

EPISODE 208

Northern England Road Trip: Yorkshire Dales, the Lake District and County Durham

The UK Travel Planning Podcast · with Tracy and Doug Collins · Approx. 53 minutes

A living museum, a steam railway, the Yorkshire Dales of all creatures great and small. And a day tour in the lakes. This is the northern England part of our recent trip, with all the tips we picked up along the way.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the UK Travel Planning Podcast. Your host is the founder of the UK travel planning website, Tracy Collins. Each week, Tracy shares destination guides, travel tips and itinerary ideas, 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 Travel We. We explore the UK from cosmopolitan cities to quaint villages, from historic castles to beautiful islands. And from the picturesque countryside to seaside towns.

Before we get started, we'd like to thank our sponsor. Walks and Devour Tours. If you're planning a trip to London, you'll already know the challenge. There's a lot you want to do and only a limited amount of time to fit it all in. That's where the right tour makes all the difference, because you want experiences that are the best use of your time, with more access, less waiting and a deeper sense of the city. That's why recommend Walks and Devour Tours. They offer walking tours and food tours designed to make your time count, often with early or after hours entry. You'll also be with exceptional local guides who add the stories and context so you leave with a richer understanding of what you're seeing and a trip that feels genuinely memorable. If you're visiting London as a couple with family or you simply prefer a more intimate experience, Walks and Devour Tours also offer private tour options. To learn more, you'll find the link in the show notes. Now let's get into this week's episode.

Tracy Hi everybody and welcome to this week's edition of the UK Travel Planning Podcast. Again, I have Doug with me.

Doug Hello there.

Tracy As Doug and I at the moment are touring the UK, it's a great time for us to jump on the podcast together and share our experiences.

Doug Yeah. And what an experience we've had.

Tracy Yeah, we've absolutely having a fantastic time and we know a lot of you love trip reports. So I guess this is our trip report. It is with our tips as well, from our recent exploration of Northern England. So this bit was done mostly by car, so I think this will be very useful for those of you who are thinking about driving. If you're not thinking about driving. However, we are going to be sharing some fantastic tours that we took which will take sort of takes takes away from the driving aspect, doesn't it?

Doug That's true. And just for anybody who knows me, I did manage to get some trains in on the way as well.

Tracy You did. And actually we're going to be talking about the Scotland part of the trip, which we did actually before Northern England later this month. It's just that we wanted to talk all about Yorkshire, the Lake District and a little bit of what we did in County Durham, because it's very fresh in our memory because we're literally just. We've just arrived back down south after. After the trip yesterday, so we want to kind of talk about it and share it with you. So I said this bit is going to talk about the northern part of England, which is where I'm from. So it's always a joy to talk about it. Definitely. So I guess where the Scotland trip will end is where we were in Edinburgh and went to pick up the hire car. So do you want to just talk a little bit about picking up the hire car, Doug?

Doug I will do. We arrived back into Edinburgh Waverley Station and we actually stepped across and we caught the tram to the airport, which is one of my YouTube videos. Everyone who wants to look at how to catch the Edinburgh tram. So it's very easy. We caught. Caught the car. No, we don't catch the car. We hide the car from Edinburgh Airport, which is so straightforward because he's straight out of there and then we're going to drive down towards Northumberland.

Tracy I do just want to kind of mention about picking up the car because I did see a question. I don't know if it was on our Facebook group. I hope it was on our Facebook group, but I have a feeling it wasn't. Someone was asking about how far it is from when you arrive at the tram to actually go and pick up your car. Edinburgh Airport, it's literally two minutes.

Doug Yeah. You come out of the tram stop because it's the end of the tram line, you turn left and you just follow a little covered walkway. Takes what, two minutes?

Tracy Yeah.

Doug And you walk straight. I call it the hub. They don't call it the hub. It's just. I call it because it's like a roundish type building and you've got all the different car hire firms around a central area. So it's just my phraseology. But yeah, literally two minutes. And the cars are all parked at the back. And unlike some airports, you pretty quickly out and about and onto your roads away, whichever direction you're heading.

Tracy Yep. And so one thing that we always do is when we pick up a higher car, we always make sure that we are completely Covered So that there is. We don't like having any excess. So you know, if you have a little clunk or a little scrape and you've got to pay £2,000 or whatever it is, we get rid of all of that. So that's why we say it's like we want to pay, that we don't have to worry if anything happens, which actually did happen on this trip. So we didn't have to worry about it. So always do that. And one thing you wouldn't do on the drive down was to stop off at the England Scotland sign, didn't you?

Doug That's right, yes. The driven it past how many times and obviously been on the train between England and Scotland many times. And last year I hired a car for Medino. I drove all the way down to the Midlands and I passed like a central area where there's flags in England Scotland border sign. So I thought I'm going to stop off there this time. And we did.

Tracy So we did. So we've got some nice pictures so I'll put those in the show notes. Right. So I will. I'm going to be up front here. Northumberland is the county that I was born in is where I come from. On this trip we didn't spend much time in Northumberland. Actually exploring Northumberland we have done previously.

Doug So just one thing we did explore on the way down on in the car which you've forgotten the angel of the.

Tracy Oh yes. But that's when we left Northumberland, heading down. So that was a couple of days later so I will bring that up. But yeah, so we did do that but not at this particular part, it was a couple of days later. So actually we'll say that this trip we didn't spend a lot of time exploring Northumberland because we've done it previously. So we will kind of point you towards any Northumberland resources if you're interested. But actually we'll be up front and I wanted to go and spend a bit of time with my sister so that's what we did. So it was not lovely. But what we did do is we did a day trip. We were invited out by visit County Dorm to visit Beamish Museum which is. We. We did that on the Sunday with my sister. We drove down, it was about 45 minutes from where my sister lives in on the Northumberland.

Doug Yeah. Pleasant drive.

Tracy And we went to Beamish which is basically an open air museum and it's somewhere that I visited as a child. I remember going when I was about 8 or 9 maybe to visit and I remember the school room is what always had such a huge impression on. So I was very excited.

Doug I've been before and that was 30 years ago.

Tracy Yeah. So we. We both have been previously, but. But with quite a bit of a time between. And I know we have had people ask us about Beamish. So Beamish is officially called the Living Museum of the north. And it really is a living museum. So you go around and there are. It's like. It really is like stepping back in time and they have basically a pit village set up, which I really love because I come from a coal mining family. So it's really good to go and see the. The pit village. And that's set up, I think. Is that also around about 1913? I think that's set up, I think.

Doug Something like that. Yeah.

Tracy Yeah. So you've got the 1900s pit village and then you've got a 1900s town. So you've got the pit village and the town and then the town. There's lots of different shops. There's houses and there's shops. My sister has a thing about. Got the dentist. So we checked out the dentist, which is really good. There's a sweet shop. Oh, my goodness.

Doug The printers there. Printers.

Tracy What about. I could say the queue for the sweet shop. Don't.

Doug Well, that's.

Tracy So there's a queue for the sweet shop because everybody wanted to go and buy some sweets. So I bought some sherbet lemons.

Doug You did. I bought some black corn and licorice.

Tracy You did. And everybody that serves in the shops and around the town and the pit village are dressed in period costume and they play the role as if they were living at that time. So you can ask them questions about what it was like to live at that time. And they will continue. They will act in their role as somebody from that period.

Doug I think the travel office was really good about people taking the. Was it 40 days to travel to Australia and asking if you've got any skills that can be used if you move to the colonies. And there's all things like that. The guy was so engaged in the. Because there's volunteers and employers there, employees there and. But you're right, it just played the role fantastically well.

Tracy Brilliant.

Doug The village was good, especially the. The. The married couple there. She was doing some bacon and he was sitting, you know.

Tracy Yeah, it was really good. I think what. What makes it is the fact that you've got everybody in period dress and. And you can ask them the questions and you really feel like you are stepping back in time as well. There's there's also recently open as a 1950s street, which actually made my mum feel old. She said, when I was telling them about it, because she hasn't been at Beamish for a long time and she's like, oh, my goodness. She says, I feel. Because she was born in 1940s.

Doug Yeah.

Tracy She said, well, that makes me feel. Oh, that there's a 1950s village. But like. Like there was a cinema and a toy shop and a hairdresser.

Doug It was like visiting our grandparents for us, wasn't it?

Tracy Yeah, yeah, we really was. I just loved that kind of stepping back and being reminded and also in each of these. So in. In each of the different parts of village. So you've got the pit village, you've got the. The. The 1913 town and you've got the 1950s town. They have houses. So they've actually removed houses from that period from different parts of the north and then rebuilt them at Beamish. So you actually get a feel authentic.

Doug Because you got trams and buses and running between. Up and down. Yes, you can walk. It was a lovely day when we were there. And you can walk between them and it's just so.

Tracy Or you can get the tram or you can get the bus. And they're proper trams and buses, so it is just fantastic. So huge. Shout out to Beamish for the invite. It was fantastic to go and. And have a look around and I just get so nostalgic when I go there. I'd highly recommend, if you are planning to drive up to the. To the north, that you go into Beamish. Really highly recommend it. It's a fantastic day out. Really great day out as well. If you've got children.

Doug This is a nice drive there.

Tracy Yeah. And if you want to know what it's like if your family originates from the north of England, which obviously mine do, because that's where I come from. But I know a lot of you who live in Australia or living in Canada or America, around the world, your ancestors may have come from this part of the world. It's a great way to get in touch with how your ancestors, how your, you know, relatives in the 1800s and 1900s actually lived.

Doug That's right.

Tracy So I'd highly recommend.

Doug Gives you a connection with your ancestors.

Tracy It does. I just think it's absolutely amazing. And I always feel that when I go there, it really is. Especially because, you know, my grandparents are no longer alive and it just brings so many memories of.

Doug Well, potentially there's a girl we're talking to actually knew your father yes, exactly.

Tracy So it was. It was a really lovely day out after Beamish. We actually decided to go because this is a Sunday. We have to go have a Sunday roast.

Doug We did indeed. Yeah, we did and that was lovely.

Tracy Yeah. So we had a carvery. Now we are going to do an episode about afternoon teas and Sunday roasts. We have got that on our agenda to talk about because I know it can. For sometimes it can be a bit confusing about afternoon teas, about the etiquette, about types of afternoon teas again for Sunday roasts. So we're gonna. We will be talking about Sunday rest but we had a really lovely Sunday roast carvery again. I'll put some pictures in the show notes of that. But basically the next day was the Monday and we drove down from my sisters in Northumberland to Yorkshire. Doug did the driving. I have to say fairly easy drive was it? Joke.

Doug I remember it was, yeah, very straightforward. I've done it how many times before? So yeah, it's not difficult now.

Tracy This is my first visit to Haworth. I wanted to go and say now Howth is famous because two reasons. You're going to talk about the train you have missed.

Doug Angel of the north out again.

Tracy Oh, sorry. Yes I will because you mentioned it before. Right. So we did stop off at the angel of the north which is symbolic gourmet. Anthony Gormley. A massive, great big huge angel which stands at Gateshead and we stopped off and had some photos there.

Doug Sorry, but symbolizes the northeast.

Tracy It is. It's lovely. And I always feel like I'm going home when I go past it. But let's skip back to Howard. So we went to Haworth and. Which is famous. Yeah. In Yorkshire. Famous for a few reasons. Doug will talk about the train connection but I'm going to talk about the fact it is where you'll find the Bronte Parsonage.

Doug Yeah.

Tracy So that's the reason I wanted to go there. But Train connection.

Doug Train connection. I went. Was it last year? It wasn't two years ago. I think it's two years ago in the middle of the summer. So the original film the Railway Children was filmed on the heritage railway there. It's called the Keith Lee and Worth Valley Railway. So it runs from Keighley which is a train station. It has a mainland train station you can catch very quickly. Farm, Leeds and it runs all the way across towards how other stations as well. But how is the well known station at the bottom of the hill and you walk up through the gardens and the most beautiful little village street and that's where the Bronte's parsonage is at the top.

Tracy At the top, which actually is what I'm gonna. I guess I'm going to talk a little bit about some of the tips that things that need. If you are planning to go to Haworth and I'd highly recommend it, there are a couple of things to know. One is that we had. I had booked accommodation at the bottom near the train station, which was a shock to Doug. Doug didn't realize that I'd done that, but I had. I did talk about right next to the station. We're right next to the train station, which meant that it was a what, a bit of a walk up the hill. And now that is a steep hill.

Doug It is.

Tracy It is a steep hill up to the Broughton parsonage. Now we did. We walked it a couple of times. What is lovely about it is that there's some lovely, lovely independent little shops on the way up. So I spent a lot of time in the shops, shopping.

Doug You can break the journey because it's quite. There is a steep road up, but you can break it up. If you head into the central park area, you can sort of go sideways a bit and then more of a gradual.

Tracy Yeah, it's a bit of a gradual walk up. But you need to be really thoughtful about what shoes you're wearing because it is cobbled.

Doug Cobbled.

Tracy So you need to be thinking about wearing something that's really comfortable now in terms of like, you can take it slowly. So do take it slowly if you. If you think it's going to be a bit of a struggle walking up this. This hill, because I say it is cobbled. There is options. There's car parks at the top.

Doug There is a car park at the top which is about £1 50 an hour or three pound 90 for the day, I think.

Tracy Yes, it's 3.90 for the whole day. But it gets full.

Doug It does. Because when it's right next to the. The parsonage and obviously when the passage is. Parsonage is open, that car park fills up quickly.

Tracy It does though. There is another car park because we parked there when we went to the. The old White lion pub, which we went to a couple of times for food. And there was another car park a little bit further back, but maybe like three minutes walk.

Doug Yeah. It might be a little less known than the parsonage car park, I guess. But it was.

Tracy Yeah, it was a large car park. Yeah. Decent sized car park. So that would be your option if walking up the Hill isn't going to be something that you can manage to do now I would say as well, because I messed up on this is you need to check the parsonage open days before you build your day around it, because I plan to go on a Tuesday. And we were actually in. There's a lovely field above the parsonage in the graveyard and we were sitting enjoying the sunshine and one of the lovely ladies who works at the parsonage came and said that we're just going to close the field and we said, oh, we're going to come tomorrow and have a look around. No, it's not open on a Tuesday. So be aware that the parsonage is open Wednesday to Monday and is closed on Tuesday, which is what we. We found out. Luckily we found out that night. So I swapped the itinerary that we'd it planned around.

Doug That's the beauty of a little bit of flexibility in your itinerary.

Tracy Yeah, that's it. To be honest, it was. It was pretty flexible what we're doing and actually when we did go to the parsonage to buy the ticket, it wasn't a problem getting in. You just get your ticket. I had to queue up for maybe 10 minutes before I could get in because they've. They do have. They only let a certain number of people in at a time.

Doug It's not very big, isn't it?

Tracy No, no, it isn't. It looks bigger from the outside. I was a bit astonished actually, so. But I'll talk a little bit more about that the. To the parsonage in a second. But basically that was the reason we went because I wanted to go and spend some time in Haworth. But it's also was a really good base from which to explore the Yorkshire Dales.

Doug It was. That's one reasons chose. It sort of ticks multiple boxes in one go.

Tracy Yeah. Also one thing to consider is if you are getting accommodation is to consider where you're going to park. We were lucky in that while there was on street parking beside where we stayed and I will put a link. Actually the. The place just said it was lovely.

Doug That's right.

Tracy Is that, you know, luckily there was always park and we didn't have problem getting parking. But I would. I can imagine it could potentially be an issue. But we. We didn't have a problem and that was free on. On road parking.

- Doug** It was. Right.
- Tracy** But yeah, do consider that if you're booking in a way you're going to book your accommodation.
- Doug** Yeah.
- Tracy** Okay, so let's talk about Tuesday, because. So instead of got the how with passing, which I'd plan to do, we did basically we did a Dale's Loop, didn't we?
- Doug** Yeah, we sort of loosely planned it before we went the places we want to go and then we put it into a journey planner.
- Tracy** Yep.
- Doug** One I use in the UK is called the. A route planner, which I do enjoy. I like to use and. Yeah, and we just did a circular loop because I like a circular loop when I'm driving.
- Tracy** Well, it makes sense to do on a train, really, if I could do a circular loop back to the starting point. And we did. So we went to Ribbleshead Viaduct first. Yes.
- Doug** Now the Ribbleshead Viaduct, it's the. The name of the bridge, the viaduct over the River Ribbleshead. And they use the same River Ribbleshead. Yeah, it's very famous. It's on the Settle Carlisle train line, which is one of. Or many say is the most picturesque in the UK, certainly in England, and can't disagree with that statement. So it's not. I was planning a train journey over the. The viaduct, which I did a couple of days later. But also it's nice to have a view of the 24 arch viaduct itself.
- Tracy** Yeah. Because you don't see. I guess you don't see it when you go on the bridge.
- Doug** Just a glimpse of it really. So it's a slight curve but you don't see much of it. So we did that first and it was a beautiful day and so walked to the. Walk to the viaduct. Got some great. We've got some great footage of trains going over, freight train going over, passenger train going over in each direction. So there will be a YouTube video to support those viewers.
- Tracy** I think we should just make a little short of it because it was just fabulous to see. So we'll share that YouTube UK travel plan and go and go and follow our YouTube channel.
- Doug** That's it. So we drove from there. Just further along the line there's a little station called Dent. Now Dent is the highest railway station in England, not in the UK, the highest. There is a station called Carlisle on the West Highland Line in Scotland. So we drove up to there and pass another little Vine Vale and we'd loved it. And while we're there, this RAF jet came flying over and booming over the top of us.

Tracy I have to say I cannot express how beautiful, how stunningly beautiful this part of England is. The Yorkshire Dales are breathtaking. Absolutely breathtaking. And I just. We had a beautiful day. It was just. Honestly, it was. It was one of those days where you're just like, wow, wow, wow. Every. Every few seconds. It was so beautiful. It was lovely to go up to Dent as well. We took. You took some video at Dent.

Doug There's actually accommodation there. You can actually.

Tracy Yeah, I know. You want to stay there, don't you? That's on your to do list. Doug was like, I have to stay here. We have to stay here. So that's something we're going to absolutely look at. And after that we're getting a little bit. A little bit peckish, weren't we?

Doug We were getting a little bit peckish. So we just drove further along to a place called Halls H A W E S to the Wensley Dale Creamery. Cracking bit of cheese grommet. Ay, lad.

Tracy So I. This is someone that I put on the itinerary. And Doug was a bit like, I don't know. Don't know about that. Didn't you? You weren't sure.

Doug No, I wasn't sure.

Tracy And you loved it.

Doug I did. Drag me away from there. Cuz I'm a big fan of Wallace and Gromit.

Tracy But you also. And I'm a big, big fan of cheese. That's right.

Doug Ticked a lot of boxes.

Tracy Oh, and honestly, we had. They have a cheese afternoon tea.

Doug Say that again.

Tracy A cheese afternoon tea for £19 each. It is stunningly delicious. Fantastic. Brilliant. I cannot express how much I loved the Wensley deal. Creameries, cheese afternoon tea. Go and have it. Have it. Seriously, it is just delicious. So you can go and see a little bit about how cheese is made. There's also lots of cheese, obviously, for sale. There's a fantastic shop which Dug had to drag me away from because it had so many. In fact, we. Look, we did buy a milk jug from there.

Doug We did.

Tracy So it was fantastic. Absolutely loved, loved, loved the Wensdale Creamery. And you know, it is an association, of course, with Wallace and Gromit. So if you're a Wallace and Gromit fan.

Doug Yeah. Also bought a placemat. It says, put kettle on, lad.

- Tracy** Yes, you did, you did. So thoroughly enjoyed that. So then after the. The creamery, we had a lovely drive to our next destination. We are going to talk about our next destination. I'll talk a little bit about. But I want you to talk about that drive because you loved it.
- Doug** That driver. Absolutely. Still. We now know it's known as Beggar's Lane or Beggars Road and it's just. You don't know where to look. I'm trying to concentrate on the road. You can see this beautiful, stunning scenery, both sides. You rise up and you've got. Got streams or becks as they are in. In Yorkshire. And it's just. I just can't find the words.
- Tracy** It was absolutely beautiful. It was a beautiful drive. And actually you did get to enjoy that drive a few days later. But I'll. We'll talk about how. Yeah, we'll talk about how. But we were heading through when we. Through this beautiful drive. We're heading to someone that's actually become really famous and is associated with All Creatures Great and Small, the new. The new series Great and Small. And that is Darrowby. We went to Darab.
- Doug** We went to Daraba. We did indeed. So anybody knows where Darrowby is? If you can point it on the map, you're a very, very clever person.
- Tracy** Yes. Because actually Darabee doesn't exist. Darabee is actually the village of Grassington.
- Doug** Grassington in the. In the Yorkshire Dale, in the orchard.
- Tracy** So we. We parked there at the top of the hill because again, that's on a little bit of a kind of slope down into Grassington itself. And we walked into Grassington, had a walk around, had a look around the shops, had a cup of tea, checked out the Drover's Arms.
- Doug** We did.
- Tracy** Checked out the. The veterinary. The veterinary. Veterinary. Veterinary building. The. The house that's. That. That's in. And that was great. So it was just lovely. If you're a fan of All Creatures Great and Small, you totally, totally appreciate this. And it was great. So again, it was free parking at the top there, but I guess that parking could be a bit of a premium.
- Doug** Yeah, the extra donation, if you're a voluntary donation, it's.
- Tracy** Yeah. We did park somewhere differently a couple days later, but again, we'll get back to that. So there is some places to park, actually. If you go to Grassington again, it's very popular because of course everybody wants to go and see where All Creatures Great and Small was filmed.
- Doug** That's right.

- Tracy** So that was. That was basically the Tuesday. So then we headed back to. To Haworth. So that was a full day out. It was a lovely, lovely day out. So that's what we did that day and thoroughly enjoyed that.
- Doug** We did.
- Tracy** So the next day was a Wednesday, so we'd spent two nights. Nights staying in. How. So this is our third. I guess the third day of rival day. The day before we did the Dale soup and then Wednesday we did the parsonage. Which you'd been to before.
- Doug** That's right.
- Tracy** So it was my turn to go. Malham Cove and Bolton Abbey. So we'll talk a little bit.
- Doug** I did go and look at the trains because in the K. Worth Valley Railway, there was a diesel gala on at the time.
- Tracy** Yeah. I will say we did not do the train this trip. Because you've done it before.
- Doug** I've done it before. And there was no steam on at that moment because the diesel gala was on.
- Tracy** Yeah. So we decided not to. But you can fit that.
- Doug** Yeah, if you want to.
- Tracy** Absolutely.
- Doug** Good day. Ticket. You can go backwards and forwards on the line as many times as you like.
- Tracy** Oh, you'll probably just sit on that all day.
- Doug** Easily.
- Tracy** Happily. Okay. So while I. While Doug was doing his checking his trains out, I went to the Bronte parsonage. Now, I just bought the ticket that morning, went and booked it, queued up for about 10, 15 minutes of circle Room. It wasn't that long. And then they. I went into the parsonage. It's smaller than. It's smaller inside than it looks on the outside, which is weird. You're allowed to take photos in there. What stuck with me about it is that I couldn't see where Emily slept. There's, like, Charlotte's room, there's Bramwell's room and there's, you know, Mr. Brony's room. But there was no room for where. I don't. So I. I was a bit confused about that. But anyway, it was really interesting to see. And again, I think what did strike me is Charlotte's. Charlotte's. There's a dress that Charlotte made and a hat. And her shoes were so tiny, you said.
- Doug** Yeah.

Tracy Oh, yeah. And I think what also struck me as the tragedy of the Bronte family is, like, how they all died young and it was. Yeah. So I think Charlotte was the eldest at 39 when she died. Mr. Bronte lived until maybe. Was it 80s, I think. Yeah. And there's a. There's a lot of reasons and a lot of speculation why, and it's worth going and finding out. Yeah. Yeah. So it was. It. I don't know. It was a really interesting experience and it kind of. I felt that I learned. I did learn a lot more about the Brontë sisters and. And where they lived and how they lived and. And about the family, which was really, really good. I did enjoy as well, going into the church. So basically there's the. The parsonage and then you've got the graveyard and the church right in front of the parsonage. Now, the church was rebuilt the late 1800s and where it was rebuilt over the graves of the. The Brontë sisters family. But there is a plaque and a mention of where because, yeah, they did mark where they'd kind of built over on top of the graves. Very atmospheric. It is a very atmospheric place. If you're obviously a Brontë fan, you're probably going to know a lot more than I do about the Brontë sisters. For me, this was a. You know, I. I enjoy the books. I've just been to see the Wildern Heights movie. I've seen one of the older movies and obviously I'm a big fan of Kate Bush, you know, Kathy Come Home. So it was just lovely to go and. And experience that and see. See how they lived. Yeah, So I really enjoyed that. So you went and did the trains and did that and then we kind of. Then we met up, didn't we?

Doug Then we met up and then we had a drive to Mallon Cove.

Tracy Yes. For a little bit of a hike. Now, if anybody knows me, I don't like hiking.

Doug I don't mind some walking, but I've never been here before.

Tracy Yeah, so we did walk. I don't know. We walked through, basically parked on the road. There is a car park beside the visitor center and quite a few people drove past and asked us because they couldn't find parking. So there is parking. We actually parked on the road, which was fine. And then. Yeah, there was the car park and then it was probably maybe about a mile or so walk.

Doug Yeah, something like that.

Tracy And then you continued. I kind of went through the style. Could see Malam Cove, walked part of the walk through. There's like a long path and then. Which was fairly. A little bit uphill, but fairly flat. So pretty accessible.

Doug Choice of several walks on the notice boards. Obviously the range in steps and steepness.

Tracy Yeah.

Doug Duration.

Tracy Yeah. Stepless. I don't know if that's a word. Steepness. Stepless.

- Doug** Yeah.
- Tracy** But I. Yeah, because I. I just. So I just took the fairly flattish one and then you. You continued walking maybe another couple 200 meters down to get the kind of view of the COVID Right.
- Doug** From below, looking up and the little bag.
- Tracy** Whereas I just sat and enjoyed the sunshine and watching the cows and the sheep. So that was really good. So you can do as much or a little of that as you want.
- Doug** Yeah, you can.
- Tracy** Literally. It's up to you. Whatever you can, you know you want to do or you're able to do that. That part is. Is pretty accessible. So you get a good view.
- Doug** It's a flat Path as well.
- Tracy** Yes, that's it. That's what I'm saying. So that was quite good. And then after that, we had a little walk around the. The visitor center.
- Doug** Yes.
- Tracy** I did see there was a farmer that puts on a sheepdog show. I really wanted to go to that. I think it was a Thursday night and I thought it'd be really cool. I did take a picture of the. Of the leaflet because I thought if you're in the area interested in seeing the sheepdogs and the work this guy was basically showing.
- Doug** A lot of people would like to see that.
- Tracy** I think it was really good. So that's something I would like to have done. And then we headed to Bolton Abbey because I wanted to go and see Bolton Abbey. That was something that was on my list to do. Now I just want to talk a little bit about parking at Bolton Abbey because there's nowhere to park.
- Doug** It's nicely.
- Tracy** Unless you pay.
- Doug** There is double yellow lines, which in the UK means no parking.
- Tracy** Yeah, well, you can. If you park there, you're going to get either clamped or fine.
- Doug** And it's all the way through the village. There's very few places you can actually pull in. Very few.

Tracy Yeah. So. So what we decided to do. So basically the parking, because this was getting later on in the day, so the parking is basically, if you book an advance, is 12 pound 50. If you're on the day, it's 15 pound. So it was quite late in the day. So what we decided to do is that Doug dropped me off. So I then walked and had a look at Bolton Abbey and then the ruins behind it. So you've got like this, there's a Bolton chapel and then you've got Bolton Abbey ruins. And then you've got the beautiful river. There's a stepping stones. It was another lovely day. So I went down there, look at some, took some photos, just checked it out so I could talk to you about it, really, if it's something that somewhere you want to go. So it's actually free, obviously, to go and have a look at the ruins, but you have to pay for parking.

Doug That's it. I drove a good mile outside and to find somewhere safe to park.

Tracy Yeah, yeah. So. So just, you know, factor that in if you want to go to Bolton Abbey, that you're gonna have to pay for parking. I mean, it was lovely. There's a lot of families down by the river. It was beautiful, this ice cream van. So again, a beautiful, popular place for British people to go as well.

Doug Weddings as well.

Tracy Oh yeah, there was a. There was a couple having some wedding photos. I forgot about that. That was lovely. Yeah, yeah. Okay, so. So that was really good. So then we drove back down back to Haworth. So we, we had. I wanted to mention about food and drink. So during that we'd already eaten like the day before. We had a really good meal at. At the Creamery that day on the, on the Wednesday we drove past this beautiful bakery, didn't we?

Doug We did.

Tracy Oh, I've got to get the name of it and bought. They just had plastic sandwiches. I got at a sausage sandwich. You had a bacon sandwich, I think.

Doug Yeah, that's right.

Tracy And so that was really good. And there's some lovely bakeries and places to stop off in the villages as well, some lovely cafes. So we did that and then we're headed back again to go and eat at the Old White lion because there was something new so on the menu you wanted to have.

Doug Well, one of my favorite meals is. You don't see very often these days is duck in a black cherry sauce and not had it many times in my life but because you don't find many places that sell it and oh my life, it was lovely.

Tracy He really enjoyed it. So we actually ate there twice. The first, you wouldn't be surprised. The first time I had gammon steak. The second time I had scampi.

Doug Yes.

Tracy So I had my favorites. Good pub food. You know, go and order at the bar and then come and deliver it to your table, pay it.

Doug I actually stayed there when I was.

Tracy Yes, you did. Yeah. So yeah. So Doug was. Knew it and then actually the day that I in that morning that left going at the Howth actually around the. The parsonage actually I bought a sandwich on. On the way down the hill from this bakery and it was. It was it one. It was one of those hot roast sandwiches. It was a roast pork sandwich that was delicious as well. So you're not going to be sport for choice for places to eat.

Doug And I had a meal deal from the local supermarket.

Tracy Yeah. So yeah. So it must have been. I'm trying to think when we actually went to that bakery then was it the day before? It was the day before but again there was some, there was some fantastic places to eat.

Doug It was after being to Dent Station. We stayed there.

Tracy Right, right. So we went and got grabbed some tea. No, because we went to the creamery after that. We're getting mixed up now.

Doug It must have been before we went to the World Head. Vital.

Tracy Must. Must have been. Anyway, so there's lots of places you can stop off and get food. That's basically what we're trying to say. Some fantastic bakery said you're not gonna, you're not gonna starve. Absolutely not going to starve. In fact, you're going to be spoiled for choice. So yeah, we did stay in a, in a like apartment. So we had, we had a fridge. So we just made her on breakfast. Yeah. So you know, we had, we went to the suit. There's loads of supermarkets beside the state so I think went to this spa co op. So we bought milk and cereal, brought some of that with us because we're in the car. So that just made things a little bit easier. So yeah, so that was basically our, our Yorkshire Dale's itinerary. Now you can find our itinerary on the website and I will link to that in the show notes. If you want to plan something similar yourself to say we're based in Haworth and all of those steps, what we did, we kind of went off and visited all those places.

Doug If anybody's interested in trains and they know the old railway children, the first edition edition of the Railway Children film which is very, very good, written by E. Nesmit. I would recommend having a. A journey on the steam train on the Keighley and Worth Valley railway.

Tracy Absolutely. So lovely. And we are going to be back a couple days later in the Yorkshire Dales. We'll talk about that in a second.

Doug Yeah.

Tracy So the Thursday we had to go and drop the car off. So the easiest way for us to do this because we were heading to York next and now this next bit of the trip is going to be by train and by tour. So we're doing trains and tours. So yes, that's kind of the driving part done. So this is where you got a good mix. This is where we had the driving where we thought was necessary and then we had the. Took the trains for the next part and tours. So we went to Leeds airport, dropped off the car.

Doug So from how worth to Leeds Bradford Airport where we're dropping the car off. It was less than an hour's driving driving towards Leeds. Yes, it was busy, it was congested. So allow ourselves plenty of time because we'd obviously arrange a planned drop off time. So we got there earlier than that, that time and what we did then there was the car hire central location where you drop your cars off. There's a courtesy bus back to the airport terminal. We should. That was no more than.

Tracy No, it's really easy. Yeah, it's really Easy.

Doug And then there's a. A one flyer bus which takes you from Leeds Bradford Airport to towards Leeds railway station. So that talk about about half an hour, 40 minutes.

Tracy Yeah, I think. Yeah.

Doug And that's very straightforward. Now this is where we divided. We. You went by train direct to York. Yes, half an hour, 20 minutes, half an hour. And I managed to then jump on the train and do the very famous the Settle Carlisle train line. So it leads from Leeds all the way up to Carlisle back over that Ribbleshead viaduct which had already seen a couple of days before from underneath. So I went all the way up and then all the way back. Two and a half hours each way because you're going high up and the weather wasn't quite as great. And towards then a few raindrops, but second drop down again, both sides. It was stunning scenery and just a lovely train journey. Absolutely, it's one of the best. So what I did, I went up on one side of the train and then journeyed back on the other side to get a view both sides.

Tracy Yep, you did. And I went well. So I had work to do. So unfortunately, when you run in a business, you can't always be traveling everywhere. So I headed off to York. We had booked in at the Abbey Guest House, York, who I'm giving a huge shout out to. We absolutely loved our stay there for a couple of reasons, but one, I guess this, this may not suit everybody, but for us it was absolutely perfect in that our room was right overlooking the train line, which was. Was just amazing. And we just enjoyed seeing the trains coming in and out of York Station. It was fantastic at night. I got some great footage at night, to be honest. It wasn't. It wasn't noisy, really. No. I mean they do provide earplugs, but we never used them.

Doug It's slow speed over there. Yeah, this is over the. The is right next to the River Ooze as well. So then you've got the. The bridge over the river for the Scarborough line, which is at the seaside town in Yorkshire.

- Tracy** Yeah.
- Doug** So this. The. The speed over the bridge is very low anyway and just the views are great.
- Tracy** We just love to just sat bed watching the trains go over the bridge and also it's got great views of the river. It was just a really. I think I'll stay there again and I'll ask for that room again.
- Doug** Same room. Room number two.
- Tracy** Five minutes walk from the train station. It could not have been better. And they do have parking, so if you have a car. They did Mention about parking as well, so just absolutely loved it. I think it's probably one of my favorite places we've ever stayed at. New York. Just really thoroughly love it.
- Doug** I think so too.
- Tracy** Yeah. So don't do breakfast. It was just a house. But again, we're actually. When we. On the Friday, we're going to talk about what we're doing the Friday. But we got. When we got back on the Friday, we just sat aside with drink, enjoying the views of the river. It was a beautiful evening. So fantastic. So. So I got there Thursday, I had to work all afternoon, so that's what I was doing. And then Friday we had a tour booked.
- Doug** We did have a tour and this
- Tracy** is the first of our tours that we took with Mountain Goat, which is one of our newest partners this year. And we do have a promo code. So if you do book with Mountain Goat, you can use a promo code UK trav10 and you get 10% off. But they'd invited us to do some of their tours, so we decided we were going to do the All Creatures Great and Small tour, which was across the lake, the Ordales, which of course where we've just been. But the advantage of this meant there's two things. One is that we had a guide who could show us and explain things to us that we had and some things we had missed. So I was so glad that we saw it. And the second one was that meant you didn't have to drive.
- Doug** Drive, that's right. And obviously anybody who drives knows that, you know, you've got to keep your eyes on the road and if you're a passenger on the same, same piece of road, you see things from an entirely different perspective.
- Tracy** Absolutely. So it meant that. So if you, you know, if. If you don't want to do the drive and this is your perfect way to not do the driving. Based off in York, so that the tour goes out from a number of places. We went out from York, which is only a couple of minutes. Well, five minutes from where we're actually staying as well. Yes, exactly, exactly. So it's a five minute walk, me picked up by the. The coach driver, I think. Was it a full bus? I think there was. Was there 14 of us, 16 of us on that one.

Doug Nearly four.

Tracy Yeah. It's a lovely tour group and we had a really knowledgeable driver guide, so taught us loads of stuff as we were driving across the Yorkshire Dales.

Doug Yeah.

Tracy So it was absolutely perfect. So basically the route covered. I'm not going to go into it because you Only book it, but it. It was basically Yorkshire, showing us the best of Yorkshire Dales and All Creatures Great and Small. So we did go to Grassington again. We did do some of the drives again that you had driven, but we actually had missed. I can't believe I missed this. You know what? In fact, when we drove past it, I said to you, oh, my goodness, look how beautiful that farm is. It was actually Helen's farm from All Creatures Great and Small. And I had passed new series. Yeah. On the new series. And so we. We stopped in the chair and took photos and we had. When Doug had driven past it, I said, my goodness, took a bit of vice. It looks familiar. But I couldn't. Penny didn't drop stop, obviously, on the tour we stopped, took the pictures. We also went back to the creamery, which was great. So it meant that we could have some more cheese.

Doug We headed literally straight up, straight there,

Tracy straight to the cheese. So it was really, really good. And as I say, it meant that there was no driving or parking stress involved. We just sat back and absolutely enjoyed the trip. So that was a full day to a really popular tour. People want to go and see the Dales and they want to go and see All Creatures Great and Small. Perfect way to do both. Departing from York, I will put a link in to Mountain Go. Don't forget, we've got a promo code to get 10 off. So get it booked. Go and enjoy the Yorkshire Dales. Sit back and enjoy it and go and go and see all these amazing small filming locations. You may, even, if you're lucky enough, arrive on a day when they're recording, which would be. Unfortunately, we didn't, but I would love to have seen that. And also in Grassington, there's so many places that they've got photos of when with the locals and. And they explain a little bit how about how they do the film. And it was just fantastic, Fantastic. It was really, really good. So thank you so much to Mountain Goat for inviting us on that tour. We. That was the first of our Mountain Goat tours because we're going to talk about the second one we did in a second. So we didn't spend much time in York. The main point of us being in York this time was that so we could go and do the Mountain Goat trip. So we did spend a little bit of time walking around York when we arrived back after the tour. But obviously we want to encourage you to stay in York longer. So if you're going to do the Orchid Small tour or you can do the the moors tour as well, which is another really popular one with mountain goats. That's two days. You just give yourself another couple of days maybe to base yourself in York, to actually explore yourself. Yeah. Because York is a beautiful and very popular destination. So the reason. So that's why when you're here thinking, well, you were rushing around. Yeah, we rushed up because we just would fitting in things that. That. So we could share them with you, basically. So the next day is we took the train to the Lake District after

Doug I've been to the train museum.

Tracy Museum, yeah. She popped in the train museum.

Doug Sorry. I can never go to York without going to the National.

Tracy You did that.

Doug New York.

Tracy And then we jumped on the trainer. We did take a slightly more unusual route. Because you want to do some videos for YouTube.

Doug Yes, I'm doing a couple of my YouTube videos. I need some footage for two parts of that. So you can head straight across from York Dry Leeds towards Preston and then you can head straight up to the lady street that way. But what I decided we're going to do, we're headed by train from York York up to Newcastle and then went from Newcastle straight across from east to west to Carlisle. So that train line is known as the Tyne Valley Line. So it sort of runs adjacent, which you could. Unfortunately you can't see Hadrian's Wall. So it's just. Just different scenery again. But stunning scenery. And then from Carlisle down the west coast main line to Oxenholm. And this is where the second part of the video I needed to do from Oxen home, showing you how to. You can reach Windermere in the Lake District by train.

Tracy Yep. So that's what Doug was doing when I was just sitting back and enjoying the scenery on the train.

Doug Those videos to follow.

Tracy Yes. So they'll be on the YouTube channel soon. So we when based in a. We chose accommodation again beside Windermere Station. It was just easier for what we're doing the next day. But there's fantastic. Honestly, if you go to the Lake District, just don't take a car. You don't need to literally get the training in and then just take buses around the bus. The buses are fantastic. They're really, really coordinated and really well done in the Lake District. And to believe me, you do. I would not want. You couldn't pay me to drive around the Lake District.

Doug No, no. I've driven it before and it's. It's not just to drive and it's a difficulty parking as well, which is not easy.

Tracy Yeah, yeah. It's not, it's not something that's a lot of fun. So we had on. Well actually we went to our favorite Chinese in the Lake District as well. Yes, lovely Chinese restaurant.

Doug Very, very good.

Tracy So we enjoyed that. That. So then on the Sunday we were taking the second of our mountain goat tours, which is their 10 lake spectacular, which you may have heard Asia talking about in our episode about summer around the UK when she talks about the Lake District and she mentions this 10 lake spectacular. So obviously this is the one we had to do and it really was spectacular.

Doug It really was stunning. It really, really was. I mean the weather was beautiful as well, which obviously you got a good view of the hills. Hills. So.

Tracy Yeah, well, what, what I will mention about the difference I guess between Yorkshire and Lake District, the Lake Districts, you've got high passes. So you know, there's some of the highest, some of the highest roads in England you can drive over in the Lake District and they are pretty demanding to drive. Now Yorkshire itself is pretty demanding because you've got a lot of high hedges, single roads. Again similar in the Lake District but there seemed to be a lot more traffic in the Lake District. I guess it was a Sunday, it was a beautiful day but it, there was, there was a kind of. You could, there were some people that were stressed. You could see driving most definitely. So yeah, you know, and I was relieved because I wasn't driving myself, I'll be honest. Yeah, well that's it. You could sit back and enjoy the Lake District without having to drive because you were being driven around by our fantastic mountain goat driver guide. So that made things really easy. Now I, I've shared, you can have a. Check out our reel on Instagram which, which, which shows you some of the scenery. Hopefully we'll get a video together as well on YouTube showing you some of the beautiful, stunning sites that day. Yeah, but Obviously we saw 10 lakes. We stopped off, went right to the north. So we stopped off in Keswick and had lunch. Oh my goodness. We had the most scenic lunch ever. I have shared a lot. I shared a lot actually on Instagram stories and the feedback I have had from people that have said wow, oh my goodness is stunning. I'm breathless looking at it cuz it's so, so beautiful.

Doug We did our meal deal and we sat on the grass looking across the lake.

Tracy It was, it was just beautiful. Absolutely beautiful. And really driving around the Lake District is not for the faint hearted. But also getting parked in the Lake District is just so difficult. There's so many people who had Double parked and had parking tickets.

Doug Oh, that's right there. Traffic wardens there who check your parking.

Tracy Yeah. So honestly, Lake District, get yourself there by train, get yourself accommodation. You can get the bus down to the lake, get yourself on the buses to get around and, and just enjoy it, take it.

Doug Which we have done before when we visited. Yeah, we have taken the buses, relied on the buses before.

Tracy Yeah.

Doug Without any issue whatsoever.

Tracy No, it's a great way to get around but honestly, the best way to see the full lakes and that and the 10 lakes that we do is to take them out and go to.

Doug It is again, you've got the driver guide with their knowledge and the explanations about different places because frankly, if you drive around yourself, you don't get that same level of knowledge.

Tracy No, don't. Well, we probably would have argued because I imagine you would have got stressed with the driving. So it would have probably ended up with a bit of it, to be honest with it.

Doug It's hard not to get stressed without driving, I think.

Tracy Yeah, exactly, exactly. So I guess, I mean, so that was it. We stayed, we stayed in the Lake District. Well, we got back actually we did a beautiful walk that evening.

Doug We did back near Windermere railway station.

Tracy Yeah. Just opposite the guide. The, the travel. What's it kind of the guide shop. I don't know what you want to call the information center.

Doug Tourist information.

Tracy Tourist information. That's it.

Doug Also left luggage there as well.

Tracy Yes, there is. And a really good place, supermarket booths where you can get stocked up. It's a fantastic supermarket.

Doug Yeah, it is good.

Tracy So that's really good.

Doug Yeah. We walked to this viewpoint called Orest Head.

Tracy Yeah. So we'll put some photos. Oh, you got a fantastic view over Windermere. Yeah, just beautiful, you know, and we were very lucky. The weather was fantastic. But the Lake District, we in fact, we heard so many different accents and people from around the world in the Lake District is such a popular, popular destination. In fact, fact, I will get a whole episode all about things to know before you visit the Lake District. I think that will probably be an essential podcast. So we'll get that sorted in the next. In the next month or so. So you can listen to that if you plan to visit the Lake District because it is just again we, we went. I would say the north of England offers some of stunning scenery anywhere in the world. It really does. Yorkshire Dales, Lake District. Beautiful. So we've got. We work with mountain goats. So if you don't want to do the driving, you don't want to do the public transport apart from getting the train there, but you actually want to sit back, all of your party, enjoy the scenery. The best way to do it is to book it.

Doug And the small groups.

Tracy Yeah. So let's just think about. So obviously this. We've gone through an itinerary, we did a bit of driving, we've done some trains and we've done some tours. So we're kind of giving you some options. Talked about all of the different ways that you can travel around. We did some car, we did some trains, we did some buses and so obviously did our guided tours. And we'll give you kind of an outline of some of the positives and some of the negatives of thinking about if you're driving, some of the considerations that you've got to have. Now, if you are planning to drive, make sure that you book your car well in advance. If you want an automatic especially, you'll need to consider that because there are less, I think there's more automatics than used to be a few years ago. But still, if you need an automatic, you need to make sure that you book that. And also remember, in the UK we drive on the left. Highly recommend that you do the trip Yamo course. I will link to it. Everybody who's done it said it's absolutely fantastic. Will prepare you for driving in the UK where we have some of these places. We talked about single track roads and it will tell you about passing place etiquette. You need to know what to do when you've got to pass people and that caused a little bit altercation in the. In the Lake District where people weren't sure about, you know, if there's passing places you need to reverse and let people past, not park your car in them. Yes. And some cars were parked in passing places which was a bit. Not very good. So Tripyama is. We highly recommend the Tripiano course. We do have an affiliate link. No cost to yourself if you book through that. It's not expensive but honestly absolutely worth doing. So we, we mixed both. You enjoyed both the driving, you enjoyed both the choices as well, didn't you?

Doug Yeah, I enjoyed the. The driving. The weather was nice and, and yes, I'm familiar with driving on the left, but it was just the things that our pace. So it was just, yeah, nice gentle days.

Tracy So thoroughly enjoyed it. So that was a. So basically that was our itinerary for the north. So I'm not really include Northumberland but into Durham, Yorkshire, Dales and Interlake District.

Doug Yep. One little tip across anywhere you travel, public toilets, conveniences. There's a mixture of card and coins needed.

Tracy Yeah, I was actually going to mention that because one tip would say that most of the time we were able to pay by card. Yeah. But some did. Did someone cash?

Doug Yeah, there's one, I think where it was, it was 50 or 60.

Tracy Was that in Grasmere?

Doug Yeah, it might have been.

Tracy Did you have to pay in cash for that one? Could you use card?

Doug I don't know.

Tracy I think most of them you could tap a card.

Doug Yeah, most of them you could. One of them was free. It should have been charged, but the barrier was open. So everybody.

Tracy But yeah, just be aware of that. It's not free to pee. Yeah. And then

Doug Lake District, take a few,

Tracy you know, have a few bits of change. I do say have a little bit change. I know in London you can get away with it most of the time without needing any cash whatsoever, but if you're going outside of London, have a little bit of cash. So that. That would be our tip for that as well. Now, Mountain Goat, we recommend highly going out with Mountain Goat small group tours. Really, really good. Our tour guides were amazing. Really good. We have a listener discount. UK traffic have 10 for 10 off Mountain Go tour. So, you know, use that, put that in as checkout and you'll get your 10 off. Yeah. So I. Next time I want to spend longer.

Doug Most definitely. Yeah.

Tracy Say that every time. Wherever we go, I'm going. I want to spend longer there. I want to spend longer all places. But it was just so beautiful. Yorkshire is beautiful. The Lake District is beautiful. Durham, County Durham is beautiful. They've got the Dorddales. Northumberland is beautiful. The north of England is beautiful. And, you know, quite often parts of it get overlooked.

Doug It is. Don't forget there's more to the UK than just London and Edinburgh.

Tracy Yeah, absolutely.

Doug There's lots of places in between places

Tracy and also outside the cities, we will experience the countryside, which was just stunning and absolutely fantastic. So if you've enjoyed this episode, if you've got any questions, let us know via Speak Pipe. Share it. If you know anybody that's planning a trip to the UK, share the podcast with them, please. We absolutely appreciate that, that, as I say, we will be bringing you more information about the Lake District in coming up episodes. We're going to be talking about our Scotland itinerary and coming up episodes as well.

Doug Yes, that'll be a good one. Yeah.

Tracy But I guess there's anything else you want to share, Doug, or with John, do you think for this episode.

Doug No, I'll just say reinforce what you said. Don't forget all Yorkshire. There's some stunning, stunning scenery. And the Lake District.

Tracy Absolutely. Anyway, that I guess just leaves us to say until next time week for myself and Doug Happy UK Travel Planning

CLOSING

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