The City of DONCASTER Visitor Guide 2024



visitdoncaster.com



Step inside one of England's most iconic new heritage sites in Doncaster, South Yorkshire

The Danum Gallery, Library and Museum houses an art gallery, two museums, a library, and a rail heritage centre inside a unique, purpose-built architectural wonder.

GALLERY · LIBRARY · MUSEUM

Behind the original façade of the historic Doncaster Girls High School lies a fascinating collection of artefacts revealing the story of Doncaster's past.

The Danum Gallery, Library and Museum is located in Doncaster town centre, a 10-minute walk from the Railway Station.

Admission is free to all.







Waterdale, Doncaster DN1 3BZ dglam.org.uk 01302 737555

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DONCASTER IS PROUD TO WELCOME EACH & EVERY ONE OF YOU TO OUR CITY

Welcome to the City of Doncaster's Visitor Guide for 2024, full of suggestions of activities to enjoy and places to explore. To kick things off, let's reflect on some of the memorable moments from 2023!

In a fitting tribute to Doncaster's pivotal role in shaping the railway industry, the world-famous Flying Scotsman made a triumphant return to its birthplace, as part of its 100th birthday celebrations. This once in a lifetime event was enjoyed by thousands of visitors from Doncaster and further afield.

Doncaster Racecourse was delighted to host some very special guests at the annual St Leger Festival. Their Majesties the King and Queen joined the huge crowds on Town Moor and around the globe to watch the world's oldest Classic horse race.

With events for everybody, there was the rousing Armed Forces Day attended by the Coldstream Guards, a thought-provoking exhibition at Danum Gallery, Library and Museum (DGLAM)of Henry Moore's drawings illustrating our mining

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heritage, the splendid Steampunk Spectacular, a joyful Festival of Light in the stunning setting of the Minster of St George and the delightful penguin trail in the city centre.

2024 promises to be full of even more exciting opportunities for visitors to experience new places, events and activities. Doncaster really is the perfect destination for making those special memories. The Civic and Cultural Quarter is being transformed into a cosmopolitan hub for visitors looking for culture, cuisine and relaxation. Work continues on the restoration of the 1930's St James' Baths to create a modern interior for a new pool, spa and leisure complex and the iconic Corn Exchange is getting ready to welcome visitors again following extensive refurbishment.

Doncaster Racecourse, The Dome and Yorkshire Wildlife Park will once again be hosting a fantastic selection of artists, events and exhibitions throughout the year and Askern Music Festival will be back, with its biggest ever line-up of performers.

'Our new-look Visitor Guide gives you a flavour of what to look out for in 2024 but don't forget to check out visitdoncaster.com for all the latest information about what's on, where and when.'

We are delighted that Doncaster will be the host city for UK Pride 2024. We are looking forward to extending a warm and inclusive Doncaster welcome to all who visit us for this momentous event celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, this is one not to miss!

With an exciting year ahead, one question remains, how will you see Doncaster?

Ros Jones - Mayor of Doncaster







OUR HERITAGE Bringing History to Life

Doncaster's rich and varied heritage provides many opportunities to experience and learn from past generations. From historic houses to lovingly curated collections, there's something for everyone to explore and enjoy.

Forts, Castles and Historic Houses

Whilst many of Doncaster's Iron Age forts and Roman remains are no longer standing, you can visit a small section of Roman wall in the grounds of the stunning **Doncaster Minster**. There are also many interesting artefacts on display in the **DGLAM** including Roman coins found in the Norton Hoard and the Danum Shield. There is a castle dating back to the Norman conquest at Conisbrough. The striking ruin of **Conisbrough Castle** (English Heritage) is open to visitors all year round. Also in Conisbrough you will find the **Church of St Peter** which began as a Saxon construction and is the oldest building in South Yorkshire.

Visitors to Tickhill will be intrigued to find the remains of the Norman motte and bailey **Tickhill Castle**, which holds an annual open day in the middle of the year. Follow us on social media **@visitdoncaster** to find out the exact date for 2024.

Doncaster has its fair share of historic houses for you to visit and get a feel of what it was like to live in a bygone era. The grand 18th century **Mansion House** in the city centre, is one of only three surviving examples in the country. Check **visitdoncaster.com** for more information about the open days. Other mustvisit houses include the 18th century **Cusworth Hall Museum and Park** and **Brodsworth Hall**, a Victorian country house and gardens (English Heritage).





Museums, Art Galleries and Landmarks

One of Doncaster's newest and most family-friendly places to experience our heritage is the **DGLAM** in the Civic and Cultural Quarter. From Roman times to the present day, discover the things that have made Doncaster the thriving city it is today. There you can also visit the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI) Regimental Museum and the Rail Heritage centre. The spacious art gallery houses artworks that showcase Doncaster's heritage, from railways to horse racing and so much more.

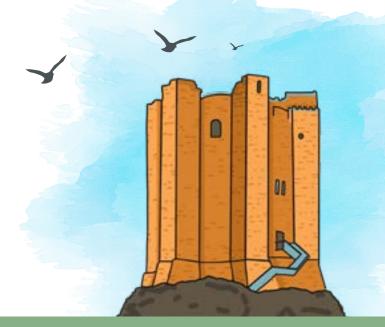
The South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum

at Lakeside makes for a fascinating allweather family outing. It displays an eclectic assortment of planes and helicopters from the very earliest days of flight through to the modern day. One of the newest exhibits is a complete example of an RAF Hawk pilot trainer aircraft.

FUN FACT:

Conisbrough Castle inspired Sir Walter Scott to write his historical adventure novel, Ivanhoe.

In tribute to Doncaster's mining heritage, there is an evocative statue on Printing Office Street. It features a bronze cast miner and 39 portraits of local people from the mining community. Another unmissable landmark from Doncaster's industrial past is the spectacular **Conisbrough Viaduct**. It opened in 1909 and provided a vital industrial corridor for the transport of coal and goods for over 50 years.





TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Take a little bit of Yorkshire home with you

There's so much to do in the City of Doncaster, we want to make sure you can enjoy it all! That's where our Tourist Information Centre comes in. Conveniently located in the heart of the city centre, our friendly team are on hand to help. Whether you're looking for advice on things to do, places to see or how to get around the city, we're in the know.

Whilst you're visiting, check out our diverse selection of local and regional treasures. From locally brewed beers to charming Yorkshire prints, authentic bus signs, and even adorable Paddington Bear toys - our collection caters to a wide range of tastes and preferences. There's something delightful for everyone.



Contact:

tourist.information@doncaster.gov.uk 01302734309

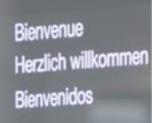
Where to find us:

Tourist Information Centre 1 Priory Place, Doncaster, DN11BN

Opening Times:

Monday, Thursday, Saturday: 10am-3.30pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9.30am-5pm Sunday: Closed





Shops to delight are here for the first time, are ive you a unique and friendly arkets to enjoy Calés.





MAIZE MAZE OPEN MID JULY -END OCTOBER



BOSTON PARK FARM, BAWTRY ROAD, DONCASTER, DN7 6DS



Quirky artefacts and garden buildings





A UNIQUE SHOPPING DESTINATION

With a choice of retail outlets to suit every occasion and budget, Doncaster is the perfect shopping destinationfor visitors from near and far. Here you will be treated to a wide and varied assortment of shops ranging from well-known high street stores and quality independent specialists to bustling market stalls and thrifty second-hand shops.

Award-winning indoor and outdoor markets

Markets are at the heart of a great Doncaster shopping experience.

Doncaster plays host to a number of markets. The award-winning Fish Market sells almost every type of fish imaginable. The International Food Hall is home to a selection of butchers, cheese and olive stalls, delis and cafés.

There's also the Goose Hill market selling an eclectic mix including toys, confectionery and poultry whilst the iconic Corn Exchange is undergoing extensive renovation and is due to re-open in 2024.

The Wool Market is a buzzing meeting place for friends and families, where you can enjoy food and drink from the international food vendors. Test out your gaming skills in the entertainment zone with Augmented Reality (AR) darts, duckpin bowling, shuffleboard and retro arcade games.

Doncaster outdoor market is one of the best in the north of England, selling everything from flowers and fresh fruit to clothing and footwear. There's also a weekly antique and bric-a-brac market where savvy shoppers can bag a bargain.

Mexborough also has a large indoor and outdoor market with a wide variety of fresh produce, clothing, home accessories and gifts.

Check visitdoncaster.com for details of market days and opening times.

Highstreet brands and retail parks

Frenchgate is a spacious indoor shopping centre home to over 100 high street brands, independent outlets and eateries. The centre is directly linked to the bus and train station making it the perfect stop-off for travellers with a few hours to spare.

Lakeside Village offers value for money outlet shopping, with a collection of over 40 big brand names including M&S, Next and Cadbury's. New names include, Radley London, Crew Clothing, Skechers and Saltrock. The site is family-friendly and is accessible to all.

On the outskirts of the city, you will find the Wheatley Centre Shopping Park with convenient, free, on-site car parking. The park is home to TK Maxx, Next, Boots, Matalan and M&S Food amongst others.

The Yorkshire Hive is a new shopping, dining and entertainment hub, situated within Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Parking and entry are both free. It is a fantastic destination for those who love to browse in boutique and localartisan shops.



Independent outfitters for special occasion wear

Whether you're headed for Doncaster races or looking for that unique outfit, there are lots of independent boutiques to choose from. Outfitters for ladies include Venezia Designs, Bella Donna Boutique, Tiffany, Reflection, Chique, Harpers Couture and LJ's Boutique. For men's occasion wear you could pay a visit to Punch, Vault or Bradley Knipe. For matching footwear try The Shoe Healer, The Shoe Room, or Pettits.

Discover even more places to shop

You will find characterful destinations such as Bawtry, Mexborough, Thorne and Tickhill, each with their own special points of interest for you to discover. There are shopping centres, markets, independent and specialist retailers as well as lots of places to eat and drink.

Garden centres are also a shopper's paradise, stocking a wide range of local produce, gifts and stationery. Why not pay a visit to Walkers Nurseries, Markham Grange Garden Centre & Steam Museum, Flourish, Pastures Garden Centre or Stringers?

Farm Shops are the perfect place to buy fresh, seasonal produce and artisan gifts. There's plenty of choice, including those at Marr, Barnby Dun and McCallums Farm Shop in Blaxton.



CULINARY DELIGHTS

Doncaster is the go-to place for independent cuisine. Whatever the time of day, you will never be far away from finding the perfect spot to relax and enjoy a little (or a lot) of just what you fancy.

Here's a taster of some of our amazing local eateries and bars that have been awarded top marks, as voted for by customers on TripAdvisor and Facebook.

RISE & SHINE!

4 On The Highstreet, Hatfield – 5.0 👼

Situated at the heart of the village, this traditional café serves freshly prepared food from breakfast through to lunch.

BRIX Coffee Co, Kirk Sandall – 4.5 👼

Delightful coffee shop serving, breakfast and delicious pastries.

Jazz Café, Doncaster – 4.5 📾

Modern, jazz themed café. Great for breakfast, bottomless brunch and afternoon tea.

So Good it Yurts, Bawtry - 4.8 (?)

A small and intimate coffee shop serving good quality food and drink at reasonable prices.

The Old Butchers, Fishlake – 5.0 🚳

Lovely informal family run café bistro providing delicious home cooked food. Perfect for breakfast or brunch.

Tea or Coffee, Mexborough – 4.8 (?)

A friendly, locally run café, serving breakfast, brunch and lunch.

Tweed at Wadworth – 5.0

Traditional British café offering delicious breakfasts, lunches and afternoon teas.

RELAX & ENJOY!

Bake Battle & Roll, Doncaster – 5.0 🚳

Doncaster's first board game concept café. Select from over 700 games to play whilst you enjoy your hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, burgers or cake.

Boston & Co, Bentley – 5.0 🚳

A community café in Bentley serving hearty dishes in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Café 1910, Doncaster – 5.0 ()

A fantastic coffee shop situated in the unique setting of the Danum Gallery, Library and Museum.

Feast, Bawtry – 4.7 ()

Serving breakfast, brunch, lunch, coffee and cakes, using locally sourced produce, freshly prepared in-house to eat in or take away.

Suburb Buns & Slice, Balby - 4.5 🚳

The home of "create your own". On the menu are freshly prepared stone baked pizzas, burgers, salads, sides & desserts.

The Glass Strawberry, Doncaster - 4.5 🔤

A great place to meet up for a coffee, breakfast or lunch. Featured in The Times top 23 best places in the UK to take afternoon tea!

The HUB, Auckley – 4.7 ()

A speciality coffee shop & sandwich bar. Great for speciality coffee, hot chocolate and more.

SAVOUR & SOCIALISE!

Da Leo, Doncaster – 5.0 👼

Relaxed yet upbeat Italian restaurant and takeaway, serving authentic Italian and Mediterranean food made from locally sourced produce.

DN1 Delicatessen & Dining – 5.0 🚳

Award-winning deli and critically acclaimed fine dining experience. Tasting menus feature delicious seafood dishes, with ingredients freshly sourced from The Gentleman Fishmonger.

La Boca Steakhouse, Doncaster – 5.0

A warm welcome and a great atmosphere awaits you at this family run Argentineinspired steakhouse and grill.

La Fiesta, Armthorpe – 5.0 🚳

A Spanish themed tapas bar and restaurant. Enjoy a taste of Spain in a relaxed, contemporary setting.

Lalezar, Doncaster - 4.5 💿

A welcoming and friendly place, serving hearty portions of authentic Turkish cuisine. Food is available from lunchtime until late.



No.7 at The Rum Rooms, Doncaster – 4.5 👼

Try out the delicious and varied tastes of fusion food with little plates from its Caribbean kitchen. The Rum Bar features speciality cocktails and has live music nights, creating a relaxed vibe.

The City Restaurant, Doncaster – 4.5 🚳

Contemporary, European style restaurant in the heart of the Civic and Cultural Quarter. Ideal for pre or post theatre or cinema dining.

The Indus Restaurant, Conisbrough – 4.5 👼

A well-established restaurant serving a great choice of Indian, Asian and Balti dishes. A great place to relax and enjoy an evening meal after a visit to the nearby Conisbrough Castle.







These places are very popular and have differing opening hours, so it's always best to phone ahead or check on-line to avoid disappointment. They will also be happy to discuss any special dietary requirements, with vegetarian, vegan, halal, gluten-free and other options often available.

DELICIOUS DRINKS

AFTER DARK TIPPLES & TREATS!

Cubanos Rum Bar & Grill, Doncaster - 5.0 🧰

Get the cool South American vibe in this colourful and inclusive Cuban themed bar with lots of food options including tapas and grills, and a choice of beers. wines and colourful cocktails.

Doncaster Brewery & Tap, Doncaster - 5.0 🚳

A real ale bar in the heart of the city. Many of the cask beers available downstairs are brewed on-site. The Dystopia bar is upstairs and serves an assortment of keg beers, cans and bottles from around the world.

Gorilla Brewery & Tap, Mexborough - 5.0 ()

Located by the canal, you will find a spacious beer hall serving real ale and tasty street food, all at reasonable prices. Live music is a regular feature at this cool venue on the Meccie Riviera!

Pinchos Bar, Doncaster - 4.8 📢

A friendly cocktail and gin bar in the city centre. Pinchos Bar serves a variety of delicious cocktails. spirits and more.

The Draughtsman Alehouse, Doncaster - 4.5 🚳

Victorian themed alehouse on platform 3B at Doncaster station. A great place to grab that swift half whilst waiting for your train.

The Leopard, Doncaster - 4.5 🥯

A traditional pub with a modern twist. Inside you'll find a mix of cask ales and craft beers and a lounge where you can relax and enjoy watching live sport. Proper comfort food is always on the menu.

Tut N Shive. Doncaster - 4.5 🥮

A well-established city centre pub, with a great selection of local beers and cask ales. Quality pub food is served, and live sport is shown on TV. They also hold regular live music nights.

Each establishment had a minimum hygiene rating of 4 and all ratings are accurate at the time of production.

*It is advisable to call ahead with any special dietary requirements to avoid disappointment.











Weekly Quiz Nights Acoustic Music Sessions Spoken Word Events Drink Festivals Book Club



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campsite, located in the picturesque village of Hatfield, just a few minutes drive from the City of Doncaster.

With loads of fantastic outdoor activities including our giant inflatable Aquapark, paddleboarding, kayaking and outdoor swimming there's something for everyone to enjoy at Hatfield. ERSAL

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DAY TRIPS FROM DONCASTER

There are always plenty of things to do to entertain the whole family in and around Doncaster, but if you want to venture a bit further afield for the day, our well-connected location makes travel easy. With Doncaster as your base, there are lots of wonderful places to visit right here in South Yorkshire. Here is just a small selection from the many options available.

Elsecar, near Barnsley was established as a hub for the ironmaking and coalmining industries. These days, the **Elsecar Heritage Centre** has been transformed into a lovely place to visit, with its independent shops, cafés and pubs, parkland, reservoir, and nature reserve.

If getting close to nature is your thing, you could take a trip out to the **Dearne Valley Old Moor**, **RSPB bird reserve**, near Wombwell. It's a family-friendly spot, with an adventure playground and a lovely café where you can get refreshments after a stroll around the nature reserve. Wentworth Castle Gardens (National Trust) in Barnsley has South Yorkshire's only Grade I registered landscape. It is a place of outstanding natural beauty, but also has a fascinating back story, with tales of intrigue to discover.

Wentworth Woodhouse is a grand, stately home near Rotherham and shares part of this fascinating story of family rivalry. Here you can take a tour around Europe's largest privately owned house and explore the surrounding gardens and parkland.

Gulliver's Valley Resort near Rotherham offers a varied choice of rides, shows, attractions and places to eat. The theme park is perfect for a family day out with play areas and rides designed especially for toddlers as well as more adventurous rides for older children.

Wherever you wander, be sure to make it back in time to relax in a range of fabulous accommodation as listed on pages 26-29.



An event like never before – the same Doncaster Pride but bigger, better and just... more!

Gear up for an extraordinary journey as Doncaster Pride unveils its vibrant wings, spreading joy, love, and unity across our diverse city. Over 17 years, volunteers have tirelessly curated a celebration that stands as a testament to Doncaster's variety of cultures and identities. This year's prestigious UK Pride event promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Doncaster is a diverse city and Pride is the best example of that diversity in action. There is a warm welcome for everyone to attend the free event that will be held at Town Field on August 10th 2024.

For us, Pride is more than an event; it's a manifestation of our collective strength, resilience, and the beauty of togetherness. It's a chance for Doncaster to shine, for businesses and individuals alike to contribute to a shared moment of pride.

With the usual parade, followed by a 9-hour event with two stages, and loads to do for all the family, it's a true celebration of unity for all to enjoy.

Come and witness diversity and inclusion in action, experience the transformative power of volunteering, and join hands with us as we paint the town with the vibrant hues of UK Pride Doncaster.

August 10th 2024

12 noon - 9.15pm

Town Field





DONCASTER - THE PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS

You'll find plenty of fun things to do throughout the year

SPRING

Boston Park Farm

If you're looking for a great day out for all the family, especially the younger members, then a day at the farm could be just the thing. Visit in the spring and you could get to see, pet and maybe even feed the lambs and other farm animals. There's lots of other things to see and do there, including an outdoor playground, go kart track, an indoor bouncy castle and soft play area.

Enigma Rooms & Viking Axe Throwing

Are you looking for an indoor afternoon of fun with your friends and family? Enigma Rooms could be just the place. You can choose from various themed rooms where the challenge is to escape sinister plots against the clock. For something a little less scary, but just as competitive, you could try your hand at the Oche club for a game of interactive darts. Viking Axe Throwing is also on offer if you want to let off steam and bring out your inner Viking.

Walk around Lakeside Lake

Springtime is the perfect time to take a stroll (run or cycle) round Lakeside. There's a twomile, circular walk that will get you up close to the wildlife and nesting water birds on the lake. You'll find information boards on the way with QR codes you can scan to discover even more things to see and do around Lakeside. There are three trails for you to try out: there's a quiz trail, a heritage trail and a nature trail.

Walkers Nurseries

Does your garden need a spring makeover? A visit to the award-winning Walkers Nurseries could provide you with the inspiration you are looking for! You will be spoiled for choice when it comes to plants and shrubs. There's so much to see here, including a lovely show garden for you to discover. You will find gifts and cards for every occasion and a wonderful choice of sweet and savoury delights. There's also a large restaurant, serving hot and cold food throughout the day.

SUMMER

Bawtry Paintball & Laser Fields

Set amongst 365 acres of natural woodland in Bawtry Forest you will find the biggest paintball and outdoor activity centre in Europe. It's a fantastic destination for action adventures with friends and family. From an adrenaline fuelled paintball battle with the Predator, a 7-foot-tall hunter-warrior, to low impact paintball for younger kids, there's something for everyone. You can try your hand at laser tag, archery or Tomahawk axe throwing and plenty more besides!

For more family friendly tips and ideas to help you enjoy Doncaster to the max with young children please visit doncaster.mumbler.co.uk

Conisbrough Castle

This romantic Norman Castle is cared for by English Heritage and is one of the must-see landmarks in South Yorkshire, standing proud, overlooking the town of Conisbrough. On a fine day, you can enjoy a picnic with a majestic view from the grassy surrounds of the castle. The castle walls may be crumbling, but parts of the keep have been restored and from here you can imagine what an impressive place this would have been when it was built in the 12th Century.

Hatfield Outdoor Activity Centre & Campsite

Long summer days are perfect for spending time in the great outdoors and getting active. Just outside of Hatfield you will discover this family-friendly centre with lots of activities to choose from. There's a floating inflatable aquapark where you can slide, climb and make a real splash! You can also go canoeing, paddle boarding and outdoor swimming. If water's not your thing, you can try scaling the 14m climbing wall or axe throwing. There is also a campsite here, so you can make the most of the facilities with an extended stay.

Picnic in the Park

Sunny days and picnics. What could be more perfect for a fun yet cost-effective family day out? Doncaster has a whole host of wonderful green spaces where you can relax and enjoy being close to nature, whilst spending quality time with friends and family. Take a picnic and explore one (or all) of Doncaster's seven green flag award-winning parks.



AUTUMN

Brodsworth Hall

A day at Brodsworth Hall and Gardens is a must whenever you are visiting Doncaster. The autumn is a great time to visit as it brings the trees in the garden and surrounding parkland into focus with their kaleidoscope of colours ranging from deep reds, through to oranges and yellows. You may find that your visit coincides with a half-term event such as a Halloween-themed re-enactment taking place on the lawned area beside the house. Check out **visitdoncaster.com** for more details.

Doncaster Gallery, Library and Museum (DGLAM)

As the seasons change and the cooler weather sets in, you will always find a warm and friendly welcome at the DGLAM. You could spend some time in the library finding that perfect new book to read. Visit the art gallery and be inspired by the latest collection of artworks. Explore the museum and take a trip back in time to learn about Doncaster's past and see how this has shaped the present. Catch up with friends or just sit and watch the world go by with a coffee and a slice of cake in the Café 1910. There is no charge for entry to DGLAM.

St Leger Stakes

If ever there was a top 10 wish list of things to do in Doncaster, a trip to the racecourse to watch The St Leger Festival would probably come out top. The four-day event is one of horse racing's most prestigious, it includes the glitz and glamour of Ladies' Day and The Doncaster Cup Day celebrating all that is great about Doncaster, The St Leger itself and the popular Family Fun Day to round off the festival. Why not book your visit now and stay for the full four days?

Woodland Walks

Check out the autumn colours and feel the crunch of leaves beneath your feet with a walk on the wild side in one of Doncaster's many wooded areas. Great places for you to explore for free with friends and family include:



WINTER

Cusworth Hall, Museum & Park

Cusworth Hall nestles in acres of beautiful and historic parkland which looks stunning with a dusting of snow. It's a very special place that really does have something for everyone. Inside the hall you'll find lots of artefacts illustrating the social history of the people of Doncaster from the 18th century to the present day. There is no entry fee for the hall, museum or parkland.

Doncaster Minster

Image credit: Kevin Neaç

The architecturally stunning Minster Church of Saint George, Doncaster lies at the heart of the city of Doncaster where a church has stood for over 8 centuries. In the run up to Christmas, the minster is home to the wonderful Festival of Light, artworks and illuminations. The grounds of the church contain part of a wall that was part of one of the Roman forts which were situated on the site.

Panto Season

The festive season just wouldn't be the same without a trip to the panto! Each year Cast and Doncaster Little Theatre put on a colourful and magical show that will be enjoyed by all members of the family, whatever their age. Experience live theatre, with a festive twist, as the characters bring to life some of our best loved fairy tales, complete with comic antics and musical interludes.

FUN FACT:

There is a peal of eight bells in Doncaster Minster, weighing 5.5 tonnes in total. The heaviest bell, the Tenor, weighs over 1.5 tonnes.



22

Yorkshire Wildlife Park

The UK's No.1 walkthrough wildlife experience is a great place to visit whatever the season, but the shorter days of winter bring new opportunities to experience the wonderful Christmas illuminations. After dark, the Park becomes a magical wonderland, filled with light, colour and enchantment. There are also lots of opportunities to pick up that perfect Christmas gift from the Christmas Fair and artisan shops in the Yorkshire Hive.

EXPERIENCE LIVE MUSIC

Doncaster is well known as a brilliant place to come to on a night out, and the live music scene is an integral part of the social vibe.

There's easy access to Doncaster by bus and train so you can enjoy your visit even more by leaving the car behind. Or why not make a weekend of it and stay over in one of the many hotels and B&Bs?

The **Wool Market** is a vibrant and trendy venue in the market area. By night the lively atmosphere goes up a level with a varied mix of live music sets ranging from: acoustic sessions and jazz to rock, pop and soul. Inside the Wool Market you will find the **Don Valley Brewery Tap**, serving locally brewed real ales as well as **Liquor Lab** serving cocktails and the **Tiki Lab**.

The Masons Arms is one of the oldest pubs in Doncaster. Inside you'll find a tap area serving real ales and a lounge where you can watch live sport and live music with a mix of genres on offer. It is joined by a "secret garden" to the **Rum Rooms.** This is a cool space where rums from around the world and cocktails are served. Regular live music sessions also take place.

A visit to the **Doncaster Brewery Tap** is highly recommended for lovers of real ale. It has a micro-brewery on-site. Regular roots and folk music unplugged sessions take place on a Saturday.

The Queen Crafthouse and Kitchen is cosy and relaxed by day. By night, it transforms into a lively evening venue. Here you'll find a great selection of beers, some banging tunes on the jukebox and free live music on the weekend. **Mavericks** is a brand-new cocktail and lounge bar with a nightclub vibe where you can party the night away. Playing the best in 80's anthems right through to the 00's, with live music and DJ sessions throughout the week.

The Donny Dozen Ale Trail

Want to discover 12 of the best places to drink real ale in Doncaster?

The Donny Dozen Ale Trail is a new and fun way to find out what makes Doncaster great, whilst sampling the hospitality of some of our most historic pubs, breweries, coaching inns and taverns.

Download full details of the Ale Trail from visitdoncaster.com or pop into the Tourist Information Centre and pick up a leaflet.

Social Bar hosts live bands every weekend, featuring indie and classic rock as well as tribute bands. Live band sets are followed by DJ mixes right through to the early hours.

The Leopard has recently been refurbished and live music is a thing here, with a mix of original and tribute bands playing most weekends. The Vintage Rockbar is the go-to place for indie rock n roll. Join in the fun of open mic Thursdays, catch all the best tunes with rock DJ Fridays and don't miss regular live band sessions. If you love the craic of an Irish party, then head on over to O'Donegans, a popular music bar where you can boogie along to the DJ sets and there are live bands on every Friday. **Roots Music Club** stages live music performances from international and British folk and blues bands. Most of the events take place at the Ukrainian Centre but other venues are also used.

The Regent Hotel is just a few minutes walk away from the city centre. It hosts occasional live music events ranging from tribute acts to 80's party nights.

The Salutation on South Parade is an awardwinning real ale pub and Thai restaurant. There's always something going on at the Sal, from movie nights and quizzes to open mic sessions and live music.

A short hop to Mexbrough will get you to the **Gorilla Beer Hall** and micro-brewery. Live music gigs take place regularly on Fridays and Saturdays.

There are dedicated music festivals such as **DN One Live**, **Askern Music Festival** and **Fake Festival** at Sandall Park. Check out our events page at visitdoncaster.com for further details.

Stay connected with us @visitdoncaster

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There's such a great selection of live music events that take place at our amazing venues like **Doncaster Racecourse**, **The Dome** and **The Yorkshire Wildlife Park** you'll find plenty of reasons to keep coming back to Doncaster to experience the best in live music and a great night out!

A PLACE TO STAY

Whatever your reason for visiting the City of Doncaster and whatever your budget, you'll find the perfect place to stay. Whether you want to experience a touch of luxury in one of our hotels. unwind in a home away from home or keep things traditional with B&Bs or a campsite, you will be spoilt for choice here!

Advance booking is always recommended, particularly during peak periods, as our accommodation providers fill up fast!

HOTELS

Best Western Pastures Lodge

Pastures Road, Mexborough, S64 OJJ 08443 876267 | www.bestwestern.co.uk

Best Western Premier Mount Pleasant Great North Road, Doncaster, DN11 OHW 01302 868696 | www.mountpleasant.co.uk

Campanile Hotel - Doncaster Leisure Park Bawtry Road, Doncaster, DN4 7PD

02075 195045 | www.campanile-doncaster.co.uk

Crown Hotel

Market Place, Bawtry, DN10 6JW 01302710341 www.crownhotel-bawtry.com

Earl of Doncaster

Bennetthorpe, Doncaster, DN2 6AD 01302361371 | www.theearl.co.uk

HEX Hotel Hurst Lane, Auckley, Doncaster, DN9 3HQ 01302 535057 | www.hex-hotel.com

Hilton Garden Inn **Doncaster Racecourse**

Leger Way, Doncaster, DN2 6BB 01302 986888 | www.hiltongardeninn.com

Hooton Pagnell Hall

Hooton Pagnell Estate, Hooton Pagnell, Doncaster, DN5 7BW | 01977 648272 www.hootonpagnallhall.com

Holidav Inn

High Road, Warmsworth, Doncaster, DN49UX108714234896 www.holidayinn.co.uk

Holiday Inn Express Bullrush Grove, Balby, Doncaster, DN4 8SJ 01302 314100 | www.hiexdoncaster.co.uk

Inn Keepers Lodge Bawtry Road, Bessacarr, Doncaster, DN4 7BS 0845 155 1551 | www.innkeeperslodge.com

Kings Chambers

Selby Road, Thorne, Doncaster, DN8 4JE 01902 916907 | www.marstonsinns.co.uk

Mecure Doncaster Danum High Street, Doncaster DN11DN 01302 342261

Owston Hall

Owston, Doncaster, DN6 9JF 01302722800 | www.owstonhall.com

Premier Inn Central

High Fishergate, Doncaster, DN11QZ|08715278302 www.premierinn.co.uk

Premier Inn Central East

Herten Way, Doncaster, DN4 7NW 08715278302 www.premierinn.co.uk

Premier Inn Lakeside

Wilmington Drive, Doncaster, DN4 5PJ | 0871 527 8302 www.premierinn.co.uk

Red Lion Hotel

Market Place, Doncaster, DN11NH 01302732120 | www.jdwetherspoon.com

Regent Hotel

Regent Square, Doncaster, DN12DS 01302364180 | www.theregenthotel.co.uk

Rossington Hall

A Real Property in

Great North Road, Doncaster, DN11 0HR | 01302 866822 www.rossingtonhall.co.uk

Travelodge Doncaster

M18/M180 Junction 5 M180, Hatfield, Doncaster, DN8 5GS | 0871 984 6132 www.travelodge.co.uk

Travelodge Lakeside

Lakeside Boulevard, Doncaster, DN4 5PL | 0871 8984 6514 www.travelodge.co.uk

Travelodge North Doncaster

A1 Great North Road, Skellow, Doncaster, DN6 8LR 0871 984 6131 www.travelodge.co.uk

Image credit: Mount Pleasant



A PLACE TO STAY

B&B'S & GUESTHOUSES

Fishlake Mill Eastfield Road, Fishlake, Doncaster, DN7 5LH 01302 841486 | www.fishlakemill.co.uk

Hannah's Guest House 72 Sunderland Street, Tickhill, DN11 9EG 01302 752233 www.hannahsguesthouse.com

River Lane B & B 8 River Lane, Fishlake, DN7 5LX 01302 841513 | www.river-lane.co.uk

Rigsby's Guesthouse Thorne Road, Doncaster, DN2 5BL 01302 368532

Wheatley Hotel Thorne Road, Wheatley Hills, DN2 5DR 01302 364092 | www.thewheatleyhotel.co.uk

CAMPSITES

Hayfield Fishing Lakes Hayfield Lane, Doncaster, DN9 3NP 01302 864555 | www.hayfieldlakesfishery.co.uk

Hatfield Water Park Old Thorne Road , Hatfield, Doncaster, DN7 6EQ | 01302 841572 www.dclt.co.uk/venues/hatfield-outdooractivity-centre

Sunnyview Touring Park Grange Lane, New Edlington, Doncaster, DN11 9DR | 07501 027933

Between Rivers Camping Broad Lane, Sykehouse, DN14 9AU | 01405 785635 www.oldgeorgeinnsykehouse.co.uk

Mooreacres Remple Lane, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6NU Visit Doncaster is the tourism department of the City of Doncaster Council, and as such, uses a range of venues to showcase the breadth of offer within the area. A comprehensive listing can be found at visitdoncaster.com

All information was correct at the time of publishing.

SELF CATERING & SERVICED APARTMENTS

Amber Serviced Apartments Doncaster | 0121 790 0234 www.amber-apartments.co.uk

Brook Lodge High Street, Doncaster, DN9 2BT 01302 772285

Home Crowd Apartments Rosso Close, Doncaster, DN4 5FS 07788 373522 | www.thehomecrowd.co.uk

Home Farm & Lodge High Street, Austerfield, DN10 6QU | 07516 102676 www.homefarmandlodge.co.uk

Kingswood Golf Lodges Thorne Road, Hatfield, DN7 6EP 01405 741343 www.kingswoodgolfcentre.co.uk

Mount Pleasant Self Catering Cottages

Great North Road, Doncaster, DN11 OHW 01302 868696 | www.mountpleasant.co.uk

Regent Self Catering Regent Square, Doncaster, DN1 2DS 01302 364180 | www.theregenthotel.co.uk

Swift Property Group Doncaster, DN4 6PX 07480 944770 | www.swiftpropertygroup.co.uk



GETTING HERE

Doncaster is at the heart of the UK's motorway network with easy access to the M18, M1, A1(M), M62 & the M180. Doncaster also benefits from superb rail links and is situated on the East Coast Mainline.

Rail passenger journey times to Doncaster		
York	20 mins	
Sheffield	22 mins	
Leeds	30 mins	
Manchester	80 mins	
Newcastle	83 mins	
London Kings Cross	87 mins	
Birmingham	88 mins	
Edinburgh	178 mins	





EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

Doncaster is a bustling and vibrant city. An important part of what makes it a dynamic and exciting place to visit is the variety and diversity of art and culture you will experience during your stay. Culture is made up of many different things, but it is about a coming together of history and heritage with people, places and creativity.

From theatre and cinema to museums, art galleries, historic buildings, sport, music and events, you will never be short of cultural activities that all members of the family can enjoy.

Think culture, and theatre and cinema spring to mind. A visit to Doncaster's Civic and Cultural Quarter (CCQ) will lead you to the **Cast** theatre which welcomes diverse audiences of all ages with a crowd-pleasing mix including musicals, ballet, opera, plays, pantomime, live music and comedy.

Adjacent to Cast you will find Doncaster's newest cinema, **The Savoy**. Here you can catch all the latest film releases as well as some all-time classics. Supportive and subtitled screenings are available, along with sessions specially tailored to parents and babies and the over 50s.

Doncaster Little Theatre is situated in King Street. It is a small, community focused theatre with a passion for supporting all the Arts. Here you can enjoy a varied selection of performances ranging from pantomime to plays, musicals and cabaret.

Vue Cinema on Doncaster Leisure Park has 11 screens, offering the ultimate sound and vision experience. Here you can see 3D movies, kids' films, and Big Screen events. Accessible, subtitled, audio described, and autism-friendly screenings are available here.



DGLAM is also located in the CCQ. Inside this architecturally stunning building, you will find displays of art, literature and social history, combining to provide a snapshot of Doncaster's cultural heritage, from horse racing to railways and so much more. The art gallery is on the top floor of this iconic building and is a wonderful place to contemplate the diverse art collections. Here you will find works of national and regional significance.

Up and coming exhibitions include Gifts from the Glaciers, the paintings of Antarctic glaciers produced by artists with learning difficulties and original exhibitions by local artists. You could also drop in on one of the curator talks, free lunchtime spotlights, and other exciting events that take place throughout the year.

Cusworth Hall is a beautiful Grade I listed building which has been transformed into a social history museum which houses artefacts that tell the story of life in Doncaster from the 18th century to the present day. The art collections on display depict local landscapes, portraits, sport and religion. A must see for art lovers is the Italianate chapel which features stunning ceiling paintings.



Brodsworth Hall is an impressive 19th Century building with lovingly restored Victorian pleasure gardens. It is also a fascinating time capsule, containing many of its original contents and collections of fine and decorative art which are of national significance. They include family portraits, Dutch Old Masters and paintings of racehorses.

The D31 Art Gallery is home to exhibits by local and international artists. Why not check out the collections of this community-focused gallery where you will see a variety of artworks that tell so many diverse and engaging stories. Prepare to be moved by what you see!

darts is an award-winning participatory arts charity based at The Point on South Parade. Here inside the historic Georgian building you will experience a light filled gallery, creative workshop spaces, a café and gardens that are open to all. The Point is an inspiring venue, where lots of creative activity takes place, alongside a regular programme of familyfriendly, world class exhibitions and activities.

You will see some great Street Art in Doncaster. Take a trip around the city and you will find examples in Doncaster markets, Baxter Park,



Cleveland Street and Trafford Way. Not to be missed is the 80m long x 10m high mural by Nomad Clan opposite the railway station. It is one of the largest in the UK!



FUN FACT:

The impressive Mansion House on High Street was designed by James Paine. It's 1 of just 3 surviving examples of this type of building. Inside you'll find displays of local history and paintings of royalty, local dignitaries and landmarks.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN FIRST-CLASS SPORTS: WATCH LIVE OR JOIN THE ACTION!

Racing

You really can't beat Doncaster races for a day filled with excitement and fun. The Town Moor racecourse has a well-deserved reputation as of one of the best in the whole of Europe. There are plenty of race dates for you to choose from, with around 37 races taking place throughout the year. You can enjoy the flat racing season from the spring through to the autumn. In the winter months you can take in the thrill of racing over the jumps. The highlight of the racing calendar is the St Leger Festival which starts with Ladies Day on 12th September and includes Doncaster Cup Day on the 13th September. The St Leger will take place on Saturday 14th September 2024, so be sure to mark that date on your calendar. The festival ends with the St Leger Community Fun Day on the Sunday which is a great day of racing for all the family to enjoy.

Rugby League

If you haven't experienced the thrill of a live rugby league match, why not give it a try? It's a fast paced and physical game that the whole family can enjoy. The interest in rugby league has surged, particularly after Doncaster successfully hosted three RLWC2021 matches.

Our hometown team, Doncaster Rugby League Club, affectionately known as The Dons, has achieved a significant milestone by earning promotion to the Championship for the upcoming 2024 season. The competition kicks off with the first fixture scheduled for Sunday, March 17th, at the Eco Power Stadium against local rivals York City Knights.

Rugby Union

Doncaster is a fantastic place if you want to crack which code of rugby is your thing. Doncaster Knights play rugby union at the Castle Park stadium near Armthorpe. It's a wonderful place to socialise and is renowned for its match day Cow Pie! There's always a real buzz about the stadium whenever you go to watch a match. The Knights are an exciting team to follow as they chase for the top spot in the RFU Championship.

Football

There's a great footballing tradition in Doncaster. One of the greatest football players of all time, Kevin Keegan, lived in Armthorpe and supported his local team as a boy. Doncaster Rovers FC play their home games at the Eco Power Stadium and match days are the perfect opportunity to spend time with family and friends, cheering on the Rovers. The Doncaster Rovers Belles are the local women's football team. England players, Gillian Coultard MBE, Millie Bright, Beth England and, recently crowned Sports Personality of the Year 2023, Mary Earps, have all played for the Belles.

Golf

You'll be spoiled for choice by the number of golf courses in and around Doncaster. There are well over a dozen first rate courses to select from, each with their own features and levels of difficulty to test your golfing skills. There are golf clubs in many of the local towns including Hatfield, Bessacarr, Rossington and Thorne.



Exciting new developments are planned at Bawtry Golf club, including a 64-bedroom hotel, restaurant and spa. If you are looking for a fun golfing experience, you can go for a family-friendly game of crazy golf and try out the home-made ice cream at **Sunnybank Gardens and Yorkshire Ice Cream Farm**.

The Dome leisure centre is Doncaster's flagship leisure centre. This iconic building, run by Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust, has just been awarded Grade II listed status. Here you will find over 50 sporting activities suitable for all ages and abilities. These range from swimming in the indoor/outdoor heated pool and ice skating on the unique split-level ice rink, to cycling on the internationally acclaimed outdoor road track, complete with cobbled climb. Bikes are available to hire or you can bring your own. The track is home to the British Cycling affiliated, Clancy Briggs Cycling Academy where children learn bike handling skills from the pros. You can also watch or try out combat sports at The Dome, including boxing, and martial arts. Will the next Olympic or British champion come from Doncaster?

> **Parkruns** take place every Saturday in Sandall Park and at Cusworth Hall. Here you can join in the fun and take part in these inclusive, family-friendly 5K runs. Parkruns are free to join and a terrific way to get some exercise out in the fresh air.



EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Take a walk on the green side and discover more about Doncaster's abundant and varied nature reserves and green spaces. They provide the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle, the opportunity to relax and wander at your leisure, as well as the chance to get up close to some of our most rare and beautiful examples of plant, bird, and animal life.

Potteric Carr, near J3 of M18

Potteric Carr is an amazing oasis of natural beauty and tranquillity, with surprises to be discovered around every corner. There are over five miles of tracks and pathways for you to explore through the reserve. Many of the paths are suitable for pushchairs and wheelchair users. Here you'll find a mixed habitat of wetland, reedbed, ponds, woods, hedges, and pastureland that is home to an amazing assortment of birds, including the illusive bittern. There is a café at the reserve so you can relax and enjoy a bite to eat after vour walk.

Sandall Beat Wood, near **Doncaster Racecourse**



A walk in Sandall Beat wood is like entering a peaceful woodland retreat, brimming full of wildlife. You may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a jay or a woodpecker as you follow the woodland paths. There are lots of trails that you can follow, including Covill's Trail which is a two-kilometre circular path through the wood, and is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. There are also longer circular tracks that you can try out either on foot or on your bike if you are feeling more energetic. The wood has an adventure play area for younger children.



Sprotbrough Flash Nature Reserve

Doncaster's diverse landscape is beautifully illustrated by a visit to the picturesque Sprotbrough Flash. Here you will find ancient woodland, a lake, wetland, and grassland all in a very compact area. In the springtime you will see bluebells and violets in the woods and the grassland is home to cowslips and orchids. Birdlife is abundant here with wetland loving birds such as reed buntings, herons, cormorants, ducks, and geese to be found all year round. You may spot a brown hare in the adjacent fields or a basking grass snake in the warmer months. If you fancy a more challenging leg stretch, you can follow the path which runs past the Boat Inn and climb up the side of the Don Gorge to the woodland and return along the path that runs alongside the river Don. Take your time and you may even spot a kingfisher on the riverbank.





Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve, **Thorne & Hatfield Moors**

This is one of the more remote spots to take a walk, but this is more than made up for by what you can see when you visit the UK's largest lowland raised mire. Here you will find a combination of lakes, ponds, wetland, open scrub, and woodland. The area has a wonderful diversity of plant and animal life. Many of the routes across the peatlands are waymarked and it is advisable to stick to the paths to avoid disturbing the wildlife, including the adders that are regularly seen here. For keen bird spotters the Packard's Heath area is a place where the rare nightjar can be seen.

Visit the Humberhead Peatlands website for more information and downloadable walking trails www.humberheadpeatlands.org.uk



Thorpe Marsh Nature Reserve, near Barnby Dun

If you like peace and quiet, this is the perfect spot for a walk. The reserve is situated on the river Don floodplain and is mixture of grassland, ponds, and woodland. This varied mix of habitats attracts a wide variety of wildlife and plants. The woodland areas are home to birds including woodpeckers and willow tits. Climb up the disused railway embankments and you will come across both woodland and open areas, with fantastic views over the reserve. Thorpe Mere is home to herons and ducks, and you may find wading birds here too, such as oystercatchers, and sandpipers.



Denaby Ings Nature Reserve, Mexborough

You are a short distance from the urban centre of South Yorkshire, yet taking a stroll here feels like you far away from the hubbub. The reserve sits on the edges of the river Dearne and is a paradise for wetland and woodland wildlife. Here you can spot great white and little egrets as well as herons and occasional spoonbills. You can walk along the raised embankment to catch splendid views of the wetland birds, including kingfishers and goosander, which inhabit the marshy landscape. You may even spot an avocet or a bittern patrolling the reedbeds looking for food. In the summertime, the reserve is covered with wildflowers, and you will also find many kinds of butterflies and other insects.

how will you see DONCASTER this year?

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doncaster-racecourse.co.uk

doncaster racing & events

website to view a full annual event calendar







WINTER

Doncaster is gearing up for a season of excitement and diversity! Immerse yourself in the gaming thrills of "Game On" at The Dome, then be inspired by SAS: Who Dares Wins legend, Jason Fox, at Cast. Dance the night away with Giovanni Pernice's captivating performance at Cast and experience the thundering hooves at Doncaster Racecourse during the prestigious 'The Lincoln' race day. Not to mention, our festive events such as the pantomimes at one of our two theatres.



SPRING

Doncaster is set to dazzle with an eclectic mix of events in the spring! Experience the magic of "The Best of Hans Zimmer" at Doncaster Minster, a Steampunk Spectacular blending Victorian charm with futuristic flair, and the lively "TaylorMania" tribute at Cast dedicated to Taylor Swift's hits. Join Anton Du Beke for an enchanting evening of dance at Cast and enjoy the Fleetwood Mac Legacy tribute at The Dome. From music to dance and artistic expressions, Doncaster promises a whirlwind of entertainment this spring!

SUMMER

Doncaster is your gateway to a vibrant array of summertime events! Jam to the beats at Askern Music Festival, explore the prehistoric wonders of Jurassic Earth at The Dome, and groove to JLS at the WildLive Safari Night. Celebrate diversity and inclusion at Doncaster Pride, chosen to host UK Pride in 2024. Experience an awesome atmosphere at DN One Live before you enjoy the thrill of the St Leger Festival.



AUTUMN

Embrace the spirit of autumn in Doncaster! Join the Halloween festivities at various venues throughout the city, bask in the enchanting glow of the Festival of Light, and indulge in laughter with Sarah Millican and TikTok sensation Paul Smith at The Dome.

For fitness enthusiasts, lace up your running shoes for the Doncaster City 10k and the Run for Wildlife 5k at Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Whether you're chasing thrills, laughter, or a runner's high, Doncaster's autumn has it all.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Planning a visit to Doncaster? Here's a handy guide to make the most of your trip in every season:

Whether you're after a touch of luxury or a cozy B&B, Doncaster has a range of accommodation options to suit every budget. Book in advance to secure the best rates.

If food's your thing you're spoilt for choice in Doncaster. From cozy country pubs to fine dining, cafés and more – check out our website for the latest and greatest places to eat.



Don't forget to share your visit with us online by tagging @visitdoncaster

EXPLORE

Make the most of your visit to Doncaster by exploring the diverse offerings the city has in every season. For detailed and up-to-date information, visit our website.



By Car: If you prefer driving, Doncaster is easily accessible by major roads, including the M1. M18 and A1(M).

With over 40 famous name stores, Lakeside Village, on the outskirts of Doncaster, offers visitors an enjoyable shopping experience and so much more!

With free parking and wide open walkways, you'll find a warm welcome and great outlet offers in stores like Next, M&S, Clarks, Ernest Jones and The Body Shop, there really is something for everyone at Lakeside Village.

PAVERS Bonmarché

SKECHERS



RADLEY

THE BODY SHOP.

Lakeside Village, White Rose Way, Doncaster DN4 5PH

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Visit, explore and create lasting memories with us at Yorkshire Wildlife Park.

yorkshirewildlifepark.com 🛭 🗊 🖾 💿

Hurst Lane, Auckley, Doncaster DN9 3HQ





Check out our website for a year-round calendar of excitement, featuring regular Easter, Halloween, and half-term events that guarantee fun for all.



Open daily. Check website for times and prices