



Evening York

York certainly knows how to party – after all, the city does have almost 2,000 years experience in this field! The Romans started it all, of course, dressed up to the nines in their togas. The Vikings – well, their alleged antics may have earned themselves a reputation similar to that of a stag party on the rampage, but they did have a more civilised side to their nature too! Medieval times saw the introduction of a social life revolving around the city’s inns, with plenty of entertainment on the streets as well. And then there were the Georgians – the wealthiest and most fashionable Londoners built the elegant townhouses that you see in York today, so that they could come up and enjoy the famously good social life of the city on a regular basis, visiting the theatre, dining and entertaining every night of the week.

Today, York has so many pubs, bars and wine bars that you could choose a different one for every night of the year – if you had the stamina! The beautiful city centre is compact and largely pedestrianised making it a great place to cruise from one place to another during the evening. Ghost walks, moonlit river cruises and pub trails all add to the endless possibilities for a fun-packed evening. Indulge in drama, dance, pantomime, comedy, debate and youth theatre at York Theatre Royal which has been at the heart of York’s cultural offering for centuries or get the West End experience for less at York’s Grand Opera House – hosting many travelling big stage productions throughout year and offering variety for everyone. The newly re-opened York Barbican is putting York back on the map for live music, or if you prefer something more classical and intimate the National Centre for Early Music hosts a real variety of concerts throughout the year.

In a city which has just as much to offer by night as it does by day, evening activities in the heart of this historic city are plentiful...

Soak up the atmosphere in one of York’s many unique pubs and bars...

York is packed with pubs, bars and wine bars – many with fascinating histories and more lively spirits than just those in the bottles behind the bar, and York is blessed with a raft of unusual venues and some of the UK’s oldest pubs: The Golden Fleece on Pavement claims the reputation for being the most haunted pub in Britain; a former Elim Pentecostal church on Swinegate provides a grand setting for cocktails in the form of

the Biltmore Bar and ghostly figures have been seen warming themselves by the fire in the Old White Swan on Goodramgate, dating from the 16th century.

It is claimed that in York you can have a drink in a different place every night of the year, so here are a few suggestions to get you started....

The Blue Bell – 53 Fossgate

Tel: 01904 654904

Possibly the smallest pub in York, The Blue Bell is a hidden gem on Fossgate. They have real fires in winter.

Judges Lodging – 9 Lendal Street

Tel: 01904 638733

www.judgeslodgings.com

Part of the Judges Lodging hotel, this is a cellar bar with plenty of character and choice of ales. It is divided into three small, brick-walled, low ceiling rooms. It is very busy in the summer, as it has one of the most popular beer gardens in York.

The Black Swan – Peasholme Green

Tel: 01904 679131

www.blackswanyork.com

Originally built as a rich merchants home, this is one of the best surviving Tudor buildings in York, and a tourist attraction within its own right.

The Golden Fleece – Pavement.

Tel: 01904 625171

www.goldenfleece.yorkwebsites.co.uk

Originally belonged to the Merchant Adventurers who were responsible for the woollen trade on the River Ouse, this is the oldest and most haunted coaching inn in York, dating back to at least 1503. And if you think that the floors are a little uneven, you haven't had too many – the building is made entirely around a wooden frame and has no foundations.

The Old White Swan – Goodramgate

Tel: 01904 540911

Also called the 'Mucky Duck' – this pub has a great atmosphere, alongside a friendly landlord and live bands. One of the few pubs in York with a pinball machine, this pub attracts both students and locals for a lively evening.

The Roman Bath – St Sampsons Square

Tel: 01904 620455

The pub stands on the site of an old Roman bath house, the remains of which are now one of the pubs main attractions along with its bath-scene murals, stone statues and stained glass windows.

The Royal Oak – 18 Goodramgate

Tel: 01904 653856

Located just a stones throw away from York Minster, this 16th century award-winning inn has a warm and cosy atmosphere. It serves a range of traditional ales, as well as delicious home-cooked food.

The Snickleway Inn – Goodramgate

Tel: 01904 656138

www.thesnicklewayinn.co.uk

Very traditional pub in every way - with no fewer than nine ghosts and a male voice choir serenade the drinkers once a week.

Ye Olde Starre Inne

40 Stonegate, York

Tel: 01904 623063

York's oldest licensed inn (est. 1644), located on Stonegate – one of York's most historic streets. The main block at the back of the yard is mid 16th century, the left hand block is c.1600. Originally there was a coaching yard in front. But with the coming of the railways in 1840 this became redundant, and the yard was infilled with a shop fronting Stonegate, hence the long passage to the pub. The Starre had stabling behind leading Lop Lane (now Duncombe Place) and this was used as stabling for circus and theatrical parties from the Theatre Royal; so the pub was a resort for Actors.

York Brewery Pubs

The city is also home to the award-winning York Brewery, offering daily guided tours on the site of its working brewery which produces over 46,000 pints of real ale each week at its location within the city walls. York's very own award-winning ales, including 'Guzzler' and 'Centurion's Ghost Ale' can be sampled at four York Brewery pubs across the city. Visitors can even enjoy a pint of York's very own 'Yorkshire Terrier' ale at The Yorkshire Terrier pub.

Established in 1996, York Brewery is both a tourist attraction and a working brewery, providing customers locally and around the country with the first traditionally brewed ales from within the walls of York for over 40 years.

Their brewery on Toft Green, Micklegate, includes **The Tap Room** where as well as having a tour of the working brewery visitors can sit back in a relaxed and informal atmosphere and enjoy the smells drifting from the brewery whilst reading the newspaper and enjoying a pint of cask ale. There is also a small retail shop where various brewery merchandise can be purchased including York Brewery home brew kits, and the five different bottle brands brewed by the brewery.

Tel: 01904 621162, www.york-brewery.co.uk

The Last Drop Inn – 27 Colliergate

Tel: 01904 621951

Called 'York Brewery's First Pub', the Last Drop Inn has been open since the year 2000. They stock a nice selection of York Brewery's beer and guest ales. Quality snacks also available. A pub with a slightly different pub policy... no jukeboxes, no game machines and and no children so you can relax and enjoy a drink in the heart of the city with some peace and quiet.

The Three Legged Mare – 15 High Petergate

Tel: 01904 638246

Takes its name from a traditional three man hanging device, a replica of which can be seen in the garden. The pub is a lively venue with regular live music and a warm and friendly welcome.

Yorkshire Terrier – 10 Stonegate

Tucked behind the York Brewery gift shop, The Yorkshire Terrier is a charming inn with a warm and friendly welcome, a great range of cask ales, spirits, wines and lagers. A great place to rest weary feet after enjoying the sights of historic York.

Enjoy a taste of York in Europe's fifth best food and wine destination...

Named by TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel site, as Europe's fifth best and the UK's top food and wine destination, York offers a whole host of eateries to enjoy in the evening, including:

Ask At the Assembly Rooms – Blake Street

Tel: 01904 637254

A chain restaurant - but when you look inside there is nothing "chain-like" about it. Situated in the grandiose setting of the Assembly Rooms, Ask makes for a very impressive, yet inexpensive evening. Unpretentious, in luxurious surroundings.

Blue Bicycle – 34 Fossgate

Tel: 01904 673990

www.thebluebicycle.com

Expensive but relaxed with an unparalleled reputation. The restaurant takes the blue theme to heart in its décor and design.

Café Concerto – High Petergate

Tel: 01904 610478

www.cafeconcerto.biz

A café by day and a candlelight restaurant by night – Café Concerto is York's best kept secret! A favourite with locals, it has established a huge reputation for fine food and relaxed continental atmosphere. A licensed restaurant in the evening, it is a truly independent bistro, which is well worth a visit.

31 Castlegate

31 Castlegate, York

Tel: 01904 621404

www.31castlegate.co.uk

This former Georgian home ideally located next to Clifford's Tower serves contemporary European cuisine in impressive period surroundings. Seasonal ingredients and local produce make up a constantly changing menu. Open throughout the day for tempting light bites, the first floor dining room is transformed in the evening with soft candlelight.

Café No.8 Bistro

Tel: 01904 653074

www.cafeno8.co.uk

Café No.8 Bistro is a small restaurant that blends period features with modern décor. The tranquil ambience of the City Walled garden is only interrupted by the sound of the Minster chimes. The Bistro provides excellent food from a menu that changes seasonally, using fresh locally sourced ingredients wherever possible. Influenced by flavours from around the world, their new menu reflects a love of food and has a wide appeal. The restaurant has a relaxed atmosphere and welcomes families. Service is courteous and attentive without being formal. Café No.8 Bistro is situated on the Bootham end of Gillygate,

just around the corner from Bootham Bar and York Minster. The gardens back onto the city walls and are hugely popular in the summer months.

J Bakers Bistro Moderne – 7 Fossgate

Tel: 01904 622688

www.jbakers.co.uk

With an eclectic mix of modern, international cuisine set against a backdrop of the trendiest of contemporary interiors, J. Bakers is one of the most popular eating and meeting establishments in York. Owned by Michelin starred chef Jeff Baker, the restaurant provides outstanding service and quality of food, complemented by a comprehensive wine list, which should suit all tastes. For something different, enjoy the 'Graze By Night' experience - designed to enable diners to experience a 7 course meal, with many different tastes and texture. Chocoholics can experience the special chocolate treats menu on offer too.

Melton's – 7 Scarcroft Road

Tel: 01904 63434

www.meltonsrestaurant.co.uk

Classical music, 1930s murals, and an impressive wine collection, sophisticated without being pretentious. Set in a converted Victorian house, Melton's is a very distinguished restaurant and the food is excellent, with a strong commitment to the promotion of local produce.

Melton's too – 25 Walmgate

01904 629222

www.meltonstoo.co.uk

Melton's too is the second venture restaurant from Michael and Lucy Hjort. A historic building, which used to be a saddlers, is the new location for this informal café bar and bistro with quality food and wine in a traditional setting.

Nineteen – 19 Grape Lane

Tel: 01904 636366

www.nineteenyork.com

Ran by award winning chef Phil Upton, Nineteen is a fantastic restaurant on two floors overlooking the Minster quarter offering dining in informal, intimate surroundings. All food is sourced locally using local suppliers to create a simple British menu with a modern twist.

El Piano- 17 Grape Lane

Tel: 01904 610676

www.el-piano.com

Food is served tapas-style and comprises a range of international influences. The Hispanic approach to service, opening hours and food, together with a vibrant interior of Spanish rugs, ceramics and general bazaar, creates a warm and relaxed atmosphere. Specialise in catering for restricted diets and welcome all ages at all times.

The Old Siam – 126 Micklegate

Tel: 01904 635162

www.theoldsiamyork.co.uk

Situated in historic Micklegate close to the Bar, The Old Siam's friendly staff provide a warm Thai welcome. This is a very popular traditional restaurant specialising in delicious high quality authentic Thai cuisine.

Plunkets – 9 High Petergate

Tel: 01904 637722

With a Mexican and American rock n' roll theme, this classic restaurant offers a fabulous selection of chilli dishes, plus lots more! Their claim to fame is the signatures of the Rolling Stones, which can be found on the upstairs walls from a visit by the famous band in 1963!

If you just can't decide...

Dine About York is a brand new venture and a unique opportunity for visitors to experience not one, but four of York's top restaurants in one evening. Diners can enjoy a full four course meal with choices for each course, on one of four different tours:

- Mediterranean Flavours Dinner
- Modern Eclectic Dinner
- Very Posh Nosh Dinner
- Historic York Dinner

Restaurants include Melton's Too, 31 Castlegate, D.C.H Restaurant at Dean Court Hotel and the Biltmore Bar and Grill amongst many others.

The tours are designed for everyone – not just food lovers – and are a great opportunity to socialise with fellow visitors and local people to experience the variety of York's restaurant offer. The Dine About tour guides dine with guests all evening and are on hand to help with menu queries, steer you through the streets of historic York sharing a few gems of York's hidden history as diners travel between restaurants and point out partners who offer discounts for Dine About customers.

Tours are available Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Booking in advance is required. Visit www.dineabout.co.uk for more information or call 01904 619297.

Press contact: Chris Holder, Tel: 07725 366 171 or email chris@dineabout.co.uk

Then on to the theatre or a show...

York Theatre Royal

Press contact: Thomas Feeney

Box Office: 01904 623568

Website: www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk

The welcoming and imposing Theatre Royal in St Leonard's Place has attracted stars of stage and screen since 1744, and can offer a great night out. Many great names have played at York Theatre Royal, particular favourites include Pierce Brosnan (who made his debut here), Honor Blackman and Gary Oldman. The past

and present are united at York Theatre Royal, the historical elegance of the auditorium contrasts with an intimate Studio space allowing a wide variety of programming to suit all tastes.

The Grand Opera House

Press Contact: Celestine Dubruel

Tel: 01904 678711

Website: www.grandoperahouseyork.org.uk

Get the West End experience for less at York's Grand Opera House on Clifford Street. Hosting performances all year round with an extensive programme including comedy, music, entertainment, children's theatre and travelling West-end productions and musicals, there really is something on offer to suit every taste and age group.

Friargate Theatre

Tel: 01904 655317

Email: rltc@rltc.org

www.ridinglights.org.

Friargate Theatre is York's most intimate theatrical venue, it opened to the public in May 2000 and is the permanent home of the Riding Lights Theatre Company. Productions range from Shakespeare to original musicals.

See a film or take in some live music and entertainment...

City Screen – Coney Street

www.picturehousecinemas.co.uk

Tel: 0871 902 5726

A stylish redevelopment of the old Yorkshire Herald press works, the city screen is an appealing mixture of art-house and standard cinema, showing an enticing range of offbeat and big box-office films as well as regular comedy and musical evenings. City Screen also has a trendy restaurant, wine bar, juice bar and unbeatable riverside panorama, situated on Coney Street.

Reel Cinema- Blossom Street

Tel: 01904 733 633

Previously the Odeon Cinema. The art deco building which dates back to 1937 has been newly refurbished and offers cinema goers the latest releases on the big screen.

York Barbican

Paragon Street, York

Tel: 0844 854 2757

Managed by SMG (UK) Ltd, York's newest live entertainment venue boasts 2 newly refurbished bars and the new Fishergate restaurant, which provides pre-concert dining. The 1500 seated, 1900 standing capacity allows for an exciting, varied events programme. The box office is open Monday-Friday 10am to 2pm, or you can book by phone or online.

Something different...

For those looking for something different to do in the evening, here are a few ideas that showcase 'unique York'...

YorkBoat Cruises

Tel 01904 628324

www.yorkboat.co.uk

Take a cruise along the River Ouse and get a different angle on the city. YorkBoat offers various themed evenings, including ghost cruises, summer night parties and floodlit evening cruises.

National Centre for Early Music

Tel: 01904 658338

Website www.ncem.co.uk

Home of Britain's acclaimed York Early Music Festival, the centre offers a year round programme of activities. The centre is situated in St. Margarets Church on Walmgate.

Ghostwalks are a perennial favourite in York; hardly surprising, perhaps in Europe's Most Haunted City. The Roman legionnaires spotted in the basement of the Treasurers House are perhaps the most famous, but you may have your own favourite by the time you're finished.

Ghost Trail of York

Tel: 01904 633276

www.ghosttrail.co.uk.

7.30 pm every evening from Minster entrance (West End) – no need to book. Traditional tales, Victorian tragedies and true accounts of ghostly phenomena. "Shockingly enjoyable!"

The Ghost Hunt of York

Tel: 01904 608700

Website: www.ghosthunt.co.uk.

7.30 pm from the Shambles – no need to book. This hunt takes you through the streets and snickleways of York with a professional guide for an evening of horror and hilarity.

Original Ghost Walk of York

Tel: 01904 764222

www.yorkshirenet.co.uk/yorkghostwalk/.

8 pm from the King's Arms Pub, Ouse Bridge – no need to book. An exploration of the world of folklore, legend and dreams. Expert storytellers reveal all kinds of secrets about the ancient city of York.

The Haunted Walk of York

Tel: 01904 621003.

<http://www.thehauntedwalkofyork.com>

8pm from Exhibition Square (in front of the Art Gallery) – no need to book. No masks or gimmicks – just story telling at its best! The history, haunting, murders and mysteries of Europe's most ghostly city.

Ghost Creeper Tour

Tel: 07947 325239

www.ghostdetective.com

7.30pm every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from November to June, and every night from July to Halloween (31 October) outside Jorvik Viking Centre – Meet the Ghost Detective of York. Follow him as his evening tour takes you along narrow passageways and dark streets to investigate bloodcurdling tales of scandal and death. Simply dressed in his trademark Homburg hat and black cravat, he will take you to parts of old York that even some long-standing residents never knew existed.

Ghost Walk Experience

Tel: 07809 442282

www.ghostwalkyork.co.uk

7pm every night, meet at the Roman Column next to the Minster

The tour that visits Monk Bar Gate Tower, winding along York's mighty walls visitors will be lured to Harlot Hill Tower where the groans and moans of those that were slain can still be heard...

For those who prefer not to spook themselves, take a chance to explore some of York's history...

York Viking Walk

Tel: 07508 015610

www.yorkvikingwalk.com

Walks start every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 6pm. Departure is behind All Saints Church on Parliament Street, opposite Marks and Spencer

The York Viking Walk is a walk around Viking York, the capital of Viking England in the late 9th century and early 10th centuries. It starts with the bloody battles of York in 866 & 867, when the Viking horde twice took the city of York. See where the battles took place and learn how the Vikings overcame the brave Saxon resistance. After the Vikings' victory, they settled in the city. Walk down the streets where the Vikings lived and traded, with industries as diverse and glass sculpture to shield making all taking place in the city centre. But the peace did not last long! Learn how the Vikings were finally defeated with the demise of Erik Bloodaxe, the last Viking King of York, and ultimately the battles in 1066, much of which took place in or close to York.

For any further information and your free guide to York, please contact: York Visitor Information Centre, Tel: 01904 550099, email: info@visityork.org or visit the website at www.visityork.org.

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