Take a mouth-watering wander through time, packed full of chocolate, pioneers & famous confectionery.

1. VISIT YORK INFORMATION CENTRE

Start as you mean to go on with a chocolate fix at Cocoa Joes. Begin at the VIC, with splendid views of York Minster. The Minster was the only free trade area in the city in the 18th Century drawing international confectioners to this area.

2. TERRY’S SHOP & TEA ROOM

Stroll along to St Helen’s Square, where you can still see what was an elegant Terry’s Chocolate Shop; the name is still quite visible. Terry’s original factory lay behind the shop which now houses Impossible Wunder Bar and Tea Room who even do a chocolate orange cocktail. Betty’s Cafe Tea Rooms on the corner, another celebrated name in confectionery, has been handcrafting the finest chocolates for nearly 100 years, using rare Venezuelan criollo beans for their rich flavour.

3. YORK’S CHOCOLATE STORY

Discover York’s chocolate heritage at York’s Chocolate Story on King’s Square. Take a guided tour and follow a mouth-watering journey on which you’ll experience all of York’s chocolate history, as well as tasting some for yourself. From its Central American roots to our present love affair with all things sweet; hear first-hand the story of how York became the Chocolate City!

4. ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Call in at All Saints Church on Pavement for some quiet reflection and gaze at the stained glass window, commemorating Mary Ann Craven of confectionery fame and paid for by her children. To the right, is the JORVIK Viking Centre, located in Coppergate on the original spot of Mary Ann Craven’s factory.

5. 28 PAVEMENT

Stop at 28 Pavement (Pizza Hut). This was the Rowntree’s store established by Joseph Rowntree in 1858, the team of apprentices working in the Rowntree’s grocers included famous names such as Mr. George Cadbury, alongside J.S. Rowntree. Don’t miss the Civic Trust Blue Plaque. Head through the Shambles past Monk Bar Chocolatiers, specialising in artisan chocolates.

6. FAIRFAX HOUSE

Experience Fairfax House, which houses the exceptional Noel Terry collection of English furniture and clocks from the family home. Goddards on Tadcaster Road. The collection was given to York Civic Trust in 1980 following his death – Noel was great grandson of Joseph, founder of the Terry confectionery business. Drop into York Cocoa Works on Castlegate. Inside you’ll find unique sweet and savoury chocolate treats; also on the menu are chocolate making workshops and chocolate demonstrations.

7. MERCHANT ADVENTURERS’ HALL

The Merchant Adventurers’ Hall is home to The Company of Merchant Adventurers, which controlled trade and industry in York. As a woman, Mary Tuke could only join the guild as the daughter or widow of a member. Mary was neither and as a result was fined and threatened with court action, but ignoring their opposition she went on to be one of the founding figures of York’s chocolate legacy.

8. WALMGATE & FOSSGATE

Onto Fossgate, where Mary Tuke’s original grocer’s shop once stood and where the Rowntree dynasty had its roots when apprentice and Mary’s fellow Quaker Henry Isaac Rowntree acquired the cocoa business from her descendants. Today the street is choc full of independent delis and restaurants and is also home to Hotel Indigo, which offers delicious chocolate themed stays in its luxurious bedrooms.

9. CASTLE MUSEUM

Arrive at York’s renowned Castle Museum and check out the city’s sweet past and many of the brand names that made York world famous for confectionery. Step back in time at the Terry’s sweet shop, the Cocoa Temperance Room and the famous cobbled Kirkgate. Crossing Skeldergate Bridge towards Terry Avenue takes you over the River Ouse which brought the raw ingredients into the city for chocolate making.

10. ROWNTREE PARK

Situated on Terry Avenue is Rowntree Park, a gift to the City of York by Rowntree’s in 1921 as a memorial to the cocoa workers who fell during the First World War. Listed gates were added to the park in memory of those who died in the Second World War. Continue your walk out of the centre to Terry’s factory site which closed in 2005.

11. GODDARDS HOUSE & GARDEN

Venture a little further out of town onto Tadcaster Road to find Goddards, which was the home of Noel Terry, of the famous Terry’s of York chocolate firm. The house is open to the public, and you can discover the story of the famous family and life at the chocolate factory. Designed in the Arts and Crafts style, the house is complemented by beautiful gardens.

CHOCOLATE LOVERS CHOICE

Experience the very best in artisan produce at the following locations across the city:

- York Cocoa Works
- Bettys Café Tea Rooms
- Monk Bar Chocolatiers
- Hotel Indigo
- Impossible Wunder Bar and Tea Room
- Shambles Market
- Cocoa Joes
- Tempt

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In 1646, after a five-year apprenticeship with a master craftsman, John Reilly was awarded freemanship of the city as a ‘Confectioner’, a new profession to York. The award highlights the wealth of experience in this skilled vocation within the city at the time, ahead of other locations within the country, establishing York as the Chocolate City.

QUAKER ROOTS

The Quaker religion was the foundation to a number of thriving chocolate families in the city, the religious group favoured the cocoa industry because it offered workers an alternative to strong drink. Characters such as the pioneering Mary Tuke and Joseph Rowntree, central to York’s chocolate legacy came from such dynasties.

Rowntree’s grows

In 1862, the chocolate side of the business was sold to the factory foreman, fellow Quaker Henry Isaac Rowntree. Henry ran into financial troubles, so to sort out his money woes he turned to his brother Joseph who hired a professional accountant after Henry’s death in 1883. Joseph took control and moved the expanding operation to the chocolate factory on Haxby Road.

Terry’s of York

Meanwhile, Bayldon and Berry, combined their expertise as a grocer and an apothecary by using an enticing new arrival – sugar – to ‘sweeten their pills’. In 1823, Joseph Terry married into the Berry family eventually taking over the business. His son named it Terry’s of York and established its factory on Bishopthorpe Rd, which still remains part of the York skyline today.

City of taste

York of the 18th and 19th centuries was a fashionable place of grand dinners and balls. With this discerning public, Rowntree’s and Terry’s found an ideal audience for their highly esteemed confections. Steam power and the railways brought workers to their factories and took their chocolate to markets worldwide, enabling their businesses to grow into global empires.

The sugary stuff

York’s sweet story is about more than just chocolate. Mary Craven’s factory on Coppergate had been producing boiled sweets since 1854 – sugared almonds, toffees and mint humbugs remain a treasured treat today. Today, chocolate and all things sweet have enriched York with a lasting legacy of iconic buildings, artisan confectionery producers and independent chocolate shops. The story is celebrated at York’s Chocolate Story in King’s Square which honours the people and industry that make York a centre for all things sweet.

For further chocolate inspiration...

Go to visityork.org/chocolate
Join us on facebook at VisitYork
Follow us on twitter @visityork | YorkChoclateCity

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chocolate@yorkcocoahouse.co.uk | 01904 656 731

We look forward to welcoming you to our Manufactory for a range of chocolate indulgences and learning experiences in our Chocolate Café and Cocoa Academy.

Enriching guided tour where you will hear entertaining and interesting stories of how chocolate came to be what it is today, and the instrumental role the confectionery founding families of York played in it.

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Open daily from 10am
YOR克斯CHOCOLATESTORY.COM

Celebrating the history and heritage of the confectionery industry in York, the people and their stories.

For further chocolate inspiration...

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