

# DISCOVER Ilkley

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[www.visitilkley.com](http://www.visitilkley.com)



# ABOUT Ilkley

The picturesque town of Ilkley is the ideal place to relax and treat yourself.

There are excellent restaurants and a wonderful selection of independent retailers selling everything from jewellery to books and designer clothing.

Enjoy afternoon tea at the famous **Bettys Café and Tea Rooms**, relaxing strolls through the **Riverside Gardens** and some stunning walks in the surrounding moorland.

## Visit For

- Elegant streets
- Shopping and dining
- Exhilarating outdoors
- Spectacular views



# Instagram Ready Spots

Discover the picture-perfect spots in Ilkley that are just waiting to be captured on Instagram!

Ilkley's Cow and Calf Rocks are an iconic landmark on picturesque **Ilkley Moor**, providing a stunning backdrop for any photo. The historic **Ilkley Manor House** is another gem. For a tranquil spot, stroll through **Riverside Gardens** and snap a selfie by the old packhorse bridge.

Ilkley Moor



Ilkley Manor House



Riverside Gardens



Share your experience with us by tagging @visitbradford and #VisitBradford

# Popular routes

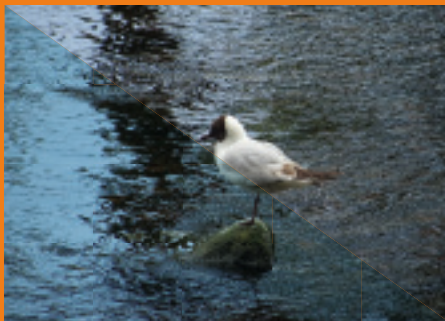


Find out more



## Length and Breadth of Ilkley Moor

An invigorating 7 mile walk in the footsteps of the giant Rombald, a great way to experience the flora and fauna of this moorland landscape with some panoramic views across Ilkley and beyond. This circular walk begins at Darwin Gardens on the edge of Ilkley Moor.



## Riverside Walk

A pleasant, accessible route along the banks of the River Wharfe. Stroll through the Riverside Gardens, cross at the Old Bridge and continue downstream, cross the road at the New Bridge and follow the path to the footbridge, where you can return to Ilkley on the bank nearest the town.



## Ilkley Moor Heritage Walks

Created by the Friends of Ilkley Moor, these walks provide the opportunity to discover more about the historic features found on the moors, including the mysterious carved cup and ring stones, while enjoying the spectacular countryside surrounding Ilkley.



## Dales Way

The town is the official starting point of this 80 mile long distance trail which finishes at Bowness-on-Windermere. From the Old Bridge, the scenic route follows the banks of the River Wharfe, with Addingham, Bolton Abbey and Grassington within a days' hike.

NORTH



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02

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THE TARN

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THE GROVE

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ILKLEY

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## Ilkley

- 01 Ilkley Moor
- 02 Cow and Calf Rocks
- 03 White Wells
- 04 Darwin Gardens
- 05 Ilkley Toy Museum
- 06 King's Hall and Winter Gardens
- 07 Ilkley Manor House
- 08 All Saints Parish Church
- 09 Ilkley Playhouse
- 10 Ilkley Cinema
- 11 Riverside Gardens
- 12 Start of the Dales Way
- 13 Ilkley Pool & Lido




Visitor Information Centre

## LEGEND

 Place of interest

 Public Buildings

 Car Parks

 Public toilets





## Entertainment and Arts

Bradford UK City of Culture 2025 is a treasure trove waiting to be explored, with Ilkley offering a variety of opportunities to enjoy arts and entertainment.

Experience the artistic wonders of Ilkley by visiting the **Solar Gallery**, housed in the historic **Ilkley Manor House**, where you can admire contemporary art and ever-changing exhibitions. Discover the charm of independent galleries like the **Tinker Gallery**, showcasing unique and captivating works of art. Stay updated with inspiring events organised by **Ilkley Arts**. And if you're up for an adventure, embark on the **Walking Photographer Tour** to capture the awe-inspiring beauty of Ilkley's moors and woodlands through your camera lens.

Enjoy the lively atmosphere of **Ilkley Bandstand** in spring and summer. With jazz bands and acoustic sessions, there's music for everyone. The stunning scenery adds to the charm and makes it a great place to relax.

For those who love live music, theatre, and comedy performances, a visit to the **King's Hall and Winter Garden** theatre is an absolute must. This grade II listed building offers an unforgettable experience. If you prefer a more intimate setting, the **Ilkley Playhouse** theatre presents plays and live music that will captivate you.

For an unforgettable movie experience, visit the independent **Ilkley Cinema**. Ideal for an evening with friends or a romantic date, this double screen cinema offers a diverse selection of films, from blockbusters to live theatre and opera screenings.

Throughout the year, Ilkley hosts a diverse range of festivals, including the renowned **Ilkley Literature Festival**, the thrilling **Ilkley Trophy Tennis Tournament**, and the delicious **Ilkley Food & Drink Festival**.



## Ilkley Moor and Cow and Calf Rocks

Ilkley Moor is the perfect place not only to appreciate the panoramic views, but to also sample one of Ilkley's greatest attractions – its walking. Famous for the Yorkshire anthem “On Ilkley Moor baht ‘at”, the moor is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its upland habitat for ground-nesting birds.

Across the moor there are 400 carvings, known as ‘cup and ring stones’. Thought to date from the early Bronze Age, around 1800 BC, their purpose remains a mystery to this day. Features like this make the moor a fascinating place, and a wonderful walk at all times of the year. From White Wells to the Cow and Calf, there's plenty to see, particularly in late July when the heathers bloom.

High on Ilkley Moor, the Cow and Calf Rocks are a large rock formation consisting of an outcrop and boulder, also known as Hangingstone Rocks. They are so named because one is large, with the smaller one sitting close to it, like a cow and calf.

According to local legend, the Calf was split from the Cow when the giant Rombald was fleeing an enemy, and stamped on the rock as he leapt across the valley.

The rocks are a great place to climb, and the moor offers spectacular views of Ilkley and beyond.

Hanginstone Road, Ilkley LS29 8BT  
[www.ilkleymoer.org](http://www.ilkleymoer.org)





### Ilkley Manor House

Ilkley Manor House is one of Ilkley's oldest buildings, with parts dating back to the mid-14th century. It is now used as a museum, arts and heritage centre, with a range of events and activities taking place throughout the year. Self-guided tours of the historic building are available, and you will also find interpretation panels outside the building where you can find out more about its fascinating past. To the rear of the building you will find more information about the Roman occupation of Ilkley, along with the remains of the Roman fort, and a section of the Roman wall.

Castle Yard, Ilkley LS29 9DT  
[www.ilkleymanorhouse.org](http://www.ilkleymanorhouse.org)



### White Wells

Originally built in the early 18th century as a charming open-air spa, nestled amongst the picturesque Ilkley moor, this incredible Grade II listed building is still in use today and offers an enticing opportunity for individuals seeking a refreshing dip inside the cottage plunge pool. However, for those who prefer to remain on solid ground, the surrounding cottage, café and fascinating museum display provide an equally enjoyable experience, making it an ideal destination for a memorable stopover during an exploration of the breathtaking moorland landscape.

Join the tradition of celebrating the arrival of the New Year by immersing yourself in the plunge pool, an activity that has become synonymous with this special day.

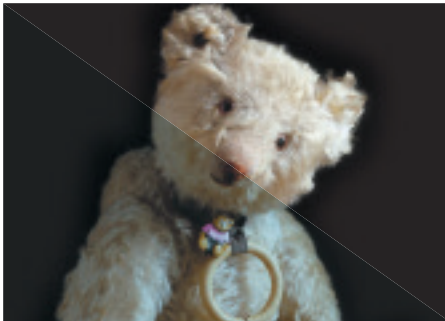
Wells Road, Ilkley LS29 9RF



## Ilkley Lido

If you don't mind the chill, then take the plunge at one of the country's few remaining outdoor pools. With plenty of space for sunbathing and picnics, there's a real seaside atmosphere in the summer months, as well as fantastic views over Ilkley Moor.

Denton Road, Ilkley LS29 0BZ  
[www.bradford.gov.uk/lido](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/lido)



## Ilkley Toy Museum

Ilkley Toy Museum is a small independent museum containing one of the finest private collections of toys in the North of England. The many exhibits feature dolls, dolls houses, teddy bears, tinplate toys, lead figures and a selection of games together with wooden and paper toys.

2 Whitton Croft Road, Ilkley LS29 9HR  
[www.ilkleytoymuseum.co.uk](http://www.ilkleytoymuseum.co.uk)



## Clip 'n Climb

Indoor climbing experience, fun for the whole family with no experience required. An exciting selection of walls with many different challenges of varying design and difficulty, testing your agility and courage. An all-weather space where adults and kids can enjoy some action-packed fun.

17 Station Plaza, Ilkley, LS29 8HF  
[www.clipnclimbilkley.co.uk](http://www.clipnclimbilkley.co.uk)



## Riverside Gardens

Nestled alongside the picturesque River Wharfe in the heart of Ilkley town centre. This idyllic setting offers the perfect spot for those seeking relaxation, whether you prefer a leisurely riverside stroll or a friendly game of pétanque. The gardens' main attraction is the recently renovated playground, offering endless amusement for families. From the delightful toddler zone to the exciting natural play area. Adjacent to the gardens you'll find the Riverside Hotel and Pub, boasting a fantastic outdoor dining space with a splendid view of the old Packhorse Bridge. Bridge Lane, Ilkley LS29 9EU [www.bradforddistrictparks.org](http://www.bradforddistrictparks.org)



## Darwin Gardens Millennium Green

The Darwin Gardens in Ilkley are located where the town and moor meet. They are inspired by the town's history and a visit by Charles Darwin. The Millennium Green Maze is a popular feature. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful surroundings and find picnic tables and seats for relaxation.

Wells Road, Ilkley LS29 9JG  
[www.darwingardens.org.uk](http://www.darwingardens.org.uk)



## Ilkley Discover Trails

Created by Ilkley BID, search 'Discover Ilkley' in your app store and download the specially designed augmented reality trail to your phone or tablet. Follow the route around the town to discover more about Ilkley's history and hear the stories of some of the town's most famous past residents.

Search & Download 'Discover Ilkley' in the App Store & Google Play



## Shopping

A shopper's paradise, Ilkley is known for its quaint, tree-lined streets and classic storefronts that display a delightful mix of high-street and independent brands, including **Jigsaw**, **White Stuff**, and **Oliver Bonas**. Spend a day strolling between The Grove, Brook Street and Leeds Road, perusing the shops and indulging in some retail therapy.

Select some holiday reading at **The Grove Bookshop**, a wonderful independent shop that has been operating in Ilkley for more than 40 years. Dress to impress with designer clothing from **Attic Clothing** and **Raymond Town Menswear**, find classy presents from the **Covet Store**, and fine jewellery and high-end watches from **Phillips of Ilkley** and **Nicholson's Jewellers**. Follow your nose to **The Bath House**, a high-end fragrance and skincare boutique, and **The Yorkshire Soap Company**, selling a range of luxury premium soaps handmade in Yorkshire.

Create something distinctive at **Mrs Duttons Wondrous Workshops**, find custom furniture at **Corner House Interiors** or the perfect accessory for your home at **Nora's Interiors**. Explore **Moss & Moor** garden centre for everything from large plants to lovely succulents for any occasion. Don't miss **Mortens**, known for great practical items for the home and garden.

Pick up the perfect ingredients from **Lishman's of Ilkley**, one of Yorkshire's most popular butchers, or **Moin Moin Bäckerei**, artisan bakers and confectioners offering British and Continental pastries, and on the first Sunday of each month visit **Real Food Ilkley Market**, a celebration of locally produced fine food at The Grove.

Ilkley is the perfect shopping destination if you want to treat yourself. You can find everything you require right here.



## The Great Outdoors

Surrounded by beautiful countryside, Ilkley offers endless opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. There are footpaths for all abilities, lovely walks on **Ilkley Moor** or around **Middleton Woods**, and along the **River Wharfe**. You'll find everything from challenging moorland hikes to family-friendly pushchair routes.

The views change across the year, don't miss seasonal highlights, including the clouds of blossom in spring. Top places to take in the colour include **Riverside Gardens** or on a promenade along **The Grove**. Into May, the bluebells of Middleton Woods create a spectacular carpet of colour, a wonderful accompaniment to a woodland walk.

By late summer the heather starts to bloom and the moors above Ilkley take on their distinctive bright purple shades. Take in the scenery and we are sure you will find a walk to suit you. Ilkley loves cycling, it is home to Ilkley Cycling Club, the largest cycling club

in the country, with over 1000 members.

Getting out on two wheels is a great way to explore, and around this area, cyclists can ride routes which were part of the Tour de Yorkshire. The route passed through much of the Bradford district, including the steep ascent to the iconic race finish line of the **Cow and Calf Rocks** overlooking the town. Cyclists frequently use the back road that runs from Ilkley to **Bolton Abbey**, but there are many additional road routes and country lanes which provide a network of routes across Wharfedale and towards Embsay, Skipton and the Yorkshire Dales.

Explore the charming village of **Burley in Wharfedale**, known for its Walkers are Welcome title. Conveniently located, it offers easy access to stunning countryside in every direction, from **Burley Moor** in the south and Ilkley Moor in the west. Take a break at **Cock Pit Farm Tea Room**, a welcoming spot for cyclists, walkers, and furry friends.

# What's On

You can guarantee there is always something happening in Ilkley, from exhibitions and concerts to delicious food markets and beer festivals. Highlights include the Ilkley Trophy, a world-class tennis tournament in the summer, and the Ilkley Literature Festival in the autumn, the most vibrant and prestigious literary festival in the North of England. Go to Ilkley Manor House for imaginative activities around the Manor and its lovely courtyard. At the Ilkley Bandstand on The Grove, keep an eye out for a regular concert schedule. Experience entertaining theatre and shows all year round at King's Hall and Winter Gardens and Ilkley Playhouse. Visit Ilkley Cinema to get front-row seats for live performances of the biggest West End, opera, dance, and music cinema release events from around the globe.

## Event Highlights 2024

**Ilkley Carnival**  
6 May

**Real Food Ilkley Market**  
First Sunday of the Month

**Ilkley Food and Drink Festival**  
15 & 16 June

**Ilkley Trophy Tennis Tournament**  
15 – 22 June

**Ilkley Arts Trail**  
October

**Ilkley Literature Festival**  
4 – 20 October



◀ Find out more





## Food and Drink

Ilkley is known for an abundance of charming, exciting and delicious restaurants and cafés. Whatever you're looking for, you're sure to find something tasty in Ilkley.

There is a wide variety of cafés and coffee shops in Ilkley, and alfresco dining is perfect in the summer. Go to **The Little Tea House** for afternoon tea, **Toast House** for speciality coffee and **J Reserve** for breakfast, brunch and lunch! The legendary **Betty's Café and Tea Rooms** on The Grove is a Yorkshire institution known for its Fat Rascals and is a great place to visit after a day of sightseeing or shopping.

Dining in Ilkley can take you anywhere in the world, with choices ranging from the Mediterranean to the Far East. Enjoy authentic Italian cuisine at **Emporio Italia**, Portuguese specialties at **Quinta Bar and Grill**, fine Indian cuisine at **Panache** or delicious Thai dishes at **Chokdee. Bistrot Pierre** at The Crescent prides itself on French cuisine. A real treat can be enjoyed at The Roof Garden at **Piccolino's**, a fantastic place

to dine whilst enjoying the view of Ilkley Moor. Experience fine dining at **The Box Tree**, a renowned restaurant that has received numerous accolades. Delight in a tantalising menu of seasonal and locally sourced ingredients and savour every moment of a memorable evening with family and friends.

With the lights twinkling in the trees, Ilkley is a special place to spend the evening. Enjoy a glass of wine with tapas at **Martinez Wine Bar**, cocktails at the **Ticket Office Bar** or a charcuterie board at **Friends of Ham**. For the perfect gin and tonic, head to **The Gin Lounge**. If you're looking for a real beer experience, visit pubs like **Flying Duck** or **Bah'tat**, which have regularly changing beers on tap. Many of the pubs and bars have excellent menus, so why not try a local ale with your meal at **The Black Hat** or **The Wheatley Arms** in a relaxed, contemporary atmosphere. Don't miss the **Fuggle and Golding** tap house and bottle shop, where you can fill up a growler to enjoy your favourites at home too.

# Getting to Ilkley

## Getting Here and Around

Getting to Ilkley couldn't be easier, whether you choose to drive or use public transport. Once here, you can travel around the district with a great range of public transport available connecting you to all the must-see places.



### Bus and Rail

Regular bus services connect **Ilkley** with **Keighley, Skipton, Otley, Leeds** and **Harrogate**, plus a seasonal Dales Bus service.

**Ilkley station** is the terminus of the **Wharfedale Line**, with services from the West Yorkshire town to neighbouring **Bradford** and **Leeds**.

For details of routes and journey planner, go to [www.wymetro.com](http://www.wymetro.com)



### Parking

Long-stay car parks at **South Hawksworth Street, Railway Road** and **Wharfe View Road**. On street parking is also available, charges apply 8am – 6pm.

Electric vehicle charging points are located across the district, find out more at [www.geniepoint.co.uk](http://www.geniepoint.co.uk)

**Bradford Clean Air Zone** is now in place, passenger cars will not be charged. Find out more [www.gov.uk/clean-air-zones](http://www.gov.uk/clean-air-zones)

## Where to Stay?

There's a great selection of accommodation in the Bradford district, perfect for extending your visit and giving you more time to explore the area.

## Visitor Information

Contact us for more information to help plan your visit, including accommodation and special events.

Ilkley Visitor Information Centre

Station Road, Ilkley, LS29 8HA

Tel: 01943 602319

Email: [ilkley.vic@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:ilkley.vic@bradford.gov.uk)

Website: [www.visitbradford.com](http://www.visitbradford.com)

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