

MOTIVATE, EDUCATE AND REWARD



YORKSHIRE & Durham

ARE YOUR GUESTS up for a challenge? This itinerary will put them to the test as they tear around a championship race track, hurtle down adrenaline-pumping white water and forage for survival on the North York Moors.

It's also packed with history. UNESCO World Heritage Sites at Durham and Hadrian's Wall rub shoulders with magnificent stately homes like Castle Howard, while medieval York is crammed with museums allowing your guests to unravel 2,000 years of past civilisations.

And after all this excitement, with two glorious National Parks on the doorstep, there's plenty of places to unwind and indulge while drinking in the beautiful surroundings.

LOCATION & ACCESS

The main gateway to the North East is York.

By road

From London to York:
Approx. 3.5 hrs north/200 miles.

By air

Nearest international airport:
Manchester airport.

Alternative airports:
Leeds-Bradford, Liverpool, Newcastle airports

By train

From London-Kings Cross to York: 2 hrs.



York



History lives in every corner of this glorious city.

A popular destination ever since the Romans came to stay, it is still encircled by its medieval walls, perfect for a leisurely stroll. Dominating the skyline, the huge Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe, has among its treasures the world's largest medieval stained glass window.

Elsewhere, the city's delightful maze of cobbled streets, crammed with crazily-leaning timbered houses, is alive with the hustle and bustle that has gone on for centuries. York is also renowned for its museums and its stylish eateries, including the ultimate teashop experience in the Art Deco surroundings of Betty's.

Yorkshire's National Parks

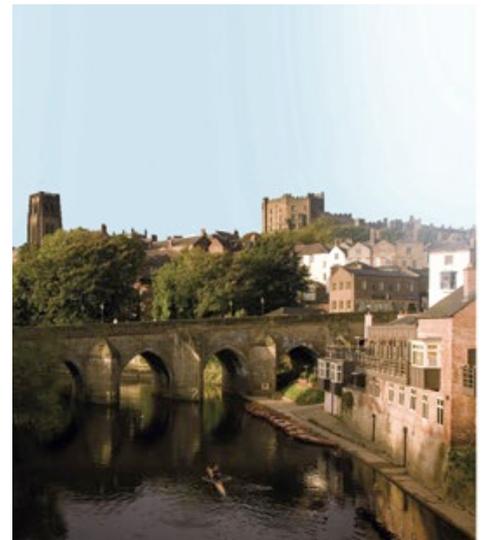


Home to two outstanding National Parks, Yorkshire is a popular destination for lovers of the great outdoors.

Best known are the Yorkshire Dales, made famous in James Herriot's books about a county vet. This peaceful patchwork of pretty valleys (dales), rushing rivers, isolated sheep farms and dry stone walls covers over 700 square miles (1800 sq km) and features spectacular waterfalls as well as some dramatic limestone landscapes.

Further east, the heather-clad North York Moors are dotted with sheep and sleepy villages, while along the coast, pretty fishing villages like Staithes and Robin Hood's Bay are stacked against cliffs rich with nesting birds.

Durham & Hadrian's Wall



Set on a steep wooded promontory, around which the River Wear curves, the medieval city of Durham dates back to 995 when it was chosen as the resting place for the remains of St Cuthbert, whose tomb can be seen in the magnificent cathedral. Together with the nearby castle, today part of the prestigious Durham University, it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

About an hour north is the world-famous Hadrian's Wall, built by the Emperor Hadrian to guard the boundary of Roman Britain. The wall is remarkably well preserved in places, while a number of fascinating forts explain the history of this remarkable site.

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ARRIVAL

Let the train take the strain as your guests board their first class carriage at London's King's Cross station. From here they are whisked along the East Coast line to the beautiful medieval city of York in around two hours. With comfortable seats and windows framing the views of the ever-changing English landscape, they can sit back and relax with a drink while looking forward to their northern adventure.



WHERE TO STAY

Cedar Court Grand Hotel & Spa, York

★★★★★

107 rooms and suites



Experience the luxury and style of the golden age of travel at Cedar Court Grand Hotel & Spa.

Once the headquarters of the North Eastern Railway Company, this historic Grade II listed landmark overlooks the walls of one of England's most picturesque cities, and has an atmosphere quite unlike anywhere else: luxurious yet cosy, refined yet welcoming.

From the 107 beautifully-appointed, stylish rooms and opulent vaulted spa to the award-winning restaurant, every detail is designed to delight.

Rockliffe Hall, near Darlington, County Durham

★★★★★

61 rooms and suites



Rockliffe Hall is the perfect place to get away from it all and enjoy ultimate luxury in the picturesque County Durham countryside.

Winner of the VisitEngland Large Hotel of the Year Award, the hotel is set on a magnificently restored 18th-century estate on the banks of the River Tees, outside the village of Hurworth.

Rockliffe Hall's state-of-the-art spa, world-class golf course, well-equipped meeting rooms and three restaurants, including the triple AA Rosette Orangery, together with sublime service, ensure it is the ideal spot to relax, do business and create memories that will linger on.

Rudding Park Hotel, Spa & Golf, Harrogate

★★★★★

90 rooms and suites

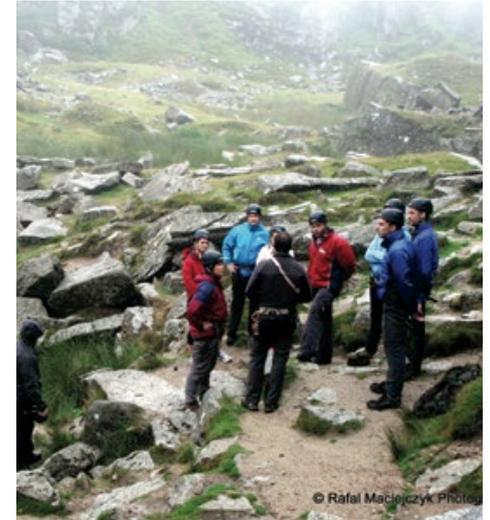


Award-winning Rudding Park is a privately owned luxury hotel, spa and golf course nestling in the heart of Yorkshire.

The hotel is set in 300 acres of woodland and landscaped gardens, just outside the elegant spa town of Harrogate, and has received numerous accolades. A Grade I listed house, it effortlessly incorporates 21st century living by fusing traditional elegance with quirky contemporary design. The 90 stylish bedrooms are complimented by a luxurious modern spa, while guests can also enjoy a gym, private cinema and an 18-hole golf course, ensuring that their stay is as relaxing or invigorating as they wish.

ACTIVITIES

York Moors Survival Mission (Full Day)



The dramatic uplands of the North York Moors National Park provide an appropriately stark setting for this challenging mission, all about survival skills.

From fire-lighting, shelter building, navigating and acquiring food and water, your guests will learn all the basics of survival and wilderness living. Away from the amenities of modern life, they will need to work as a team, both contributing effectively, having to rely on others and having others rely on them for their basic human needs. A great way to motivate a team and encourage personal development, and an experience they will remember long after the day has ended.

Hadrian's Wall and Dry Stone Walling (Full Day)



Extending 73 miles (118 km) across the width of England, Hadrian's Wall was begun by Emperor Hadrian in AD 122 to mark the northern boundary of the Roman Empire. Today the ruins remain a remarkable site, clinging to the craggy moorland, and studded by a string of well-preserved forts.

After visiting the wall, your guests can make their own piece of history by helping to rebuild a section of dry stone wall, one of the most commonly used boundaries in England. Under expert guidance, guests will learn this ancient art – the perfect opportunity to combine brain and brawn.



White Water Rafting on Tees Barrage (Full Day or Half Day)



Get ready to experience white water rafting on the world class rapids at Tees Barrage International White Water Centre.

Highly-trained instructors will show your guests the basics before taking them down to tackle the rapids of this acclaimed white water rafting course. Seven tons of water push through the course at any given point, guaranteeing a day filled with exhilaration, adrenaline and fun.

With no experience required and all equipment supplied on the day, it's the perfect opportunity to bring teams together and let them experience an activity which will keep them interacting throughout.

Explore Castle Howard (Full Day or Half Day)



One of England's finest historic houses, Castle Howard is set within the breathtaking landscape of the Howardian Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This magnificent 18th century residence, the epitome of grand English country living, has been the home of the Howard family for over 300 years. On this tour, your guests can admire the baroque-inspired interiors, the perfect backdrop to its world-renowned collections which range from frescos to fine furniture, while listening to some of the inspiring stories that surround them. Afterwards they can explore the magnificent grounds, whose statues, temples, lakes and fountains perfectly echo the grandeur of the house.

York walking tour (Half Day)



York is the best-preserved medieval city in England and the ideal place to explore on foot.

This walking tour will take your guests along the ancient city walls, the longest in England at two miles (3.4 km), beside the picturesque River Ouse and through the pedestrianised tangle of medieval shopping streets surrounding the mighty cathedral, including the picture-perfect Shambles.

The story of York, past and present, is fascinating and your guests will learn about the royalty and religion, the 2,000 years of its vibrant history, the myths and legends and much more. This tour can also take place on bicycle for the energetic among your group.

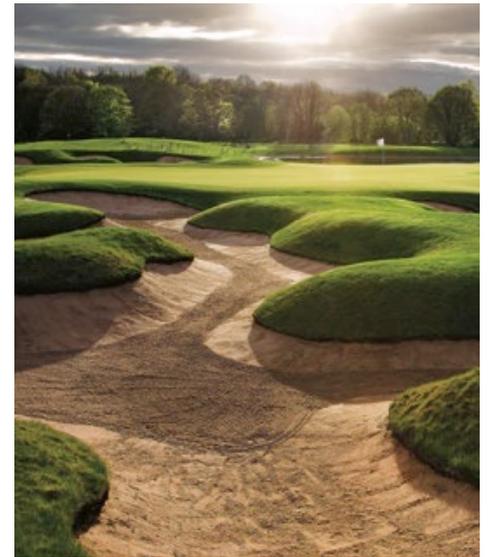
Precision Driving & International Racing (Full Day or Half Day)



Exhilarating team thrills await your guests on these two amazing experiences where the car is the star.

Precision driving gives your guests a rare opportunity to learn some exciting driving stunts, including driving a car on two wheels, all under the safe tuition of a team of professional instructors. Alternatively head for the Croft International Racing Circuit, setting for major British Championship events, where they can test their mettle at a range of challenges from circuit driving to high-speed passenger rides or quad bikes.

Golf or Spa Session (Full Day or Half Day)

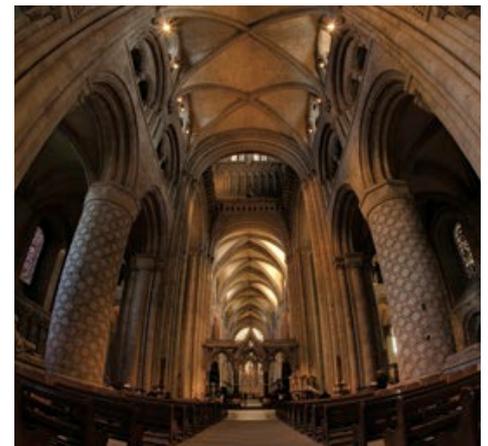


The outstanding golf and spa facilities at five-star Rockliffe Hall provide the perfect opportunity for your guests to relax and recharge.

Set on the banks of the River Tees, the championship golf course is one of the longest and most challenging in Europe. Lakes, wetland and woodland also add to the experience, offering a unique challenge to any standard of golfer.

Alternatively, guests deserving some pampering should head for the state-of-the-art spa. From relaxing by the pool to drifting away in the thermal bathing suite following an indulgent treatment, it's the ideal space in which to unwind.

Durham Cathedral (Half Day)



Durham Cathedral is cherished not only for its architecture but also for its incomparable setting, perched atop a steep wooded promontory surrounded by the River Wear.

Begun in 1093, and taking 40 years to complete, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is the largest and best-preserved Norman structure in England. It was built as a place of worship to house the shrine of the North's best-loved saint, Cuthbert.

On this visit guests can not only drink in the breathtaking architecture, but also learn the story behind some of the cathedral's fascinating relics.

GALA DINNER OPTIONS

York Castle Museum

Up to 80 dinner guests



York Castle Museum is one of England's leading museums of everyday life, crammed with fascinating memorabilia and period displays, vividly depicting life gone by.

A reception and dinner is set against the recreated cobbled Victorian Street of Kirkgate, the museum's most famous attraction. Surrounded by authentic shop fronts, packed with genuine Victorian goods, and complete with horse-drawn Hansom cab, the street is a spacious but surprisingly intimate evening venue, perfect for memorable photographs, particularly at Christmas when it is decked with traditional Victorian finery. Victorian stilt walkers together with jugglers, magicians and human statues also add to an evening's entertainment.

National Railway Museum

Up to 700 dinner guests



The largest museum of its kind in the world, the spectacular displays of locomotives and carriages here cover over 200 years of railway history, providing some unique settings for a gala dinner. These include the Station Hall, where delegates can feast amidst luxurious carriages against the backdrop of a period station and the Great Hall, where they can enjoy a meal surrounded by some of the world's most famous locomotives.

Enthralling behind-the-scenes tours of the museum's hidden collections can also be arranged, while a variety of entertainment, from live bands to a replica of Stephenson's famous Rocket, can add sparkle to your unforgettable evening.

Castle Howard

Up to 200 dinner guests



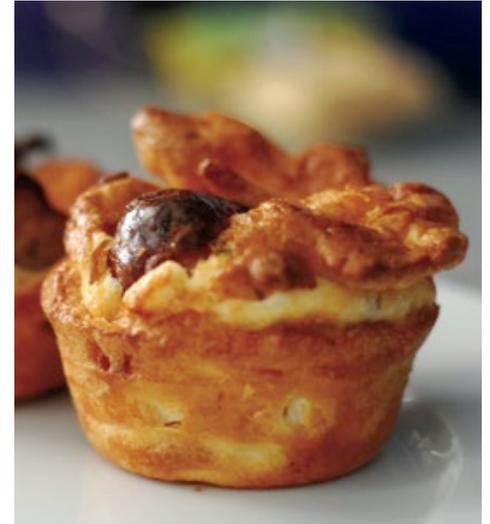
Castle Howard has 300 years' experience of hosting grand occasions to delight and impress the most discerning of guests.

Your guests can sip champagne in the Great Hall under the magnificent painted dome while the gods look down from above! Afterwards they can move on to dinner in the elegant Grecian Hall, warmed by a roaring log fire. Or dine in the Long Gallery with its fine oil paintings and gilded chandeliers, accompanied by the sounds of a string quartet.

With its stunning interiors, warm hospitality and unique atmosphere of grand country living, it makes for an evening to be savoured well beyond the last mouthful.

OTHER DINING OPTIONS

Quirkily Yorkshire



Your guests may have never heard of 'Yorkshire Pudding' but there's hardly an Englishman alive who doesn't relish this delicious batter-based accompaniment to a traditional roast beef dinner.

It's one of a number of English favourites that stem from the county. Try a slab of crumbly Wensleydale cheese, made famous through the animated antics of Wallace & Gromit, followed perhaps by a 'fat rascal', one of the signature cakes of Yorkshire's famous Betty's tea shop.

From Nidderdale lamb to Pontefract cakes (liquorice discs), washed down with a pint or two of Black Sheep Beer from the Masham brewery, they represent Yorkshire flavours at their finest.

Dinner with the Storymaker



For this experience, we suggest taking dinner at the hotel. Relax in the comfort of your own private dining room with a sumptuous three-course meal. Afterwards, your very own storyteller will join you to recount an interactive and entertaining local tale of the sea.

This may be a story of the beautiful North Yorkshire Heritage Coast - of whaling and fishing, and shipwrecks and smuggling; or of the brave Captain Cook and his journey from humble farm labourer to three epic voyages around the globe. Or it may revolve around tales of pirates - the highwaymen of the seven seas.