

# **Yorkshire Uncovered: Top 5 Must-Do Experiences with Andrew Ward from Expedition Yorkshire (Episode 137)**

## **Welcome to episode 137 of the UK Travel Planner Podcast**

Tracy: Welcome to episode 137 of the UK Travel Planner Podcast. Today we're diving into the top experiences to have in Yorkshire with Andrew Ward from Expedition Yorkshire. Whether you're a foodie, history buff, or nature lover, this episode is packed with tips to help you explore the largest county in England like a local.

Andrew Ward: Welcome to the UK Travel Planning podcast. Your host is the founder of the UK travel planning website, Tracy Collins. In this podcast, Tracey shares destination guides, travel tips, and, itinerary, as well as interviews with a variety of guests who share their knowledge and experience of UK travel to help you plan your perfect UK vacation. Join us as we explore the UK from cosmopolitan cities to quaint villages, from historic castles to beautiful islands, and from the picturesque countryside to seaside town.

**Andrew Ward previously joined us on episode 64 to talk about his tour company**

Tracy: Hi. This week I'm thrilled to welcome Andrew Ward back to the podcast. Andrew previously joined us on episode 64 to talk about his incredible tour company, Expedition

Yorkshire. And today he's here to share his top five experiences for visitors to Yorkshire. For those who haven't listened to episode 64, Andrew, could you start by introducing yourself and your company, Expedition Yorkshire, for listeners who may not know you yet.

Andrew Ward: Hello. Yes, I'm Andrew, and, Tracy. I just want to say, first of all, very, very happy New Year, and thank you very, very much for, inviting me back. You must be a glutton for punishment. I don't normally get invited back anywhere, so, thank you very much. So, I, have been a tour guide in different parts of England and sometimes the world, from lots and lots of years now. And three, years ago, I started, Expedition Yorkshire, which basically, we do exclusive private tours, all over Yorkshire, the north of England, up to southern Scotland at the moment and a little bit beyond.

Tracy: Ooh, excited?

Andrew Ward: Yes. yeah. And if people harangue me hard enough, we kind of go anywhere.

Tracy: Wow. Okay. Well, yeah, and I will put a link to that episode of the podcast because in that one, you talk a lot about the company and, how to book and everything like that. But we will include a link to that because I would urge everybody to also listen to that episode where Andrew talks in a lot of detail about Expedition in Yorkshire and his love for Yorkshire, which brings me perfectly into the pivot, Andrew, of.

**Tracy, you're not from Yorkshire. Any British person listening will know that**

Because you're not from Yorkshire.

Andrew Ward: No, I'm not.

Tracy: Any British person listening is gonna know that, because they're going to pick that up from your accent, but not necessarily. Everybody that listens to the podcast will. Will know that. But you're not from Yorkshire. However, see, that for me, tells me the fact that you have moved to Yorkshire tells me there's something special and lovely about that county. And I know that there is for sure, even though I don't live there. But I, want you to share with our listeners what it is about Yorkshire. What is so special about it.

Andrew Ward: Well, first of all, just, if I may just meet you at your first part about not being from Yorkshire. I think many of your listeners will know that converts are normally the most extreme. Right? So if you've converted, you're really onto the thing that you're onto. and also the other thing is one of the most famous people in recent times, in particular, that many of your listeners will have heard of, but we tend to think is from Yorkshire, is James Herriot. And of course, he wasn't like me, he. And we don't have. I wouldn't compare myself to the great James Herriot, but, we don't have tonnes of similarities. but the similarities we do have is that we're both from outside Yorkshire, both outsiders who, he did live in Yorkshire, I now live in Yorkshire. And, we both hugely appreciate what Yorkshire is and how it is.

Tracy: And it's also. It's the largest county in England. I think that's a useful thing to say as well, because I think people don't necessarily realise just how big Yorkshire is.

Andrew Ward: That's right. So Yorkshire is larger than 5,200 square miles. Now, if you're one of our very, very lovely listeners in, the United States or Canada or Australia,

you might hear that and just stroke your chin a bit, you might be thinking, well, that, that's not very big, but here in England, that's enormous. As Tracy, you correctly said, it's the largest county in. In England. But even if you were stroking your chin thinking, well, you know, that's. That's just, you know, a country park in. In our. In our. I don't know, in Ohio or something. It's, you know, it's nothing. It's a very small.

## **Make sure you come and see Yorkshire on your next holiday**

The thing that will, amaze you is the extraordinary variety of scenery in Yorkshire. There

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is so many different sceneries and landscapes within that 5,200 square miles. There are different accents as well. There's different. Huge differences in both human and, geography and physical geography. And I think if you're visiting England, you're visiting uk, you're visiting Great Britain, they're not the same, by the way. We'll learn about that on the tour. but if you're coming to visit these islands in the Northeast Atlantic on your next holiday, and I sincerely hope you do. If you're not visiting Yorkshire, you've got to ask yourself, why? Because it's the largest county and it. Wouldn't it be weird to m. Go on holiday somewhere and miss out the largest, most diverse in terms of scenery? That would be crazy. That would be certifiable. So make sure you come and see Yorkshire. It's a very special place. It has three national parks. It has the Yorkshire Dales, the North York Moors, and it has the Peak District. cumulatively, that means over 2,000 square miles of national park, which is really quite something if you just think about that, for a moment. it has, amazing cities. So it's got York. I'm very biassed about York because I live here. It's very old and it's beautiful and it looks like sort of Tower of

Dickens and Harry Potter and all those things rolled into one. But it's also got cities like Leeds, which are not just commercially very important. Leeds is a fascinating place with a deep and wonderful soul to it. And then you've got Sheffield, which is another great city. A great industrial heritage, a fascinating place. You've got Hull by the Sea, which I love Hull, by the Humber estuary. Very, very dramatic place. Has a. Has a real charisma to it. and then. And then you've got Bradford as well. and Bradford I can't leave out. and I won't leave out, not just because originally I actually studied there at the university. people often overlook it. People. I've heard people say things which aren't entirely positive, but I don't understand why. It's a fascinating place. And this year it is England's city of culture. So. And I've taken tourists there and they've absolutely loved it for reasons we might talk about later on. And then the other thing that Yorkshire has is just this commanding and stellar, and, beautiful and intoxicatingly lovely coastline. Over a hundred miles of it. So you just can't miss this part of the world. Have I said that enough?

Tracy: But, you know, I was waiting for the. That. The Yorkshire thing of it's God's own country.

Andrew Ward: Oh, yes. And it's God's own country. I can't get that. I need to get tick the Bing. The Yorkshire bingo cliché.

Tracy: But it is, it is. It is a stunning county. It is a beautiful county and it's so diverse, as you said. So let's dive into into the different experiences. Because.

**What is the first experience you recommend to truly immerse yourself in Yorkshire**

Because Canada, what I want to do is to talk about what are the best experiences you can have when you visit Yorkshire. So what would be the first experience? And I know these questions can be quite difficult because it's hard to pick, I can imagine. But what would be the first experience you recommend to truly immerse yourself in Yorkshire?

Andrew Ward: Right. Well, I had a little. I kind of, like, I really sort of ruminated about this for a time because I could imagine people who are from Yorkshire just screaming at the podcast, going, oh, he's just a cliché peddler and. And what have you. But if you will, can I give you three things that I think that everyone might want to crack at? And not necessarily all these things or in quite the way that I say, but things that might really immerse you in the Yorkshire culture. And it's almost too simplistic saying Yorkshire culture, because you find actually quite a different culture between East Yorkshire, or the East Ridings and South Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and the West Ridings, you find different culture. But these are a few of the things that I think, you need to do to really immerse yourself here. the first one is you need to eat fish and chips. But when I say eat fish and chips, I mean you need to really eat fish and chips. I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, sat there, fish and chips. I don't eat fried food. like, you know, it's the new year, I'm trying to lose weight. Or, And how can that immerse you in the culture? You eat fish and chips lots of places. No, what I mean is really eat fish and

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Andrew Ward: chips. Okay, so you need to go to Whitby, which is the world capital of fish and chips. you need to either eat in one of. There are several very, very famous restaurants there, which are grand old establishments. They have ways of making fish and chips, which are just sublime. Okay, you don't make m fish and chips with sunflower oil, okay? Use something called beef tallow. And if you're not using beef tallow, it ain't

right. Okay, so this is real fish and chips, right? This is. This is the real deal. The potatoes that come from Yorkshire are very, very special. and then on the wall of that fish and chip establishment will be a picture of or will be a board showing the name of the boat that landed that fish that you're eating. so that's real fish and chips. And, and then if you want. If you want to be really extreme about it. You really want to immerse yourself. You're going to leave the restaurant, I mean after paying, right? But you're going to leave the restaurant and you're going to go to the end of the pier, you're going to sit in the wind, you're going to dodge the seagulls and you can look out to the devastatingly beautiful North Sea coast and you eat those fish and chips and it's going to taste so good. Is that immersive?

Tracy: True, true. And I totally agree, 100% agree.

Andrew Ward: Now another way, a non food way, is to go to a football match. Now you could say that for all over England. but I, I think there are certain experiences here which, which are really, which, which I think will really. You get a flavour of the folk of the folk. You get a flavour of what's going on because again, there's different to many of what your listeners may, may know in a lot of parts of the world, I'm not going to say anywhere specific but a sports team, you go to the sports team, you cheer them on. It's about the sport in front of you, it's about the team. England is different. A football match in England, it's like a vehicle for a lot of the local society and social issues that are going on the terraces are the vehicle for that as well as the sport. And it makes it a lot richer, a lot deeper and sometimes a lot more passionate, both good and bad. And I would suggest that you get tickets for either a Leeds United match or a York City match or Bradford City football match. And I'm sure there are loads of other teams in Yorkshire which I've left out. Not because I don't like them, just because there's only so much time on the podcast. Those, you know, these are some of the big famous teams, you know,

Leeds United, York City, Bradford City. You go to one of those matches and I think you'll have a very, no matter where they win or lose, you'll have a real experience.

Tracy: Yeah.

Andrew Ward: And finally Yorkshire is a very, very agricultural county. A lot of it is green, pleasant, beautiful. It's the very things you think of as England being, the bucolic landscapes and a way to really absorb that and learn about the people, the real people is to go to one of the great, one of the agricultural shows where the farmers, the people of the land come together and show what they sweat, blood and tears every day over to produce, to bring to your plate, to rear the animals, to grow the crops. So all that goes into that, the foods that it produces and the people and the personalities behind that and the agricultural shows that I would recommend. The most famous is the Great Yorkshire show, which happens every July. I do strongly advise to book ahead. Get very often sells out. I think they're getting about 100,000 people a day. Goes to the great, the Great Yorkshire show, and there's something for everybody. Whether you want to look at rare sheep breeds or the latest tractor technology or, you know, incredible foods that are made with the local produce. What a, what a wonderful sort of slice of Yorkshire humanity. and then you've got, the wreath show, which is very, very famous up in North Yorkshire, up in the Dales. And if you don't come back, you know, knowing more about sheep than James Herriot after that, then there's something wrong with you, quite frankly. You need to cheque yourself. and the Nidderdale show is also very, very famous. And that's also up in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. So I think if you do even one, one of those things, I think you'll have a good grounding in Yorkshire culture for your, for your well spent time here.

Tracy: Oh, I love that. Well, I'm going to put my hand up and say I've only done one of



those. Well, I have, I've been to football matches, but not in Yorkshire, but, but fish and chips at Whitby. Best ever.

Andrew Ward: So there you go.

Tracy: yeah, best ever. And, and, and we, we try different places every time we go because I know there are some very particularly famous ones and we, we just try, we try different, different fish and chip shops. And I'll tell you what, we've never ever been disappointed and we'd be with, with the fish and chips that we've

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Tracy: had. Right.

## **Andrew says people should get out and about and explore Yorkshire countryside**

So for those of you who listening who love exploring, so you want to get out and about and explore some of the great Yorkshire countryside. What would be one outdoor or scenic experience that you would recommend, Andrew, that people don't miss?

Andrew Ward: So something that I think would be a magnificent thing to do, is to spend a day, getting out the city and going down to a place called Flamborough Head. It's, it sticks out into the sea. It's. There's a huge amount of land there to walk around. Vast chalk cliffs is some of the most northerly chalk in England. It's very, very dramatic. There's an incredible lighthouse there. And next to Flamborough Head, right next to it is

the rspb, which is a big charity that preserves, birds and bird environments. The, RSPB Reserve at Benton Cliffs, and it's one of the best nature reserves I've ever been to. one of the logistical problems of looking at a bird on a cliff is that the cliffs are down below and you're on top, so you can't really see them very well. Right. They've got round that, they've built these bridges across the gaps. Now, if you're scared of heights, maybe, you know, go with caution. But other than that, it's an incredible day out. and if you go at, the right time of year, you, can spot puffins there. you get an enormous puffin colony which, which is really spectacular. And gannets. it's one of the largest seabird colonies in the world and it's quite, quite fascinating. And unlike most other seabird colonies in the uk, you don't need to go out on a boat, you don't need to go to an island, although that's a spectacular thing to do as well. But here you don't. so, yeah, I'd go for Flamberhead, the RSPB reserve at Benton, do it on the same day. And the beach at Filey, once you're done with that, which is the longest beach in Yorkshire, it's very dramatic, wonderful sweep of golden sand. Filey is a lovely place. You can't go wrong.

Tracy: Excellent.

## **What other food and drink experiences would you recommend to have in Yorkshire**

Now, I know we've mentioned a bit about food, and drink, as you mentioned the fish and chips. Now, Doug and I were very lucky to go out with you. a year past December, it was, I can't remember it was that. I can't believe it's that long ago, honestly. and we, we did a visit over to, the Yorkshire moors and we had a fantastic visit to a gin distillery, which was amazing and thoroughly, thoroughly enjoyed that. So, so I know, I'm hoping you're going to mention that, but what other kind of food and drink experiences would

you recommend to have in Yorkshire? And you know what? Everybody's. I just know people listen to this podcast to go Yorkshire puddings. Shouldn't we have Yorkshire puddings?

Andrew Ward: So your, your listeners are very, very well informed people. And, and I will definitely say Yorkshire puddings, but I'm sure they already knew that. For those who don't know about Yorkshire puddings, they are sent from the gods. Done. Well, anyway, they're kind of like a 3D pancake. That's the way I describe them, yeah. and they are simply wonderful. And there are, there's a company in York actually that wraps them up with a full Yorkshire dinner in one wrap of a Yorkshire pudding. And I mean, you know, your life is complete. Right.

## **Yorkshire is famous amongst high end chefs for its excellent food**

But there's some other things in Yorkshire, Yorkshire's food scene, because I don't think a lot of people don't like to go on places to holiday where there's not lots of delicious food. And Yorkshire really has wonderful food. The ingredients here are very, very good. Because, because the nature of the farming here is very, very good. So we have excellent ingredients in Yorkshire. And one of the things that Yorkshire's certainly, I would say famous for, certainly amongst high end chefs. Yorkshire actually has a particular ingredient which is, which really has to kind of come from Yorkshire, which is something called forced, rhubarb and rhubarb. Rhubarb is very famous from Yorkshire and forced rhubarb is shipped all over the world in season. It's the finest form of rhubarb and you'll find it served up in some of the finest restaurants in the world. And most of the rhubarb in the world is grown in Yorkshire. And forced rhubarb is the Rolls Royce of rhubarb. Okay. now, it doesn't sound very, politically correct, forced rhubarb,

but luckily you're still allowed to force rhubarb. I can't say that. forced rhubarb is, rhubarb that's grown traditionally in shell sheds in the dark and it's picked by candlelights, which sounds so romantic. And the reason why any light causes photosynthesis in the rhubarb that makes a bitterer flavour almost immediately. So the whole thing is harvested by candlelight in these sheds. The sheds are kept warm with coal traditionally, and that's, that's forced rhubarb. And it's particularly red on the outside, particularly white on the inside, has a particularly delicate and gorgeous flavour. If you're not familiar with rhubarb, it can be cooked and presented in lots of different ways

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and makes the most exquisite dessert. and you can also have it as a savoury dish as well. And it's such a celebrated thing that there is the Wakefield Rhubarb Festival and you won't find anywhere else in the world and you'll find chefs coming from everywhere doing exquisite and, extraordinary things with, with rhubarb. So look up the Wakefield rhubarb Festival.

Tracy: I had no idea. I had literally no idea.

Andrew Ward: Spring and, and, and then, and then, you've also got the Molton Food Festival, which isn't too far from York, which has become pretty famous. Molton is a hotbed of incredible restaurants doing, doing incredible things, and taking advantage of all the great food around. And I think it's worth mentioning that Yorkshire is home to some, some really special restaurants these days. And there obviously some, you know, I'm just giving you little clues and you can look them up after the show. there's a very, very famous chef in Yorkshire who's done a lot to put Yorkshire on the map and

demonstrate the amazing ingredients that are grown or reared here. His name's Tommy Banks and he's got restaurants, a whole Michelin stars in Yorkshire. And in general he's just done a lot to enhance the image as Yorkshire is a place to come and eat. But then, like the other day, I was very, very lucky. I was, invited. It sounds like I'm sort of hobnobbing the great and the good. It's not. I just got lucky on this occasion.

Tracy: Hey, you're on the podcast, Andrew, so. Yes you are.

Andrew Ward: I was invited to, to eat, by the owners at a restaurant called Pranzo, which specialises, in Calabrian cuisine from, from Italy. And the food was exceptional and it was like, exceptional. And they have a restaurant in Harrogate. They're, they're opening another one in York. And more to the point, it was just showing like, the standard of food that you can now get in Yorkshire. Their focus in particular was also on making pasta from the beginning, and where possible they use local ingredients, where not, they bring them in from Italy. But the point is you can eat amazing food here. And finally, I mentioned it briefly before. Bradford is city of culture this year. And, Bradford has a very, very large Asian, community. And the curry houses there are extraordinary. Some of the food that they're turning out, is world class. There's no two ways about it. And, a restaurant I really love there and everyone's got their favourite restaurants. And, there's a restaurant there called, Mumtats, which is really, really great. They look after you very, very well. And, they've got a big letter up on the wall, lit up. In fact, they put it on a frame with lights behind it because can you believe it, that our, beloved late Queen and Prince Philip ate there many, many years ago. So if it's good enough for the Monarchy. It's certainly good enough for you. And that's just some of the food highlights, I think, in Yorkshire. And I know there's so many more. And there'll be people screaming who are from Yorkshire going, what about this? What about that? I. I don't have time to mention, but those are the ones that occur to me right now.

Tracy: Ah. that's perfect.

## **Historical reenactment is incredibly popular in Yorkshire**

Now, we can't talk about Yorkshire without talking about history and culture of that huge and beautiful county. So. And again, I know this is a really difficult question to put you on the spot, but what would you. What would you say was an experience that showcases the history and culture?

Andrew Ward: So I, I think something that. I think this is actually probably quite popular in America. Other parts of the world, they'll think, are you mad? but, historical reenactment is incredibly popular in Yorkshire. It really is. And there's a lot to reenact because the history here is both long and tumultuous and involving many, many different peoples. I would go to either a Civil War reenactment. So our Civil War is, from. From the late 1600s, Civil War reenactment. And, Or you could go to a War of the Roses reenactment. and they normally take place at old castles.

Tracy: Yeah. amazing.

Andrew Ward: So, you know, you go to, for example, a reenactment at Midland Castle. Well, Midland Castle was where the young Richard III grew up when he was a teenager. And now it's a ruin. And they have reenactments there. Look them up, they're really spectacular. And there's an old house called Nunnington Hall. in fact, Nunnington hall is where the last wife of Henry viii, Catherine Parr, grew up. Not that far from York,

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Andrew Ward: I always think, a little bit under visited. Fantastic house. they, they have, in the summer months, they have some Civil War reenactments that take place there. And just the. Not only the characters that people play, but the characters that take part, you have to see it to believe it. If people go on our Instagram. Can I mention that on the Instagram from a while back, I met somebody on one of our tours from the Mediaeval Society who crafted his own bow and arrows in the exact way that they did in the 12th century. And that was his passion, was 12th century bow and arrows and making them and then dressing in all the clothes. And, they take place in a mediaeval weekend up at Bolton Castle, which is incredible. So. And then we can focus on the more recent history in, Grassington, famous for all creatures great and small. Of course, they have a 1940s, 1930, late 1930s, early 1940s weekend, a World War II recreation which is really spectacular. Every year is really spectacular.

Tracy: Well, I'll have to look up the dates of these and add them in the show notes because they sound absolutely fascinating.

## **What would you say would be the lesser known experience or hidden gem in Yorkshire**

So what about hidden gems? Because we always get asked about hidden gems. What would you say would be the lesser known experience or hidden gem that you would recommend in Yorkshire?

Andrew Ward: So there's a couple. the first, this really melds together both Yorkshire's fascinating social history, and also its geological history is mining. Mining is a huge part of Yorkshire's history. both in the recent. Some of your listeners may know about the

miner strikes of the 1980s and all the social upheaval that brought. But it's just a big part of Yorkshire's story and through the Industrial Revolution. So I would recommend the National Mining Museum where you get to go underground as well. I think that's pretty amazing. Yeah, yeah, that would be my standout.

Tracy: Okay, cool. And, whereabouts is that?

Andrew Ward: it's not too far away from Sheffield. It's in South Yorkshire.

## **What about seasonal experiences in Yorkshire that visitors can plan for**

Tracy: What about seasonal experiences in Yorkshire that visitors can plan for? And I'm kind of thinking here because we were up last time near Christmas, obviously the Christmas market is something I was thinking about that if you're going to be in York, you can have a little stroll around the ah, York Christmas market. But what, what are the seasonal things, would you say? Okay, this is, you're going to be here in summer, you're going to be in spring. These are sort of things that you should think about experiencing.

Andrew Ward: So, a few things, one of the things that might really, really surprise you is Yorkshire is an excellent place to come and do some whale watching. You can go on a whale watching tour. You can see minke whales swimming down the North Sea with quite high levels of chance that you do spot a whale. These things can never, it doesn't matter where you do it in the world can never be guaranteed. But there are some brilliant boat tours leaving from Steiths, and from Whitby, that go out. And even if you



don't see whales, you go out, you know, in the early evening and you see the stunning coastline from the sea. So that's a really good thing to do in later summer is the whale watching into the, into the early autumn. The rhubarb we've already mentioned, which is in the spring, Fountains, Abbey, which is spectacular. It's absolutely spectacular. You can go there. They have several nights just before Christmas, late November, early December, where it's open at night, where they light it up and they play monastic music amongst the ruins. You can just wander around with a small torch. It's a truly wonderful life enhancing experience, it really is. and the other thing which a lot of people are not familiar with, if you look at a map of Europe and if you look. This is a really weird thing to do, I do weird things and I, I, I'm I mean not that weird but but if you, if you look at a map of light pollution across Europe, Yorkshire, North Yorkshire is one of the least light polluted places in Western Europe. And in fact NASA have come to recognise this because NASA and an institute connected with NASA have authenticated certain parts of the world as dark sky reserves. And that puts a lot of responsibility on that place. For example street lights have to be cowled and soft lighting be used wherever possible to keep that status. There's a lot of other things you have to do to keep that status. Yorkshire, North Yorkshire has the dark sky status and therefore stargazing here is really really spectacular. And the time to come and do that is late autumn through to March. That's the time to do it. The reason why that's the time, if you come after that time the darkness

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Andrew Ward: comes very late because of the very long days in summer, very short days in winter, daylight hours in winter because it's a pretty northerly latitude here, about 50 doing off top of my head, 53 degrees north I think around about so, so big extremes in the daylight. So summer is not an amazing time to come do that, but the

amazing time to come do that is the off season and everywhere is quiet as well. So what a great thing to do to come and see the stars here. And you don't just have to come and see the stars with your naked eyes. There are amazing places to go and see the stars. For example, up at Sutton bank they've got an observation centre there in Dalby Forest. They've got an observatory with big telescopes that the public on specific nights can actually use. And you know, we can also come and help you see the stars. Literally.

Tracy: That sounds amazing. So what kind of travellers do you think Yorkshire is suited for?

Andrew Ward: So I thought about this long and hard and I came up with an answer that none of you are going to expect. Are you ready? Three? Go for it everybody?

Tracy: Yep, absolutely 100% agree it really is, it has a county that, that has something for everybody. It really, really does.

## **Just thinking about families visiting Yorkshire, what would you recommend**

Just thinking about families visiting Yorkshire, what would you recommend? if you're, if you're travelling to the UK and you're travelling through and you've got a few, you've got your kids with you, which is something that Doug and I don't have to do these days because our daughter's grown up. But obviously a lot of our listeners, have got their families and they're travelling through. What would you recommend for families? What should they do?

Andrew Ward: So as a general point, I mean, I think, a great day out for a family, particularly if you've got young children. I have very, very young children. So everyone's looking at the famous old church. I'm not, I'm looking at the playground. The best of the playground. The better the day that I'm gonna have. So if that sounds different but it's pretty important when you've got young children.

Tracy: That is, that is really important. I was going to ask you which. Because I'm thinking about if you go obviously, to some of the, the kind of famous or well known places, like some of the, the houses or. And I guess a lot of these places now have really good playgrounds. They've kind of realised that they need to, to include something for the, for the little kids. So, they can have a bit of a run around in the day.

Andrew Ward: As a general point, if you go to a property that is run by the National Trust, look them up. The National Trust. That is Britain's gift to the world, the National Trust. It's an amazing, amazing institution. If you go to a property that's looked after by the National Trust, there will always be an amazing playground and a great cafe, good toilet facilities. All of your children needs are taken care of right there. also, if the weather's even halfway reasonable and kind of, even if it's not a day out at the seaside and that doesn't have to be Whitby. Whitby's amazing. But other ideas are, for example Bridlington, Bridlington's not talked about as much. Great beach. and if you go at the right time of year, there's a kite festival there, which overlooks the sea. We took our children there last year and it was really one of the most special days that we had as a family in 2024.

Tracy: That's lovely.

## Yorkshire has some extraordinary wonderful long distance walks

So what about solo travellers or couples visit in Yorkshire? What would you recommend?

Andrew Ward: I think solo travelling, I think if, if you're physically fit, and you're looking for that isolation, that time to think. Yorkshire has some extraordinary wonderful long distance walks. These are walks where you can do a few miles each day, stay in a hotel or an inn. It's like a pub with bedrooms. In the evening there's like the Cleveland Way, which is a very well marked walk. Would be a good example. and again it gives you a real sense of the county. Or the Yorkshire Wolds Way. Again you could pick one of those walks. You don't need to walk all of it. You know you get like the, the tough guys are doing that, you know, 110 miles. You might just pick out a 15 mile pretty stretch that goes through. If you look at your maps at home where it says aonb, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which I think has just been rebranded as national landscapes they now called but on your map, I mean the maps are still printed AONB. You pick out a 10 or 20 mile or whatever you're capable of. Maybe just want to do it for a day. But that that the paths are very well marked. For those of you coming from parts of the world where you're not just allowed to walk across land, England is amazing for that. You, you can walk for miles here uninterrupted. Nobody's going to shout at you or anything like that if you get it slightly wrong. Golf, golf course a bit.

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Andrew Ward: You're absolutely free to walk in many spots here. you know, and there are well marked rights of way and you can have a wonderful peaceful day to yourself and it's a really nice way to pass life. I love that.

Tracy: Yeah. Good time to reflect and enjoy. Yeah. Be in the moment.

Andrew Ward: Yeah.

## **M. M. says Yorkshire is intrinsically romantic for couples**

And then for couples, is that for couples? So I think Yorkshire is intrinsically romantic. Okay. There's loads of places here with no crowds that are kind of, you can just hide away. You know. There are 26, I think Dales or valleys in the Yorkshire Dales National park. You've got over 900 square miles of the park. that's a lot of places to be romantic and hide away. And there are a good number of excursions, exquisite hotels and I mean exquisite which either you can go for simple, exquisite, you know, the rustic charm or ones which have you know, the full spa and the swimming pool and all the, all the lovely bells and whistles and some of those hotels. I kind of divide hotels into two halves. There are like luxury hotels where you stay there but you're going to go out and explore. And there are others where designed to just not leave. And, Yorkshire has both.

Tracy: M. Wow.

## **Andrew says it's impossible to visit Yorkshire without experiencing some of its highlights**

So what practical tips do you have for visitors planning to experience all of these highlights? I'd like to say, but it's going to be impossible unless you move to Yorkshire

but experience some of these highlights.

Andrew Ward: My first practical tip would be, I think, don't fixate on the same old months. Okay? One of the really weird things, it's counterintuitive. People generally don't think to themselves, I want stunning weather. I'm going to take a holiday in England or a holiday in Great Britain. That doesn't happen. But weirdly, what that means is that's so liberating. You're not coming here for the weather, which means you can come here at any time of year. And by coming here at different times, you get different benefits. of course, if you come in the very popular months like May, you get the spring and you get everything green and the lambs are jumping around. But remember, if you come in autumn and winter, you can see those exquisite dark skies. This is still one of the few places in Western Europe where you can see the Milky Way with the naked eye. I come across lots of people from around the world who've never seen. Seen their own galaxy, the galaxy that we live in. You can see it in Yorkshire. Okay? So come, come at different times of year. There is no bad time of year to visit Yorkshire. the other thing I would say is, now, this is a real, slightly hidden agenda, but it's so obvious it's not hidden to most of the listeners out there. There will be a few people. This doesn't apply to. This will not apply to you. If you are. Wait for it. If you are a professional stunt driver, this doesn't apply to you, okay? If you are a former NASCAR driver, it doesn't apply to you, okay? If you are, you know, a pro driver, great, great for you. But I personally wouldn't hire a car and drive. Now, I do run a company that drives you around, so there's my agenda, right? It's there. Don't come, in the comments. Nasty comments. He's only saying that because I've told you that that's what I do. But I genuinely think if you come from a part of the world that drives on the other side of the road, and many of our road signs are codified, meaning you, you can't read them to understand them, you will not know what they mean. And they're very Very important. Not reading them can get you in a lot of trouble. Correctly. On top of that, many parts of

Yorkshire have very, very narrow roads. They have stone walls which are completely unforgiving. And you really don't want to be in a stress with your rental car. and then we have many different types of fuel here. You might be putting the wrong fuel in that rental car. So I would personally say, if you can let us take the strain.

Tracy: And also, I'm also going to say that if, if you are, if you're doing the driving, Andy. Andrew. If you're doing the driving, Andrew, you can sit back and enjoy the drive. Because that's the thing. If one of you is driving, I don't know, with, with Doug and I. Doug tends to do the driving and I'm doing the navigating. So even though he's doing the driving, I'm doing the navigating. You concentrating and you're, you'd miss a lot of the beautiful things that you drive about.

Andrew Ward: Exactly. And I would also say that your holiday sometimes, and again, I'll say it again, again, your listeners are incredibly intelligent, but

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Andrew Ward: sometimes it's not appreciated that to. Just to wake up in the morning is expensive. You've had to get the flight over and the hotel, etc. So then when you start to hire a car, it becomes a very false economy because most of that day is then just spent looking at the road ahead. Or at least one person in that car can only look at the road ahead. They can't drink, they have to do all the rest. And, so, yeah, more reasons to, not drive when you're in the uk.

**Expedition Yorkshire does bespoke tours, so anybody can request one**

Tracy: So I do want to ask you, and obviously I sent you some questions before we did the podcast, but I think it's a perfect opportunity, Andrew, for you to talk about how you do your tour. So you can, they can be bespoke. So anybody, if you're listening and going, I, I really fancy some of these experiences, then you need to contact Andrew because he can, he can design that we.

Andrew Ward: So, right, just to explain, we do do bespoke tours, right? There's. There's no two ways about that. and if someone comes to me and they want to do this mad thing, we'll always consider it. But here's the great thing, and this is where we're a little bit different than other entities out there. You don't need to know anything. Cause that's kind of stressful as well. You know, you have to kind of know these things that you, you don't need to. On our website we have pre designed tours. Okay? So all you need to do is look at those pre designed tours. Does it take your fancy? And if it does, then we do the rest of the hard work. We've, we've designed these tours to show you the very, very best. We work very hard to make sure that you're not missing out on things. So if you are, like me, I suffer terribly from, was it fomo? Fear of missing out. You won't have FOMO because you'll know that when I founded the company I actually drove more than 5,400 miles of research. Okay. Now if you want to know how far 5,400 miles is, then my lovely wife Jo is American. She comes from Ohio. That means I drove from my front door if it was a straight, straight line all the way to Ohio and then a bit further. Okay. And I did that in research so that you don't have to know those things. All you need to do is pick out the tours. Now if there is something very specific that I've mentioned today that you want to do, get in contact us. We, we may be able to coordinate it. Okay. We may be able to put it together for you as well.

Tracy: Perfect. That's great, Andrew. And we'll put a link to Expedition Yorkshire in the show notes, as always.



## **One type of tour that you offer which is incredibly popular is transfer tours**

Anyway, so Andrew, one thing I did want to talk to you about. One type of tour that you offer, which is incredibly popular is are your transfer tours. And I know that you do the York Edinburgh. We'll chat about that. And also you do, you're now doing a London York, vice versa. So would you like to just chat about those transfer tours? Because I just know that they will be of huge interest.

Andrew Ward: Thank you. Yes. So our transfer tours are proven to be pretty popular and we've already now for a couple of years run York, Edinburgh or Edinburgh. We run all our transfer tours in both directions and it's a tour, but it's one way. So we see lots of interesting places on the way. We use some lovely back roads, but we also use the main roads because if we only used back roads, we're covering a big distance, you know, it would be too much. But we, we basically see lots of things on the way. So what's the advantage to you, the guest, you, the traveller, you, the explorer? The advantage to you is that you make the absolute best time of your very, very valuable holiday or vacation time. Okay. and that's because if you use public transport, you've got to haul your cases to the station, get the. Get a taxi at either end. And really what's happened then is you've seen two different places, but your travel day between those places is largely not part of the holiday. It feels removed and kind of like hassle. We take all that away. We come and meet you at your hotel in the morning, we take your cases, we put them in the back of the Mercedes Benz V Class, and we go up, country looking at lots of interesting things on the way. Getting out, you know, lots and getting back on and. Or, m. As much or as little as you want to do. Right. When we go from York up to Edinburgh, we see really famous places like Hadrian's Wall and we also see the stunning Northumberland coastline, for example, or we see the, the high hills in the

middle of the country that you can't really see any other way. we do things that you could never ever do on public transport. Then we are just introducing a new transfer tour. And this one goes from London up to York. we'll be going via, principally via Cambridge, and Lincoln, which, is some of the most beautiful cities in England. And we're

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Andrew Ward: going up through Lincolnshire, through Cambridges. It'll be a really, really lovely day, leaving London and then getting up to York. So you could put two of those tours together so we could take you from York. So from, from London up to York, you could have three days in York. You know, you don't see us relief. And then. And then at the end of those three days, we come and pick you up and take you from York up to Edinburgh. So we cover the whole country or the whole. Not the whole country, but we cover big countries, of course, because we're crossing the border into Scotland, let's make that very clear. but then the wider United Kingdom country is very complicated, but we can take you the full length, put it that way, the full length.

Tracy: that's great to know really. And, as I say, we'll put a link in to the show, notes to the website, but thank you. But, people can email you and chat about those as well.

Andrew Ward: Absolutely. And they're very open to making little twists and changes. So, for example, on the London to York run, or the York to London run, it may be that for you, the most important thing is to see Cambridge and have a little walk around Cambridge. But it also may be that actually what you much prefer to do is swap out Cambridge for the Duxford Air museum and all the World War II history. We can do that. It's not a problem.

Tracy: Perfect. I love that flexibility.

## **Tracey: What is the one tip you would share with someone visiting Yorkshire**

Okay, so I always ask this one question at the end of every podcast episode. So, Andrew, this is your turn. What is the one tip you would share with someone who wants to experience Yorkshire for the first time?

Andrew Ward: My tip would be spend more time days here. Don't be that person that just comes up on the fast train, gets out. I mean, it's a very fine building, the Minster. It's amazing, right? I mean, do go and see the minister. It's not like don't get the minster's incredible, right? But don't just see the minster. Get back on the train and go to Edinburgh. What a shame. You have just missed 5,200 square miles of, you know, the fillet steak of England. Right. So make sure you spend more days in Yorkshire. That's my parting tip.

Tracy: Perfect. Thanks so much, Andrew, for coming on the podcast again. It's always a joy to chat with you and hopefully if, if I get down to Yorkshire this year, I will, definitely pop it in and say hi. It's always good to catch up.

Andrew Ward: It's been an absolute pleasure. Tracey, thank you very much.

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Tracy: Thank you for tuning in to this week's episode of the UK Travel Planning Podcast. As always, show notes can be found [@uktravelplanning.com](mailto:uktravelplanning.com) if you've enjoyed the show, why not leave us feedback via text or a review on your favourite podcast app? We love to hear from you. And you never know, you may receive a shout out in a future episode. But as always, that just leaves me to say, until next week, have happy UK Travel Planning.

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