

WAKEFIELD



VISITOR GUIDE 2026

ExperienceWakefield.co.uk



[wakefieldcouncil](https://www.wakefieldcouncil.gov.uk)



National
Trust



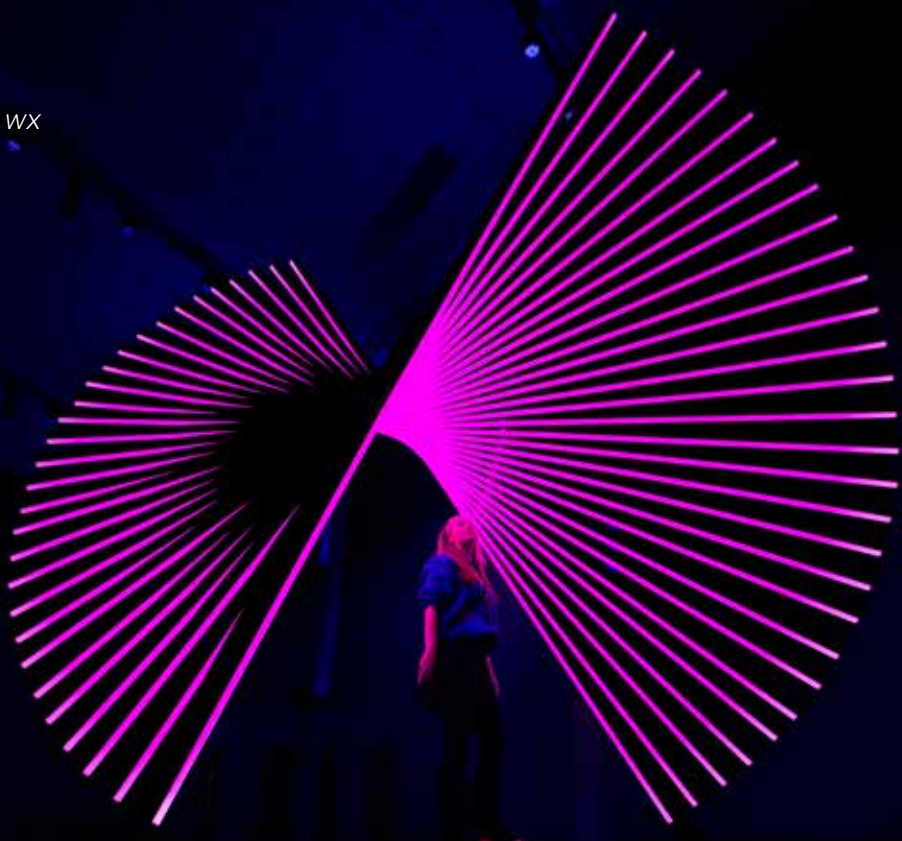
Uncover the beauty, heritage

and hidden gems of Nostell

With a spectacular Georgian mansion and over 300 acres of gardens, parkland, lakes and woodland to explore, there's a treasure chest of things to see and do at Nostell, West Yorkshire.

nationaltrust.org.uk/nostell

For everyone, for ever



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All information correct at time of printing, please check before travelling.

Cover photo: Sean Henry, Seated Figure, 2016. Courtesy of David Ross Foundation. Photo © Jonty Wilde, courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park

CAPITAL OF SCULPTURE

Welcome to the sculpture capital of the UK. The birthplace of world-renowned sculptors Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore, and the cultural gateway to the north. The Wakefield district is the only place outside London to house two Art Fund Museum of the Year Award winning galleries.

The first, **The Hepworth Wakefield**, is situated on the city's historic waterfront.

The David Chipperfield-designed building houses major works by international artists with dedicated galleries exploring Barbara Hepworth's modernist legacy through her art and working processes.

The second is **Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP)**, an outdoor gallery carved from rolling Yorkshire countryside where monumental works by international icons redefine the

500-acre landscape. An evolving programme of temporary exhibitions complement pieces by both Hepworth and Moore.

Creativity is thriving at **The Art House**. Part gallery, part studio space, it is a platform for both emerging and established artists to exhibit, while audiences engage with the creative process.



Nearby **WX - Wakefield Exchange** is a cultural powerhouse, a leading-edge hub for innovation, events and art in the heart of the city centre.

Outside of venues, public art makes quite the statement through the city's **Sculpture Trail** and the district's large-scale murals, while bi-monthly

Artwalk invites visitors to discover works in unexpected places across the city centre.

In fact, wherever you are, you'll find art. Even heritage venues like the **National Coal**

Mining Museum, Wakefield Cathedral, and National Trust Nostell host temporary exhibitions and shine a light on their own exceptional collections.

The Hepworth Wakefield

SEE MORE ONLINE





WAKEFIELD WEEKENDER

A two-day staycation in the home of art and sculpture.

DAY ONE: THE CITY

Morning

Start at **The Art House**, just steps from Westgate Station. Grab a locally roasted coffee and a fresh-baked treat before exploring bold, contemporary exhibitions from emerging artists. Don't leave without browsing the gift shop, packed with unique creations from resident makers.

As you wander the city, take a break at a cosy local café, then uncover outdoor art like the Amazonian Caiman God. Rooted in Wakefield's history, the striking sculpture transforms into a digital masterpiece with colourful Instagram filters.

Afternoon

Next stop, **The Hepworth Wakefield**. Immerse yourself in world-class art. Alongside dynamic temporary exhibitions, the permanent collection boasts over 5,000 works, including LS Lowry, David Hockney, and Barbara Hepworth herself - plus her original sketches and tools for a glimpse into the creative process.

Evening

Round off your day with dinner and drinks at one of Wakefield's independent eateries and bars, then catch a show at **Theatre Royal Wakefield** or a live event at **WX**.



The Art House
© The Shannons Photography



The New Inn, Walton

DAY TWO: THE COUNTRY

Morning

Start your day at **Yorkshire Sculpture Park**, where sweeping skies and rolling landscapes frame awe-inspiring works of art. Wander among monumental Damien Hirst figures and the timeless forms of Henry Moore as you carve your own path through 500 acres of beauty. When hunger calls, head to **The Weston** for a seasonal feast prepared in an open kitchen and served in chic, Scandinavian-inspired surroundings.

Afternoon

Next, step inside history at **National Trust Nostell**. This grand Palladian mansion offers a striking contrast to the morning's outdoor art, housing masterpieces like Breughel's *The Procession to Calvary* and Rowland Lockey's copy of Holbein's *Sir Thomas More and His Family*, alongside an exceptional collection of fine art and craftsmanship.

Evening

Round off your day in true Yorkshire style: sink into the warmth of a cosy country pub before retreating to your hotel for a relaxing evening.



Henry Moore, *Large Spindle Piece*, 1968. Courtesy of the Henry Moore Foundation. Photo courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park



SEE MORE ONLINE



HAVE A GO HEROES

If you've been inspired by our world-class art and sculpture, why not have a go yourself? We've got a plethora of workshops, courses and taster sessions to help you explore your creative side.

Our art venues host a suite of workshops all year round, with many of them linked to current exhibitions - so

your inspiration will never run dry. Try your hand at everything from screen printing at **The Art House** and enamel jewellery making at **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** to joyful family craft sessions at **The Hepworth Wakefield**. You can even have a go at making your own neon sculpture at Wakefield's **Neon Workshops** (one of the last places in the UK

to practice this unique art form). Wakefield is also full of craft spaces where you can roll up your sleeves and try anything from pottery to needle felting - and plenty more besides. These creative hubs also give you the chance to take home stunning handmade pieces crafted by local artists, all at prices to suit every pocket.



The Pottery, Castleford



The Hepworth Wakefield



The Art House



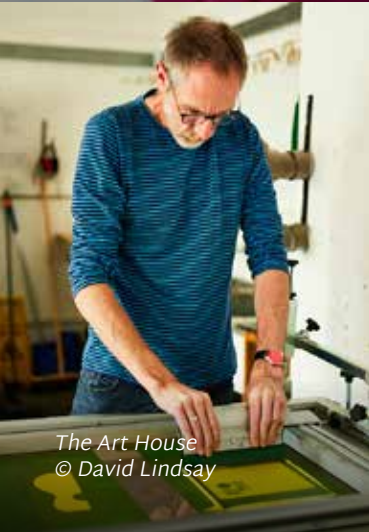
The Hepworth Wakefield



WX



West Yorkshire History Centre



The Art House
© David Lindsay



Andy Singleton Workshop



Yorkshire Sculpture Park
© David Lindsay

NEW IN 2026

What's new in the Wakefield district? Read on to find out what's going on in 2026!



© Mrinalini Mukherjee Foundation

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

A major retrospective of **Mrinalini Mukherjee** (23 May-25 October) will bring together the range of media Mukherjee worked with across a 40-year career. **The Circus** (21 November 2026-April 2027) will present Marc Chagall's lithographs using the circus as a metaphor for the human experience, and **World's Largest Metaphor** (21 November 2026-April 2027) will showcase the idiosyncratic work of multi-media Norwegian artist Ida Ekblad.



WX - WAKEFIELD EXCHANGE

WX has an exciting year ahead, with big exhibitions including **The Cat That Slept for a Thousand Years** (21 March-12 April). An interactive, 10-metre-long cat, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in her dreamlike movements. Summer sees the installation of Luke Jerram's **Helios** (12 June-6 September), a seven-metre sculpture of the Sun, a focal point for a programme of events and activity connected to our solar system.

WALLFEST

Celebrate nature, creativity, heritage and wellbeing at this festival, marking 200 years of the world's first nature reserve. Expect a jubilant programme of events throughout May.

WAKEFIELD MUSEUMS AND CASTLES

Picturing Pontefract (2 February-3 October) at Pontefract Museum is a fascinating look at this historic market town through the eyes of artists, craftspeople and cartographers, via paintings and plans, maps and models. The exhibition works as a companion piece to Wakefield Museum's **Cynthia Kenny: A City Framed** (until 20 June 2026), which will see a refresh with new paintings in January.

TILEYARD NORTH

Live at Tileyard North is an exciting new series of big-name outdoor concerts coming this summer!

Although some artists remain under wraps, those already announced include indie rock icons The Vaccines, and disco-pop favourite Sophie Ellis-Bextor! More brilliant acts will be announced in the coming weeks.

THEATRE ROYAL WAKEFIELD

This year, Theatre Royal Wakefield marks 40 years since their grand re-opening, with a packed programme to match! Celebrate a century of stories at their **Gala Night: 40 Years Reimagined** (21 March). See Colin Baker star in **Sherlock Holmes & The Sign of Four** (25 March), classic Shakespearean tragedy **Macbeth** (9-10 March), laugh along with **Chuckl.**, the UK's premier comedy club (6 February) and more.

THE ART HOUSE

Opening the spring season at "the house that art built", **Slow Puncture** (16 May-9 July) is an ambitious installation exploring the entanglement of body, vehicle and material, by Harriet Bowman. **REVIVER** (18 July-12 September) sees Jakob Rowlinson weave together complex material histories, explore the ecology of local landscape, and continue the artist's interest in queering the archive.



TRINITY WALK

The talk of Wakefield is the city's first Tenpin experience, opening in late spring at Trinity Walk, featuring 24 bowling lanes, karaoke rooms, laser tag, an arcade area, cocktail bar and diner, interactive darts, escape rooms and pool tables - a fantastic range of activities under one roof!



YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

YSP's headline exhibition is **Contemporary Indigenous North American Artworks from Tia Collection**. Running from 13 June 2026-18 April 2027, this exhibition - unprecedented in Europe - spans numerous regions and genres, featuring a diverse range of sculpture, textiles, ceramics, photography, film, and painting.

Spring will reveal a new outdoor work in slate, **Wrapped in Cold Hard Comfort** by Andi Walker, and explore power dynamics, traditions, and international trade history in LR Vandy's **Rise**, from 14 March.

WHISPERS FROM THE PAST

Wakefield is a place of story. Experience a thousand years of history in our castles and cathedral, discover mansion owners and mine workers, Romans legions and rugby league.

In the fascinating galleries and tours of the **National Coal Mining Museum**, former miners share their stories of an industry that once powered the nation. Robert-Adam designed **National Trust Nostell** is one of the north's greatest houses, with sumptuous interiors, an unmatched collection of Chippendale furniture, and stunning parkland. A key battleground of the Wars of the Roses, the ruins of **Sandal Castle** stand proud above the city. More impressive still, **Pontefract Castle** was once so mighty it was known as the Key to the North. Uncover Roman artefacts at **Castleford Museum**, the glittering Ackworth Hoard at **Pontefract Museum**, and play i-spy in a paper nature park at **Wakefield Museum**.

Built in the early 14th century, **Wakefield Cathedral** stands tall with Yorkshire's highest spire, featuring exquisite Victorian and medieval details, and offering a peaceful retreat from city life. The **West Yorkshire History Centre** preserves centuries of West Riding heritage, including the Stanley Royd Mental Health Hospital archives, part of UNESCO's UK Memory of the World Register.

National Trust Nostell © National Trust Images/Freya Raby

SEE MORE ONLINE





NOT TO BE MISSED

The Chantry Chapel of St Mary the Virgin is the oldest - and one of the country's last surviving - bridge chapels. Built in the mid-14th century, see the beautiful interior at special open days throughout the year.



Golden Pineapple

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRIE!

Wakefield has long been known as the Merrie City for its impeccable foodie credentials. Sample global flavours in world-class restaurants.

Sup in stand-out surrounds: from ancient half-timbered restaurants, to quirky bars and industrial chic in the city centre.

Indulge in a cup of mocha, matcha and more at one of our cafes. Discover indulgent treats beloved by locals, independent

coffee roasters for connoisseurs, and afternoon teas to tempt your taste buds, or indulge in field to fork freshness at our award-winning farm shops.

Get hands-on with a range of quirky foodie experiences. Craft beer producers run regular tours and tastings, along with taproom parties - we even have a gin school!

The city has a bevy of cool bars for those in the know, or you can sip real ale and craft beer (and linger for those lazy

Sundays) all around the district in our traditional pubs.

Whatever you choose, it's all served up with a warm Yorkshire welcome!

The district has a proud food heritage in rhubarb and liquorice, with festivals celebrating these homegrown heroes. Pay homage to the Rhubarb Triangle in February's **Rhubarb Festival** in Wakefield, and revel in the origin of liquorice sweets at **Pontefract Liquorice Festival** every July.



Qubana



The Old Grocers



Rhubarb Festival



*The Hepworth Wakefield
© Joanne Crawford*



Pontefract Liquorice Festival



Rasam's Creamery



The Distillery



Recent



Prego

CENTRE STAGE!

Wakefield really knows how to put on a show. From comedy nights in quirky venues to indie gigs in unique spaces, we're a cultural hotspot with outstanding performance venues for music, comedy and dance.

Authentic experiences are key: our grassroots music scene allows creativity to take centre stage. From 1000-cap blockbusters to intimate performances spotlighting the next generation of talent, **WX - Wakefield Exchange** and **Tileyard North** are hubs for live music and events. **Wakefield Jazz** welcomes top talent from across the UK and beyond, while **Venue 23** (and its baby brother, **The Jam Lounge**) offers a vibrant stage for an array of live shows. **Artwalk Wakefield** brings performances of all types to unusual venues - cathedrals, shops, bars and more - every other month.

Summer means festivals in Wakefield! **Clarence Park Festival** leads the way as Yorkshire's longest-running free music event, showcasing grassroots sounds across every genre. The celebrations continue with Pontefract's **Friarwood Festival** and **Yonder** at **Pontefract Castle**, while classical melodies set the scene as the sun goes down at **Proms in the Castle**.

If we're talking performance, there's nowhere more iconic than **Theatre Royal Wakefield**. Their tagline "A great night out" lives up to its promise, with a programme full of variety. Including, of course, their illustrious Panto!



SEE MORE ONLINE





NOT TO BE MISSED

Wakefield's real ale scene pairs perfectly with live music, from **The Old Grocers** and **The Robin Hood** in Pontefract to **The Junction** in Castleford, plus city favourites like **The Black Horse**, **Harry's Bar**, **WX's Exchange Tap** - and plenty more.

BREATHE DEEP, WANDER FAR

The Wakefield district is almost 70% rural, with fields, forests, wetlands and waterways offering space to slow down and reconnect.

From coal face to wild place, our country parks have transformed the industrial landscape, and we're dead proud that we have five

beautiful Green Flag sites to choose from: stunning **Anglers Country Park** and its ancient woodland neighbour, **Haw Park Woods**; **Pugneys Country Park** with its wide, glassy lakes and wealth of family-friendly activities (including a zipline and adventure playground); beautiful **Pontefract Park** and

newly-inducted in 2025, **Vale Head Park** in Hemsworth.

Cycle the sights on the Trans Pennine Trail (or take it slow by foot), climb up the hill to the romantic ruins of **Sandal Castle** (and be rewarded by splendid views of the Calder Valley), or wander the captivating lakeside

SEE MORE ONLINE



path at **Newmillerdam Country Park** before stopping at a local café or country pub for a local treat.

RSPB Fairburn Ings is a flourishing green haven north of Castleford, and a year-round haven for wildlife.

It's not only our dedicated green and blue spaces that

offer the chance for reflection: our arts and heritage venues revel in the natural world. Roam through landscape dotted with world-class art as sculptures meet skyline at **YSP**, enjoy well-kept gardens and wild woodland at **National Trust Nostell**, and find your calm amidst the bustle in **The Hepworth Wakefield Garden**.

Families will be enchanted by our outdoor story trails: join the hunt on Newmillerdam's **Gnome Roam**, follow Julia Donaldson's beloved characters with **Room on the Broom** at Anglers, catch the wind with **Blown Away** at Pugneys, and meet carved creatures on **Peter's Lost Peregrine** at Pontefract Park.

Sandal Castle



WAKEFIELD WITHOUT LIMITS

We believe every visitor should feel at home here. Our destination is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all.

At **The National Coal Mining Museum**, don your hard hat and delve into 200 years of mining history through the wheelchair-accessible Time Tunnel. **Theatre Royal Wakefield**'s regular BSL-interpreted performances bring the magic of the stage to all. Enjoy art in the landscape along **Yorkshire Sculpture Park**'s accessible paths with the hire of a free off-road mobility scooter. Free scooter hire is also available at **Anglers Country Park** and **National Trust Nostell**, both of which also feature Changing Places toilets and (like our other country parks) wide, flat pathways through their stunning landscapes. **Pontefract Castle** likewise offers accessible routes to explore its romantic ruins.

The Art House is guided by the Social Model of Disability, with a building designed to be exemplary in accessibility, and all interpretation available in standard, large print and Braille, as well as Dyslexia-friendly and Easy Read formats.

Experience high-octane thrills at **Xscape's Snozone**, which offers skiing and snowboarding with adaptive equipment and expert tuition. **Pontefract Races** - the UK's first fully autism-friendly racecourse - features quiet spaces, a sensory room and tailored support for every meeting.





ACCESSIBLE WAKEFIELD

Accessible Wakefield, Experience Wakefield's dedicated access portal, strives to provide as much information as possible for visitors - so you can plan your trip with confidence. Scan the QR code, or visit expwake.co/Access

Pugneys Country Park

SEE MORE ONLINE



CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Experience a magical Christmas in Wakefield, from frosty winding streets in historic market towns to the festive bustle of our Cathedral city.

The season starts with the dazzle of **Light Up**'s immersive light installations, alongside family entertainment. Shop for artisan gifts in our creator-led markets, like **The Hepworth Wakefield Festive Market** - called "One of Britain's best Christmas markets" by The Guardian - or make your own gifts in one of our abundant craft workshops.

Santa pops up everywhere you'd expect - and in places you wouldn't. Meet the jolly old man in red anywhere from a liquorice-themed grotto to a rugby league stadium.

Laugh and cheer along at **Theatre Royal Wakefield**'s triumphant pantomime (proudly presenting big sets, bigger characters and the biggest laughs), or marvel as **National Trust Nostell** is dressed to the nines, a festive feast for the eyes. Enjoy traditional **Christmas Brass** at **Theatre Royal Wakefield**, and the

even more ancient melodies of soaring song at **Wakefield Cathedral**'s flagship **Carols by Candlelight**. Start your new Christmas tradition at one of our independent eateries, or enjoy a cheeky Christmas pint in a cosy Yorkshire pub.

Rest ye merrie at one of our superb accommodation options, with ideal dining and entertainment opportunities for a festive staycation.



*Christmas in the Hayloft,
Farmer Copleys*



National Trust Nostell



*The Hepworth Wakefield
Festive Market*



Pontefract Castle



*National Coal
Mining Museum*



Light Up



Pontefract



Wakefield Cathedral



Xscape

UNMISSABLE FOR FAMILIES

Create unforgettable family memories at **Diggerland Yorkshire!** Kids and grown-ups alike can drive real diggers, enjoy thrilling rides, and explore fun attractions. With something for everyone, it's the ultimate day out for laughter, adventure and a hands-on experience that all the family will love.

SEE MORE ONLINE



TEMPTING FÊTE

We think outside the box for our annual festivals, making sure there's plenty of fun for every age bracket. Your red-letter-days for 2026 are:

Wakefield Rhubarb Festival (20-22 February), Castleford Roman Festival (30 May), Wakefield Armed Forces Day (4 July), Pontefract Liquorice Festival (12 July), and Light Up (20-29 November).



I DIG IT!

Discover our mining history in a family friendly way at the **National Coal Mining Museum**. Explore the nature trail, visit the horses, take part in crafts, step into the Time Tunnel and lots more!

ARTE-FACTS!

Experience thousands of years of stories at **Wakefield Museums and Castles**: see Roman objects at **Castleford Museum**, hear rhubarb growing at **Wakefield Museum**, play on a market stall at **Pontefract Museum**, be king of the castle at **Sandal Castle** and take the Civil War Soldiers challenges at **Pontefract Castle**.

THE GREAT XSCAPE

The fun never stops at **Xscape**: real-snow ski slopes, a 70ft skycoaster, e-karting, ten pin bowling, crazy golf, rock climbing, laser tag, Vue Cinema, escape rooms and more!

TALE AS OLD AS TIME...

Don't miss this year's marvellous mayhem at **Theatre Royal Wakefield as Beauty and the Beast** (24 November 2026 - 3 January 2027) gets the Wakefield panto treatment - belly laughs incoming!

HOUSE RULES

Follow kid-friendly trails to uncover secrets and stories around **National Trust Nostell's** stately home, and then burn off energy in the Woodland Adventure Playground.

GIVE IT A TRY!

Start 'em young with a trip to see our Rugby League Super League teams: **Castleford Tigers** and **Wakefield Trinity** have plenty to thrill even the youngest of fans.



*Seasons Entwined
Photography*

FARM FAVOURITE

Grab your wellies and take part in animal feeding, petting, outdoor activities and seasonal events at our district farms: **Blacker Hall Farm, Farmer Copleys, Horncastle Farm and Watering Hole on the Farm**.

UNMISSABLE CULTURE

Rhubarb Festival
(20-22 February)

World Coal Carrying Championship
(6 April)

Ropergate 1940s Day
(13 June)

Pontefract Liquorice Festival
(12 July)

SEE MORE ONLINE





PONTEFRACT CASTLE

Explore this historically important fortress all year round, and be transported by moving classical melodies and a stunning fireworks finale in the Castle's atmospheric surroundings for **Proms at the Castle** (20-21 June).

YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

Until 22 February, Jordy Kerwick brings to life imaginary realms in **One to Give. One to Take Away**, while William Kentridge's **The Pull of Gravity** presents monumental forms throughout the Park until 19 April.



NT Images-Chris Lacey

NATIONAL TRUST NOSTELL

Nostell's permanent collections are a joy. Discover world-class Chippendale furniture, John Harrison's longcase clock, and a magnificent array of paintings, including **The Procession to Calgary** by Pieter Breughel the Younger.



NATIONAL COAL MINING MUSEUM

A key part of Wakefield's story, the history of mining is evoked through fascinating tours, charismatic guides, galleries and exhibitions across a massive 42-acre site.

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

Playing With Fire presents the work of eminent ceramicist Axel Salto, with a complementary installation from Edmund de Waal, and **Unspeak The Chorus** showcases Kira Freije's expressive life-size narrative figures. Both run until 4 May.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Heritage Open Days (11-20 September) are a fantastic time to visit our historical venues. Go behind the scenes and see our glorious buildings in a whole new light!

WX - WAKEFIELD EXCHANGE

From the Turbine Hall to Wakefield, 2026 sees the arrival of a deeply important cultural work: the **UK AIDS Memorial Quilt** (June) helps us remember and celebrate all lives lost to HIV.

UNMISSABLE EXPERIENCES

Find your new favourite hangout at **WX - Wakefield Exchange**, Wakefield's latest cultural hotspot. Enjoy regular comedy nights, live music from acts large and small, art installations, craft markets, eclectic music events (think Northern Soul, Sea Shanty evenings, Rodeos) and loads more. Top off your trip at one of the cool food and drink providers.

WX Live

SEE MORE ONLINE





FESTIVALS

Get your glad rags on at our festivals! Food and drink trails at **Rhubarb (21-22 February)** and **Liquorice (12 July) Festivals** serve up quirky culinary creations, and **Light Up's (20-29 November)** installations provide Insta-worthy photo-ops.

FARMER COPLEYS TULIP FESTIVAL

Revel in a riot of colour at the biggest **Tulip Festival** in the North (4 April-3 May). Enjoy over a million bulbs in vivid hues across more than 8 acres, plus Dutch street food and more.

A NIGHT OUT IN THE CITY

Make Wakefield your next night out: good food, cool bars (plus plenty of alcohol-free options), and fantastic entertainment options - from late-night gallery openings to showstopping theatre and more.

YORKSHIRE SCARE-GROUNDS

Feel the fear every Halloween season when this scream park provides costumed characters in haunted houses, scare zones, murderous mazes and more. Enter, if you dare...

WAKEFIELD GHOST WALK

Every fortnight, uncover chilling folklore, eerie legends, and spine-tingling stories that bring the city's darker side to life, as you navigate the historic streets of the city centre.

CLARENCE PARK FESTIVAL

Experience a free, eclectic weekend of live music, DJs, street food, makers stalls and more at Yorkshire's longest-running, grassroots music festival (25-26 July).



John Clifton

RUGBY LEAGUE

Feel the passion, pride and purpose at our Super League matches. When the game's over, why not make a day of it and relive the guts and glory at one of our bars or restaurants?

WAGFIELD!

One of the best things about a staycation in the Wakefield district? There's no need to leave your four-legged friend at home! Our venues and attractions have plenty to offer even the most cultured of pups.





DJ's Cafe

FOOD!

Fetch yourself a treat at one of the district's many dog-friendly eateries. For cakes and coffee, **Blondies** in Pontefract, **Vanilla Bean** in Wakefield and **The Keep** at **Pontefract Castle** (also a great place for a walk) are all great options, or for something a bit more substantial, you'd be barking not to visit **Buttons** in Walton. Raise the "woof" at pubs around the district, including **The Dam Inn** at Newmillerdam, Sandal's **The Star**, and **The Old Halfway House** in Horbury - they even have their own doggy menu!



Farmer Copleys

WALKIES!

If you're a rover, the Wakefield district is the paw-fect place. Wander the waterside and flat, easy walking paths of our beautiful country parks: **Anglers**, **Pugneys** and **Newmillerdam**. Tail-wagging adventures await at **Haw Park Wood**, **Notton Wood** and **Horbury Lagoon**, while **National Trust Nostell** and **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** offer a wide variety of landscapes to discover, along with a slice of culture.



Waterton Park Hotel

STAY!

The ulti-mutt staycation demands the best accommodation! Be mere minutes from the country park at Newmillerdam's **Hotel St Pierre**, or stay in the lap (dog) of luxury at **Wentbridge House** or **Waterton Park** (who have specially allocated ground-floor rooms for you and your pooch). On a budget? **Travelodge** and **Holiday Inn** will have you on cloud ca-nine. And for a bone-from-home experience, stay fur a while at self catering options like **Skyhold Stays** in the city centre, rural **Daisy Cottage**, and canalside **The Moorings**.

EXPLORE MORE

It's not all about the city! The Wakefield district has an array of lively towns to discover, each with a distinct character, promising a grand day out, whatever your interests.

Want to see everything our district has to offer? Flip to pages 40 & 41 for your ultimate attractions map - packed with cultural gems, family fun, and scenic spots across the Wakefield district.

Queen's Mill, Castleford

SEE MORE ONLINE





CASTLEFORD

Step back in time at Castleford's annual **Roman Festival**, and uncover 2,000 years of stories at **Castleford Museum**, and **Queen's Mill** (the world's largest stone-grinding flour mill). Swap ancient tales for modern thrills at **Diggerland**, as you drive and ride on real diggers, or find quiet calm amidst the splendour of **RSPB Fairburn Ings**. Feel the magic at a **Castleford Tigers** Super League clash. For indoor adventure, head to **Xscape** for skiing, e-karting and more, then bag big brands at **Junction 32 Outlet**.



OSSETT

The charming town of Ossett is full of character, hosting the quirky **World Coal-Carrying Championship** every April, and knees-up **Ossett Beercart** in May. Raise a glass at **Ossett Brewery**, a key player in the district's thriving craft beer scene, with tours, tastings and events. Browse a vibrant high street with plenty of independent shops, cafés and pubs.

This friendly town brims with community spirit, so keep an eye out for celebrations all year round.



PONTEFRACT

Pontefract's fine Georgian streets charm with indie shops, cosy cafés and vibrant bars. Explore mighty **Pontefract Castle** "the Key to the North" and its deep, dark dungeon, then continue the story at **Pontefract Museum**. Enjoy themed days and thrills at **Pontefract Racecourse**, Europe's longest continuous flat-racing circuit. Pontefract revels in its liquorice heritage, and the annual **Pontefract Liquorice Festival** (along with favourites Wheelfest and Ropergate 1940s) keep the town buzzing all year.



BUY THE WAY...

The Wakefield district is a delight for the discerning shopper, whether you're after well-known brands or something truly unique.

We're the home of **Burberry** and **Haribo**, so we know all about the big names, but our creative spirit means that where the district really shines is with our independent makers. Browse handcrafted treasures at Castleford's **Forever After**, Wakefield's **Hummingbird Collective**, and the gift shops at **The Art House**, **The Hepworth**

Wakefield and **Yorkshire Sculpture Park**. You'll also find brilliant independent bookshops to browse, including **Darling Reads** in Horbury, **Walton's Books** on the Lane and newcomer **Foster's Little Book Shop** in Ossett.

Beyond static spaces, the calendar is packed with makers' markets and fairs, including favourites like **The Hepworth Wakefield's Print Fair**, **Ceramic Fair** and **Festive Market**, and **The Art House's CRAFTED** markets throughout the year. Foodies can stock up

at farm shops such as **Blacker Hall Farm** and **Farmer Copleys**, or sample local flavours (and enjoy seasonal events) at our bustling markets.

Of course, high street favourites await at Wakefield's shopping hubs, **The Ridings**, **Trinity Walk**, and **Carlton Lanes**, while bargain hunters can bag big-name savings at **Junction 32 Yorkshire Shopping Outlet**: home to renowned brands like Radley, Lucy & Yak, Barbour, Crew and Levi's.



Makers Wonderland,
The Art House



Darling Reads



The Hepworth
Wakefield Print Fair



Trinity Walk



Frank Bird



Pontefract Liquorice Festival



Forever After



Blacker Hall Farm



Markets

STAY A WHILE

Wakefield has far more to see and do than a day visit can satisfy, and our accommodation providers offer stellar staycations for every traveller.

Looking for luxury? Stay in the world's first nature reserve on an island in its own lake at **Waterton Park**, enjoy award-winning fine dining and views to match at **Wentbridge House**, step into history at 400-year-old **Rogerthorpe Manor**. For rural escapes, try Pontefract's secluded **King's Croft Hotel** or **St Pierre** in leafy Newmillerdam. For connectivity, **Holmfield Arms** offers cosy-chic comfort a stone's-throw from the centre, while **Holiday Inn Leeds-Wakefield** sits just off the M1. Prefer a true Yorkshire welcome? Charming B&Bs like **Glencoe Villa**, tucked away in Featherstone, fit the bill.

For a home-from-home stay, choose from our many self-catering gems: relax on a working farm at **Farmer Copleys'** stylish **Farmhouse**, enjoy canalside views at **The Moorings** in Stanley Ferry, or stay steps from sculpture at **Smithy Ridge Mews**, right next door to **YSP**. Want to try something quirky? Get a sense of adventure with **Lazy Days Narrow Boat** or **Escape By Narrowboat** for a sumptuous stay on the water. Snuggle up in **The Lambing Shed** shepherd's hut for couples, or take in stunning 360° views from the luxurious **Flockton Water Tower** conversion.





NOT TO BE MISSED

A super staycation doesn't have to mean breaking the bank: a range of wallet-friendly hotels are available, including **Holiday Inn Express** in the city centre, **Ibis** in Castleford and **Premier Inn** across the district.

King's Croft, Pontefract

GETTING HERE AND AROUND

With Wakefield at the crossroads of major motorways and well-developed train networks, it's simple to get here and easy to explore. We're also an ideal base to explore the region – the Pennines, the Peaks, the Moors and the Dales are all on our doorstep.



BY ROAD

At the crossroads of M1 and M62 and A1, we are supremely situated. Manchester, Hull, York and Sheffield are all within one hour's drive. Doncaster and Leeds-Bradford airports and Hull ferry terminal, are less than an hour away. Further afield, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leicester and Newcastle are all just two hours by car.



BY RAIL

The city's two train stations, Westgate and Kirkgate, connect us to all major cities. We are 12 minutes from Leeds, and only two hours direct from London King's Cross. In Pontefract, three train stations (also with a direct train to London) ensure a quick trip wherever you're coming from.



BY BUS

Once you're here, our bus network will get you to even rural venues. In the city, hop on our Free City Bus, taking you between our railway stations, bus station and city centre attractions, and a new service from the city centre connects The Hepworth Wakefield with the Yorkshire Sculpture Park - all aboard the sculptour bus!



GO GREEN!

Eco-conscious? Don't shrink your trip, shrink your carbon footprint! From greener stays to eating local, sustainability fits seamlessly into your visit. Scan the QR code for full details on every idea featured here!



GREEN YOUR TRAVEL

Wakefield is well-served by public transport (see overleaf!), and boasts miles of cycle paths, including Cycle to Culture at The Art House. Driving electric? Charge points are dotted across the district. If you prefer to walk, our self-guided trails let you take things at your own pace. For car-free journeys around Wakefield, check out Good Journey to help plan your trip.



GREEN YOUR EXPERIENCE

Our country parks share nearly 40 years of Green Flag accreditation, while Pontefract Castle proudly holds Green Heritage status as well as being a Green Flag site. Art and biodiversity meet in The Hepworth Wakefield Garden and Yorkshire Sculpture Park's beautiful landscapes.



GREEN YOUR DIET

Go meat-free at flavourful favourite venues all around the district. Use the Refill app to find water stations and enjoy discounts when you bring your own cup at our cafés - or pick up a branded one as a souvenir! Sample local produce at award-winning farm shops, markets and independent eateries.

Anglers Country Park





WAKEFIELD CITY CENTRE



PARKS & OUTDOOR SPACES

- CLARENCE, HOLMFIELD & THORNFIELD PARK**
WF2 8SY
- WALTON COLLIERY NATURE PARK**
WF2 6NB
- SOUTHERN WASHLANDS**
WF1 5SY
- HEMSWORTH WATER PARK**
WF9 5JB
- ANGLERS COUNTRY PARK**
WF4 2EB
- PUGNEYS COUNTRY PARK**
WF2 7EQ
- HAW PARK WOODS**
WF4 2EB

- RSPB FAIRBURN INGS**
WF10 2BH
- NEWMILLERDAM, BOATHOUSE & SECKAR WOODS**
WF2 6QP
- NOTTON WOODS**
WF4 2PB

WAKEFIELD DISTRICT ATTRACTIONS

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>1 CASTLEFORD MUSEUM & LIBRARY Carlton St, Castleford WF10 1BB</p> <p>2 CHANTRY CHAPEL Calder Vale Rd, Wakefield WF1 5DL</p> <p>3 COUNTY HALL Bond St, Wakefield WF1 2QW</p> <p>4 DIGGERLAND Willowbridge Ln, Castleford WF10 5NW</p> | <p>5 FEATHERSTONE WAR HORSE WF7 5DE</p> <p>6 MENTAL HEALTH MUSEUM Ouchthorpe Ln, Wakefield WF1 3SP</p> <p>7 NATIONAL COAL MINING MUSEUM New Rd, Overton, Wakefield WF4 4RH</p> <p>8 NOSTELL Doncaster Rd, Nostell, Wakefield WF4 1QE</p> | <p>9 PONTEFRACT CASTLE Castle Chain, Pontefract WF8 1QH</p> <p>10 PONTEFRACT MUSEUM & LIBRARY Salter Row, Pontefract WF8 1BA</p> <p>11 PONTEFRACT PARK, RACECOURSE & ASPIRE@THEPARK Park Side, Pontefract WF8 4QD</p> <p>12 RHUBARB TRIANGLE Between Wakefield, Morley and Rothwell</p> <p>13 RIDINGS SHOPPING CENTRE Almshouse Ln, Wakefield WF1 1DS</p> | <p>14 QUEEN'S MANSION Aire St, Castleford WF10 1BB</p> <p>15 ROSSE OBSERVATORY Carleton Rd, Castleford WF10 1BB</p> <p>16 SANDAL CASTLE Wakefield WF1 1AA</p> <p>17 THE ART HOUSE Drury Ln, Wakefield WF1 1AA</p> <p>18 THE HEPTON WAKEFIELD MUSEUM Gallery Walk, Wakefield WF1 1AA</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

theatre **Royal** **Wakefield**



SUPPORT US

Join our Members and enjoy generous benefits that make your visits even more fun and pocket friendly.

Being a member makes you a big part of everything we do.

TAKE PART

We run a busy Participation programme, using the performing arts to enhance the lives of people of all ages and backgrounds.



A GREAT NIGHT OUT

Our Season Saver discount is a great way to save money when you buy tickets for multiple eligible shows.

Book 3-4 shows - save 10%

Book 5+ shows - save 20%



Photos by Robling Photography

01924 211 311

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UNMISSABLE

CULTURE

DAYS OUT

EXPERIENCES



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**FIND FANTASTIC DAYS OUT,
PLACES TO VISIT, AND WHERE TO
EAT, DRINK, SHOP AND STAY AT
EXPERIENCEWAKEFIELD.CO.UK**



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