

North of England itinerary

Sumptuous Georgian gardens, medieval castles and literary heritage await you in the north of England, along with the warmth and hospitality the region is famous for. You'll discover the awe-inspiring sights of the Lake District, taste delicious local cuisine and see what inspired many of England's poets.



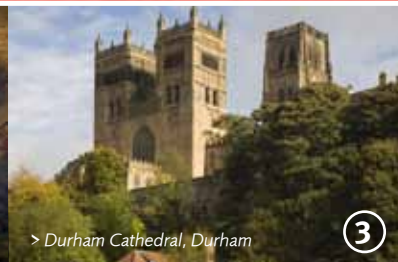
> Beatles heritage, Liverpool

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> Lake District, Cumbria

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> Durham Cathedral, Durham

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> The Shambles, York

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1 Liverpool (Day 1)

Liverpool is famous for its maritime heritage, legendary 60s pop group The Beatles and one of the UK's biggest Premiership football clubs. It is reputedly the UK's friendliest city, so if you need directions, just ask.

Take a guided tour of the elegant Albert Dock, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and visit The Beatles Story museum where you'll learn more about the famous band, their impact on music and why Liverpool is known to this day as the world capital of Pop.

After visiting some of England's best galleries, Tate Liverpool and the Walker Art Gallery among them, join the city's many revellers at the trendy bars and restaurants of Seel Street to sample the lively Liverpool nightlife.



> Albert Dock, Liverpool

2 Lake District (Day 2)

On the following day, make your way north to Cumbria and the inspirational landscapes of the Lake District National Park. The beauty of the Lake District has proved an irresistible lure to poets and artists for hundreds of years, from William Wordsworth to John Constable. While you're here, make a point of visiting Wordsworth's former homes, Rydal Mount and Dove Cottage, which you'll find in the captivating country town of Grasmere.

From Grasmere head to Windermere and take a cruise on the beautiful lake of the same name, before visiting the Steam Boat Collection of 18th, 19th and 20th century sailing craft. Back on dry land, take to the hills and explore the dramatic countryside with local operator Mountain Goat. You'll soon see why visitors flock here in such huge numbers as you climb England's highest peaks, and experience the incredible views of this exquisite national park.

3 Durham (Day 3)

It's a tough decision but if you don't have time to see everything, head south past Newcastle/Gateshead, a vibrant and friendly city full of great museums, galleries and excellent shopping, and go straight to Durham.

Over 1,000 years old, the city of Durham is best known for its medieval cathedral and castle, both of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites and great places to begin exploring. Durham is a thriving old university city with a rich character and a lively pace, thanks in part to the buzz of its student population. You'll find a flourishing café culture, top-notch restaurants, boutique shopping, historic indoor markets and speciality shops.

When evening falls, enjoy some lively entertainment at the city's 500-seat Gala Theatre with its year-round programme of musicals, drama and comedy.

4 Yorkshire (Day 4)

Yorkshire is home to two of England's most famous national parks: the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors. The historic towns of Ripon and Skipton are excellent bases, particularly for the Dales. They're also full of heritage, bustling markets, great local food and the humour and friendliness for which Yorkshire people are famed. Skipton Castle is well worth a visit for a taste of medieval life in these parts.

After a morning in the fresh air, spend the afternoon in the ancient city of York with its staggering Gothic cathedral, York Minster. Make your way among the historic buildings lining The Shambles, a cobbled medieval street and one of the city's most popular attractions. This busy passage, once populated by butchers, is now home to some of the best shopping in York.

York was once the capital of a Viking kingdom, and this ancient heritage is tightly bound up in the unique character of the city. Visit the Jorvik Centre to learn about life under the rule of the Vikings 1,000 years ago. In the evening take a York ghost tour and hear some of the city's darker secrets.



> Lake District, Cumbria

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Other things to see and do

1 BALTIC – Newcastle Gateshead

Newcastle Gateshead is home to BALTIC Centre of Contemporary Arts, the largest gallery of its kind in the world. Located in a landmark industrial building on the banks of the famous River Tyne in Gateshead, BALTIC presents a diverse, international and constantly changing calendar of exhibitions and activities. Expect to see everything from blockbuster exhibitions to innovative new works and projects.

www.balticmill.com

2 Royal Armouries Museum – Leeds

The Royal Armouries is Britain's national museum of arms and armour. At the Leeds Museum in Yorkshire, there are over 8,500 objects on display in five galleries themed on War, Tournament, Oriental, Self Defence and Hunting. Visit the Tournament Gallery and learn about the infamous Henry VIII - monarch and accomplished sportsman. Watch out for the exciting seasonal events programme and Hands On History talks and demonstrations.

www.royalarmouries.org

3 Harewood House & Bird Garden – Leeds

One of England's greatest country houses, Harewood House has been owned by the Lascelles family for over 250 years. The estate's collection of furniture, sculptures, ceramics and paintings are remarkable and leave the visitor in no doubt about the family's continuing commitment to contemporary artists through the ages, including JMW Turner. Harewood has over 100 acres of gardens landscaped by the famous gardener Capability Brown. While you're there enjoy Harewood's Bird Garden. It houses over 90 species of birds, including exotic penguins and macaws, making it one of England's most important collections.

www.harewood.org

food & drink

Zouk Tea Bar & Grill

The Quadrangle, Chester Street, Manchester M1 5QS
www.zoukteabar.co.uk

Panoramic Restaurant

West Tower, 34th Floor, Brook Street, Liverpool L3 9PJ
www.panoramicaliverpool.com

The Hideaway at Windermere

Phoenix Way, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 1DB
www.thehideawayatwindermere.co.uk

Cafe21 at Fenwick

First Floor, French Salon, Fenwick, 39 Northumberland Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear NE99 1AR
www.cafe21fenwick.co.uk

Gourmet Spot

The Avenue, Durham City DH1 4DX
www.gourmet-spot.co.uk

Melton's

7 Scarcroft Road, York YO23 1ND
www.meltonsrestaurant.co.uk

where to stay

The Lowry

50 Dearmans Place, Chapel Wharf, Salford M3 5LH
www.roccofortecollection.co.uk

Hard Days Night Hotel

Central Buildings, North John Street, Liverpool L2 6RR
www.harddaysnighthotel.co.uk

Overwater Hall

Ireby, Cumbria CA7 1HH
www.overwaterhall.co.uk

Marriott Hotel Royal County Durham

Old Elvet, Durham, County Durham DH1 3JN
www.marriott.co.uk

Hotel Noir

3-5 Clifton Green, York YO30 6LH
www.hotelnoir.co.uk

The Leeds Mal

1 Swinegate, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS1 4AG
www.malmaison.com

