



York and the NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK

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This 7-day sample itinerary has been developed using newly commissioned market research around the perfect short-break holiday for the target customer, 'Explorers' aged 45 years+ from near Europe, who like to experience the culture and heritage of a new English destination, full of little surprises, at a more relaxed pace. It includes 2 days staying and exploring the historic City of York, followed with 5 days taking in the beautiful surroundings of the North York Moors National Park and its stunning coast, along with free time to visit the area's 'must-sees' and engage with the local culture.

All products highlighted in the itineraries in **BOLD** are bookable in advance, all others are either payable at the attraction/venue or free of charge.

Enjoy the historic city of York - discover the best view for miles around from York Minster, a spot of shopping on the Shambles, followed by English afternoon tea in the world-famous Betty's Tea Room.

Take a breath of fresh air as you explore the stunning coast and spectacular countryside of the award-winning North York Moors National Park. Step back in time with a scenic journey on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, discover atmospheric coastal towns and villages and majestic abbey ruins. Visit local artists' studios and unique galleries, then relax and enjoy some of the best fish and chips for miles around.



North York Moors
National Park



WELCOME TO THE NORTH YORK MOORS – WHERE PEACE AND BEAUTY AWAITS YOU.

DAY ONE: Arrive in the City of York

Arrive by car ferry from either Rotterdam to Hull or from Amsterdam to Newcastle, both are around a 1 hour and 45-minute drive to your first destination, the historic city of York. Check into your accommodation in York, **Alcuin Lodge**, a four-star bed & breakfast with parking, located just a short walk to the city centre.

York is a great city to explore either on foot, by hop-on-hop-off bus or river cruise, the choice is yours. Take some time to familiarise yourself with this historic city, perhaps with a walk down the iconic Shambles; the oldest shopping street in Europe or walk the city walls; the most complete and best-preserved medieval walls in England. Then step back in time with a visit to the world-famous **Bettys Café Tea Rooms**, founded over 100-years ago in 1919. A perfect way to end the first day of your holiday, with a Bettys legendary English afternoon tea, served any time of the day!



DAY TWO: Take time to explore York

Wake up refreshed and ready to explore the city of York, at your own pace. York has more attractions per square mile than any other city in Britain, so you'll be spoilt for choice. To ensure you don't miss out on any must-sees and insider secrets, here's some of our recommendations:

York Minster is the largest Gothic Cathedral in Northern Europe and took over 250 years to build. Climb up the 275 steps to the top of the Central Tower for the best views over York (subject to availability). Join one of the many Christian services, you may even get to experience the beautiful sound of the Minster Choir.

York Art Gallery is home to masterpieces of both art and ceramics in the new Centre of Ceramic Art.

Spot the L.S. Lowry's, Turner or Hockney alongside Italian Old Masters from the 14th and 18th century. Surround yourself with some of the best ceramic art in the world, there are almost 2,000 works on display.

The National Railway Museum is the largest railway museum in the world. With a world-class collection of locomotives from the Flying Scotsman to Mallard and Queen Victoria's vintage carriages. Climb on board the Japanese bullet train and discover how high-speed rail travel began.

INSIDER'S TIP: take a river cruise
End your day in York with a floodlit early evening cruise on the River Ouse aboard a City Cruises York boat.

DAY THREE: North Yorkshire Moors Railway

After a relaxing breakfast, it's time to say farewell to the historic City of York as you set off on the 1 hour and 30-minute (64km) scenic drive to Goathland Station, featured as Hogsmeade Station in the original Harry Potter Film.

Step back in time with a leisurely scenic train journey on the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway**, an iconic heritage steam railway running along 37km of North York Moors National Park countryside - from the market town of Pickering across wide sweeps of moorland to the coastal town of Whitby.

INSIDER'S TIP: see a waterfall: Head to Beck Hole and take a walk through ancient woodlands and valleys, passing the Thomason Foss stunning waterfall, and possibly visit one of England's quirkiest small pubs, Birch Hall Inn.

Enjoy the 30-minute drive (20km) to your home from home accommodation for the next four nights, **Baytown Holiday Cottages**, located in Robin Hood's Bay on the North York Moors coast. A perfect spot for walking the Cleveland Way, close to wildlife and within easy access to the beach.

DAY FOUR: Robin Hood's Bay

Spend your day at your own pace exploring Robin Hood's Bay, a timeless seaside village of cobbled alleyways and tiny fishermen's cottages tumbling down to the 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.

Pop into the Robin Hood's Bay Museum - a small, village museum packed full of artefacts and stories of the area. 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.

INSIDER'S TIP: go rock pooling
Reached at low tide along the shore is Boggle Hole is great for a spot of rock pooling. Pop into The Quarterdeck Café at the YHA for tea and cake; take a book and sit by the wood burning stove as you listen to the sound of the waves.





DAY FIVE: Whitby & Staithes

Take the 15-minute (8km) drive to Whitby, an atmospheric coastal town overlooked by the famous clifftop ruins of Whitby Abbey, with its cobbled Georgian streets and unique shops clustering around a vibrant harbour and sandy beach. 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 Museum** to learn how all of Cook's famous vessels were built here.

Whitby is a great place for a spot of shopping; from jewellery made from the local black Jet to handmade chocolates and smoked kippers. Don't leave Whitby without trying some of the best fish and chips for miles around, perfect with a delicious Yorkshire ale, brewed in the shadows of Whitby Abbey.

Then onto the atmospheric fishing village of Staithes, a 30-minute drive (17km) - with its traditional Coble boats in the picturesque harbour. Visit local artists' studios and unique galleries. See local sculptor, Emma Stothard's striking blue lobster and then follow the Staithes Illusion Trail, all painted by renowned trompe l'oeil artist and Staithes resident, Paul Czainski. Finish your day with tea and scones in the vintage café, Dotty about Vintage - sit outside with a blanket as you watch the world go by.

INSIDER'S TIP: Go starry eyed
On your drive home, stop off at Kettleness and walk to the cliff top where you'll be rewarded with a superb dark sky vantage point where, on a clear night, you can spy up to 2,000 stars at any one time.

It's a 25-minute (12km) drive back to your holiday cottage.

DAY SIX: Hutton-le-Hole and Rosedale

Take the 55-minute drive (53km) through the North York Moors National Park to Hutton-le-Hole. One of the most picturesque villages in the North York Moors with its clear moorland stream tumbling through the centre of the village green. It's home to the marvellous outdoor **Ryedale Folk Museum** where you can learn all about the local history and its people. Meander around the village; watch local artisans at work at Hutton-le-Hole Craft Workshops and then stop off for some handmade chocolates from the Chocolate Factory.

INSIDER'S TIP: *Uncover English history St Mary's Church - a few kilometres from Hutton le Hole lies Lastingham's St Mary's Church, well worth a visit to see its atmospheric eleventh-century crypt.*

It's a 10-minute (7km) short drive onto the village of Rosedale Abbey, a quiet

village providing scenic walks. Take one of the several tracks to get a long view of this secluded valley nestling in the high moorland.

Call in to see glass blowing at Gillies Jones. Four hundred years ago, a group of Huguenot craftsmen practised the secret and illegal art of glassmaking in the village of Rosedale. Internationally renowned glass-makers Stephen Gillies and Kate Jones continue the tradition today. Visit their Rosedale Abbey workshop and gallery in the old forge and take home a unique piece of glass, inspired by the landscapes of the North York Moors.

Then reward yourself with a delicious cake at Graze on the Green – the North York Moors is Britain's capital of cakes! Robin Hood's Bay is a scenic 45-minute drive home to your cottage.





DAY SEVEN: Heritage 'Must Sees'

Today is your own to take in a few more of the area's 'must-sees' - all within a short drive of each other, before you return journey home. Our recommendations include:

Helmsley: 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.

Rievaulx Abbey: 'Everywhere peace, everywhere serenity, and a marvellous freedom from the tumult of the world'. This description of Rievaulx Abbey by Aeldred, the monastery's saintly 12th century abbot, still resonates with visitors today. Now looked after by English Heritage, take time out to explore the impressive ruins of one of England's most powerful Cistercian monasteries, reflecting nearly 1,000 years of spiritual, commercial and romantic history, since its founding in 1130.

Sutton Bank: Take a picnic '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. Hire a bike from **Sutton Bank Bikes** or take a walk on one of several well-signed routes.

Return by car ferry from either Hull to Rotterdam or from Newcastle to Amsterdam, both are around a 1 hour and 45-minute drive from the North York Moors.

To find out even more about the local culture of the places you visit why not arrange a local guide - a list of guides can be found in the Supplier Listing.

Other accommodation options are available. Day passes to the heritage attractions can be included.

Times and dates are subject to change, please check with suppliers.