



# Tour Information



## The War of the Roses





The tour starts and finishes at the Parsonage Hotel and Spa, Escrick.

Escrick

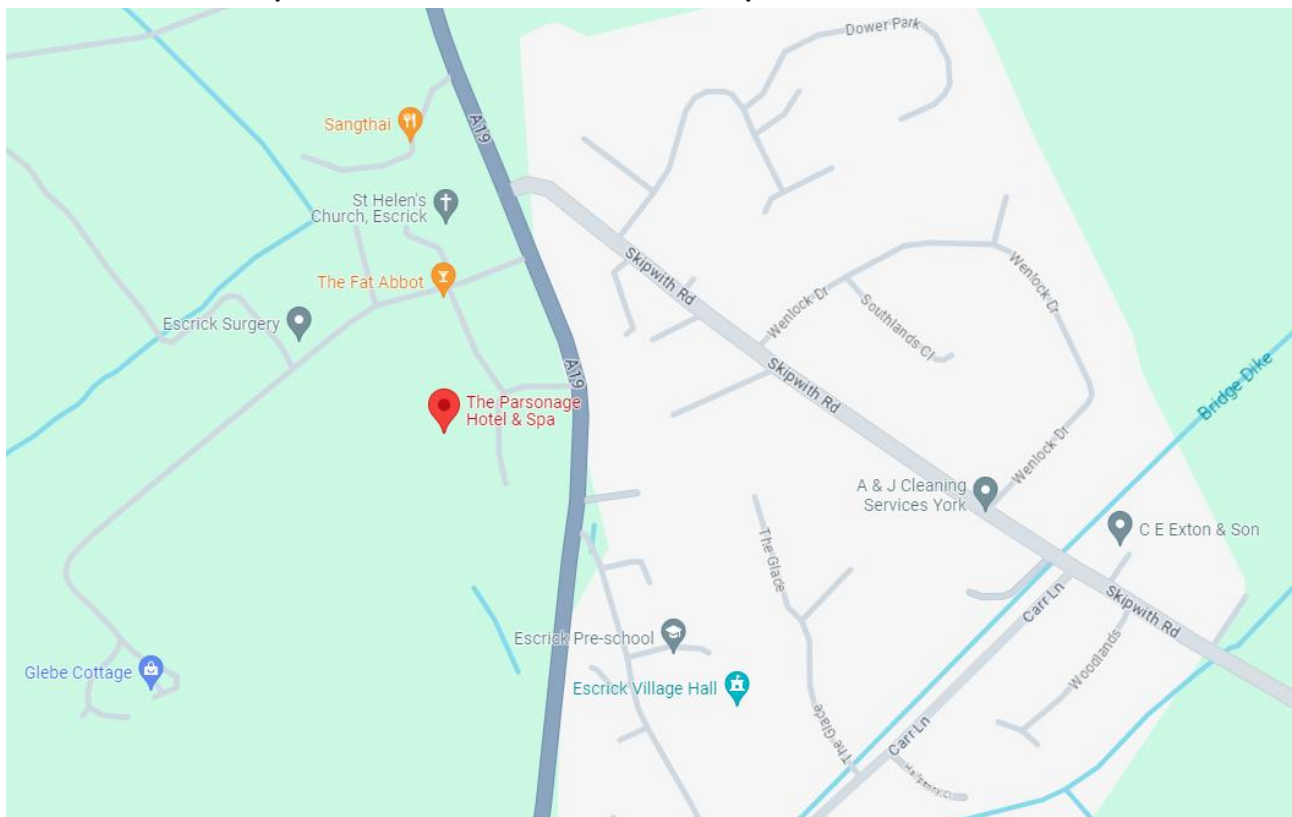
York

YO19 6LF

Tel: 01904 728 111

E-mail: [sales@parsonagehotel.co.uk](mailto:sales@parsonagehotel.co.uk)

**Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.**



### Transport

If you are travelling by **car**: From the M1, exit at Junction 32. Use the left two lanes to the M18 exit to Hull/Doncaster/ Rotherham. Continue on M18 for 26 miles and then merge onto the M62. At Junction 36, take A614 exit to Goole and follow signs for A645, A1041, A63 and A19 going over a series of nine roundabouts. As you approach the last roundabout to stay on A19, take the first exit, turn left and left again and you will see the hotel on your right.

Parking is provided at the hotel, complimentary for Travel Editions clients. The Parsonage Hotel and Spa can also offer an electric car charging facility at £30.00 for a 6/8hr overnight charge.

If you are travelling by **train**: York railway station is the closest to the hotel. It is a 15 minute taxi journey which costs approximately £20.



## Accommodation

### The Parsonage Hotel and Spa

The Parsonage Hotel and Spa is set in 6 acres of beautiful formal gardens and woodland, only a short drive from the historic city of York.

Built in the early 1840s, the building maintains many of its original features. We have two restaurants within the grounds of the Parsonage Hotel & Spa, as well as The Cloisters Spa, a beautiful Conservatory and elegant Lounges.

All rooms have en-suite facilities, flat screen smart TV's, direct dial telephones, iron & ironing boards, hair dryer and tea and coffee making facilities all to make your stay a restful one. Wi-Fi is available in all bedrooms as well as our meeting rooms.

Additional details can be found via the hotel website:

[www.parsonagehotel.co.uk](http://www.parsonagehotel.co.uk)

### Check-in and departure from the hotel

You can check-in at the hotel from 14:00. The tour will start in the evening when Julian Humphrys and Dr Nicola Tallis, the tour hosts, will meet you in the hotel foyer at 18:00 for the welcome reception.

### Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on a bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11:00.

### Special Requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

### Dining

On the first night of your stay, a private three course dinner with wine is provided. On your second evening, a private dinner will be served at the hotel. Breakfast on both days of your stay is included in the price but meals other than these stated are not included.

If you have booked to stay an extra night, dinner is not included on your final evening. However, there is the option to eat at the hotel restaurant, or a variety of restaurants can be found nearby.

# Places Visited

## **Sandal Castle**

Sandal Castle was the site of royal intrigue and even the setting for a scene in one of William Shakespeare's plays. The castle was built in the early 12th century by William, second Earl Warenne, after receiving the manor of Wakefield from Henry I for his support at the battle of Tinchebrai in 1106. It was a timber motte and bailey castle, rebuilt over the course of the 13th century in stone. After the Warenne family died out without any legitimate children in 1347, the castle eventually came into the hands of the Dukes of York.

[Sandal Castle](#)

## **Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds**

The Royal Armouries is the United Kingdom's national collection of arms and armour. Once an important part of England's military organization, it became the United Kingdom's oldest museum, and one of the oldest museums in the world.[1][2] It is also one of the largest collections of arms and armour in the world, comprising the UK's National Collection of Arms and Armour, National Artillery Collection, and National Firearms Collection.

[Royal Armouries Museum](#)

## **Towton Battlefield (Saxton)**

The battlefield of Towton sits within a beautiful and historic landscape. The Battle of Towton took place on 29 March 1461 during the Wars of the Roses, near Towton in North Yorkshire, and "has the dubious distinction of being probably the largest and bloodiest battle on English soil". Fought for ten hours between an estimated 50,000 soldiers in a snowstorm on Palm Sunday, the Yorkist army achieved a decisive victory over their Lancastrian opponents. As a result, Edward IV deposed the Lancastrian Henry VI and secured the English throne.

[The Battle of Towton](#)

## **St Mary's Church, Lead**

Since being rescued by a group of walkers in 1931, St Mary's has been known as the Ramblers' Church. The repairs made then are recorded on the back of the church door.

The church stands alone in the middle of a field filled with the bumps and furrows of earthworks that indicate the site of a medieval manor house, for which St Mary's was probably originally the chapel.

Despite its awesome history, St Mary's is a peaceful place. The tiny rectangular building is very simple. It was probably built by the Tyas family, whose massive grave slabs are set into the floor. Carved with heraldic symbols and inscriptions, and dating from the thirteenth century, they are an important and interesting collection. Later additions were made in the eighteenth century, with a rustic pulpit, clerk's pew, reading desk and painted texts.

[St Mary's Chapel, Lead](#)

## **York Minster**

York's cathedral church is one of the finest medieval buildings in Europe.

The Minster is also known as St Peter's, its full name being the 'Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York. The site of the magnificent medieval building has always been an important one for the city.

The remains of the Basilica, the ceremonial centre of the Roman fortress, have been found beneath the Minster building. The first Christian church on the site has been dated to 627 and the first Archbishop of York was recognised by the Pope in 732. The present Gothic-style church was designed to be the greatest cathedral in the kingdom. It was built over 250 years, between 1220 and 1472.

[York Minster](#)

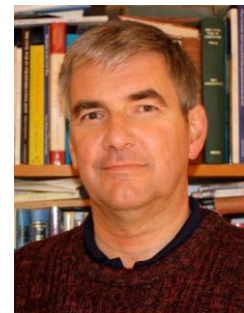
### **Middleham Castle**

Best known as one of the childhood homes of Richard III, Middleham Castle dominates the North Yorkshire town of Middleham. From the core of its Norman great tower, one of the largest in the country, the castle developed under the powerful Nevilles into a residence worthy of a family who dominated English affairs for over two centuries. Richard, Duke of Gloucester (later Richard III) spent his youth at Middleham and it became one of his royal homes.

[Middleham Castle](#)

## **Your Guides**

**Julian Humphrys** read history at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, has worked at historical sites both in Britain and overseas and is now a trustee of the Battlefields Trust and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has a very infectious enthusiasm for history and has published numerous books on castles and battles. He currently leads more than a dozen tours for Travel Editions and imparts his extraordinary historical knowledge with wit and panache, making a tour led by him both an educational and entertaining experience.



**Dr Nicola Tallis** Dr Nicola Tallis is an independent historian and researcher, who has also worked as a curator and lecturer. She received her doctorate from the University of Winchester in 2019 and is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Nicola has worked with Historic Royal Palaces and the National Trust, and has appeared on BBC's Countryfile, Who Do You Think You Are? and Booktalk. She is also a regular contributor to history magazines and radio. Nicola has given talks at the Emirates Literature Festival, Hampton Court Palace, the Tower of London, the National Archives, and the British Library to name but a few. She is the author of four critically acclaimed books: Crown of Blood: The Deadly Inheritance of Lady Jane Grey, Elizabeth's Rival: The Tumultuous Tale of Lettice Knollys, Countess of Leicester, Uncrowned Queen: The Fateful Life of Margaret Beaufort, Tudor Matriarch, and All the Queen's Jewels, 1445-1548: Power, Majesty and Display.



### **1<sup>st</sup> night – Evening talk from Julian Humphrys**

Yorkshire and the Wars of the Roses

### **2<sup>nd</sup> night – Evening talk from Dr Nicola Tallis**

Women and the Wars of the Roses



## Practical Information

**Tour manager** – Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

**Tipping** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion.

We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

**Grading** – This tour has been graded as Moderate: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.

## Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.

## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 09:00-17:00), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07441 343850

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

Travel Editions Group Ltd

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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