



# Starring North Yorkshire

This six-day itinerary has been developed to provide the perfect experience for those interested in exploring behind-the-scenes of iconic films and TV series. It is packed with ideas and locations from across North Yorkshire, while 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 with a cost, those in ***bold italics*** are free of charge but require booking, and those in *italics are free of charge* with no need to book.

## Day One

Whether arriving by ferry or flying, North Yorkshire is easy to reach. Arrive by ferry into Hull (P&O) or into 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.

Head straight to the market town of Malton, where you'll find a range of cafés and pubs where you can enjoy locally grown food served in delicious meals. Browse the pretty market place filled with independent shops offering an eclectic mix of unique gifts, homewares, food, and antiques.

## Day Two

A 20 minute (16km) drive or 30 minute bus journey via the number 81 bus through the beautiful Howardian Hills brings you to **Castle Howard**, one of England's finest stately homes which served as a key filming location for *Bridgerton* and has also starred in old classics like *Brideshead Revisited* and *Death Comes To Pemberley*.





Join a Filming Location Guided Tour to step into locations featured in some of the most popular productions and admire the stunning formal gardens and elegant stately rooms.

A 25 minute (20km) drive will take you to Helmsley, a popular market town with a market square and range of shops, pubs and cafes. **Helmsley Walled Garden** (open Wednesday–Sunday) is a floral haven, famous for its vibrant blooms and elegant floral arches. It featured in the 2020 adaptation of *The Secret Garden* and lies beneath the imposing ruins of **Helmsley Castle**, where 900 years of history awaits. Marvel at spectacular birds of prey displays at the nearby **National Birds of Prey Centre**, or enjoy a walk around the majestic **Rievaulx Abbey**, England's most complete abbey ruin, set in a peaceful wooded valley.

Spend your evening at one of the town's pubs and restaurants where you're guaranteed a warm welcome and delicious food.

### Day Three

Make your way to Pickering, an attractive town with antique shops, a weekly market and 13th century **Pickering Castle**, which offers spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

Pickering's 1930s themed station is the starting point for your journey on the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway**, a steam operated heritage railway line that winds its way through the stunning North York Moors National Park to Whitby, and also doubled as King's Cross in the 2019 *Downton Abbey* film. The Railway also provided a stunning backdrop for a key action scene in *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One*, which saw Tom Cruise jumping onto a moving train as it sped through the rugged landscapes near Levisham station. Grosmont Station, another charming stop along the railway, was transformed into a World War II setting for an exhilarating escape scene in *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*.



If you're a fan of the 1960s era TV series *Heartbeat*, a visit to the moorland village of Goathland is essential. Many of the show's iconic locations remain, including the Aicensfield Arms pub and Scripps' garage.

### Did you know?

Goathland station doubled as Hogsmeade in *Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone*, which in the film is where the Hogwarts Express steamed in.

When you reach Whitby, climb the 199 steps to **Whitby Abbey**, inspiration for Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, for panoramic views of the town below, or visit the **Captain Cook Museum** to find out about the maritime explorer's history. Explore the cobbled streets below, packed with quirky shops and independent cafés. Enjoy the seaside air along the Pier, take in the view from the whalebone arch overlooking the harbour and when hunger strikes, take your pick from a range of seafood restaurants and fish & chips shops before returning to Pickering.

### Don't miss...

When visiting Pickering or Whitby, be sure to stop by at Botham's Tea Room – a beloved institution run by the fifth generation of the same family. Try their famous Lemon Bun, or take home a slice of Yorkshire Brack, a rich, sticky fruit cake.



## Day Four

Travel to Thirsk via the scenic Sutton Bank where you can call into the *Sutton Bank National Park Centre* (open daily) or stretch your legs on a walk past the iconic Kilburn White Horse and admire the “finest view in England”. Thirsk boasts a medieval cobbled square lined with independent cafés and shops, and is home to the **World of James Herriot**, the former home and veterinary practice of renowned vet and author James “Alfred” Wight, whose stories were brought to life in the beloved *All Creatures Great and Small* TV series and books.

Make your way to one of the UK’s smallest cities, Ripon, a short 25 minute (25km) drive away. 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.

## Day Five

Just outside 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, which regularly features on the big screen, 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 past the elegant ornamental lakes, canals, temples and cascades of the Water Garden which provide a succession of dramatic eye-catching vistas.

### 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.



You may even recognise this site from the big screen as it features in Netflix series *The Witcher*, as well as the 2025 Danny Boyle film *28 Years Later*.

It's easy to spend an afternoon at the beautiful **Newby Hall & Gardens**, one of Britain's finest Adam Houses. Set in 25 acres of award-winning gardens, including one of Europe's largest double herbaceous borders, the house's stunning interiors have played a starring role in many period dramas including *Peaky Blinders* and *Mansfield Park*. Enjoy a guided tour of the house, visit the charming bear and dollhouse exhibitions, or wander the peaceful gardens

## Day Six

Drive into the Dales or take the number 822 bus to Grassington and enjoy sweeping views of rolling hills and stone-walled fields along the way. Welcome to the heart of Herriot country, where the beauty of the Yorkshire Dales set the scene for the beloved *All Creatures Great and Small* series.

Grassington stars as the charming fictional town of Darrowby, with its quaint cobbled square serving as the starting point for picturesque walks in the area. Many of the town's shopfronts were transformed for filming, and you'll find many cosy cafés for a tasty meal in between exploring. Call into the town's pub, which doubles as the exterior of *The Drovers Inn* in the series, or stroll along the riverbank and soak up the views.

The picturesque Malham Cove, a towering limestone cliff with a striking pavement, was used as a key filming location in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Nearby landmarks including Gordale Scar and Janet's Foss have also appeared in *The Witcher* and *All Creatures Great and Small* and provide stunning walks in the area.

**For more inspiration for your visit to North Yorkshire, go to:**  
**[visitnortheyorkshire.com](https://www.visitnortheyorkshire.com)**