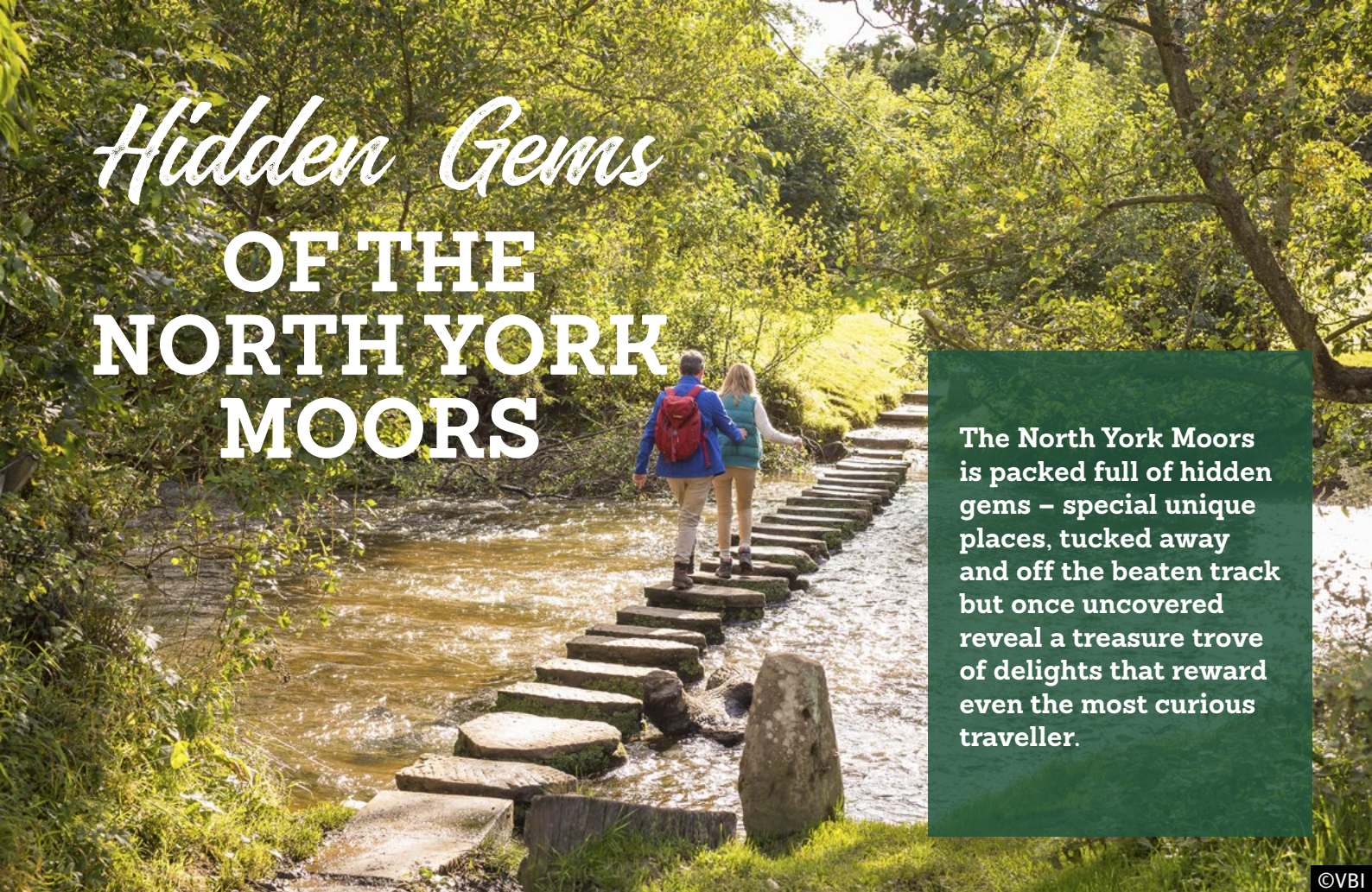


# Hidden Gems

## OF THE NORTH YORK MOORS



The North York Moors is packed full of hidden gems – special unique places, tucked away and off the beaten track but once uncovered reveal a treasure trove of delights that reward even the most curious traveller.

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### **St Mary's Church Lastingham - a few miles from Hutton-le-Hole**

The atmospheric 11th century crypt, built on the site of a 7th century monastery by its first Abbot, the Anglo Saxon St Cedd of Lindisfarne is well worth a visit. Cedd is commemorated among the crypt's ancient stone crosses and carved columns, where you'll feel a palpable sense of history as you descend the stone steps in the half-light beneath the present-day church. In 1078 Stephen, the abbot of nearby Whitby Abbey, got permission from William the Conqueror to restore the monastery at Lastingham. Stephen's abbey was never finished but his early work became the basis for today's church and is one of the most impressive pieces of early Norman architecture in England. Afterwards head over the road to The Blacksmith's Arms, a cosy English village pub.

### **Glistening waterfalls - close to the village of Goathland**

From the village of Goathland (where you can arrive by vintage steam train), take the 5km circular walk to see the tumbling waterfall of Mallyan Spout and further on, Thomason Foss. The path from the village descends into a wooded ravine where a scramble will be rewarded with a refreshing spray from this high waterfall. Then return to the path through the wooded valley bottom to the tiny hamlet of Beck Hole to see the stunning Thomason Foss waterfall. Pass by one of England's quirkiest small pubs, Birch Hall Inn. You can continue your walk onto the village of Goathland on the old railway line. Walk pdf available



North York Moors  
National Park



GREAT  
BRITAIN



## **Young Ralph's Cross - on the side of the road on Blakey Ridge**

The North York Moors is home to hundreds of wayside stone crosses and ancient boundary stones. Young Ralph's Cross is probably one of the most famous. Ralph was a guide to the nuns at the Cistercian Priory of Rosedale when they needed to journey across the moors. Today his cross is not exactly hidden; it's easy to spot on the roadside high up on Blakey Ridge, where you'll be rewarded with a fantastic view of the North York Moors. Continue along the ridge to the iconic Lion Inn, a warm and cosy pub, and the highest in the North York Moors National Park.

## **Old St Stephen's Church, Fylingdales - above the village of Robin Hood's Bay**

This handsome disused church, built in 1821, is as interesting inside as it is outside. A fishermen's church watching over the bay below, its gravestones cling in rows to the steep hillside and recall the tragedies of seafaring families. Inside, its three-deck preaching pulpit dominates; sit in a box pew and imagine families keeping warm as they listened and longed to see loved ones return. The maidens' garlands, used like crowns in funeral processions of young unwed women, make a poignant and rare display. Elsewhere throughout the church are the memorial reminders of shipwrecks and loss at sea. Afterwards, head down into Robin Hood's Bay for fish and chips, and then a pint of ale, looking out from the Bay Hotel.

## **Lealholm Stepping Stones - mid-way along the Esk Valley Railway**

The beautiful village of Lealholm, on the banks of the River Esk, grew around the river crossing and today you can still cross on foot by following the stepping stones or over the old bridge. It's a pattern along this valley, as stepping stones and bridges at Lealholm, Glaisdale and Egton Bridge, mark important crossing points that have been used for centuries for trade and travel. When you've wandered the old pathways and criss-crossed the river, call in at the 18th century Board Inn in Lealholm, where you can enjoy locally produced food, beers and cider. (You can even get here by train on the Esk Valley Railway from Whitby or Grosmost). Walk pdf available.

## **Hayburn Wyke - just along the coast south of Robin Hood's Bay**

Discover one of the North York Moors coastal gems, the wooded valley of Hayburn Wyke reaches down to a magnificent rocky cove with two tumbling waterfalls and giant boulders. You can incorporate a visit to Hayburn Wyke into a 4km circular nature walk which also includes a stretch of the Cleveland Way National Trail. Soak up the sounds of birds as you descend through woodlands and look out for marine mammals, such as grey seals. The 18th century Hayburn Wyke Inn, set in woodland and close to the coast is the start and end of this walk - a perfect place to enjoy great food served with a Yorkshire ale. Walk pdf available.

## **Pickering Church wall paintings - in the market town of Pickering**

Pickering is the start of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway; a lovely market town and great base to discover the south of the North York Moors National Park. If historic art is your thing, then a brief deviation into St Peter and St Paul's Church will delight. The paintings, hidden until rediscovered in the 19th century are over 500 years old. They tell the stories of the lives of saints from England, across Europe to the eastern Mediterranean and show how well connected this quiet market town was to the rest of the world. Afterwards, contemplate these wonderful creations and their survival over a meal at the White Swan Inn just down the hill - Sunday lunch is one of their specialities.

## **Falling Foss - just inland from Robin Hood's Bay**

For a magical woodland walk take the trail on this 3.2km circular walk, passing through an idyllic woodland tea garden, a Hermitage and the 9m Falling Foss waterfall, before returning alongside the babbling May Beck. It's a lovely dappled shady walk in spring and spectacular in autumn when the woodland colours are at their best. Make sure to call in at the enchanting Falling Foss Tea Garden, found in the beautifully sited woodland cottage of Midge Hall. Once an isolated gamekeeper's cottage, its back garden has been serving tea and cake since the 1930s. Find out more about its history over tea and cakes. Walk pdf available.

