



LOCATOR MAP



ADVERTISERS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

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- 75 | Helmsore Mills Textile Museum, Helmshore
- 78 | The Farm Burscough, Burscough

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- 67 | Lather and Lite, Clitheroe
- 71 | Paint Your Own Pottery Studio, Waddington
- 77 | Knit-wise, Ormskirk

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- 66 | The Shell Shop, Morecambe
- 67 | Lather and Lite, Clitheroe
- 68 | Precious Little Treasures, Clitheroe
- 71 | Paint Your Own Pottery Studio, Waddington
- 72 | Wish Gifts, Waddington, Clitheroe
- 73 | Melt, Waddington, Clitheroe
- 77 | Knit-wise, Ormskirk

Fashions

- 66 | The Shell Shop, Morecambe
- 68 | Precious Little Treasures, Clitheroe

 historic building
  museum and heritage
  historic site
  scenic attraction
  flora and fauna





2 | Lancashire

Within its one million acres Lancashire provides considerable diversity. In the south are the former industrial centres, now greatly spruced up, while to the north are the rural areas of the Forest of Bowland and the Ribble Valley, both scenic, inviting and much less visited than they should be. Then there is the Lancashire coast, dominated by Blackpool with its great variety of attractions.

The ancient county town of Lancaster is an excellent place to start any journey of discovery. Small and compact, this lively university city has the added advantage of being off the general tourist routes.

To the northeast lies Leck Fell, just south of Kirkby Lonsdale and Cumbria. It is easy for the visitor to mistake this for the Yorkshire Dales as there is a typical craggy limestone gorge along the little valley of Leck Beck, as well as one of the most extensive cave systems in the British Isles. A natural route from Kirkby Lonsdale back to the county town is marked by the River

Lune. The best way to enjoy this wonderful green and hilly area of Lancashire is to follow the Lune Valley Ramble, which travels the valley's intimate pastoral setting through woodland, meadows, and along the riverside itself.

To the west lies Morecambe Bay, a treacherous place where, over the centuries, many walkers have lost their lives in an attempt to make the crossing to Grange-over-Sands. Despite its grim history, the bay offers superb views, including glorious sunsets, as well as being an important habitat for a wide variety of birds.

Extending across much of the north of the county is the Forest of Bowland, an ancient royal hunting ground of more than 300 square miles that is dotted with small, isolated villages. With no major roads passing through the area, it has remained little changed and, with so many splendid walks and fine countryside, it is also relatively quiet even during the busiest summer weeks.

ADVERTISERS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

Giftware

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67 | Lather and Lite, Clitheroe

68 | Precious Little Treasures, Clitheroe

72 | Wish Gifts, Waddington, Clitheroe

73 | Melt, Waddington, Clitheroe

Home & Garden

67 | Lather and Lite, Clitheroe

68 | Precious Little Treasures, Clitheroe

72 | Wish Gifts, Waddington, Clitheroe

73 | Melt, Waddington, Clitheroe

Jewellery

66 | The Shell Shop, Morecambe

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Place of Interest

63 | Lancaster Castle, Lancaster

64 | Lancaster Maritime Museum, Lancaster

74 | Towneley Hall Art Gallery and Museum, Burnley

75 | Helmshore Mills Textile Museum, Helmshore,

Rosendale

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Specialist Food and Drink

65 | C.R. and J. Towers Hornby Butchers, Hornby

76 | Marsdens of Chorley, Chorley

78 | The Farm Burscough, Burscough

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stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

Lancaster

-  Priory Church of St Mary  Priory Tower
-  Lancaster Castle  Shire Hall  City Museum
-  Museum of the King's Own Royal Regiment
-  Maritime Museum  Judge's Lodgings
-  Cottage Museum  Music Room
-  Ashton Memorial  Williamson Park
-  Butterfly House  Lancaster Leisure Park

An architecturally pleasing city, Lancaster is one of the most appealing of English county capitals. Most of the county's administrative offices are now based in Preston, so Lancaster enjoys all the prestige of being the capital without the burden of housing the accompanying bureaucrats. The city also takes pride in the fact that the Duke of Lancaster is the only duke in the kingdom who is a woman – no less a personage than HM the Queen for whom the dukedom is one of many subsidiary titles.

Lancaster's story begins some 2000 years ago when the Romans built a fort on a hill overlooking a sweep of the River Lune, a site now occupied by the unspoiled 15th-century **Priory Church of St Mary**. Right up until the Industrial Revolution, Lancashire was one of






the poorest counties in England, lacking the wealth to endow glorious cathedrals or magnificent parish churches. St Mary's is a notable exception, the finest medieval church in the county. It stands on the site of Lancashire's first monastery, which was closed not, like most others, by Henry VIII, but by Henry V in 1413. Henry was at war with France, the monastery's mother abbey was at Sées in Normandy, so the 'alien priory' in Lancaster had to be dissolved. The present church contains treasures rescued from the closed priory such as the sumptuously carved wooden choir stalls from around 1345.

Each stall is covered by a superb canopy, lavishly carved with around a hundred small heads and faces surrounded by abundant foliage. Also of note are the fragments of Anglo-Saxon crosses and some very fine needlework. The **Priory Tower**, also on the hilltop, was rebuilt in 1759 as a landmark for ships navigating their way into the River Lune. Nearby is one of Lancaster's links with its Roman past – the remains of a bath house, which also served soldiers as an inn.

Close by is **Lancaster Castle** (see panel opposite), one of the best-preserved Norman fortresses in the country. Dating back to 1200, and with a massive gatehouse flanked by sturdy twin towers, the castle dominates the centre of the city. For centuries, the castle served as a prison, only relinquishing that function as recently as 1996. At the back of the castle, the **Shire Hall** is still in use as a Crown Court and one of its more macabre attractions is the Drop Room where prisoners were prepared for the gallows. The Court's long history has been blemished by two shocking major miscarriages of justice. The first was in 1612 when the Pendle



Shire Hall, Lancaster

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna



'witches' (see under Pendle Hill) were convicted of sorcery and executed; the second in 1975 when the "Birmingham Six" were found guilty of an IRA bombing and spent 15 years in prison before their names were cleared.

A short walk from the castle leads into the largely pedestrianised city centre, with its shops, market, and other attractions. The **City Museum** in the Market Place occupies the Old Town Hall, built between 1781-1783 by Major Jarrett and Thomas Harrison. As well as the city's art collection and an area of changing exhibitions, there are displays and collections of material illustrating aspects of the city's industrial and social history. Also here is the **Museum of the King's Own**

Royal Regiment, a regiment that was based in Lancaster from 1880 onwards.

Lancaster grew up along the banks of the River Lune, which is navigable as far as Skerton Bridge, so there has always been a strong association between the town and its watery highway. Documents from 1297 make reference to the town's small-scale maritime trade, but it was not until the late 1600s and early 1700s that Lancaster's character as a port fully emerged. The splendid buildings of the 18th century Golden Age were born out of the port wealth, and the layout and appearance of the town was much altered by this building bonanza. Lancaster's importance as a port steadily declined throughout the 19th century so that many buildings originally intended for

Lancaster Castle

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Lancaster Castle is owned by Her Majesty the Queen in right of her Duchy of Lancaster. For most of its history the castle has been the centre of law and order for the county, and this magnificent building is still in use as a prison and a crown court.

The castle has dominated the town for almost 1000 years, ever since it was first established in 1093. But the hill on which it stands has a history that goes back a thousand years further, almost to the birth of Christ. The Romans built the first of at least three military forts on the site in AD79.

Little is known about Lancaster until 1093 when the Norman Baron, Roger of Poitou, built a small motte and bailey castle, which was replaced 50 years later by a large stone Keep that still stands today and is the oldest part of the Castle. Throughout its long history it has witnessed many trials, including that of the Lancashire Witches of 1612, which resulted in the execution of 10 people.

Although still a working building, guided tours of the castle include where the witches were condemned to die; the beautiful Gillow furniture in the Grand Jury Room; the dungeons and Drop Room from where the condemned went to their deaths; the Crown Court from where thousands were transported to Australia; Hanging Corner - the site of public hangings, and the magnificent Shire Hall with its display of heraldic shields.



stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks