

## Places of Interest to Visit when in Whitby

Every visitor to Whitby sees the great Abbey which dominates the East Cliff of the town and many tourists climb the 199 well worn steps to take a closer look at the ruins. You can take in a show; climb the famous 199 steps; browse in the Captain Cook Museum; take in the Dracula Trail guided tour; walk along the harbour front and watch the deep sea trawlers land their catches or just pick one of the many panoramic views of Whitby, sit and watch the world go by. Whitby is centrally located to visit places up and down the coast, Scarborough; Goathland (home to the TV series "Heartbeat"); Grosmont and the Steam Railway; local fishing villages, such as Robin Hoods Bay; Runswick Bay; Staithes and many more attractions, not forgetting the lovely North Yorkshire Moorlands and its walks.

Old town of Whitby (East side) where its ancient cobbled streets still wind beneath cliffs, dominated by Gothic remains of the Abbey over 1300 years ago. You can see and smell the character of years gone by, where picturesque red roofed houses nestle on the slopes above the river Esk. Whitby is one of Britain's finest coastlines, with cliffs, panoramic bays and safe sandy beaches. Whitby has been a port for more than a thousand years and is still a seafarer's town, keeping it's olde worlde character.

Whitby Abbey, Streoneshalh from which arose Whitby Abbey, was founded in the year 657AD by Oswy, King of Northumbria. Lady Hilda, his daughter, then 44 years of age was appointed the first Abbess and dedicated to St Peter. The ruins of the Abbey as seen today, were built over 500 years after the death of Lady Hilda, who became a Saint and was known by the Anglo Saxon name of Hild, meaning "battle". She was born into the Royal house of Northumbria.

Whitby Swing Bridge which joins the two communities East and West of the river Esk together, has been the scene of rivalry in the earlier part of this century, where gangs of youths would contest the bridge with " t'other side o' watter dogs ". The original bridge was first mentioned in 1351 and used to lie to the South of the present one, roughly aligned with Baxtergate. A block of early 18th century buildings on the south side was demolished in 1975. The present swing bridge was built in 1909 and is electrically operated.

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Whitby on a steep wooded inlet of the River Esk, offers a delightful combination of fishing industry, port and a tourist centre.

The ancient town of Whitby has been the scene of the Synod, held at the Abbey of St Hilda; nurtured Caedmon, the first English poet; has fostered the genius of Capt Cook and his sailing ships, built in the town; fathered the abilities and bravery of the Scoresby family, the finest sailors and whalers of their day; hosted authors the likes of the great Charles Dickens and Bram Stoker, author of "Dracula".

Today, Whitby is still has a very busy fishing industry and trading port. Whitby has become a very popular destination for the tourist, taking the family holidays or a short weekend break. Whitby is well situated close to the North Yorkshire Moors National Park where you will find the picturesque valley gouged out during the Ice Age, popular with walkers of all ages. Take the train journey from Grosmont village through to the market town of Pickering, boarding the steam train at Grosmont station, home to the North York Moors Railway where you are able to book meals on your steam journey at weekends.

Visit the historic wall town of York and its Minster. Stroll through the Shambles and its cobbled streets, then onto the National Railway Museum and its history of steam.

Visit other local popular towns of Scarborough: which served as a commercial port, a shipbuilding centre. Though much of Scarborough town has changed over the years, there are many parts of Scarborough town that are now gone forever. They include the Promenade Pier in the North Bay, Scarborough's well-loved aquarium, the cottage in which Anne Bronte died was demolished to make way for the building of the now Grand Hotel, and the site of the Holbeck Hall Hotel before it slid slowly into the sea in 1993, as the cliffs gave way.

Bridlington: a seaside family holiday resort and minor fishing port on the Holderness Coast of the North Sea, in an area which is said to have the highest coastal erosion rate in Europe. Bridlington, with its beautiful beaches and brand new award winning promenades and gardens, offers a host of all weather activities.

Filey: is at the eastern end of the Cleveland Way, a long-distance walking footpath. Starting in Helmsley and skirts the North York Moors, it was the second National Trail opened in 1969. It is also the northern end of the Yorkshire Wolds Way National Trail which starts at Hessle and crosses the Yorkshire Wolds.

# Whitby Brochure

**Whitby** - where there is something for everyone  
" The jewel in the crown of Yorkshire "



*Whitby Harbour*



*Sandsea view to Whitby Beach*



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