

HIDDEN GEMS



Bar Convent



The Bar Convent was founded in total secrecy at the end of the 17th century. Violent anti-Catholic laws meant the sisters lived in constant fear of punishment, imprisonment - or even death. Over the centuries their house on Blossom Street became a masterclass in the art of disguise, with winding corridors, a concealed priest hole and even an entire hidden chapel. Today, England's oldest living convent has opened its doors to the public, welcoming those of all faiths and none to explore three-hundred-years of history.

It's recently undergone a major refurbishment, as part of a two million pound development programme, to become a Living Heritage Centre. At the heart of this is the construction of the new exhibition, which tells the incredible story of the house and the women behind it. From secret plots and priest holes, to angry mobs and Luftwaffe bombs, the Bar Convent has witnessed some turbulent times in York's history. The exhibition tells these tales and more. It also shines a light on Mary Ward, the radical Yorkshire nun who founded the movement that still occupies the convent today. www.bar-convent.org.uk

Barley Hall

Barley Hall is a stunning medieval house, once home to the Priors of Nostell and the Mayor of York. Until the 1980s the house was hidden under the relatively modern facade of a derelict office block and was only discovered when the building was going to be destroyed. Barley Hall has now been lovingly restored to its original splendour and decorated to replicate what it would have looked like as the Snawsell home around 1483 and boasts a magnificent Great Hall.

www.barleyhall.co.uk



Fairfax House



The winter home of Lord Fairfax; perhaps nowhere sums up Georgian York as well as Fairfax House, one of the most distinguished 18th century town houses in Britain. Designed by 18th Century architect John Carr, it is an architectural masterpiece and now the ideal backdrop to the Noel Terry Collection of Furniture, also one of the finest of its type. Built in 1762 a stone's throw from Clifford's Tower, the house, charming and perfectly proportioned, is a perennially popular visitor attraction.

The railway age swept away much of Georgian England, but what remains in York is a precious reminder of the city's most elegant manifestation. The 20th century history of Fairfax House is extensive - being used as a cinema and dance hall saved the house from decay and it can now be enjoyed once again as an example of city-living in Georgian York, the centre of polite society. www.fairfaxhouse.co.uk

Goddard's House & Gardens

On the edge of the racecourse, just a stone's throw away from the centre of York, sits Goddards, the home of the Terry family (think Chocolate Orange).

Noel Goddard Terry was the owner of the famous chocolate-making company Terry's of York. His family house was designed by architect Walter Brierly in the Arts and Crafts style, with four acres of gardens designed by George Dillistone. Relax in the Terry family home, recreated with a warm atmosphere where you can sit down and pour yourself a sherry in the Drawing Room, or take a leisurely stroll around the garden rooms.



www.nationaltrust.org.uk/goddards-house-and-garden

Mansion House



One of York's great historic treasures and one of its best kept secrets...

York's civic history is waiting to be uncovered in the Mansion House. The house contains a fascinating collection of Civic regalia and artefacts. From the simplicity of the hall way to the grandeur of the Stateroom, from seeking the secret drawers hidden in a bureau to discovering the chamber pot. This fascinating building is just waiting to be discovered, conveniently located in the heart of the city in beautiful St Helen's Square. York Mansion House re-opened in October 2017, after a major restoration project. www.mansionhouseyork.com

Merchant Adventurers' Hall

A 656-year-old meeting place...

The Merchant Adventurers' Hall is one of York's medieval marvels. The Hall is home to many remarkable collections. Including silver, furniture and paintings, which provide a glimpse into the rich history of the Hall and the people associated with it. The Hall also remains the everyday base for the Company of Merchant Adventurers of the City of York. They invite you to discover the secrets of this unique guild hall and its 650 years of history. www.merchantshallyork.org



Richard III and Henry VII Experiences



Two Kings, Two Gates, One City

Discover the story of medieval York during the reigns of Richard III and Henry VII.

Explore two of York's major monuments: Monk Bar and Micklegate Bar, located on the historic city walls and find out the role they played in the strife and ceremony that was shaped by the Wars of the Roses. Experience the rebellion and conflict during the sixty years that spanned this

turbulent period in English history. www.richardiiiexperience.com

Treasurer's House

Elegant town house dating from medieval times.

Only a few metres from York Minster, York Treasurer's House was the first house ever given to the National Trust complete with a collection - and it is not all that it first seems. It has a history spanning 2,000 years including thirteen period rooms housing one man's remarkable collection of antique furniture, ceramics, textiles and paintings from a 300-year period. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/treasurers-house-york



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