



# Walk on the WILD SIDE

THIS MONTH JO VAUGHAN HEADS FOR NORTHERN ENGLAND TO TALK ABOUT A CORKING WALK IN YORK

**T**HE CLUB'S Rowntree Park site is a popular choice with members – no surprise as it's just a few steps from the centre of one of England's most intriguing cities, York. This beautiful city offers plenty of interest for visitors, including the fascinating Jorvik Centre which brings York's 2000 years of history

to life, taking you right back to when it was known as Jorvik in Viking times.

Our walk takes us very near to the Jorvik Centre, but more directly it passes the English Heritage-owned Clifford's Tower, takes you down the famous shopping street, The Shambles, and then onto the mostly complete city wall. Once

back at pavement level you pass a huge TIC, full of useful maps, book tours and advice. You continue to the stunning York Minster, the largest Medieval Gothic cathedral north of the Alps, before returning through the pedestrianised shopping streets to another large section of wall on the way back to the site.





- 1** Leave the site via its main entrance. At the road turn left, keeping the river to your right. Continue towards the bridge ahead of you.
- 2** Immediately before the bridge, turn left to walk up its side towards the city walls. At the top of the ramp, cross over the main road (via the pelican crossing) and turn right to cross the bridge.
- 3** At the end of the bridge, just past the gate tower, turn left at a break in the wall and go down the steps towards the river. At the bottom, turn sharp right to take the footpath leading diagonally across the little park towards Clifford's Tower (ahead on the grassy mound).
- 4** At the road, cross at the traffic lights and then turn left to walk around the base of the mound. Follow the road around to the right signposted 'City Centre', past the Hilton Hotel. Cross the entrance to the car park and then turn left down Castlegate.
- 5** Pass York St Mary's Church and then turn right at the road junction

(signposted 'Jorvik Viking Centre, The Shambles'). Continue past All Saints' Church (on your left) before turning left across the road at the traffic lights (next to Jessops). Turn immediately right, just before the public toilets that are in the centre of the square, passing a red postbox and the Halifax on your left.

**6** Turn left just past Marks & Spencer to enter the famous Shambles shopping street. Veer right at the end and head towards Boots. Turn right just after Boots down Goodramgate, past the White Swan pub on your left. When you get to the National Trust Giftshop, beside the half-timbered Treasurers House, veer right, past Caesars Pizzeria. Continue towards the tower, and when you reach it go up the steps inside, next to the sign 'No Dogs Allowed on the City Walls'.

**7** Turn left to walk along the wall, enjoying the bird's-eye view (there are seats at intervals). Having done a 90-degree turn to the left, go through the two metal gates and then descend the stairs back to the pavement. Continue past the TIC and the Theatre Royal, and turn left towards the Minster (signposted 'Grand Opera House'). There's a stop here for the National Railway Museum road train.

**8** Immediately before the Minster turn right, to the right of St Michael le Belfrey and an estate agents. Take the first right down Stonegate. Continue on ahead through St Helen's Square towards the grand red and cream building; when you reach it, turn right down Lendal.

**9** At the end of the road, turn left and pass over the bridge. Immediately after this bridge, cross the road and keep right to walk along the city wall once again. Continue along the wall as you pass the station on the right; the wall then bends around to the left. Head down some steps towards the next tower, without going all the way down to pavement level. Continue through the centre of the tower where there's a museum, and walk up the steps to continue along the wall.

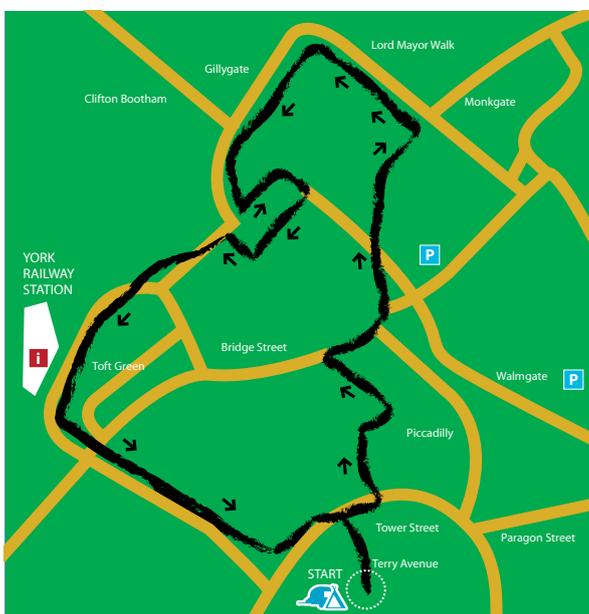
**10** After a while the wall again bends around to the left. Having descended back to pavement level at the end of this section, bear right to the pelican crossing and cross the road. Immediately cross the smaller road and turn left to walk down the side of the bridge on the slip road. Turn right at the end (signposted 'Trans-Pennine Trail - Selby 15') and return to the site.

#### INFORMATION GENERAL

**NEAREST CLUB SITE:** Rowntree Park, Terry Avenue, York YO23 1JQ. Tel 01904 658997. Open all year  
**DISTANCE:** 3.8 miles/6.1km  
**TERRAIN:** Roads and pavements  
**NUMBER OF STILES:** 0  
**ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT:** A map of the city centre, available from the tourist information website free of charge  
**LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:** Easy  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Numerous  
**TOILETS:** At instruction 5 and outside TIC

#### INFORMATION TOURISM

York Visitor Information Centre, De Grey Rooms, Exhibition Square, York YO1 7HB. Tel 01904 550099 or see [york-tourism.co.uk](http://york-tourism.co.uk)



#### INFORMATION ATTRACTIONS

- **Jorvik Viking Centre**, Coppergate, York YO1 9WT. Tel 01904 543402 or see [jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk](http://jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk). Open all year. Cost: adults, £7.95; seniors, £6.60; children, £5.50; family tickets available. Explore York's Viking history at the very site where the original Jorvik was unearthed by archaeologists. Full disabled access
- **Clifford's Tower**, Tower Street, York YO1 9SA. Tel 01904 646940 or see [english-heritage.org.uk/cliffordstower](http://english-heritage.org.uk/cliffordstower). Open all year. Cost: adult, £3; concessions, £2.40; children, £1.50; families, £7.50. Free for English Heritage members. Originally built by William the Conqueror, the tower takes its name from a grisly incident that involved treason and execution. Offers sweeping panoramic views of York and the surrounding countryside. No disabled access
- **National Railway Museum**, Leeman Road, York YO26 4XJ. Tel 08448 153139 or see [nrm.org.uk](http://nrm.org.uk). Open all year. Free (except for special events where charges may apply). The world's largest railway museum is home to over 300 years of railway history. Full disabled access