobbled Kirkgate. Crossing Skeldergate Bridge towards Terry Avenue takes you over the River Ouse which brought the raw ingredients into the city for chocolate making.

10. ROWNTREE PARK
Situated on Terry Avenue is Rowntree Park, a gift to the City of York by Rowntree’s in 1921 as a memorial to the cocoa workers who fell during the First World War. Listed gates were added to the park in memory of those who died in the Second World War. Continue your walk out of the centre to Terry’s factory site which closed in 2005.

11. GODDARDS HOUSE & GARDEN
Venture a little further out of town onto Tadcaster Road to find Goddards, which was the home of Noel Terry, of the famous Terry’s of York chocolate firm. The house is open to the public, and you can discover the story of the famous family and life at the chocolate factory. Designed in the Arts and Crafts style, the house is complemented by beautiful gardens.

CHOCOLATE LOVERS’ CHOICE
Experience the very best in artisan produce at the following locations across the city:

A. York Cocoa House
B. Bettys Café Tea Rooms
C. Bettys Stonegate
D. York’s Chocolate Story
E. Walmgate Ale House
F. Monkbar Chocolatiers
G. Hotel Indigo
H. Rattle Owl
I. Shambles Market
At York's Chocolate Story you can discover the stories behind the greatest names in chocolate and unravel the secrets of chocolate making. A fully guided tour and three floors of interactive exploration take you on a journey through the city where chocolate mode history.

York's fame and fortune have rested on chocolate for almost 300 years; thanks to the vision and invention of its great entrepreneurial families, not to mention the industry and dedication of its people. At York's Chocolate Story you'll uncover the fascinating heritage that helped shape the city. Though much has changed over the centuries, York remains the UK's home of chocolate.

Some of the world's most well-known names in chocolate began life in York - Rowntree's created Kit Kat, Smarties and Aero, while Terry's came up with the Chocolate Orange and All Gold collection, and Craven's were famous for their French Almonds and Mary Ann Toffees. These global brands are inextricably linked with York's social and industrial development.

The city recently celebrated 250 years of being home to the renowned confectioner Terry's. Today, the sweet legacy continues with treats ranging from humbugs to fudge produced in the city, with chocolate remaining a vital part of York's past, present and future.

For further chocolate inspiration...
Go to visityork.org/chocolate
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Terry's of York
Meanwhile, Bayldon and Berry, combined their expertise as a grocer and an apothecary by using a tempting new arrival – sugar – to 'sweeten their pills'. In 1823, Joseph Terry married his childhood sweetheart into the Berry family eventually taking over the business.

City of Taste
York of the 18th and 19th centuries was a fashionable place of grand dinners and balls. With this discerning public, Rowntree's became famous for their French Almonds and Mary Ann Toffees. Steam power and the railways brought the final products at speed around the country.

The Sugary Stuff
York's sweet story is about more than just chocolate. Mary Craven's factory on Coppergate had been producing boiled sweets since 1854 – sugared almonds, toffees and mint humbugs remain a treasured treat today. Today, chocolate and all things sweet have enriched York with a lasting legacy of iconic buildings, artisan confectionery producers and independent chocolate shops. The story is celebrated at York's Chocolate Story in King's Square which honours the people and industry that make York a centre for all things sweet.

SWEET START
In 1845, after a five year apprenticeship with a master confectioner, John Reilly was awarded freemanship of the city as a Confectioner, a new profession to York. The award highlights the wealth of expertise in this skilled creation within the city at the time, ahead of other locations within the country, establishing York as the Chocolate City.

QUAKER ROOTS
The Quaker religion was the foundation to a number of thriving chocolate families in the city, the religious group favoured the cocoa industry because it offered workers an alternative to strong drink. Characters such as the pioneering Mary Tuke and Joseph Rowntree, central to York's chocolate legacy came from such dynasties.

ROWNTREE'S GROWS
In 1862, the chocolate side of the business was sold to the factory foreman, fellow Quaker Henry Isaac Rowntree. Henry ran into financial troubles, so to sort out his money woes he turned to his brother Joseph who hired a professional confectioner. After Henry's death in 1883, Joseph took control and closed the expanding operation to the chocolate factory on Haxby Road.