

Living in York



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
City of York Council and University of York



CITY OF
YORK
COUNCIL



UNIVERSITY
of York



“Best Place to Live”

SUNDAY TIMES, 2018

*“York crowned best place
for hybrid working”*

HYBRID WORKING INDEX, USWITCH, 2022

“UK’s most popular city”

YOUNG POLL, 2021

Welcome to York!

Located at the heart of the UK, offering a wealth of things to do, see and enjoy, it's no wonder that York is a much-desired place to live and work. With its excellent transport links, public services and educational facilities, York offers an unrivalled quality of life.

Whether you are new to York's rich assets or returning and want to ensure you're not missing out, the information in this booklet will ease you into life in York. Covering both the practicalities of moving into a new area, and highlighting must-do activities, this guide will provide you with the tools you need to enjoy all that York and the surrounding area has to offer.



Transport connections

York is one of Britain's best-connected cities – not surprising as it was founded by the Romans. By train, York is directly connected to more than 150 cities and towns, and passengers can reach London in 1hr and 45mins and Edinburgh in 2hrs and 35mins.

York is also well-served by long-distance trunk roads; leading to and from York are major routes to Liverpool, Leeds, Scarborough, Doncaster, Tyneside and Hull. A 10-mile journey down the A64 takes you to the A1(M) motorway and the M1 motorway. Also nearby is the M62 transpennine motorway, linking Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool. Bus services to York include CityZap to and from Leeds and Coastliner to Leeds, Malton and Scarborough.

Several international airports are within easy reach of York. Leeds-Bradford Airport is nearby and provides easy access to most major European airports as well as Canada,

USA, Thailand and Dubai. The Transpennine Express direct trains link to Manchester Airport in just 1hr 45mins. Manchester Airport is the principal airport for the north of England, with flights to Europe, America, Asia and Africa. Ferries go from nearby Hull to a range of European countries.



Moving around the city



Moving around the city of York is easy – whether you want to go by foot, bike, e-cycle, e-scooter, or bus.

The city is packed full of green spaces, with a wide variety of local walking routes including along the riverside, and more than 30 different wildlife sites, some of which are nationally important, including woodlands, wetlands, flowery meadows, heathlands and bogs.

For those keen to make the most of York's cycle paths, cycle maps and guides, along with information on York's e-scooter trial, can be found on the iTravel York website. York has a very extensive network of cycle routes and has the third highest level of cycling in the country.

York currently has the largest fleet of electric Park and Ride buses in the country, helping to cut air pollution in the city. To help you find your

way around by bus, iTravel York publishes a map showing bus routes across the city.

Car travel around York is also embracing the future, with increasing activity and infrastructure around electric cars. City of York Council is investing over £4 million to transform the public charging offer in York. This includes state of the art 'HyperHub' Ultra Rapid charging sites, with the first two opening at Monks Cross and Poppleton. There are electric vehicle recharging points across the city, supplied by a range of providers.

Further information on parking and travel can be found here.

York's connectivity strength is also digital! Delivery of a pure fibre broadband network in York is ongoing and ultra-fibre optical cables have been installed across the city, providing residents with ultra-fast broadband wherever they live and making it easier to work from home.



Shopping and leisure



York city centre is compact, with many of the shops set in the city's medieval and Georgian streets, and it is perhaps most famous for its specialist and independent stores and designer boutiques. [IndieYork](#) supports the city's independent businesses and provides a handy directory and map.

The open-air [Shambles Market](#) in the city centre is a great source of fresh produce, unique crafts and essential merchandise and includes a central food court with street food and live music.

York also houses major retail chains and big-name high street outlets with two major department stores, Fenwick and Browns, in the city centre. Out of town, there are also modern shopping complexes. The [York Designer Outlet](#) to the south of the city is home to 120

luxury and designer brand names, and [Vangarde Shopping Park](#) is home to the region's largest M&S store and one of York's two Next stores. [Monks Cross](#) and [Clifton Moor](#) also provide out of town shopping at high street stores.

The city boasts an impressive range of restaurants, suiting all tastes and budgets, and is renowned for both its thriving and elegant café culture and its multitude of friendly pubs, bars and lounges.

York has a varied and vibrant nightlife, ranging from real-ale pubs to clubs. Live music venues provide jazz, rock, folk, indie and acoustic and a thriving comedy scene. Key venues include [York Barbican](#), [The Crescent](#), [The Fulford Arms](#) and [Victoria Vaults](#).

York has two main theatres – the [York Theatre Royal](#) and the [Grand Opera House](#). There is also the 100-seat [Friargate Theatre](#) and the [Joseph Rowntree Theatre](#).

For film lovers, York has a choice of cinemas. In the city centre you can find the picture house [City Screen York](#) and the [Everyman Cinema](#); whilst [Vue York](#) is located on the outskirts of York at Clifton Moor, and [Cineworld](#) at York Community Stadium.



Attractions, events and festivals

There is always something to do in York, with numerous events and activities, too many to list here. On a day off, bank holiday or weekend, residents of York can:

- Stroll along the 2.5 miles of medieval walls which encircle the city, and sip a drink beside the beautiful River Ouse.
- Visit York's most prominent attraction – [York Minster](#), one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals and the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe.
- Visit the award-winning [National Railway Museum](#) – a fantastic, free day out spanning 200 years of railway history.
- Embark on a “unique, thrill-filled journey through 2000 years of York's murky history” at [The York Dungeon](#).

- Other highlights include [Jorvik Viking Centre](#), [Clifford's Tower](#), [York Castle Museum](#), [York Art Gallery](#), [York's Chocolate Story](#), [York City Cruises](#), [Shambles](#) and the [snickleways](#).

There is a year-round programme of events in York, including [Jorvik Viking Festival](#), [York Christmas market - St Nicholas Fair](#), [Aesthetica Short Film Festival](#) and the [York Food and Drink Festival](#).

The annual [York Residents Festival](#) takes place on the last weekend of January and offers the chance to explore the city and be a tourist for the weekend. The festival is a great way to discover York's visitor attractions for free and to wine and dine using discounted offers.



Education and employment

York benefits from consistently well-reviewed mainstream and academy schools. For information on schools, go to www.york.gov.uk/school-admissions/guide-parents/1 – You can find links to view catchment area maps online or download a guide for parents (updated for starting school in Sept 2022) and key dates and deadlines for applying.

York's independent schools are presented here – www.isc.co.uk/schools/england/yorkshire-area-north/york

- St Peter's School
- Bootham School
- The Mount School York
- Queen Margaret's School
- OneSchool Global UK York Campus
- Queen Ethelburga's College

If volunteering is of interest to you, you can find out more at www.york.gov.uk/VolunteeringOpportunities and www.yorkcvs.org.uk

There may be members of the family looking for employment opportunities in the city. You can find [support for jobseekers](#) on the City of York Council website, and information on training and upskilling at www.yorklearning.org.uk



Sport and recreation

Sports enthusiasts, whether spectators or participants, will love York's diverse range of amateur and professional sporting events and activities.

York Racecourse, one of the premier tracks in Europe, hosts 15 race meetings each year, which sees thousands of fans flocking to York.

York has its own football team – York City – now playing at its new venue at York Community Stadium. For rugby fans, York has the York City Knights Rugby League Team and a thriving York Rugby Union club.

York has an array of gyms and leisure centres across the city. York Sport Village and York Sport Centre are home to a fantastic range of gym, cycling, swimming, racquet and fitness facilities.

If golf is your passion, there are seven golf clubs in the York area, including the course at Fulford – a course regularly chosen to host county and international championships.

www.visitork.org/business-directory/category/things-to-do/get-active

www.livewellyork.co.uk



Health and wellbeing

York is served by the purpose-built York Hospital, with over 700 beds and an A&E department.

For local GP services information, [NHS Choices](#) publishes up to date information on local services, including GP, dental and specialist health providers.

There is also a range of [private health providers](#) in the York area including clinics and hospitals.

For information on where to find support with mental health go to www.york.gov.uk/mental-health/support-mental-health



Beyond York

Once you've explored the city it's time to venture further afield. York is surrounded by the stunning Yorkshire countryside and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with the Wolds and Howardian hills nearby. Countryside, coast, cities, stately homes, theme parks and outdoor pursuit centres are all within easy reach.

Some of the key areas and attractions outside of York include:

- the breath-taking landscapes of the North York Moors and the Yorkshire coast;
- the nearby towns of Pocklington, Malton, Harrogate and Beverley;
- and the complementary offers found in cities such as Leeds, Hull and Sheffield.



Useful links and subscriptions

For information on moving to York, finding accommodation and accessing Council services, go to:

<https://www.york.gov.uk/MovingToYork>

Subscribe to Visit York's weekly what's on guide '[7 Days](#)'

For ideas on things to do in and around York for families and children:

[Little Vikings](#)

[York Mumbler](#)

Maps and guides can be found on the [Visit York](#) website.

[York Pass](#) is a sightseeing card giving visitors free entry to top attractions, museums and monuments in York.

[York Family Information Service](#) provides a connection for parents, carers and young people, including information on child care providers in the York area.



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