



# Backroads of Northern Britain

October 5 - 14, 2006

## Exploring Yorkshire and the Lake District

**F**rom the ancient city walls of York to the natural beauty of the Lake District that served as endless inspiration for the Romantic poets, here is an adventure in Northern England that takes you behind the usual tourist façade. This fall, Gavin Miller hosts a small group that wends its way through countryside steeped in visual beauty as he leads an exploration of the *Backroads of Northern Britain*.

The City of York is a living history book, spanning the time of the Romans, the Viking invasion, a glorious medieval period, and its Victorian heyday as the railway center of the North. We'll begin our travels with an extended stay in this medieval jewel in order to truly do justice to all that this unique city and its surroundings have to offer. You'll experience a wonderful combination of free time to explore on your own and guided excursions within the city as well as to nearby gardens and estates.

From York we wind our way past ruined abbeys, country mansions, and breathtaking scenery, traversing from one side of the country to the other. Our stay in Cumbria takes in several literary locations—Wordsworth's Dove Cottage and Beatrix Potter's charming habitat—and will give you an indication of why Wordsworth and the other Lakeland poets (Coleridge, Southey, et al.) decided to make this area their home.

**Please Note:** Although our itinerary is based on flying in and out of Manchester Airport, it will also be possible to use London as a gateway and take the train north to join the group in York for the start of the tour. Discover Europe is available to help with extensions to the regular tour and any other individual travel arrangements.



The City of York

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Land only (no airfare included): **\$2890**  
Single supplement: **\$ 490**

*Airfares are available from all major U.S. departure cities.  
Please enquire for details.*

Trip fees include the following:

- Hotels:** 8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- Couriers:** Fully-qualified Discover Europe courier throughout.
- Meals:** Full breakfast daily, 5 table d'hôte dinners, 1 lunch.
- Expenses:** Portage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Tickets:** A lake cruise and a rail trip.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance incl. cancellation coverage.

*This tour is based on using the following hotels although Discover Europe reserves the right to substitute properties of equivalent standard.*

- York:** The Royal York, 4-star Victorian elegance.
- Keswick:** The Derwentwater, lakeside comfort
- Knutsford:** The Mere Court, a country house hotel





**Thursday, October 5.** U.S. departures to Manchester, England.

**Friday, October 6.** Upon arrival in Manchester we will set off for York (about two hours away). Our hotel rooms will be waiting, and the afternoon is free to unpack and explore. We'll gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D)** **Overnight: York**

**Saturday, October 7.** A full day's exploration of the medieval jewel that is the City of York. A guided tour of exquisite York Minster is followed by a visit to the Treasurer's House where we'll have a private tour of the cellars, supposedly haunted by the ghosts of the Ninth Legion. York is full of wonderful museums, from the Jorvik Center, which recreates the Viking history of the town, to the Castle Museum, with its remarkable collection of Victoriana. The afternoon is free, as is the evening, to explore the city, its sights, and restaurants. **(B)** **Overnight: York**

**Sunday, October 8.** A morning visit to Fountains Abbey, Britain's largest and most beautiful monastic ruin, set in the valley of the River Skell. A lovely walk through the valley brings us to Studley Royal, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century landscaped garden with a series of vistas incorporating a Greek temple, an octagonal tower, and a banqueting house. After time for lunch, we'll visit Newby Hall, one of England's most splendid Queen Anne houses. We'll meet for dinner at the hotel. **(B, D)** **Overnight: York**

**Monday, October 9.** This morning we take the short trip to Castle Howard, immediately recognizable from the BBC television series, *Brideshead Revisited*. This 18<sup>th</sup>-century Vanbrugh masterpiece and its fine collection of Old Masters will enthrall. You'll have time to lunch on your own in one of the estate's restaurants before we return to York for a final free afternoon. Perhaps a visit to the Railway Museum, a stroll through the Museum Gardens, a climb up the old castle keep, or an exploration of the wonderful shops on Stonegate. The evening is also free. **(B)** **Overnight: York**



*York Minster's east window*

**Tuesday, October 10.** West through the heart of the Yorkshire Dales, our route takes us through Garsdale and Wensleydale, two of the loveliest dales. We'll stop in the market town of Hawes to visit the Wensleydale Creamery where cheese has been made since medieval times. At Aysgarth we'll visit the Upper and Lower Falls, an idyllic spot with a waterfall coursing down a series of limestone steps. Dinner at our hotel in the Lake District this evening. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Keswick**

**Wednesday, October 11.** We explore the southern Lakes today with visits to Wordsworth's tiny Dove Cottage where he lived as a young man and wrote some of his finest poetry. We'll also tour Beatrix Potter's charming cottage at Hill Top and stop for lunch at the Tower Bank Arms, featured in the *Tale of Jemima Puddleduck*. This afternoon, a steamer cruise on Lake Windermere to enjoy the panoramic views of the fells from the water. We return to Keswick for dinner at the hotel. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Keswick**



*Castlerigg stone circle*

**Thursday, October 12.** Our experience of the northern Lakes begins with the mystical stone circle at Castlerigg, set against the glorious backdrop of the Lakeland fells. We drive by Derwent Water, through Borrowdale and Buttermere, and have lunch in Cockermouth before returning to Keswick for a free afternoon. You might plan to visit the pencil factory and museum (this is where the modern lead pencil was invented) or wander up on the fells. The evening is free to try one of Keswick's cosy hosteleries. **(B, L)** **Overnight: Keswick**

**Friday, October 13.** Our first stop is Dalemain, an imposing Elizabethan house with notable 16<sup>th</sup>-century panelling, Jacobean plasterwork, and an ethereal Chinese drawing room. This afternoon we take one of the world's greatest train journeys on the spectacular Yorkshire Dales Settle-Carlisle line, boarding at Appleby and disembarking at Settle. The journey crosses some of England's wildest and most remote moorland. We'll meet our coach in Settle and drive down to the charming medieval market town of Knutsford for a final farewell dinner. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Knutsford**



*Castle Howard*

**Saturday, October 14.** Transfers to nearby Manchester airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **D** - dinner