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Key Stage 2

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March 2027



All-inclusive Residential City Culture Tours Package

Chester – Romans, Rivers & Rhinos Package
York – History & Explorer Packages

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school.travel@firstbus.co.uk to discuss
your requirements.

All-inclusive
packages only
available when
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Solutions

Choose your destination!

The Packages

These great value, all-inclusive school trip packages are based in two of the UK's most stunning and fabulously historically important city destinations. The programme content covers multiple curricular subject areas and offers real learning outcomes for your pupils. The package content is delivered through our longstanding partnerships.

We include all coach travel, accommodation, meals, plus your packed activity schedule

The Venues

Chester – YHA Trafford Hall

Situated in a spectacular location on the outskirts of the City of Chester. Built in 1756, YHA Trafford Hall is a fine building with fabulous historic character that reflects both the past, and today's modern facilities.

Why choose Chester? Trafford Hall offers a unique opportunity to explore a historic building and the 14 acres of organic gardens and woods. The venue offers bright and welcoming facilities, and all bedrooms are en-suite for added comfort. The activities included in day 2 are all delivered on-site, within the fabulous grounds. This means we spend more time taking part and less time waiting around.



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York – YHA York

An excellent base for school group residentials. Situated in a fantastic location for history-loving groups it's just a stone's throw from the river and a 30-minute walk to York City Centre. This hostel offers additional on-site adventures making it an ideal base for groups wanting to explore York's history with added on-site history-based activities.

The city itself is a feast for the senses for all ages to enjoy, a city packed with history and culture, with attractions such as the JORVIK Viking Centre and the National Railway Museum. It's easily accessible on foot, offering historic cobbled streets, quirky shops and a wealth of history from Romans & Vikings through to the modern day. YHA York is a friendly hub for a city that lives and breathes history.



YHA YORK – On-site activities include the following themes:

Viking Longships, Myth Tales (Roman or Norse mythology), Team Games, Design a Shield, Norse Code (Rune Code Breaking), Create a Mosaic, Let's Get Cooking, Stained Glass Creative, Building a Siege engine, Re-enacting a Roman Battle, Viking Rune Hunt.



Chester Activities



River Cruise: All Aboard!

This half-hour City Cruise is the perfect way to take in the River Dee and historic Chester.



Sick To Death Experience

Sick to Death is a brand-new history of medicine attraction. A playground of plague with a smatter of splatter, and a chance to poke into our medical past. Visitors are given an insight into the gory history of medicine.



Deva Roman Experience indoor tour

Deva Roman Discovery Centre offers a fully immersive and interactive experience to school groups of all ages. During this indoor tour, the children will be transported back to the time of the Romans, where they will travel across the sea to the North of Brittania, to the Roman Fortress of Deva!



Chester Zoo

This world famous zoo and conservation project is home to over 37,000 animals from 520 species, set in over 128 acres. Chester Zoo is the UK's favourite Zoo and this will be a day to remember for years to come!

YHA Led Activities:

Delivered on-site at Chester Trafford Hall by your friendly team – lots of activities to choose from and each can be adjusted to provide a spy themed Alex Rider programme. All activities delivered on-site in the hostel grounds.

YHA CHESTER on-site activities include:

Archery, Fire Lighting, Shelter Building, Orienteering, Team Challenges, Environmental Art, Map Skills, Mini Beast Hunt, Fencing, Buggy Building, Compass Skills, Nightline, Save the Agent.

Evening Activities include: Campfire, Rokit Launch, Code Breaking



Example Chester Programme: Day 1

Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Arrive in Chester around 11:30	Chester River cruise: A cruise on the River Dee, with a commentary detailing Chester's rich Roman, medieval, and industrial history.	Egg Rockets: Build and launch a water rocket that will carry a precious cargo up into the sky and bring it back down safely. This is a great activity to encourage teamwork and explores the idea of forces and aerodynamics.
	Deva Roman Experience: Be transported back to the time of the Romans.	
	Sick to Death: A playground of plague with a smatter of splatter. Poke into our medical past.	
Day 2: Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Archery: Shoot a bow and arrow on the hostel archery range.	Fire Lighting: Develop an understanding of the fire triangle and risks, forage for firewood, use fire strikers to build a fire.	Campfire: This activity gives a chance for participants to spend time around a campfire in the woodland.
Fencing: With plastic foil face guards, groups will get to grips with the basics of fencing.	Shelter Building: Groups will gain the knowledge to build a shelter suitable for a given scenario.	
Day 3: Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Chester Zoo: Chester Zoo offers young people an exciting opportunity to explore the wonders of wildlife from towering giraffes to the tiniest of insects.	Depart Chester around 13:30	

York History Activities

York Castle Museum

A visit to York Castle Museum will bring history to life! Speak to the residents of Victorian York, clamber through a First World War trench, and meet the inmates of York Castle Prison. Here you can see hundreds of years of York's history in one place – from the world-renowned Victorian cobbled street Kirkgate, to meeting the infamous prisoners in the spooky cells and all the way to the swinging sixties.

DIG

DIG is an exciting attraction that enables learners to engage with archaeology in a hands-on way. By becoming trainee archaeologists, pupils will learn how we use our discoveries to learn more about life in the past. A school tour at DIG will start with some archaeological training. Pupils will have a go at digging for themselves on replica excavation sites inside our DIG pits. There they can discover more about the history of York over the past 2000 years.

Optional workshops: Tracks of the Past, Life in a Roman Town & Traders, Looters or Settlers?



Jorvik Viking Centre

Built on the very site where archaeologists discovered over 40,000 Viking-age objects, a visit to the JORVIK Viking Centre gives pupils the opportunity to learn about the real Viking settlement of Jorvik. Experience the sights, sounds and smells of Viking-age York on the site of the world-famous Coppergate Dig!

Optional workshops: Battle Tactics, Viking Sagas, Anglo-Saxons and Viking Medicines & Traders, Looters or Settlers?

The Shambles

Take a stroll down this iconic street. The “Shambles” is a narrow street of historic buildings, some dating back to the 13th century.

Barley Hall

Experience what life was like in this magnificent restored medieval townhouse with the help of our friendly Barley Hall servants. A visit to Barley Hall allows students to become immersed in life in a wealthy merchant's townhouse in the Middle Ages. Learn about the Snawsell family who lived here towards the end of the medieval period. You can discover how the remains of their home were uncovered and restored.

Optional workshops: Healers and Humours, Arms and Armour & Plays and Performances.

York Minster

Explore one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals. Experience our vast spaces and breathtaking medieval architecture, discover our Roman roots and learn about the Minster's role in Viking York. Immerse your pupils in sacred spaces, journeying through centuries of architectural marvels and shared cultural heritage.

Optional Workshops: Pilgrimage in an hour, Poetry on Fire, Magnificent Minster Marvels, Traitor on Trial, Creative Creation!

Example York History Programme: Day 1

Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Arrive in York around 12:00	York Castle Museum: Speak to the residents of Victorian York, clamber through a First World War trench, and meet the inmates of York Castle Prison.	Roman Shields: Adaptable to Viking, Roman, or Medieval theme, Students will design and paint their own historically themed shields to enjoy and take home with them.
	The Shambles: Take a stroll down this iconic street. The “Shambles” is a narrow street of historic buildings, some dating back to the 13th century.	
Day 2: Morning	Afternoon	Evening
York City Wall Walk: York's historic city walls are a major feature of our historic environment.	Jorvik Viking Centre: Experience the sights, sounds and smells of Viking-age York on the site of the world-famous Coppergate Dig!	Viking Longships: Teams of students will assemble a Viking longship and then set ‘sail’ using teamwork to bring history to life.
Dig Tour: Engage with archaeology in a hands-on way by becoming trainee archaeologists.	Barley Hall: Experience what life was like in this restored medieval townhouse with the help of our friendly Barley Hall servants.	
Day 3: Morning	Afternoon	Evening
York Minster: Immerse yourself in sacred spaces, journeying through centuries of architectural marvels and shared cultural heritage.	Depart York around 13:30	

York Explorer Activities

Yorks Chocolate Story – Guided tour & Workshop

Take your pupils on a fascinating, fully guided tour to discover how York became the UK’s home of chocolate. You will explore the origins of cocoa, enjoy a hands-on workshop tasting and creating chocolate, and enjoy live chocolatier demonstrations!

Through the story of chocolate, we cover subjects related to history, science, and geography. The local history of York is a strong feature in our classes, as is the practical science of chocolate creation. York’s Chocolate Story’s educational workshops and trips have won numerous awards.



York River Cruise

Welcome aboard this sightseeing cruise and discover fascinating facts from your seat on the top deck or wrapped up warm in our enclosed saloon. Wherever you sit you will have a great view to uncover the history of this ancient city and the immense impact the River Ouse has had on its development. From the impact of flooding over the centuries to its prosperity as an inland port, bringing precious goods from across the globe.



National Railway Museum

Home to iconic locomotives and beautiful collections, you can wander through halls and explore the stories, places and engineering marvels behind the railways. See world-changing inventions like the Japanese Bullet Train and stand face-to-face with the world’s fastest steam locomotive, Mallard, the technology-packed Eurostar and many more.

Optional Wonderlab: is an unmissable interactive experience for schools—where nothing is off limits. Pupils will play their way through 18 interactive exhibits and fuel their curiosity with amazing live experiments.

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Example York Explorer Programme: Day 1		
Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Arrive in York around 12:00	Yorks Chocolate Story: A fascinating, fully guided tour discovering how York became the UK’s home of chocolate. You will explore the origins of cocoa and enjoy a hands-on Chocolate workshop.	Team Games: Suitable for groups with lots of energy! Team games designed to develop motor skills and team-work by overcoming challenges.
Day 2: Morning	Afternoon	Evening
York City Wall Walk: York’s historic city walls are a major feature of our historic environment.	Jorvik Viking Centre: Experience the sights, sounds and smells of Viking-age York on the site of the world-famous Coppergate Dig!	Viking Longships: Teams of students will assemble a Viking longship and then set ‘sail’ using teamwork to bring history to life.
Dig Tour: Engage with archaeology in a hands-on way by becoming trainee archaeologists.	York River Cruise: Uncover the history of this ancient city and the immense impact of the River Ouse.	
Day 3: Morning	Afternoon	Evening
National Railway Museum: Home to iconic locomotives, you can explore the stories, places and engineering marvels behind the railways while standing face to face with a Japanese bullet train or the world’s fastest steam locomotive.	Depart York around 13:30	
* The order of activities may be switched around depending on availability		



What's on the menu?

The residential package includes a full board meals service covering breakfast, packed lunch, and a two-course evening meal.

Breakfast is a buffet, with guests choosing items from a range of cooked food (sausage, bacon, hash brown, tomato, beans, scrambled eggs and vegetarian sausage), continental pastries, cereal, yoghurt, fruit juice, along with tea and coffee.



Packed lunches consist of a pre-ordered sandwich, a piece of fruit, a biscuit bar and a bag of crisps. As part of our efforts in reducing plastic waste, bottled drinks are not provided – we recommend that participants bring a re-fillable water bottle for use throughout the visit.

Evening meals vary on different days. We provide your menu in advance to allow you to make your individual choices in plenty of time. The team can cater for most allergies and other dietary requirements with advanced notice.

Group leaders are sent meal choice forms ahead of the visit to allow participants to make their choices and return them along with details of any dietary requirements.

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Who are we?

First Education and School Travel are one of the UK's leading providers of school trip packages, working in partnership with over 100 venues and activity providers.

Renowned school tour operator

We are a fully bonded school tour operator working to current UK Package Travel Regulations, meaning your payments are 100% safe with us.

We are members of the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom



Be more inclusive

We understand how the cost-of-living pressures will be affecting some children's opportunity to take part in a school trip. You can help parents to include their child by moving your trip to a lower season month, thus reducing the cost and encouraging more pupils to take part. Try travelling between October and March when costs are lower.



How to book

Simply let us have some details of your school location, age group and a close idea on the numbers of children and staff you envisage taking part in the visit.

We then just need an idea of your ideal dates to check availability and come back to you with an all-inclusive price.

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