

YORK MUSEUMS TRUST



York Museums Trust is one of only eight non-national general museum services in the country which has 100 per cent designated collections. This means that all its collections are designated for their national importance.

Star exhibits among these very important collections are:

- **Castle Museum:** Kirkgate, the Victorian street named after North Yorkshire doctor and museum founder Dr John Kirk, was built in the 1930s. It used original Victorian shop fronts and artefacts and was the first recreated street to be built in a museum anywhere in the UK.
- **Yorkshire Museum:** The Middleham Jewel - this beautiful gold jewel dates from the late 15th century and was acquired with £2 1/2 million of donations in the early 1990s after it was discovered by a treasure hunter close to Middleham Castle in North Yorkshire, once home to Richard III. It is engraved on both sides with religious scenes and features a huge sapphire.
- **Yorkshire Museum:** The York Helmet - this Anglo Saxon 8th century helmet - one of the greatest treasures of the early medieval world - was discovered when excavations of the Coppergate area of York took place in the 1908s, leading to the building of the famous Jorvik Centre.

York Castle Museum



York Castle Museum is your chance to relive your childhood memories and to share your memories with your children and grandchildren. Visit the 1950s living room and imagine settling down on the brown settee, watching its black and white TV showing the Coronation in front of the fireplace. Visit the 1940s kitchen, where you would have coped on rationed food and hung your washing on an old-fashioned pull-down airer. For younger visitors, see the revolution of 1980s fitted kitchens. See old toys, 1970s platform shoes, and beautiful wedding dresses from throughout the 20th century.

York Art Gallery

York Art Gallery re-opened in 2015 with an exciting new look – York Art Gallery’s collection of paintings spans more than 600 years and works range from 14th century Italian panels and 17th century Dutch

masterpieces to Victorian narrative paintings and 20th century works by LS Lowry and David Hockney. They also hold the most extensive and representative collection of British Studio Ceramics, thanks to the acquisition of collections from Dean Milner-White, WA Ismay and Henry Rothschild and the recent long term loan of Anthony Shaw's collection. The building which houses the gallery opened its doors to the public in 1879 for the second Yorkshire Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition,



inspired by the Great Exhibition in London of 1851. In 1892 it became the City Art Gallery. The gallery looks out over Exhibition Square, also created in 1879, and beyond to the city walls and York Minster. The centrepiece of the square is a statue of York artist William Etty which was erected in 1911. York Art Gallery holds the largest collection of work by Etty.

York St Mary's

York Museums Trust's newest attraction is York St Mary's art venue showing work by artists including Turner Prize nominated duo Langlands and Bell. York St Mary's is a beautiful medieval church which opened as a contemporary visual art venue in 2004. Each year, York Art Gallery commissions an artist to create a site-specific installation within this unique space or invites an artist to show an existing work. The church itself could date back as far as 1020 and a dedication stone inside bears an inscription saying it was built by 'Efrard & Grim & Aese'. The remains of the original Saxon church are limited to stonework in the body of the church close to the chancel. The bulk of the building dates to the early 13th century, with 14th and 15th century modifications and alterations. Records of burials in the church suggest it was a fashionable church towards the end of the medieval period. It has the tallest steeple in York at 47 metres high. York St Mary's was deconsecrated in 1958 and between 1975 and 2001 was a heritage centre.

Yorkshire Museum



The Yorkshire Museum sits in the heart of York Museum Gardens, in the centre of York. The museum was opened in 1830 by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society and was one of the first purpose-built museums in the country. Reopened on 1 August 2010 following a nine-month £2million refurbishment project the Museum houses five galleries showcasing some of Britain's finest archaeological treasures and many rare animals, birds and fossils, in exciting displays. The refurbishment work also restored the Museum's Georgian building, letting in more natural

light and opening up spaces that have been divided up over the years.

York Venues

York Venues offers four historic venues in the heart of York. Medieval, Victorian, Neo-Classical, Modern: each offers you a unique space in which to host your perfect event, surrounded by two thousand years of history. They can help you host anything from a formal banquet to a conference, a trade fair or drinks reception. Of course, they are most celebrated for magical weddings and civil ceremonies at the Hospitium and Castle Museum.

To check details of exhibitions and events, go to www.yorkmuseumtrust.org.uk

For press information, contact Lee Clark tel: 01904 687673 or email lee.clark@ymt.org.uk

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