



*Guide for Groups*  
**Lancaster City**



# WELCOME

With its mix of great places to eat & drink, castles & museums, impressive theatre and some fantastic events, **Lancaster** is a city which is well worth exploring for a group visit.

Lancaster's history can be traced back thousands of years and that is no better displayed than by having a guided tour of **Lancaster Castle**, which dominates the Lancaster skyline.

Whenever you choose to visit, you'll be delighted with the evening entertainment available to group organisers with plays, musicals and shows at the **The Dukes** and the **Grand Theatre**. The Dukes' annual Play in the Park is a large-scale walkabout performance and is a must-see during the summer months. **Lancaster Arts at Lancaster University** also offers theatre and dance, concerts and music events and a public art gallery.

For views across the city, head up to the **Ashton Memorial**, one of the grandest of English follies. The memorial is set within the beautiful parkland of Williamson Park which provides some great panoramic views across **Morecambe Bay** to the Lakeland Fells.

Muse over fine exhibitions and collections at the city's museums, including the **Maritime Museum** on the historic quayside, telling tales of Lancaster's past. Other historic places of interest include **Lancaster Cathedral** with its tower standing over 240ft tall and **Lancaster Priory**, built on the site of a 4th Century Roman fort.

Lancaster offers a rewarding **Shopping Experience** with two well-established shopping centres, many big high street names and lots of individual retailers in a network of pedestrianised streets. Lancaster's **Charter Market** is on Wednesdays and Saturdays, with a range of food, books, gifts and clothing for sale. Also hidden away down charming narrow lanes are even more unique shops and eating-places housed in historic buildings. There is also a huge selection of **independent Cafés and Restaurants**, many catering for groups and serving specialist foods.

There is a good value **Coach Park** in the heart of the city and great value **Hotels** in Lancaster and nearby Morecambe that cater for parties, offering competitively priced group rates and incentives to drivers/group organisers. The large hotels on offer include the Royal Kings' Arms and the Holiday Inn, a Travelodge and a Premier Inn, plus Lancaster House Hotel (near Lancaster University).

**Suggested itineraries** are provided opposite and you can download some **Free Images** from [www.flickr.com/photos/visitlancasteruk/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/visitlancasteruk/) for your own promotions.

**For further enquiries call (01524) 582394 (Lancaster Visitor Information Centre) or visit [www.visitlancaster.org.uk](http://www.visitlancaster.org.uk).**

# ITINERARY SUGGESTIONS

## Itinerary 1: Castles and Canals

**Morning** - Explore the magnificent **Lancaster Castle** and **Lancaster Priory**.

**Lunch** – Dine at the **NICE Café** inside the castle or head up to **The Pavilion Café** at **Williamson Park** to enjoy a delicious lunch.

**Afternoon** – See the magnificent views and enjoy the **Butterfly House and Mini-Beast Centre** and other attractions of Williamson Park.

**Evening** – Jump on board the ever popular **'Kingfisher' Canal Boat** for a themed cruise along the Lancaster canal – enjoy music, quizzes and even a fish and chip supper!

## Itinerary 2: Shops and Shows

**Morning** - Explore the exhibitions at **Lancaster City Museum** or the **Gallery** at **The Storey**. Alternatively, browse the **Outdoor Charter Market** (open Saturdays and Wednesdays) or the **Assembly Rooms Emporium** (open Tuesdays - Saturdays).

**Lunch** – Enjoy dining at a city centre **Café, Restaurant or Pub** situated in the historical city centre.

**Afternoon** – Travel just outside the city to **Lancaster Leisure Park** to visit the GB Antiques Centre, Lancaster Brewery, Factory Outlet Shop and Countrystyle Meats Farm Shop and Restaurant.

**Evening** – Take in a play at the **Dukes** or **Grand Theatre** (There are pubs and restaurants which offer good value cinema or theatre ticket + meal deals.)

## Events or Activities suitable for Groups:

- **Lancaster Food Festival** (April / May) [www.lfdf.co.uk](http://www.lfdf.co.uk)

- The Dukes **Plays in the Park** (July – Aug)

- **Lancaster Music Festival** (October)

- **Light Up Lancaster** (November) – Includes Lancaster's Fireworks Spectacular

- **Christmas Lights Switch-On** (end of November) and themed events in the City Centre throughout the year - [www.lancasterbid.org](http://www.lancasterbid.org)

- **City Centre Guided Walks and Tours** - Various themed public tours Easter - October. Private tours by arrangement. [www.lancasterwalkstalksandtours.co.uk](http://www.lancasterwalkstalksandtours.co.uk)

Please note: These itineraries are only a guide.  
For more details in planning your visit, please call Lancaster Visitor Information Centre on 01524 582394.  
Details correct at time of print.

