

# Welcome to Lancaster

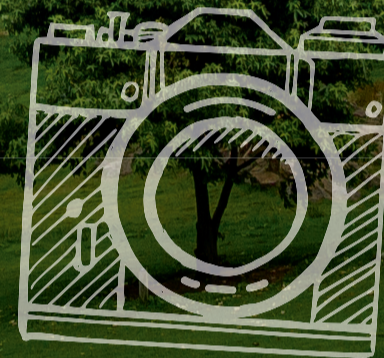
History runs through the cobbled streets of this compact city. From the hilltop castle overlooking the glorious Morecambe Bay to the Lancaster Canal winding its way through the city's industrious past and out into the surrounding countryside; Lancaster is a vibrant city with a big story to tell.

Lancaster is one of England's historic cities where culture and heritage captivate and inspire visitors. Visit Lancaster's castle and museums to uncover the city's ancient stories hidden in its walls and buildings.

Stroll the meandering towpaths of the canal or along St George's Quay, marvelling at the Georgian architecture which lines the banks of the River Lune. Explore the secret paths of Williamson Park and discover its hidden follies and stunning Edwardian designed butterfly house.

Discover the open spaces and strong design of the two university campuses and find out how these seats of learning have influenced the city over the years. Dating back almost 1000 years, Lancaster Castle was the location of the UK's most famous witch trial which saw 13 people convicted and hanged for crimes associated with witchcraft in 1612. More than 400 years later you can visit the majestic court rooms and find out about the lives and experiences of the so-called Lancashire Witches.

Williamson Park and the Ashton Memorial



## City of Outdoors

Take a short drive or cycle out of Lancaster along the River Lune and you'll discover a much celebrated and beautiful Lune Valley.

### Forest of Bowland

Discover beautiful unspoilt countryside, picturesque villages, dramatic open moorland and outstanding scenery. All of this is on the doorstep of the city and just waiting to be explored by bike. The Forest of Bowland provides inspiration for walkers, ideas for afternoon tea stops, tips for star gazing and seasonal wildlife highlights. [www.forestofbowland.com](http://www.forestofbowland.com)

### Ride the Way of the Roses

For this summer why not cycle the Way of the Roses cycle route? It's a challenging but rewarding coast to coast cycling adventure which takes in the beautiful landscape of the Lune Valley before heading through Yorkshire and the east coast. [www.wayoftheroses.info](http://www.wayoftheroses.info)

### Dine out in Style

Dine out in style in stunning countryside. The talented chefs at The Highwayman in Kirkby Lonsdale select seasonal menus to reflect the delicious local produce, whilst The Fenwick at Claughton is known for its award-winning dishes based on fresh fish and seafood. The Bay Horse offers locally sourced meats and delicious desserts, whilst The Fleece Inn at Dolphinholme, offers a warm welcome to the Forest of Bowland.

### Get on the Art Trail

William Wordsworth and JMW Turner were enchanted by this lovely valley, immortalising its dramatic features in verse and paint. Now you can visit a select band of 21st century artists to discover how they have interpreted and celebrated the same landscape with the Lunesdale Arts Trail ([www.lunesdalearts.co.uk](http://www.lunesdalearts.co.uk)).

"This city's garden is a secret worth sharing"



Discover the Lune Valley and the views immortalised by Turner and Gray. Visit artists' studios on the Lunesdale Art Trail or dine at one of the many countryside inns. This city's garden is a secret worth exploring.

Image: Crook O' Lune

## City of Culture

Lancaster is an Arts City full of cultural activity from theatres and live music to galleries, cinemas, literature and dance.

### Lancaster's Annual Literature Festival

'Litfest' is one of the oldest running literature festivals in the country and offers a wealth of literary treats for everyone. [www.litfest.org](http://www.litfest.org)

### Dukes Theatre and Cinema

The Dukes in Lancaster is Lancashire's only professional building-based producing theatre and presents home-grown dramas throughout the year. It also hosts many leading touring theatre productions, comedy, dance and music events.

### Ludus Dance

Lancashire's leading dance development charity offers 'dance for everyone' through events and workshops at the Gregson Centre and other locations. [www.ludusdance.org](http://www.ludusdance.org)

### Lancaster Grand Theatre

Lancaster Grand Theatre first opened in 1782 and was known simply as The Theatre, Lancaster. It hosts many popular comedians, singers, bands and theatre touring shows as well as in-house productions.

### Lancaster Arts at Lancaster University

Lancaster Arts invites the public to distinctive campus-based performance spaces - the Nuffield Theatre, the Peter Scott Gallery and the Great Hall - working with a range of arts partners across Lancashire and beyond. [www.lancasterarts.org](http://www.lancasterarts.org)

VISITLANCASTER.ORG.UK

VISITOR LEAFLET

Lancaster

City of Heritage  
Lancaster

Free  
MAP INSIDE

"Head to Light Up Lancaster in November for a two-day festival of art and light illuminating the city's historic buildings, charming streets and squares"

## City of Stories

Discover a small city with a big story.

### Lancashire Witches

The Pendle Witches lived in a turbulent time in England's history and their story of witchcraft and mystery still lives on today. Take a tour of the imposing Lancaster Castle where the Lancashire Witches were imprisoned. Then head out and trace back the Lancashire Witches trail of the Pendle Witches through the beautiful countryside of Lancashire. [www.visitlancaster.org.uk](http://www.visitlancaster.org.uk)

### Literary Lancaster

Embark on a tour of Lancaster's rich literary heritage. Dip into texts by authors such as Charles Dickens and William Wordsworth, accompanied by familiar landmarks of Lancaster, such as the historic castle and beautiful scenery of the River Lune. Encounter tales of execution, slavery and ghostly hauntings as you are guided on your own literary journey into the secrets of Lancaster's fascinating and often dark past. (Head online or to Lancaster's Visitor Information Centre to buy a copy of Literary Lancaster).

### Heritage Open Days

England's biggest Heritage Festival is back, offering people the chance to explore hidden places and try new experiences in Lancaster - all for free. Last year over 30 places took place across the district, and there will be unique opportunities on offer again this year. ([www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk))

Image Credit: Robin Zahler

## City of Independents

Follow fashion or be unique. Lancaster offers bags of independent charm from designer boutiques to vintage shops.

### Shopping

Come and discover what makes Lancaster such an attractive retail destination. Lancaster has a thriving range of independent boutiques, iridescent jewellers, art & craft stores and delicious artisan cafés - they are the hidden gems of our city centre, ready for you to discover. With two covered shopping centres, a bustling charter market and picturesque city centre streets, you'll find everything you need in our historic city.

### City of Food and Drink

Lancaster is well known as the city of coffee & cafés. Whether you are a pub grub seeker or vegetarian eater, Lancaster has a range of eateries and cafés to appeal to your taste buds. Throughout the city there is also a large variety of authentic restaurants and pubs to suit every palate. With beautiful canal side pubs, intimate city centre diners and quayside eateries, you can enjoy food with a view at no extra cost.

### City of Coffee

Watch the world go by or spill the beans with friends in one of Lancaster's many great coffee houses. Atkinson's in the heart of the city have been dedicated to sourcing, roasting and brewing some of the highest quality coffees from around the world since 1837.



"Watch the world go by or spill the beans with friends. You'll know you're in Lancaster when you smell the coffee roasting."

Image: The Music Room, Sun Square

City of Heritage

FIND OUT MORE...

[www.visitlancaster.org.uk](http://www.visitlancaster.org.uk)

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#LOVELANCASTER

CALL OR VISIT US...

Lancaster Visitor Information Centre

The Storey, Meeting House Lane

Lancaster, LA1 1TH Tel: (01524) 582394

Open Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

LANCASTER

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

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ENGLAND'S HISTORIC CITIES


Photography by Jon Sparks, Dan Tierney, NWDA, Marketing Lancashire, Tony West, Steve Pendrill, Joe Mather / Better with Jam, Robin Zahler and Diana Jarvis. Front cover: Williamson Park by Daniel Cassidy

Disclaimer: Produced by Lancaster City Council and Designed by Hatfoot Design. All details are correct at the time of going to print. Please check before setting out on your journey.



**Salt Ayre Leisure Centre**  
Enjoy a fantastic day out at the largest sports and leisure centre in the district.

Offers a wide range of indoor sport and leisure activities all year round. Indoor facilities include a full sized swimming pool with slide, large indoor sports hall, Energy indoor soft play, XHeight indoor climbing and Gravity outdoor flight tower with Tranquil Spa & Beauty. (Not shown on Map)  
**Salt Ayre Lane, Lancaster, LA1 5JS**  
01524 847540 / [lancaster.gov.uk/saltayre](http://lancaster.gov.uk/saltayre)



**Lune Aqueduct**  
One of the 'seven wonders of the waterways'.

A Lancaster landmark and a masterpiece of civil engineering, it carries the Lancaster Canal above the River Lune. Take a cruise along the canal from the city centre or stroll the meandering towpath for some fantastic sights. (Not shown on Map)  
**Caton Road, Lancaster, LA1 3RA**  
[canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk)



**The Cottage Museum**  
Experience an intimate glimpse of early Victorian life.

Explore this tiny and intriguing 18th Century cottage spread over 5 floors. The Cottage Museum offers an intimate glimpse of early Victorian life and lets you discover gadgets and utensils used in the 19th century. Just a short walk down from the entrance to Lancaster Castle.  
**15 Castle Hill, Lancaster, LA1 1YS / 01524 64637**  
Opens Easter to September  
[visitlancaster.org.uk/museums](http://visitlancaster.org.uk/museums)



**Lancaster Castle**  
Take a guided tour and step into 1,000 years of history...

Dating back almost 1,000 years Lancaster Castle is still owned by Her Majesty the Queen, who is the Duke of Lancaster. As well as being a fortification, its courtrooms have witnessed many famous trials over the centuries, including those of the Lancashire Witches who were convicted and sentenced to death in 1612.  
**Castle Park, Lancaster, LA1 1YJ**  
01524 64998 / [lancastercastle.com](http://lancastercastle.com)




**Lancaster Escape**  
Can you solve the series of clues to escape?

Each room at Lancaster Escape has an individual theme, and is brought to life with set designs, props, animatronics and sounds. Work as a team with your family and friends to solve a series of clues, riddles and puzzles and make your escape within 60 minutes!  
**32 North Road, Lancaster LA1 5FB**  
01524 382029 / [www.lancasterescape.co.uk](http://www.lancasterescape.co.uk)



The map shows the River Lune flowing through the city. Key landmarks include Lancaster Castle (4), The Cottage Museum (1), Lancaster City Museum & King's Own Royal Regiment Museum (2), Lancaster Maritime Museum (3), The Storey (5), Lancaster Grand Theatre (7), Dukes Theatre and Cinema (8), Kanteena (9), St. Peter's Cathedral (10), Williamson Park and The Ashton Memorial (10), and Lancaster University Campus (12). Other points of interest include the Roman Bath House, The Priory Church of St Mary, The Judges' Lodgings, The Music Room, The Assembly Rooms, and the Market Gate Shopping Centre. The map also shows various streets, parks, and public facilities like bus stations and taxi ranks.



**Lancaster Priory**  
Explore Lancaster's medieval Priory and uncover 13 centuries of history.

The Priory overlooks the City of Lancaster and is built on the site of the priory founded in 1094. Inside you will find Viking ornaments, crusaders' coffins and part of Jacobean 'three-decker' pulpit. The Memorial Chapel holds arguably the most complete collection of Regimental Colours in the country.  
**Priory Close, Lancaster, LA1 1YZ**  
01524 65338 / [lancasterpriory.org](http://lancasterpriory.org)



**Lancaster Charter Market**  
Shop in the shadow of Lancaster's interesting and historic buildings.

The street market is held every Wednesday and Saturday and offers a wide and exciting mix of stalls. Enjoy hot and cold food include Indian, Moroccan, Italian, Vegetarian, Hog-Roast, soups, pasties and pies, speciality sausages, donuts, and ice cream in the summer.  
**Market Street, Lancaster, LA1 1XD**  
01524 414 251 / [lancaster.gov.uk/chartermarket](http://lancaster.gov.uk/chartermarket)



**Judges' Lodgings Museum**  
Bringing the stories of Lancaster to life for everyone through the city's oldest townhouse.

This elegant, Grade 1 building was originally home to Thomas Covell, Keeper of Lancaster Castle and notorious witch hunter. Between 1776 and 1975, the house became an impressive residence for judges visiting nearby Lancaster Castle. Today there is something for everyone with beautiful period rooms, gorgeous Gillows furniture, Victorian schoolroom and Museum of Childhood.  
**Church Street, Lancaster, LA1 1YS**  
Open April to November  
01524 581 241 / [lancashire.gov.uk/museums](http://lancashire.gov.uk/museums)



**Assembly Rooms Emporium**  
Browse and buy from an eclectic mix of stalls.

Built in 1759 and historically a venue for balls and concerts for Lancaster's elite, the emporium houses an eclectic mix of stalls selling vintage and alternative clothing and accessories, books and cards, artwork, jigsaws and games and quality gift items. Open Tuesdays - Sundays and summer Bank Holidays  
**King Street, Lancaster, LA1 1LG**  
01524 414 251 / [lancaster.gov.uk/assemblyrooms](http://lancaster.gov.uk/assemblyrooms)



**Lancaster Canal Boat Trips**  
Cruises along the beautiful Lancaster Canal.

Operating all year round and during the peak season (May to October) timetabled daily cruises run from various locations. Themed cruises include Spooktacular Ghost cruises, Horse Drawn Boat cruises and the original Lune Aqueduct Cruise.  
**Aldcliffe Road, Lancaster, LA1 1AZ**  
01524 389410 / [kingfishercruise.co.uk](http://kingfishercruise.co.uk)



**Lancaster University Campus**

Out of 120 UK universities, Lancaster is consistently in the top ten. Explore the Bailrigg Campus where there are a number of attractions to visit including the University's Sports Centre, Peter Scott Gallery, Nuffield Theatre and the Ruskin Library. (Not shown on Map)  
**Bailrigg, Lancaster, LA1 4YW**  
01524 65201 / [www.lancaster.ac.uk](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk)



**St. Peter's Cathedral**

Lancaster Cathedral is a fine neo-Gothic church dating from 1859 featuring interesting architecture including a 240ft spire. Visitors are welcome to explore the history of the church with information panels located around the Cathedral.  
**East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3BT**  
01524 384820 / [lancastercathedral.org.uk](http://lancastercathedral.org.uk)



**Lancaster Brewery**

Set in over 2 acres, this working brewery offers guided tours, special events and entertaining area, as well as brewing their delicious beer, lager and cider on site. For an extra charge, visitors are treated to a lively and entertaining guided tour starting at the visitor centre, the history of the brewery and the brewing process. Please call ahead to book / confirm availability of tours. (Not shown on Map)  
**Lancaster Leisure Park, Wyresdale Road, Lancaster, LA1 3LA / 01524 848537**  
[lancasterbrewery.co.uk](http://lancasterbrewery.co.uk)



**Williamson Park**  
Explore England's Grandest Folly and wonderful Butterfly House.

Discover 54 acres of beautiful parkland and enchanting walks with breath-taking views to Morecambe Bay. Step inside the tropical butterfly house, see meerkats, mini-beasts and bird enclosure as well as the small mammal section. The Ashton Memorial (a famous Edwardian folly which was a gift to the city from Lord Ashton) was a memorial to Lord Ashton's first wife. The Park is also the venue for many events including the Highest Point Music Festival.  
**Quernmore Road, Lancaster, LA1 1UX / 01524 33318**  
[lancaster.gov.uk/williamsonpark](http://lancaster.gov.uk/williamsonpark)



**Lancaster Leisure Park**  
Browse an eclectic mix of attractions & shops.

Home to GB Antiques Centre, the country's biggest indoor antiques and furniture centre, the park features Countrystyle Meats Farm Shop and the 'Countrystyle Kitchen' restaurant as well as Lancaster Brewery and children's Indoor Play Area. (Not shown on Map)  
**Wyresdale Road, Lancaster, LA1 3LA**  
01524 68444 /