



York Visitors' Guide

UFHRD Conference 2026



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YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

Welcome to

York

We hope you have a fulfilling experience at York St John University's University Forum for Human Resource Development (UFHRD) conference.

While you're here it's also a great opportunity to explore the city of York. Founded in 71 AD, there is almost two millennia of history beneath your feet as you wander its winding, cobbled streets. As a popular tourist destination in its own right, York has plenty to offer, regardless of age or interest, from a variety of museums and historical monuments to activities and events. This guide has some suggestions to help you get the most out of your stay, including the occasional discount.

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Thank you for visiting our city - we hope you enjoy your stay.



5 things you didn't know about York

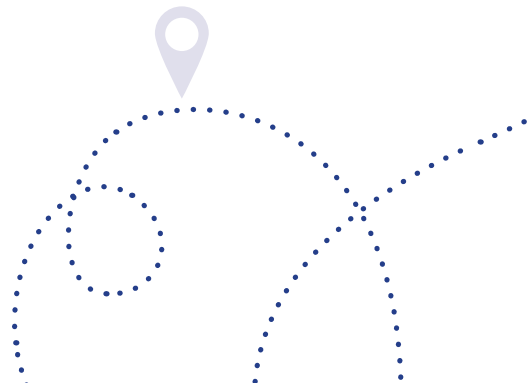
1 York Minster, where our students graduate, is the largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe and took over 250 years to build.

2 York is often claimed to be the most haunted city in Europe. From strange occurrences in pubs, to sightings of ghostly Roman soldiers, there are said to be over 1000 ghosts! Join one of the many ghost tours to hear some of the spooky stories!

3 It's not surprising the city has so many stories when it has such a long history. The city was founded and built in 71AD by the Romans. Constantine the Great was declared emperor here, you can see his statue outside York Minster.

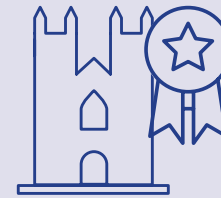
4 Chocolate is an important part of the city's history, with famous brands like Rowntree's and Terry's founded here. York still has a thriving chocolate making trade. If the wind is right, you can smell chocolate across the city.

5 Shambles is one of the oldest shopping streets in Europe. It's one of York's most popular places to visit and is now home to lots of independent shops and cafés.



York in numbers

York was founded by the Romans in **71 AD.**



York has been named the most popular city in the UK by YouGov.



At just over **2 miles** long, the beautifully preserved walls are the longest medieval city walls in England.

York is home to **23 festivals** throughout the year.



York welcomes almost



7 million visitors every year.

Transport

The city of York is easy to get around by foot, car and public transport.



Bus

York has a robust network of busses across the city, as well as extensive Park and Ride facilities which allow you to park outside the city centre and take the bus into the town for only the price of the bus ticket. For the most up to date information on bus times, routes and ticket prices, visit the iTravel York website:

www.itravelyork.info/buses

For mobile access to bus information and digital tickets, download the First Bus app from the Play Store or App Store.

www.firstbus.co.uk/york

Taxi

There are multiple taxi companies servicing York, with taxi ranks available across the city centre. For information on taxi companies, services available, and the location of taxi ranks across York, visit the York Council website:

www.york.gov.uk/taxis-directories

www.york.gov.uk/TaxiRanks

Car

Driving yourself could be a great option to see places both in York and around Yorkshire as a whole. If you would like more information regarding parking in York, visit the York council website:

www.york.gov.uk/CarParks

If you are looking for car hire within the city centre, you may consider Enterprise Rent-a-car, conveniently located near the train station:

www.enterprise.co.uk/en/car-hire-locations/uk/york.html

York Pass

A York Pass could be useful for your trip, especially if you plan on staying beyond the dates of the conference. Starting from **£65** for adults, the pass grants you access to 35 different attractions.

For 10% off use code YSJ2026 at checkout.

yorkpass.com



Walking maps

If you're looking to get out of the city and enjoy more of the countryside, these are several of York residents' favourite walks, with a range of terrains and lengths to choose from. The Solar System Greenway is a popular choice, with scale models of the planets and sun in our solar system marking your progress along, each relatively spaced to each other, representing just how big our Solar System is. Follow the link below for fantastic resources regarding this, and many other trails in and around York.

itravelyork.info/walking-maps

History and heritage

The Bar Convent

17 Blossom Street

Started in secret by a group of religious Sisters at a time when Catholicism was outlawed, the Bar Convent still stands as the oldest living convent in the UK today. Pay them a visit and step back in time to learn about the fascinating journey of these women.

barconvent.co.uk

City Cruises

Lendal Bridge Landing or King's Staith Landing

York's City Cruises allow you to see York from a whole new perspective from the River Ouse. With several options to choose from, you can enjoy some unique sightseeing, indulge in fish and chips or strawberries and cream, or even hire your own self-drive boat.

20% off standard sightseeing cruise using code 'UFHRD20', 10% off self-drive cruise using code 'UFHRD10'. Use codes at checkout when booking your experience.

www.cityexperiences.com/york/city-cruises



Clifford's Tower

Tower Street

The only surviving tower of a once great fortress, Clifford's Tower holds a lot of history. You'll be sure to spot it while walking around York as a unique part of the landscape, but it's also well worth a visit to learn about its stories from the last thousand years, or to take in the panoramic views from the top of the tower.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/cliffords-tower-york

Holy Trinity Church

Goodramgate

Predominantly built in the fifteenth century, the Holy Trinity Church stands close by to the towering minster but is perhaps just as beautiful. A quiet and serene escape from the rest of the city, be sure to stop in and view its beautiful stained glass and enjoy a tranquil moment.

www.visitchurches.org.uk/visit/our-churches/holy-trinity-church-york-north-yorkshire

Merchant Adventurers Hall

Fossgate

The Merchant Adventurers Hall is still in use after 660 years of unbroken tradition of entrepreneurship right in the heart of York. Explore its history and marvel at its architecture, or enjoy a cup of tea in the gardens outside.

www.merchantshallyork.org

York City Walls

First built in 71 AD, York walls are visible, and mostly walkable to this day. Encompassing the entire city centre, walking along the walls is a fantastic way not just to get from A to B, but to sightsee across the city as you go, and truly immerse yourself in our ancient city's past.

www.yorkwalls.org.uk

York Library, archive and grounds

Library Square

If you're looking for a quiet spot to do some work, grab some lunch and get away from the hustle and bustle, you might want to take a seat in York's Library. Whilst visiting, check out the ruins around the library, which were once St Leonards Hospital, in operation during the medieval period.

exploreyork.org.uk/libraries/york-explore

York Minster

Deansgate

The most iconic part of the city's skyline is York Minster. It's also where York St John University students graduate. This has been an important landmark for over a century. Its history includes stories of emperors, royal weddings, baptisms, burials, treasons, fires and saints. The minster has been at the heart of many significant points in York's history, and still is today. Even if the historical or religious significance of this colossal building does not entice you, its scale and beauty is worth taking in.

yorkminster.org



Guides and tours

AVG Walking Tour

York City Art Gallery, Exhibition Square

Free tour

The Association of Voluntary Guides runs two 2 hour tours every day, where they'll tell you all about York's rich history. Book ahead and meet them outside the Art Gallery at 10.30am or 1.15pm to be shown around some of York's famous historic sites.

avgyork.co.uk

Cat Trail

Free tour

If you're looking for an alternative way to tour York, the cat trail might be what you're looking for! The city is full of cat statues, perched on roofs and windowsills above the crowds. If you're wanting to stretch your legs and look up at places most tourists often miss, have a go at finding them all.

www.catsinyork.com



The Deathly Dark Tours

Any city as old as York is bound to have some skeletons in its closet, or under the paving stones! Deathly Dark Tours will show you the creepier side of York with their true crime and ghost tours.

For 10% off, use code "UFHRD26" at checkout when booking a tour online (valid from 15 to 21 June 2026)

www.deathlydarktours.com

The Ghost Bus Tours

Station Road

If you're looking for something to do during the evening, you can get your spooky fix with York's Ghost Bus Tours! Every evening, you'll see a haunted bus roaming the roads, carrying its passengers across town to haunted points of interest, like Clifford's Tower, the Minster, and even infamous highwayman Dick Turpin's grave.

theghostbustours.com/york

The Original Ghost Walk of York

The Kings Arms Pub, 3 King's Staith

York is claimed to be one of the most haunted city in Europe. Join your tour guide on the Ghost Walk to see some of the best hotspots for supernatural activity. As you walk through its cobbled streets, you'll learn about the darker side of the city's history, and have a ghoulishly good time.

www.theoriginalghostwalkofyork.co.uk



York Quests

If you'd like a bit more freedom in your guided tour, this is a fun way to engage with the city. York Quest supplies you with your very own gamified tour of York. Choose between their Roman or Ghost Quests and solve the riddles as you make your way around the city.

For 25% off your quest, enter the discount code UFHRD25 when booking.

www.yorkquests.co.uk

Museums



Jorvik Viking Centre

Coppergate

Jorvik is one of York's most popular attractions. It brings the city's Viking history to life through museum exhibits, live actors, and a ride through the sights, sounds and smells of a recreated Viking street.

www.jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk

Barley Hall

Coffee Yard

See how the other half lived, in this stunning medieval town house that once was home to the Lord Mayor of York. With the oldest parts of the building dating back to 1360, Barley Hall has been lovingly restored to its former glory, and its secrets have been uncovered in the process.

www.barleyhall.co.uk

Castle Museum

Tower Street

Walk through the annals of history at the Castle Museum. From Kirkgate's recreation of 19th century life, to the funky interiors of the swinging sixties, the carefully executed exhibits will have you feeling like you have truly stepped back through time.

www.yorkcastlemuseum.org.uk

Fairfax House

Castlegate

This historic Georgian Townhouse has stood in the centre of the city for over 250 years. Visit them to learn about the house's history, with their impressive collections of artworks, furniture, books, ceramics and architecture from the period.

fairfaxhouse.co.uk

National Railway Museum

Leeman Road

Explore over 200 years of locomotive history at the National Railway Museum. Indulge in afternoon tea in a beautifully restored railway carriage, or ride on the Flying Scotsman in their VR experience.

www.railwaymuseum.org.uk

York's Cold War Bunker

Monument Close

The Cold War Bunker ceased operations as a monitor of nuclear activity back in 1992, but its doors are still open today as a part of our heritage. Take a tour and put yourself in the shoes of the brave men and women who once staffed this macabre monument to the cold war.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/york-cold-war-bunker

Yorkshire Air Museum

Halifax Way, Elvington

Just outside the city lies the UK largest independent aviation museum. From pre-World War two to iconic Cold War jets, visit to explore the history of our skies and the planes that have protected them.

yorkshireairmuseum.org

York Army Museum

3 Tower Street

Home to the collections of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and the Royal Dragoon Guards, the York Army Museum explores over 300 years of British military history.

yorkarmymuseum.co.uk

York Mansion House

St Helen's Square

The Mansion House is the country's oldest purpose-built house for a Lord Mayor. While the Lord Mayor of York today resides elsewhere, the house has been restored, and is full of interesting collections and exhibits. There's a fully functional 18th century kitchen, a cabinet of curiosities, and lots to learn about the city's civic history.

www.mansionhouseyork.com



Yorkshire Museum

Museum Gardens

This museum explores the landscape of Yorkshire from the Romans who founded the city and the Vikings who shaped it, all the way back to the Jurassic and Mesolithic periods.

www.yorkshiremuseum.org.uk

Parks and green space



Dean's Park

2 Minster Yard

Behind the Minster is a small but quiet park, perfect for finding some peace in the middle of the city. The park hosts events from sensory trails to open air theatre, so be sure to check to see what's on during your visit.

yorkminster.org/visit/families/explore-our-green-spaces



Rowntree Park

Terry Avenue

This park was a gift to the city of York by the Rowntree company, a prominent confectioner who helped to establish York's rich, chocolatey history. Today it provides a lovely, peaceful and expansive green space just a short walk from the city centre. Visit the Reading Café, spot the ducks, geese and swans in the ornamental lake, or get active and play a game of tennis or basketball on their many courts.

www.york.gov.uk/directory-record/2816/rowntree-park

Museum Gardens

Museum Street

A large park in the middle of the city centre, Museum Gardens houses not only the Yorkshire Museum, but also the ruins of St Mary's Abbey, and the stunning Hospitium, built in the 14th century. The park also regularly has visiting birds of prey during the summer, as well as a few stands to buy drinks and snacks. Being directly adjacent to the river with multiple points of entry, it also makes a good spot to start off your exploration of the River Ouse.

www.yorkmuseumgardens.org.uk





Attractions

Thin Ice Press

St Anthony's Garden

Thin Ice Press: the York Centre for Print works to secure the future of traditional printing, not just preserving the past but bringing it to life. Visit their gallery and studio to discover York's vibrant history of print, browse their website for hands-on workshops, or get in touch to discuss team-building days and support for your research culture.

Show this guide for 10% off in the shop or gallery.

www.thinicepress.org

Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience

Castlegate

Immerse yourself in the world of Vincent Van Gogh through this curated experience of projected lights and crafted soundscape. Projected across the walls of St Mary's, you will be surrounded on all sides by the moving works and life story of the artist. Be sure to book ahead of time.

www.vangoghexpo.co.uk



York Art Gallery Exhibition Square

Alongside the permanent collection at York Art Gallery, during the conference a special exhibition, Waves: The Art of the Japanese Woodblock Print, will be on display. This extensive collection even includes the famous Great Wave Off Kanagawa.

www.yorkartgallery.org.uk

York's Cocoa Works

10 Castlegate

York is sometimes known as the City of Chocolate, and York's Cocoa Works is making sure it still lives up to this legacy. As an active manufacturer right in the heart of the city, visitors can come in to buy and taste all their offerings, or even to take part through workshops and events.

Use code "UFHRD" when booking workshops and activities for a 10% discount.

www.yorkcocoaahouse.co.uk

York's Chocolate Story

Kings Square

If you want to learn more about York's rich history with confectionary, from Rowntree's classic fruit pastilles to Terry's iconic chocolate orange, then look no further. York's chocolate story offers a unique, fun and interactive way to walk through the cities past, with some tasty treats along the way.

www.yorkschocolatestory.com



Please note that this guide is provided for convenience only, and does not constitute official recommendations or endorsements.



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