

15. CHAPTER HOUSE STREET

Do you remember the door knocker at the Eagle and Child? See if you can spot one more! You'll also see some lions' heads, which were another popular design. Door knockers were used as early as the 16th century, but were quite plain. As they became more widely used in the 1800s it was fashionable to have more elaborate door knockers like Lion Heads and Sphinxes.

16. MINSTER GATES

At the crossroads, look up to your right at the corner to see Minerva looking down. This was once a sign for a writers' meeting place and bookshop, in the days when fewer people could read and more relied on visual clues to know what each shop sold.

17. LOW PETERGATE

Walk a little way down High Petergate. Stay on the right hand side of the road and look across the street. High up on the side of the building there is a small metal engraving. This is a fire insurance plaque. In the 18th and 19th centuries, these identified a building's insurers, and which private fire brigade would attend.

18. NO. 49 STONEGATE

You'll spot a few faces on Stonegate! The first is on the left hand side of the street, just a few steps in. This shop was built in the early 17th century and was originally a pawnbroker. Look for the masks on the columns.



19. JIGSAW (37 STONEGATE)

Can you spot any faces? Look up at the decorative carvings above the windows! This building has a grotesque mask carved over the right hand doorway, which is a Renaissance design. They were said to reject evil spirits and ward off adversity.

20. OLIVER BONAS (35 STONEGATE)

The Bible sign indicates the building's prior use at a bookshop known as 'The Sign of the Bible.' Look either side of the gabled bay window to find the brackets carved with garlanded heads. Apparently, this is one of the most haunted buildings in York!



21. LITTLE RED DEVIL

Don't miss the little red devil on the corner of Coffee Yard. In the 16th century, Stonegate was known for its book shops and printers. A print-shop was based here, and the carved red devil refers to a printer's assistant, who was responsible for carrying hot metal type.

22. SHIP'S FIGUREHEAD AT STONEGATE TEDDY BEAR SHOP (13 STONEGATE)

No. 13 Stonegate is a 15th century house with 16th and 17th century additions. The wooden female figure was attached at ground-floor level to the house on its corner with Little Stonegate. It is suspected that she came from the stern of a sailing ship in the 17th century.

23. SWEATY BETTY (9 STONEGATE)

The faces you see in these door frames were probably not part of the original 18th century building, which was remodelled in the 19th and 20th centuries, but they are similar to other 18th century designs on this trail.

24. ST HELEN'S CHURCH

Have a look around for the faces peering down at you from the walls of the church! Do you recognise these corbel heads from earlier on the trail? This church is dedicated to St Helen, mother of Constantine the Great, who was proclaimed emperor in York in 306 AD.

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Faces of York Trail

WALKING TOUR



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As you follow our route today and learn a new perspective of York's history, we would love to see your pictures of the faces that you find. Tag us on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, [@AboutFaceYork](#). Send us your favourite face, the scariest face you can find, or the funniest! If you spot any faces that aren't in our tour - let us know!

You can find the full tour with even more history on our website.

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1. ST CRUX PARISH HALL

Start your tour at the bottom of the Shambles, outside St Crux Parish Hall. St Crux Church once stood here, but was demolished in 1887. This church hall was built on the site, using materials of the old church. Look for the carved faces on either side of the doorway.

2. T.K. MAXX

This dramatic facade might look like a Tudor building but it was actually built in 1907. It was designed for Boots the Chemist, which opened in 1919. Look up - how many faces can you see? What do you notice about them? Are they human or animal? Realistic or supernatural?

3. STARBUCKS

Look up as you reach Starbucks. Can you see the winged cherub's heads? In the 18th century, Coney Street was known for banking, and this building once housed Beckett's Bank. The red and gold crest bears the Latin motto of the bank, which translated into English means 'for the benefit of all'.

4. ST. MARTIN-LE-GRAND CLOCK

Can you see the face of Father Time on the clock? A clock has been overhanging Coney Street at St Martin's since 1668. Nothing remains of the original, but the decorated bracket and ornaments date from 1856.



5. ST MARTIN-LE-GRAND CHURCH

How many faces can you find in the church's stonework? Heads carved into the sides of buildings are called 'corbel heads' - a corbel is a projection at the base of an arch. Look through the fence into the courtyard to see three 'orphaned' corbel heads looking down from the church wall! These are not attached to any arches, and may have been left behind when parts of the church were rebuilt.



6. BANKS MUSICROOM (14 LENDAL)

Stop outside Banks Musicroom, thought to be the oldest retailer in the UK. It was opened by Thomas Haxby on 15 June 1756 in Blake Street and moved here in 1985. Look right to the top of the building, do you see the winged cherub heads in the triangular pediment?

7. THE JUDGES' LODGINGS

This house was built in around 1720, and a carved face of Aesculapius, the Greek demi-god of medicine, sits above the entrance. From 1806 the Judges' Lodgings housed judges visiting York to sit in the Assize Courts. But it was originally built as a home for physician Clifton Winteringham Senior.

8. CORNER OF LENDAL AND MUSEUM STREET

As you continue down Lendal towards Museum Street, pause briefly and look up at the final building on the left hand side. Standing on Lendal, if you look up to the windows on the second floor, you can just make out the tiled masks under the window sills.

9. KING'S MANOR

King's Manor was built for St Mary's Abbey. When the abbey was dissolved in 1539, Henry VIII ordered that it would be the seat of the Council of the North. It was taken over by the Yorkshire School for the Blind in the 19th century, and has been part of the University of York since it was founded in 1963.

You can learn all about the history of this building by scanning this QR code:



10. YORK ART GALLERY

This building opened in 1879, and features the Palladian style of architecture popularised in the Georgian period. Can you see the four roundels with carved faces on the front of the building? These depict York artists William Etty (painter), John Carr (architect), John Camidge (musician), and John Flaxman (sculptor).

11. BOOTHAM BAR

Cross over the road to walk under Bootham Bar. There has been a gateway here for nearly 2000 years! This was the site of one of the four main entrances to the old Roman Fortress at York. Look up before you walk under the arch, can you see the figures standing on top of the walls?



12. THE EAGLE AND CHILD

Pause briefly as you pass the 17th century Eagle and Child pub. Can you see the face in the door knocker to the left of the main entrance? These 18th and 19th century designs link with the Palladian style. Look out for more around York, you should spot one on Chapter House Street!

13. DEANS PARK

Look out for the circular stone bench around a tree in Deans Park. How many faces can you see? How many animals are there? Can you spot any gargoyles? Take a picture of your favourite and tag us [@aboutfaceyork!](#)

i If you have the time, why not drop into the Minster to search for some faces inside? There is an amazing collection of faces carved into the stonework in the Chapter House - well worth a visit!

14. 4 MINSTER YARD

What do you notice about this 18th century house? It has lots of the architectural features that we've seen already. The pediment over the door contains a carved face or mask, with garlands extending out from each side.

