



History and Horticulture

This four-day itinerary has been developed to provide the perfect experience for customers interested in soaking up culture, heritage and horticulture in England. It is packed with ideas and locations that take in the heart of North Yorkshire and the Howardian Hills, while also allowing free time to explore, and giving suggestions for added extras that allow visitors to get the most out of their time here.

Locations in **bold** are bookable online, those in ***bold italics*** are not bookable online but have a charge to enter, and those in *italics* are free of charge.

Day One

Whether arriving by ferry or flying, North Yorkshire is easy to get to. Arrive by ferry into Hull (P&O) or to Newcastle (DFDS). If you prefer to fly, you can choose from Leeds Bradford Airport, Teesside International Airport or Newcastle International Airport. York, which has many connections to the wider North Yorkshire area can also be easily reached by train direct from London King's Cross or Manchester.

Once you have settled into your accommodation, take the scenic journey through the Howardian Hills National Landscape to **Castle Howard**, one of England's finest historic houses and gardens.

Take your time over lunch in the Boathouse Café, overlooking the Great Lake. The grounds here are breathtaking and the gardens have been designed on a monumental scale with over 1,000 acres to explore. You'll find statues, lakes, temples and fountains along with an 18th century walled garden. Before you head off, pop into the estate shop to take home a memento of your visit.



IF THERE'S TIME

Make your way to Malton (just a 10min drive from Castle Howard) and taste your way around this traditional market town that is filled with artisan producers, independent shops and great places to enjoy delicious food & drink.

Day Two

You'll find history and heritage around every corner in the Victorian spa town of Harrogate. Step inside the free-to-enter *Mercer Art Gallery* where you can take some time to explore its rotating exhibitions.

A short walk from the *Mercer Art Gallery* and you'll find the **Royal Pump Room Museum**, where you can explore the building where people would come to take the spa waters and indulge in intriguing spa treatments or why not indulge yourself and enjoy a traditional Victorian spa experience at Harrogate's **Turkish Baths**, one of Britain's most fully restored Victorian Turkish Baths. Take a stroll through the immaculate 17-acre English Heritage Grade II Listed *Valley Gardens* and walk in the footsteps of the Victorian visitors that would promenade here.

IF THERE'S TIME

Take a leisurely stroll from the *Valley Gardens* to **RHS Garden Harlow Carr**. Here you can experience a showcase of horticultural excellence all year round! Wander through the tranquil surroundings of this stunning 58 acre garden and gain ideas for your own garden or simply relax amongst the beautiful surroundings.

Don't Miss

Take a historic guided tour of Castle Howard. Enjoy a tour of the 18th century house, where the knowledgeable guides can lead you through the inspiring building highlighting the world-renowned collections of furniture, paintings, bronze, and china.



Day Three

Make your way to one of the UK's smallest cities, Ripon, a short 25 minute drive or 40 minute bus ride from Harrogate via the number 36. Although small, this city has a big character, a beautiful cathedral at its centre and cobbled streets lined with cafés and shops to browse and explore. Visit *Ripon Cathedral* which is free to enter and explore what this little city has to offer.

Just outside of Ripon city centre, you'll find the breathtaking ruins of **Fountains Abbey and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Studley Royal Water Garden**. This National Trust site is a must-visit and the perfect place to spend an afternoon. Explore one of the largest and best-preserved ruined Cistercian monasteries in England and wander through the elegant ornamental lakes, canals, temples and cascades of the Water Garden which provide a succession of dramatic eye-catching vistas. You may even recognise this site from the big screen as it features in Netflix series *The Witcher* and the *28 Years Later* films.

Don't Miss

Visit Ripon during the evening and at 9pm every night you can witness one of the world's oldest running traditions of the Ripon Hornblower. Each night a horn is blown at the four corners of the Obelisk in Ripon Market Place to set the 'watch'. A tradition dating back to the Middle Ages when Ripon's first citizen, the Wakeman, was responsible for crime prevention in the city.



Day Four

It's easy to spend a day at the beautiful **Newby Hall & Gardens** in Ripon. Here you will find one of Britain's finest Adam Houses with an exceptional example of 18th century interior decoration, all set amongst 25 acres of award-winning gardens, including one of Europe's largest double herbaceous borders. Enjoy a guided tour of the house, while away a few hours wandering through the gardens, and stop by at the charming bear and dollhouse exhibitions.

IF THERE'S TIME

We recommend a visit to Knaresborough. Take a short 10-minute train ride from Harrogate and you will arrive in this pretty riverside town. Climb the steep steps to the castle gardens and you will be treated to spectacular views over the River Nidd and viaduct. Here you can explore the Castle ruins and **Courtroom Museum** to discover Knaresborough's colourful history or head to the riverside to enjoy a coffee, ice cream or take out a rowing boat.

For more inspiration for your visit to North Yorkshire, go to: visitnorthyorkshire.com

Don't Miss

There are lots of must-dos whilst staying in the Harrogate area. Fill your evenings by catching a show at **Harrogate Theatre** or the **Royal Hall**. A visit to Harrogate is not complete without picking up a treat from Bettys Tea Rooms located in the centre of the town, indulge in a traditional English Afternoon tea, pick up one of their famous Fat Rascals from the shop or dine here for your evening meal (from 6pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.)