

Must SEES



Castle Howard

Castle Howard is one of Britain's finest historic houses, situated in the nearby Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – the approach to Castle Howard makes a breathtaking arrival. Built over 300 years ago by Sir John Vanbrugh, today it remains home to the Howard family, who open their doors for visitors to discover awe-inspiring architecture, interiors and world-renowned collections.

Beyond the house, explore 1,000 acres of parkland; a mixture of sweeping vistas, lakeside terraces, woodlands, temples and statues, fountains and formal gardens. Take a stroll around the 18th century traditional English walled garden, where you'll see the exquisite collection of heritage roses and ornamental vegetable garden. The estate is home to the Yorkshire Arboretum, an impressive 120-acre garden of trees from around the world.



North York Moors
National Park



GREAT
BRITAIN

Market town of Helmsley

Helmsley is a picturesque quintessential English market town on the banks of the River Rye, sheltered beneath the striking ruins of the 900-year old [Helmsley Castle](#). Discover how the castle evolved over the centuries, from a mighty medieval fortress to a luxurious Tudor mansion, to a Civil War stronghold and a romantic Victorian ruin.

Well worth a visit is the five-acre [Helmsley Walled Garden](#), North York Moors' own 'secret English garden', where you can wander through 5 acres of traditional walled gardens, offering a tranquil oasis amidst an intoxicating mix of scents and colour. Relax over lunch at the [Vinehouse Café](#) beneath Victorian vines laden with grapes, before you take the scenic short walk from Helmsley onto the ruins of Rievaulx Abbey, along the signed Cleveland Way National Trail.

Rievaulx Abbey

'Everywhere peace, everywhere serenity, and a marvellous freedom from the tumult of the world'. This description of [Rievaulx Abbey](#) by Aelred, the monastery's saintly 12th century abbot, still resonates with visitors today. Situated within a tranquil valley in the North York Moors National Park, the impressive ruins reflect nearly 1,000 years of spiritual, commercial and romantic history.

Visitors can take their time to explore with an audio tour telling the tales of the abbey's long history, from peaceful community to suppression under Henry VIII, to preservation in the 17th century as a romantic ruin and site of inspiration for artists and writers. Stop by the museum to get up close to previously unseen artefacts including medieval stone carvings, chess pieces and gold coins.



Whitby

Whitby is an atmospheric coastal town, overlooked by the famous clifftop ruins of Whitby Abbey, its cobbled Georgian streets with unique shops clustering around a vibrant harbour and sandy beach. Captain Cook learned his trade here in the 18th century, whilst in the 19th century the town grew thanks to the arrival of the railway, now reinvented as the heritage North Yorkshire Moors Railway.

Climb the famous 199 steps from the town to the magnificent ruins of Whitby Abbey, where a state-of-the-art exhibition tells the tale of 3,000 years of history and how the town inspired Bram Stoker's Dracula. Visit the Captain Cook Memorial exhibition to learn how all of Cook's famous vessels were built in the town. Don't leave Whitby without trying the local fish and chips, delicious!

North Yorkshire Moors Railway

Step back in time with a leisurely scenic train journey on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, an iconic heritage steam railway running along 39km of National Park countryside from the ancient market town of Pickering across majestic moorland to the coastal town of Whitby.

Travel in style in a vintage restored carriage and enjoy the sights and smells of railway travel from a bygone age. Stops along the way include Goathland Station, featured as Hogsmeade Station in the original Harry Potter film, where you can explore the station platform with its quirky tea room housed within a 1922 styled goods shed and then onto the 1952 themed Grosmont Station, where you can see the impressive restoration work carried out by the volunteers.

Hutton-le-Hole

Hutton (high-town) le Hole (hollow) is one of the most picturesque villages in the North York Moors. A clear moorland stream tumbles through the centre of the village green, traditionally cropped by the local sheep. The village is home to the marvellous outdoor Ryedale Folk Museum. The museum houses 20 buildings which tell the story of traditional local life through the centuries, from an Iron Age round house, to a 19th century thatched country cottage and a mid-20th century village shop.

Meander around the village; watch local artisans at work at Hutton-le-Hole Craft Workshops, enjoy handmade chocolates from the Chocolate Factory and then relax with a pint of local ale at the pub on the green.



Robin Hood's Bay

Leave your car at the top of the village and take in the stunning views before you begin the steep descent through this timeless seaside village of cobbled alleyways and tiny fishermen's cottages, tumbling down to a sea. In the 18th century this picturesque village had a well-earned reputation for smuggling - with almost every house having secret hiding places and tunnels linking many of the dwellings.

Visitors can learn more about this fascinating history in the [Robin Hood's Bay Museum](#) - a small, village museum packed full of artefacts and stories. The coastal scenery around the Bay is spectacular, perfect for a coastal walk or fossil hunting before enjoying a pint of local ale in a village pub.

Sutton Bank

Hire a bike (or e-bike!) from [Sutton Bank Bikes](#) and cycle 'on top of the world' as you take in the big-skies and open panoramas from Sutton Bank looking over to Hood Hill or Gormire Lake, one of only two natural lakes in the North York Moors National Park, described as one of "England's Finest" views. The 5.5km cliff trail takes you to the famous turf-cut hillside landmark, the Kilburn White Horse and is perfect for a gentle exercise and fresh air.

For the more adventurous, take in the breath-taking views of the moorland and dales from up high, with a taster glider flight with the [Yorkshire Gliding Club](#); you can even fly yourself (under instruction from the pilot).

