

LEEDS & York

Not to be missed...

Leeds and York are two unique cities each steeped in history and surrounded by landscapes of epic proportions in the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors National Park. Together they form the perfect package, and it's only a 25-minute train journey between them or a 40-minute drive. From the medieval streets and ancient walls of York to the grand Victorian arcades and romantic abbey ruins in Leeds, each city retains distinct layers of its history, alongside vibrant food and drink scenes, independent shopping and exceptional accommodation.

The two cities are perfectly placed half-way between London and Edinburgh, with the glorious Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors National Park and Wolds right on their doorsteps.



CREATE SEAMLESS GROUP TRAVEL EXPERIENCES ACROSS LEEDS AND YORK.

Our team offers expert advice, tailored itineraries, and dedicated support. Get in touch to start planning.

Email: info@visitleeds.co.uk

Email: trade@visityork.org

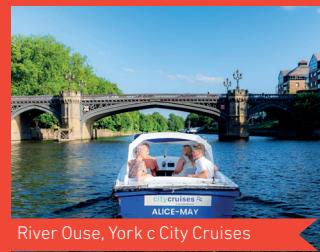
LEEDS

Leeds is a city at the heart of the action. Diverse and creative, it's packed full of cultural gems and stunning architecture. With a compact and walkable city-centre, Leeds has striking street art and an unrivalled music scene – it's a city that loves to entertain.

A renowned retail destination, where stunning Victorian arcades set the backdrop for an unrivalled shopping experience. The Royal Armouries, sister museum to the Tower of London has world-class exhibitions of arms and armour and Leeds Art Gallery has one of the most valued collections of British contemporary art in the UK. The majestic Kirkstall Abbey is one of the best-preserved Cistercian Abbeys in the country and Harewood House located just outside of the city, is one of the Treasure Houses of England and a perfect day-trip.



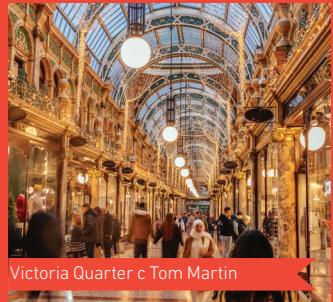
Chapter House, York Minster



River Ouse, York c City Cruises



JORVIK Viking Centre



Victoria Quarter c Tom Martin



Millennium Square, c Danny Payne

York

York is a vibrant festival city with Roman roots and a Viking past, offering an adventure for everyone. One of Britain's historic cities, this unique 2000-year-old walled city has more attractions per square mile than any other city in the UK. Boasting the National Railway Museum, one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, York Minster, and the world-famous JORVIK Viking Centre, you'll find world-class museums, galleries and walking tours uncovering hidden secrets all within easy distance. Crowned Britain's home of chocolate and the most haunted city in Europe, York is abundant with culture and character, with a varied calendar of events and festivals year-round. Plus, the city's thriving creative and arts community has earned an esteemed UNESCO City of Media Arts status.



Kirkstall Abbey c @YorkshireBrew

Must see attractions in Leeds...

There are so many things to see and do in each city, here are some recommendations of the top places to visit as part of a one- or two-day itinerary.

1. THE ROYAL ARMOURIES MUSEUM

The Royal Armouries Museum is Britain's national museum of arms and armour and the sister museum to the Tower of London. Explore one of the world's largest collection of weapons and armour including the armour of King Henry VIII, a unique set of elephant armour and expect live demonstrations during your visit.

2. LEEDS ART GALLERY & TILED HALL CAFE

Explore modern and contemporary art and collections of British painting and sculpture in a stunning grade II listed building dating from the 1880s. The collection, contains art works by Anthony Gormley, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth as well as notable works by Leeds-based artist John Atkinson Grimshaw.

Insider Tip

The Tiled Hall café was once the Reading Room for the central library, which was hidden for decades beneath panelling until it was restored to its former glory in 2007. It is one of the most beautiful, tiled rooms in the country, and showcases the creative tile-making industries in Leeds.

3. VICTORIAN ARCADES

No trip to Leeds is complete without time spent exploring the spectacular shopping arcades. The Victoria

Quarter built in the 1890s has two breath-taking arcades which house high-end fashion brands and if you look up you'll experience the majesty of the largest stained-glass ceiling in the country. Thorntons Arcade is the oldest, built in 1878 and Queens in 1889 are home to a rich variety of independent shops and cafes.

4. KIRKGATE MARKET

At the heart of the Leeds retail scene since 1857, Leeds Kirkgate Market is one of the largest indoor markets in Europe and is the birthplace of Marks & Spencer. If you can think of a cuisine, the chances are you can get it at Leeds Kirkgate Market.

5. HAREWOOD HOUSE

One of the Treasure Houses of England and steeped in history, Harewood is a perfect day-trip only a short distance from Leeds city centre. With a magnificent stately home set in Capability Brown designed landscape, you can enjoy themed events and live music in the stunning grounds.

6. KIRKSTALL ABBEY

The picturesque ruins of Kirkstall Abbey stand on the banks of the River Aire on the edge of the city-centre. The abbey, built in 1152 is one of the most complete Cistercian Abbeys in the UK. Today it sits within seven acres of parkland and visitors can explore the grounds and ruins as well as discover more about life for the 12th century monks.

... and York

1. YORK MINSTER

Discover one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, a masterpiece in stained glass and stone and a sacred space which has been at the centre of Christianity in the north of England since the 7th century. Marvel at the Great East Window, the largest single expanse of medieval stained glass in the country, take a guided tour filled with stories from the building's 800-year history or visit the Undercroft Museum to explore the remains of a Roman barracks and the cathedral's links to Viking York.

2. JORVIK VIKING CENTRE

Discover the original Viking encounter with its world-famous ride taking visitors around the sights, sounds and smells of Viking-age York. Plus, the state-of-the-art galleries showcase a unique collection of 1,000-year-old artefacts.

3. CITY CRUISES YORK

Step on-board and take a seat on the top deck or wrap up warm in the enclosed saloon and enjoy live commentary, on-board facilities and refreshments. There's nothing more 'York' than enjoying fish & chips on a riverside cruise... experience another side of this historic and beautiful city on York's iconic riverboats, while enjoying a local speciality! Or why not unleash your inner skipper and try your hand at a Self-Drive Boat hire!

4. YORK CASTLE MUSEUM

Immerse yourself in over 400 years of York's past including the world famous recreated Victorian Street, Kirkgate, and see York as it operated between 1870 and 1901!

5. YORKSHIRE MUSEUM AND GARDENS

One of the earliest purpose-built museums in the country, housing some of the finest collections of archaeological treasures from the city's Roman, Viking and medieval past. Build on the grounds of St Mary's Abbey, you can still see the remains of the Abbey in the gardens and in the basement of the museum.

6. NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM

Not only do they have icons of the railway and thousands of railway related objects, they also have Wonderlab: The Bramall Gallery, a special interactive experience for families, and the Flying Scotsman VR Experience, where you can see the famous locomotive's story come to life around you. Visitors can see amazing rail vehicles including Mallard, the world's fastest steam locomotive, and step back into the 1970s Japan as you climb aboard the Japanese 'bullet train'.

Stroll York's City Walls, England's longest and best-preserved medieval walls, for stunning views along the 3.4km route.

Insider Tip

FEEL AT HOME IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

In the city centres of Leeds and York you'll find a great choice of well-known international four-star hotel brands including Radisson, Hilton, Doubletree by Hilton, Hampton by Hilton, Hotel Indigo, Malmaison, Marriott and Novotel. You can experience home comforts whilst having all the attractions of each city. For five-star luxury and exceptional levels of service opt for a night in the Dakota Leeds followed by The Grand, York.



TOURS AND GUIDES

In Leeds and York there are many local expert tour guides with a diverse range of passions and knowledge of their home cities. Leeds offers architectural tours, queer history tours and heritage beer tours. In York, there is an open top bus tour, including a ghost bus tour, magical and wizardry tours. And both cities offer ghost walks, food and drink and history tours. There are also plenty

of self-guided tours available. In York you can take self-guided quest trails or explore the cat trails, which feature over 35 cat statues - a lucky symbol of the city. In Leeds there is a self-guided Street Art Trail and the Owl Trail, which is the emblem of the city and appears in various guises on many of the buildings in the city centre.

CONNECTIONS... TO LEEDS AND YORK

Perfectly located in the heart of the UK

Flights arrive at Leeds Bradford Airport from over 70 destinations with the international hubs of Dublin and Amsterdam Schipol only an hour away. Manchester, London and Edinburgh are easily accessible by train.

TRAIN TRAVEL FROM EUROPE

	LEEDS	YORK
AMSTERDAM	7 hr 30 min	7 hr 15 min
BRUSSELS	4 hr 15 min	4 hr
PARIS	4 hr 30 min	4 hr 20 min

TRAVEL FROM MANCHESTER AIRPORT

	LEEDS	YORK
ROAD	1 hr 50 min	2 hr 30 min
TRAIN	1 hr 30 min	2 hr

TRAVEL FROM PORT OF LIVERPOOL

	LEEDS	YORK
ROAD	1 hr 45 min	2 hr 25 min
TRAIN	2 hr 21 min	2 hr 40 min

TRAVEL FROM LONDON GATWICK AIRPORT

	LEEDS	YORK
ROAD	4 hr 15 min	4 hr 15 min
TRAIN	3 hr 25 min	3 hr 5 min

* all journey times are indicative