



FESTIVAL CITY YORK 2018

YORK'S MAIN EVENT CALENDAR

Including: Jorvik Viking Festival, Early Music Festival, York Food and Drink Festival, illuminating York, St Nicholas Christmas Festival and more...

There's something for everyone throughout the year as York plays host to some incredible festivals celebrating the history and culture of the city and its surrounding areas.

~ JANUARY ~

York Residents Festival: 27 – 28 January 2018

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 our 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 our 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.

Press Contact: Rebecca Francis. Email: Rebecca.Francis@makeityork.com

~ FEBRUARY ~

34th JORVIK Viking Festival: 12 – 18 February 2018

Recognised as the largest Viking Festival in Europe, the annual JORVIK Viking Festival is a citywide celebration of York's rich Norse heritage.

The festival's programme of family friendly events, lectures, guided walks and battle re-enactments attracts over 40,000 visitors from across the globe, with many returning year after year to take part and enjoy the atmosphere. Inspired by the ancient Viking celebration of 'Jolablot' - a Norse festival that heralded the end of winter hardships and the coming of spring, this 1,000 year old tradition was long forgotten until York Archaeological Trust, the owners of JORVIK Viking Centre, brought it back to life in the 1980s.

Returning to York every February Half Term, JORVIK Viking Festival has become a firm fixture in the York festival calendar. With a wide range of hands-on events and living history on offer throughout the week, visitors are sure to come face to face with the Vikings of JORVIK during their visit. Other events planned for the festival include talks and presentations by local experts and visiting authors, crafting workshops where participants can help make props to go into the new JORVIK displays, city tours and a host of fringe events, from pub walks to films, throughout the city. www.jorvik-viking-festival.co.uk/press

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~ MARCH ~

York Literature Festival: 15 – 26 March 2018

In 2018 York Literature Festival will feature a wide range of author-related events, poetry, talks, workshops and so much more. Over 40 events across the city will see York focus on the written and spoken word, with some well-known names heading to York to take part. This year highlights will include a 'History and Historical Fiction Series', some events focused around the theme of 'Speculative Worlds' and a celebration of 200 Years of Frankenstein. The 2018 festival will also include a number of other events, such as a dedicated performance strand at York Theatre Royal, the return of the York Literature Festival HUB celebrating the incredible talent of York, as well as a variety of creative writing workshops. Venues include York Theatre Royal, York Explore Library, York St John University and St Peter's School. www.yorkliteraturefestival.co.uk

Press contact: Rob O'Connor, Email: programming@yorkliteraturefestival.co.uk

~ APRIL ~

York Easter Festival: 14 – 17 April 2018

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 you will have a truly inspiring Easter experience. www.visit york.org/Easter

York Chocolate Festival: 14 – 17 April 2018

This Easter themed weekend will give visitors a delicious chocolatey experience in preparation for the main Food and Drink Festival taking place in autumn. www.yorkchocolatefestival.co.uk, www.yorkfoodfestival.com

York Open Studios: 14 – 15 April & 21 - 22 April 2018

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. www.yorkopenstudios.co.uk

Press contact: Beccy Ridsdel, Email: info@yorkopenstudios.co.uk

York Fashion Week: 16 – 22 April 2018

Fashion City York is proud to bring you, York Fashion Week. The whole city centre will be taken over with runways, live windows, lectures and more – showcasing York's fashion scene. From high street brands and independent retailers, right through to international designers – York Fashion Week is the perfect celebration of fashion, style and creativity.

Pick up your copy of the York Fashion Week programme, and check out the special offers, competitions, workshops and events that the week has to offer. www.fashioncityyork.org

~ MAY ~

Racing Season: May – October 2018

York Racecourse, known as the Knavesmire, has been a favourite amongst racegoers since it was founded in 1731. In 2018, 17 meetings combine top class horseracing with world-class facilities to make it a sporting and social occasion for all to enjoy. Even if your horse fails to come up with the goods, it's a fabulous day out in a beautiful location, a chance to dress up, and jolly good fun. Public contact: Visit www.yorkracecourse.co.uk or Tel: 01904 620911

Provisional dates for 2018 fixtures:

- Dante Festival – three days of racing in May: 16 – 18 May 2018
- May Spring Meeting – York's first Saturday of 2018: 26 May 2018

- June Meeting with Macmillan Charity Raceday: 15 June 2018
- Summer Music Saturday: 30 June 2018
- John Smith's Cup Meeting – York's informal party highlight: 13 July 2018
- Music Showcase Weekend – live music & racing combined: 27 – 28 July 2018
- Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival inc. Ladies Day: 22 – 25 August 2018
- The Press Family Raceday – a Sunday with the family: 9 September 2018
- October Finale – last chance to come to York in 2018: 12 – 13 October 2018

~ JUNE ~

Eboracum Roman Festival: 1 – 3 June 2018

After the two consecutive years of success of the Eboracum Roman Festival, the festival will return to York on 1 to 3 June 2018 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 at the Eboracum Roman Festival, back for its third year from the 1 to 3 June 2018. 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. The museum holds the bones and skulls of six people who came to Eboracum from all over the Empire, whose remains and possessions tell us much about how they lived. Other highlights include a sculpture of the head of Constantine and the tombstone of a French soldier for the famous Ninth Legion.

York Festival of Ideas: 5 – 17 June 2018

York Festival of Ideas will take place from 5 to 17 June 2018 under the banner of *Imagining the Impossible*. With mostly free events, including talks, performances and exhibitions, the Festival delivers events for all ages and interests. Winner of the Best Cultural Event or Festival category at the York Culture Awards 2017, last year's York Festival of Ideas attracted over 32,000 attendees. Look out for details of this year's exciting programme at yorkfestivalofideas.com in early May.

Media enquiries: pressoffice@york.ac.uk

Taster Festival: 9 – 10 June 2018

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 that takes place in September. Taster might be small, but is still filled with a myriad of different flavours to try. 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.

Shakespeare's Rose Theatre: 25 June – 2 September 2018

Inspired by the original and legendary Rose Theatre in London, which was built in 1587, this new Elizabethan-style theatre will sit beside the iconic, 13th Century Clifford's Tower in the heart of the historic city of York. Four of William Shakespeare's greatest plays (Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo & Juliet, Richard III) will be performed in repertory in the inaugural, 10-week season in summer 2018.

~ JULY ~

Bloom! Festival: 5 – 8 July 2018

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Ancient Society of York Florists, the oldest florists' society still in existence in the world, a new festival, Bloom!, is being planned for historic York in 2018. The new four-day festival, from 5-8 July, celebrating horticulture and flowers in York, will mark this milestone with events and installations right across the city. The Ancient Society of York Florists is the oldest existing horticultural society, predating any other, with records dating back to 1768, when the society was founded. It is the only society retaining the word 'florists' in its title, which refers back to the time when only florists' flowers were accepted as exhibits - a florist being a person who grew flowers for their beauty and not a seller of cut flowers as it is today.

Press contact: Lotte Inch, Email: lotte@lotteinch.co.uk Tel: 01904 848660

York Early Music Festival: 6 – 14 July 2018

The internationally acclaimed York Early Music Festival had a bumper year in 2017, when it celebrated its 40th anniversary. Attracting the best musicians and performers from around the world to present musical performances from the 12th - 18th centuries, the 2018 Festival takes place in historic venues in the medieval City of York. The theme for 2018 is **Power and Politics** and highlights include **Brecon Baroque** directed by violinist Rachel Podger, **Gallicantus** directed by Gabriel Crouch with the **Rose Consort of Viols** and **The Sixteen** directed by Harry Christophers. There is also a strong focus on emerging young talent, showcasing ensembles including **Prisma**; **Voces Suaves**; **Rumorum** and **BarrocoTout**.

Press contact: Lindsey Porter, Email: lportercomms@gmail.com Tel: 07568 309154.

The Great Yorkshire Fringe: 9 – 29 July 2018

Following a remarkable success, The Great Yorkshire Fringe festival is returning to the heart of Yorkshire this summer. Starting July 9th, the festival will fill the historic city centre of York with comedians, musicians, food and drink enthusiasts, as well as residents and visitors, young both in body and soul. The festival will be back for three weeks from 9 to 29 of July 2018 for another year of music, comedy and theatre. For more information visit www.greatyorkshirefringe.com

Press contact: press@greatyorkshirefringe.com

~ SEPTEMBER ~

York Mystery Plays on Wagons: 9, 12, 16 September 2018

The York Mystery Plays will be staged again in 2018 on pageant wagons in the city's streets. The York Mystery Plays are a cultural treasure that the city is rightly proud of. Beyond the religious significance, they represent the values of community and togetherness as they draw on the talents of local people, who gladly give their time to present these iconic plays to the people of Yorkshire and beyond. In 2018 for the first time an additional torch-lit evening performance will be held.

York National Book Fair: 14 – 15 September 2018

From modest beginnings with just 20 exhibitors at the White Swan Inn in York in 1974, the York Book Fair has grown into the largest rare and collectable books fair in the UK. Held over two days, over 220 of the country's leading booksellers offer a breath-taking diversity of books, as well as posters, ephemera, manuscripts, maps and prints, ranging in price from just a few pounds up to tens of thousands of pounds. Besides booksellers there will also be bookbinders, paper restorers, calligraphers and others in the associated trades' area. www.yorkbookfair.com

Press contact: Tony Fothergill, Email tony@kenspelman.com, Tel: 01904 624414. Janette Ray, Email: books@janetteray.co.uk, Tel: 01904 623088.

York Food and Drink Festival: 21 – 30 September 2018

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. A more detailed programme to be confirmed in 2017. Public contact: For full programme and tickets visit the website at www.yorkfoodfestival.com

Press contact: Michael Hjort, email: admin@yorkfoodfestival.com, Tel: 01904 635149.

York International Balloon Fiesta: 28 – 30 September 2018

The skies of York will be transformed once again this year when the city welcomes its second hot air balloon festival following the success of last year's flight. A total of more than 40 hot air balloons, from all across the UK, will fly across York while a fun packed festival-style weekend takes place below. Visitors and residents can watch the balloons lift off from the Knavesmire while they explore the funfair complete with Victorian inspired rides, live music, a beer tent and tasty street food stalls from Yorkshire vendors.

~ OCTOBER ~

York Mediale: 27 September – 6 October 2018

Founded as a major international event to celebrate York's designation as a UNESCO City of Media Arts, the first York Mediale will take place in Autumn 2018. The festival will celebrate, showcase and demonstrate the world's leading artists and technologists, and bring the beautiful city to life with mind blowing art, performances, workshops and installations. Engaging over 100,000 people in cutting edge media arts, the festival will provide a platform for innovative art and technology to tell York's stories in places people least expect it. www.cityofmediaarts.com/mediale

~ NOVEMBER ~

Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF): 7 – 11 November 2018

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 at the beginning of November in York. ASFF champions outstanding filmmaking talent and expands audience choice by showcasing 300 stunning films from across the world in 18 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. 2018 will be the festival's eighth year and will be celebrated with an even bigger programme of films and networking opportunities that make the festival a must-attend event for all filmmakers and film fans. www.asff.co.uk

~ DECEMBER ~

York Christmas Festival and St Nicholas Fair: 17 Nov – 23 Dec 2018

York St Nicholas Christmas Festival takes place annually, now extended to run from mid-November to 23rd December. The popular St Nicholas Fair in Parliament Street will run for the full 35 days too, 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. www.visitYork.org/christmas

York Early Music Christmas Festival: 8 – 16 Dec 2018

York Early Music Christmas Festival is a key part of the Christmas calendar in York, showcasing beautiful festive early music and performing in the atmospheric surroundings of St Margaret's Church, Walmgate. More details to follow in 2018. Public contact: Call 01904 632220 or 01904 658338 or visit the website for full programme and tickets at www.ncem.co.uk/xmas

Press contact: Lindsey Porter, email: lportercomms@gmail.com, Tel: 07568 309154.

We try to keep our information up to date but sometimes things can change. Please double check all details directly on the websites provided.

For more information and to book your stay in York:

Visit www.visityork.org/adventure

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