



# TREASURE TROVE X



group

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PRICE FROM\* **GBP 339.00** PER

**PERSON**

*3 Nights, 3 Days*

## DAY ONE - DURHAM • *2hrs 48 minutes by rail direct from London*

The first morning of your Treasure Trove adventure will take you from London to the ancient city of Durham in the North East of England. Durham was once the stronghold of the Prince Bishops, local rulers who wielded extraordinary powers granted by William the Conqueror, including the right to mint their own coins, levy taxes and raise their own army.

After your late morning arrival, take a quick wander through Durham's ancient cobbled streets to Elvet Bridge. There are steps down to the River Wear, where rowing boats are available for hire. Grab a locally-sourced bite for lunch, while taking in river views at *Tango* (located: 96, Elvet Bridge) before joining a walking tour of Durham with a local guide. Your local Durham expert will take you on a journey of discovery, explaining the colourful characters, bloody battles and intrigues that established Durham as an epicentre of power, influence and wealth in the Middle Ages.

Your tour will include a visit to what Bill Bryson describes as "the best Cathedral on planet Earth", including the 'Open Treasures' collection of artefacts, including an ornate, gold jewelled cross from the 7th century which belonged to St.Cuthbert. You will have a chance to explore the cloisters used in the filming of the Harry Potter movies and, if time allows, climb one of the Durham Cathedral's towers for spectacular views of the city and the surrounding countryside.

Tonight, stay at the 4-star Indigo Durham, located in an impressive Victorian Grade II listed building dating from the 1890's. It is located just outside Durham's touristic centre, but minutes from the river. It opened in 2018 as a stunning boutique property following an extensive £15million makeover.

## DAY TWO - YORK • *Durham to York: 1 hour direct by rail*

A short train journey south will bring you to York. Leave your bags at our suggested property, the stylish 'Principal Hotel York'. Its location, adjacent to York Railway Station, makes it especially convenient for exploring the city if you are arriving by train! Its heritage dates from the golden age of railways - originally opened in 1878, it was the flagship hotel of the North Eastern Railway company.

Start your York adventure with a visit to iconic York Minster, (or the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Saint Peter to give it its full title). A knowledgeable guide will help you discover the origins of this magnificent building, and share stories with from more than eight hundred years of its history. If you have recovered from yesterday's climb up Durham Cathedral's tower, (or perhaps if you missed it out!) we'd recommend taking the Tower Tour which will lead you up 275 uneven, narrow and spiralling medieval steps to the very top of the Minster's central tower. You will be at the highest point in the city, and will enjoy unrivalled, panoramic views across York.

Next, take a trip through 'York's Chocolate Story' and discover the history of the founding families of York's chocolate industry. You'll also learn about the the chocolate factory workers' day-to-day lives (they numbered 14,000 at the industry's peak!) Share the fascinating stories of globally famous chocolate products such as the KitKat and Terry's Chocolate Orange which date back to the 1930's.

En route to must-visit Bettys Cafe & Tea Rooms, you will discover the cobbled street named the Shambles. Quaint independent shops and cafes line each side, and the upper floors of some of the ancient timber-framed buildings jut out so far that two people on opposite sides of the street could reach out and shake hands from upper windows! Bettys Cafe & Tea Rooms was founded in 1919 and features in the Downton Abbey TV Series. Why not take a break from exploring, and order a coffee and a slice of cake or a quintessential Afternoon Tea in this landmark York cafe?

This afternoon, why not explore the award-winning JORVIK Viking Centre where you will discover York's Viking legacy. Discover the Viking-era city of Jorvik as it stood nearly a thousand years ago. The JORVIK Viking Centre opened in 1984 and features specially-designed 'time cars', which take visitors on a journey around the "set" of a Viking village, rather than leaving visitors to stroll around the museum's exhibits.

Tonight, enjoy a comfortable night at the 4-star Principal York Hotel.



## DAY THREE - LINCOLN

- York to Lincoln 1hr 20 minutes by rail via Retford or Newark (1 change)

The third and final destination in your Treasure Trove adventure is Lincoln, one of Britain's smallest cities. After your arrival at the station, take a short taxi ride to the 4-star Lincoln Hotel - then leave your bags with the concierge before exploring on foot for the rest of the day - all of Lincoln's main sights are within comfortable walking distance. Just minutes away are Lincoln Cathedral and Lincoln Castle. Why not delve into the Cathedral first?

Located on a hill in one of England's flattest counties, Lincoln Cathedral is an imposing and magnificent sight - when completed in 1311, it was the tallest building in the world! Inside, look out for the *Lincoln Imp* - it's located at the top one of the cathedral's pillars, and has become the symbol of Lincoln. Once you've found him, you can switch on a light to illuminate him and view him in more detail. Legend has it that the Lincoln Imp was one of two mischievous creatures sent by Satan to cause havoc all across the English Midlands. When they arrived at Lincoln Cathedral an angel turned one of them to stone, making an example of him to all other imps, while the other was allowed to escape! As you wander further around the picturesque Cathedral, you may be lucky enough hear the choir practicing in the background. Should you want to view the intricate ceilings more closely why not take a guided Roof or Tower Tour?

Upon entering the Castle grounds you will notice a large stone wall surrounding what was originally a Norman castle constructed by William the Conqueror. The castle has two mottes, this is quite uncommon as it is one of only two castles in the country with this feature. We recommend taking the 45 minute medieval wall walk with an audio guide - be sure to keep your camera handy, as you will want to capture the magnificent 360 degree views of Lincoln! Do not miss the castle vault, where you will be able to view one of the original *Magna Carta* documents, sealed by King John in 1215. *Magna Carta Libertatum* to give its full title (Latin for 'Great Charter of the Liberties') is a ground breaking document which began the process of limiting the monarchy's powers and upholding the rights of the individual. Some elements of the agreement are still in place today! Two short videos are played on a loop which explain how the *Magna Carta* came about and why it is so important. In the same vault you will also find a first edition of 'Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There', this copy was sent to Alfred Tennyson by Lewis Carroll in 1871.

Lincoln Castle also houses a Victorian Prison - men, women and children as young as eight were held there from 1848 to 1878 and punished for crimes ranging from stealing a books to murder. During this time seven murderers were hung and their bodies buried in Lucy Tower - their graves can still be seen today. Inspect the cells and imagine what life must have been like. Be sure to include a visit to the chapel and see the individual partitions which stopped the prisoners seeing anyone but the priest during their daily services.

Upon exiting the castle you will see a small lane on the right of the 'Magna Carta' pub. This is Steep Hill, and yes - it is very steep but well worth a stroll! There are boutique shops and tea rooms scattered right the way - along this cobbled street - pop into a book shop or an old fashioned lolly store for a treat.

This evening is the last night of your Treasure Trove adventure. You will be staying at the recently renovated Lincoln Hotel. Why not round off your day with a relaxing *Gin Afternoon Tea* at the hotel?

### Price Includes:

- 3 nights at a 4\* Hotel or similar on B&B rate
- Half Day Tour of Durham with a private guide

including entrance fee to Durham Cathedral and The Open Treasures' exhibition

- Entrance to York Minster
- Entrance to York's Chocolate Story
- Entrance to JORVIK Viking Centre
- Entrance to Lincoln Castle and Cathedral including Cathedral Roof Tour
- Gin Afternoon Tea at The Lincoln Hotel

### Price does not include:

- Lunches and Dinners
- Room Upgrades, Extras and Room Service
- Personal Travel Insurance
- Transport unless otherwise mentioned

### \*Terms and Conditions:

Rates are based on 2 adults sharing 1 standard room; Rates are subject to availability, should suggested hotel not be available one of a similar category will be offered; Rates are valid until 31.12.2019 and subject to availability; not valid on bank holidays and during special events; All services are on request. Please note the above itinerary can be amended and tailored to client's needs.



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