

TRAVEL
people

Merrie olde England comes alive in York

Tracey Hayes, a Phoenix resident, lived in York for a year in 1997-98 and returned for a visit in March 2001.

By Tracey Hayes
Special for The Republic

York. The other England. Too many people visit England and make it only as far as London. York exudes history, architecture, activities and all the splendor of a medieval city. The city of York welcomes tourists and offers plenty to see and do.

York easily beckons by train. You will arrive there before you can say "Blimey!" It's about a 2½-hour train ride from London. By car, York is a four-hour drive via the other side of the road.

Part of York's charm comes from being a walled city. The walls were built as protection from pillaging barbarians. Walking on the city walls is an enjoyable way to view the city from above and get your bearings.

The walls contain defense slits, where the inhabitants shot their arrows to defend themselves against invaders.

A varied history comes from the people who lived in York throughout the centuries. Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings thrived in York. The River Ouse brought York its fame as a merchant city, and today, there are scenic boat rides up and down the river.

Upon entering the city center, you feel transported back to the days of yore. These streets contain many "snick-elways," or passageways that provide shortcuts to avoid the

Tracey Hayes recommends tours of the York Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe.

Jo Cass/
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main streets. The Shambles is one of York's most famous thoroughfares and truly represents a medieval street.

The York Minster towers above the city. It is the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe. The 128 stained-glass windows in the Minster include the Rose Window,

which commemorates the end of the War of the Roses. Don't miss the free tours of the Minster (although donations are encouraged). You can take the tour a dozen times and learn something new each time.

Those who like suspense and mystery will enjoy several ghost tours nightly. While he leads groups around town, a guide spins haunting and supernatural tales involving buildings and historic incidents.

During a visit to York, there are many other options to experience, from museums



Old York

Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings all thrived in York, a walled city that exudes all the splendor of medieval times.



Jo Anne Izumi/The Arizona Republic

if you go

York

TRACEY'S PICKS: Bed and breakfast: Alcuin Lodge, 15 Sycamore Place, Bootham. Close to city center and train station. Full hearty English breakfast included.

Reservations: (01904)-632222.

■ **Tearooms:** Betty's Tearoom, St. Helen's Square, is the tearoom, but be prepared for long lines and high prices. The National Trust Tea Room, 30 Goodramgate, is a small tearoom with scones and tea cakes at a fraction of the cost of Betty's.

■ **Pubs:** The Old White Swan, 50 Goodramgate, one of York's oldest pubs. A good pub lunch and live bands on some evenings.

DETAILS:

www.york-united-kingdom.co.uk or www.thisisyork.co.uk.

to the ruins on St. Mary's Abbey — destroyed by Henry VIII — to the Jorvik Viking Center. No matter what your choices, as long as the destination is York, your journey will be a success.

To submit an item, send a 400-word-or-less essay and a picture of your destination that includes you, along with your name, address and daytime phone number, to: Travel People, *The Arizona Republic*, 200 E. Van Buren St., Department NF-18, Phoenix, AZ 85004, or travel@arizonarepublic.com. Photos cannot be returned. All articles are subject to editing.