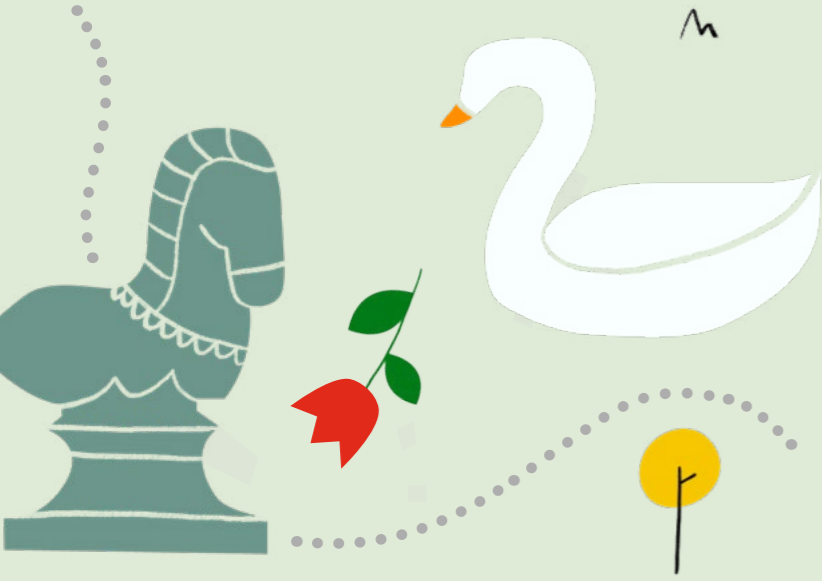


EXPLORING YORK



Exploring York and all that it has to offer has never been so easy. We've routes for all ages and abilities, ready and waiting for you to explore. Whilst you're out and about, remember let's be respectful and patient of others. Let's keep as safe as possible by following social distancing measures.

Millennium Bridge to Bishopthorpe return trail

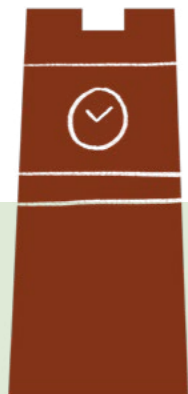
 Distance **6 miles**

 Est. Time **2 hrs**

If you're planning to travel to, from and through York we want to make sure you have access to travel information that will help keep you safe and be able to plan your journey.

You can explore information about active travel and its benefits by downloading our Cycle route maps, Walking Guides and information on our popular Urban Cycle Skills Sessions at www.itravelyork.info

For further information on how to explore York safely go to www.visitork.org



Millennium Bridge

Completed in 2001, Millennium Bridge rapidly became one of the most popular walking and cycling routes in York. At night the bridge looks particularly picturesque as it is illuminated by lights which constantly change colour.

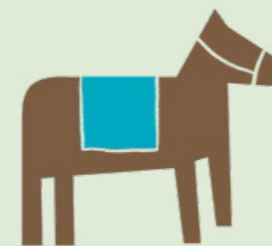


The River Ouse

The Romans founded York at the point where the River Foss meets the River Ouse. At that time the River Ouse was tidal and sea-going ships regularly transported goods to and from York. Remains of Roman jetties, wharves and warehouses have been discovered nearby.

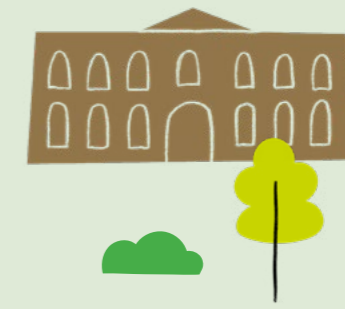
Did you spot any birdlife on your walk?

- Blackbird
- Blue tit
- Bullfinch
- Chaffinch
- Chiffchaff
- Goldfinch
- Great tit
- Great-spotted woodpecker
- Greenfinch
- House martin
- Robin
- Swallow
- Swift
- Whitethroat
- Willow warbler
- Vulture!?
-



York Racecourse

Horse racing has a long history in York and may even have existed in Roman times during the reign of Emperor Severus. The first official record of a race meeting in York was at Clifton Ings in 1709, which later transferred to The Knavesmire due to constant flooding. During the 18th century up to 100,000 people could attend an event. Races were accompanied by side shows, gypsy singers, cock fights and even public executions.



Bishopthorpe Palace

The official residence of the Archbishop of York since 1241. In 1226 Archbishop Walter de Grey bought the whole village of Bishopthorpe, demolished the local manor house and used some of the stone in the construction of the new 'palace'.

Bug hunt! What critters can you find?

-  Spider
-  Snail
-  Worm
-  Woodlouse
-  Millipede
-  Shrimp
-  Leech
-

Dick Turpin

A notorious highwayman in the 18th century, he robbed travellers in the south of England, before fleeing to Yorkshire. Turpin was eventually arrested for shooting a cockerel whilst drunk and when his true identity became known was hanged for horse theft on The Knavesmire in 1739.



Plants

Look out for Meadow Cranesbill, which has large blue-violet flowers, attractive to many kinds of bee. They get their name from the seedpods which resemble a bird's bill. Historically they were used to treat cholera, dysentery and nosebleeds. They flower between June and September.



Peacock Butterflies

Look out for this insect – they have large eyespots to scare off any potential predators. They can also 'hiss' when disturbed!

Millennium Bridge to Bishopthorpe return trail

1 Start

From Rowntree Park follow the riverside path south away from the city centre.

2

Continue to follow the riverside footpath as it passes through several fields full of colourful flowers including Meadow Cranesbill.

3

After passing the quiet grounds of York Crematorium turn right.

4

Upon reaching a road you'll see a long brick wall opposite which conceals a garden formerly used to grow food for the residents of Bishopthorpe Palace.

5

Turn right and continue walking along a roadside footpath. To return to York at this point cross the road and take bus 11 back to the city centre.

6

Upon reaching Middlethorpe Hall Hotel, cross the road and walking straight ahead follow a track leading away from the road and towards York Racecourse.

7

Go through a metal gate on the right to follow the footpath as it skirts along the edge of the racecourse.

8

Knavesmire Wood, on the left, is open to the public and well worth a visit.

9

Continue to follow the footpath keeping the racecourse buildings on your left and the former Terry's Chocolate factory straight ahead.

10

Follow the path as it turns right and then turn left into Bishopthorpe Road.

11

Cross the road and continue walking along the footpath. You will see the entrance to the former Terry's Chocolate Factory opposite.

12

Turn right upon reaching Butcher Terrace to return to the Millennium Bridge.

13

Complete your walk by visiting the historic and colourful Rowntree Park.



Accessibility

The riverside part of the walk has three stiles. The Bishopthorpe to York part of the walk is accessible to all and includes many points of interest.

Buses

The nearest bus stop to the start of the walk is 'The Winning Post' Bishopthorpe Road, bus 11. Alternatively take any bus to the city centre and then walk beside the river until reaching Millennium Bridge.