
England / Yorkshire

From the moorlands of the Pennines and the Peak district to the valleys sheltering towns and Hamlets, Yorkshire has a unique blend of countryside, heritage and tradition. For centuries Yorkshire was a distant and forbidding area where fierce battles were fought between kings nobility and Scottish invaders. Of the mighty castles and fortresses now only ruins remain where legend and history come together. The place of the castles has been taken by beautiful manor houses with magnificent gardens. The area also boasts some fabulous churches. Nowhere in Great Britain is the story of the great British wool industry from the medieval cottage to the development of the mill, better illustrated. The country side in itself is absorbing and within miles you will find a range of museums, galleries, mill shops, markets and shopping centers.

Telephone and time difference

Access code to USA 010: USA direct 0800-89-0011 (a special AT&T service). To phone England: 44; Time difference (Eastern Daylight) plus 5 hours.

Climate

Daily temperatures average in the 60s F (about 16°C) in summer and hover around 40°F (6°C) in December, January and February. Winter is somewhat wetter than summer, with 15 to 16 rainy days as opposed to summers 12 or 13. An umbrella might come in handy. However, English weather is totally undependable and heat waves and blizzards do occur, taking everybody by surprise.

Museums and Sights

Castle Hill, near Almondbury. Overlooking Huddersfield and providing one of the Norths best panoramas is Castle hill, one of the finest examples of an iron age hill fort in the country. The hill is now crowned by the jubilee tower built in 1898. It is open during the summer. The Halifax Gibbet. Halifax was the last place in England to retain the practice of beheading thieves. The last execution took place in 1650. The platform and replica of the old Gibbet can now be seen along the street of the same name. Tolson museum on the outskirts of Huddersfield. There are fine collections of geology, natural History, textiles, transport, toys, glassware, and silver and in the grounds are relics of the areas past history. the Huddersfield Art Gallery, situated above the library, concentrates on 20th century British painting, a wide range of exhibitions are mounted. Admission free, closed on Sundays.

Halifax Piece Hall in Halifax, was designed as a market for the great wool trade and its courtyard, galleries and arcaded ground floor are reminiscent of the Italian Piazzas. The Piece Hall has been restored to its former glory and houses over 50 individual art, craft and antique shops, museums, and art gallery and on Fridays and Saturdays an open market.

Shopping

Shops are generally open from 9 am to 5.30 pm daily except Sundays. Large department stores and some other shops open on a specific night of the week, depending on the area.

Huddersfield is Pennine Yorkshire's largest shopping center with lots of choice and full of Victorian character. Of particular note is the magnificently restored Brook Street Market with its special bric-a-brac days on Tuesdays and Saturdays, the splendid Victorian Byram Arcade with its individual shops and the many arcades and alleyways. Early closing in on Wednesday.

Another possibility is Halifax. there is a lot of variety in this historic Victorian town. The shop fronts have been restored to their original Victorian glory and the Woolshops Shopping center near the Piece Hall carefully combines shops of today with attractive period surroundings. Mill shops are a outstanding feature of the Pennine Yorkshire landscape and many produce world renowned cloth and yarn. Several contain mill shops where top quality goods can be bought at factory prices.

Excursions

York. Britains finest medieval city. Visit the Minster, the largest medieval cathedral in Northern Europe, open to the public from 7 am to dusk. Under the Minster is an exhibition of Roman, Saxon and Norman cathedral remains known as the Foundations. There are several interesting museums such as; the Yorkshire museum, the National railway museum, the York Castle museum and the Jorvik Viking Center. The latter is built on the site of the excavations of the Viking Street of Coppergate in Jorvik (the Viking name for York). It is a totally new and original concept in the display of archaeology which really does bring history to life.

The Peak district. A lovely drive from Holmfirth will soon bring you to the heart of this popular National Park. Chatsworth House (One of the greatest stately homes in Great Britain, home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. The gardens were designed By 'Capability" Brown), Buxton, Castleton and the "Blue John" caverns are all less than 45 miles (73 km) from Huddersfield.

Although it is quite a drive can you really afford to have visited England and not to have been to Stratford-upon-Avon? The place of Shakespeares birth and burial in the lovely Cotswolds area, this whole town is something of a shrine to Shakespeares memory. It is a lovely market town best explored on foot. Visit Shakespeares birthplace, Henley Street and the house where he lived with his wife Ann, before moving to London, Ann Hathaways Cottage, or go and see a play at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Saddleworth. Pop over the Pennines from Marsden and discover a scenic area containing three of the Pennines most picturesque villages, Dobcross, Delph and Uppermill. Uppermill attractions included the Saddleworth museum, Alexandria Craft centre and cruises on the Huddersfield narrow canal.

Leeds. One of Yorkshire finest shopping centers with an excellent Art gallery and Henry Moore centre. There are several historic houses such as: Temple Newsam and Lotherton Hall, Armsley Mills Industrial Museum and many other attractions.