

**Site:** DIG: An Archaeological Adventure

**Address:** St Saviour's Church, St Saviourgate, York YO1 8NN

**Contact:** Reservations team- 01904615505 or email [schools@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:schools@yorkat.co.uk)

**COVID-19 Procedures:** Following government guidance, we have introduced a number of new measures to keep visitors to JORVIK Viking Centre safe, including restricting the number of people in the attraction, ensuring social distancing and adding extra cleaning and hygiene precautions for visitors, staff and volunteers.

Our procedures have gained the 'Good to Go' certification from Visit England, so visitors can be assured that we have followed government and industry COVID-19 guidelines. Our website offers further information on these measures, under [Social distancing and safety](#), but we require all schools intending on visiting the attractions to make use of [COVID-19 Advice for Visiting Schools](#) document, which contains important information for teachers undertaking a school trip with us. Further references to our new COVID-19 procedures occur in red text throughout this document.

**Access:** The DIG tour is accessible to wheelchair users and additional resources can be provided. The tour has hands-on and tactile elements, suitable for those with a visual impairment. The classroom and lunch room based at DIG are on the first floor but are accessible by lift. Please let our Reservations team know of any additional access needs your group may **have** as we have a range of resources we can supply should you require them. You can learn more about our access provision at DIG [here](#).

**Opening Hours and Times:** DIG is open for school visits from 10am in term time and other visitors are not currently permitted in the attraction during school visiting slots. The school tour lasts for approximately 1 hour.

To aid social distancing, the capacity for the number of school groups admitted in a day has been reduced, allowing for school groups visiting the attraction to maintain social distancing from each other. You will be offered a set time for your visit to DIG as part of your visit schedule.

## Synopsis

The DIG tour gives a hands-on experience of being an archaeologist. Pupils can have a go at digging for evidence in our specially recreated digging pits and put their enquiry skills to the test. The class will be taken on tour by their own archaeologist who will help your class discover for themselves the evidence from 2000 years of York's history.

*Please be aware that the content of our attractions includes human remains, and briefly touches on sensitive topics such as death, illness, injury, and slavery, although these topics are not the major focus of any schools offer, unless otherwise stated.*

## On Booking

**DIG Visits:** Use the information provided on our [Education](#) webpages to choose which activities you wish to book and to view our [pricing](#). You should also decide if you want to book a joint visit with another of our attractions; we offer discounted tickets for joint visits.

**Workshops:** Workshops take place in our classroom, located on the first floor of DIG. Please view our available workshop options on our website.

**Lunches:** The DIG Lunch Room can accommodate groups of 30 children and 5 adults at any one time, and bookings are subject to availability: pre-booking is essential. Picnic tables are also available in the DIG Garden but are only available in good weather and must also be booked in advance.

**Placing a booking:** Contact our Reservations team at [schools@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:schools@yorkat.co.uk) or on 01904 615505 to place a booking. Make sure you give us your preferred dates for your visit ready to check for availability, and let us know how many children you are booking for. If you are making an enquiry about a session, please let us know the age of your pupils and any special education needs they might have so we can tailor your package to your requirements.

[Further advice on how to place a booking is provided at the end of the document in our handy step-by-step guide](#)



## How to Find Us

### How to reach York

#### By Rail

From York Railway Station – 15 minutes' walk to DIG and 10 minutes' walk to JORVIK & Barley Hall.

#### By Road

Coach Parking: St George 's Fields Coach Park Union Terrace Please note: coaches are not allowed inside the city walls.

All of our attractions are located within York city centre, but remember to allow time in your schedule for the short walks between your chosen attractions. While some routes may be largely pedestrianised, please be aware that walks across the city may involve several road crossings and narrow pavements. We highly recommend arranging a complimentary familiarisation visit for up to 2 group leaders if you have not visited us before. Familiarisation visits can be arranged once your booking has been confirmed.



Click the address below for  
Google Maps location.

[DIG, St Saviour's  
Church, St Saviourgate,  
York YO1 8NN](#)

## On Visiting

Before embarking on your trip, you must follow the guidance provided in the [COVID-19 Advice for Visiting Schools](#) document, including making use of our schools visit briefing video which will give you additional guidance on the procedures that will be in place when you visit.

**Arrival:** You will be provided with a set entry time for each of the groups you have booked to visit DIG. Each group will need to arrive no earlier than 10 minutes before your scheduled entry time. Have your group queue up along the railings to the right of the entrance and make yourself known to the staff members on the admissions desk, who will assist you with booking in.

If you are going to be late, please notify our Reservations team as soon as possible before arrival so we can try to make arrangements to accommodate late entry for your group. Please note that if your group is late we may have to cut down or remove activities in order for you to keep to your schedule.

As you enter the attraction, a hand-held thermal sensor used from a distance by staff will detect if any member of your school party has a raised temperature. If a member of your party is found to have a persistent elevated temperature your group will not be permitted to enter the attraction.

**Bags:** Lockable storage cupboards are available on-site for coats and bags. These can be used only while you are visiting DIG to go on tour or using the classroom and lunch spaces.

**Toilets:** Three male, two female and one disabled access toilet are available for use at DIG and we recommend you visit the facilities in small groups between your activities.

**Gift Shop:** Due to the restricted space, we are offering controlled access to our shops and limitations on the number of students using them at one time. If you want to visit the gift shop on your visit, please let us know at time of booking so that your party has the time in their schedule to visit the shop in smaller groups.

To save time, you can also pre-order souvenirs by reserving our Souvenir Packs as part of your booking. These can then be paid for and collected from the shop when exiting. Visit our [webpages](#) to learn more about Souvenir Packs.

## Tour Outline

Due to our COVID-19 procedures, the schools experience currently on offer at DIG has been amended to offer an interactive artefact talk as part of the tour without artefact handling. The digging activity is still taking place with additional safety precautions for visitors and staff. Hand gel stations are available to use at regular intervals throughout the attraction and gloves are offered to all visitors taking part in the digging activity.

**Briefing Talk:** Your DIG tour begins with a briefing talk where your first guide, the finds analyst, will introduce themselves to your pupils, discussing archaeology and its role in how we find out about the past. Genuine finds may be used to illustrate what materials and items an archaeologist might expect to find, and what we can learn from them.

**The Dig Sites:** Your group will then be led through our sanitised equipment room, one at a time, to collect the necessary tools and safety equipment to start digging. On the digging sites, they will be introduced to their second guide, a fieldwork archaeologist, and divided into four groups. Each group will be allocated to a digging site to start excavating: these sites give examples of Roman, Viking, Medieval and Victorian archaeology sites that have been excavated here in York.

The soil used in the DIG pits is not real, but is made of small rubber pellets. It is safe and clean so no change of clothing is necessary and pupils can keep their shoes on whilst digging.

The soil is routinely fogged as part of our cleaning procedures, which involves a water-based spray being applied to the dig sites that sanitizes all surfaces, including all of the rubberised soil. This process is repeated weekly, and the entire attraction is thoroughly cleaned daily. All plastic trowels used for digging are cleaned after every use.

Your guide will come around to help interpret the finds uncovered, but it is helpful to know what some of the items are while they are occupied elsewhere.

Below are some key items from each digging site to look out for (although it is better not to prompt the children to seek out specific items, as this is not how archaeology is done!):

*Roman Site: Pottery, bricks and tiles, animal bones and ballista balls.*

*Viking Site: Iron Bowl, shells, horseshoe and mettle waste.*

*Medieval Site: Human bones (a whole skeleton and feet, one in each side of the site), copper bowl, animal bones and buckles.*

*Victorian Site: Broken chamber pot, writing slate, key and doll.*

**Artefacts Talk:** Following their time in the DIG pits, your group will then be directed to rejoin the finds analyst guide to take part in an interactive discussion about the real finds that came from the excavations they have just investigated. This can be a multi-period talk, or it can focus on a particular period of study (such as the Viking dig done on nearby Coppergate or the Roman archaeology of York).

## 1 PLAN YOUR BOOKING

Read through the Education pages on the DIG website ([www.digyorke.com/education](http://www.digyorke.com/education)) to see our Attractions and Workshop options and further booking information. Joint tickets can make your visit and workshops considerably cheaper so our Reservations team would be happy to create a quote for your visit.

**Please note: to avoid disappointment please aim to book your visit at least 6 weeks in advance.**

### Your contact details:

School name and address

Name of Lead Teacher

Contact number

Contact email

### Your Visit:

Which attraction(s) you would like to visit?

JORVIK   DIG   Barley Hall

Preferred date(s):  Alternative date(s):

### Extras:

Workshop:

Lunch Space: Yes   No

### Your Group:

How many children, teachers and carers will be in your group?

Do you need to book wheelchair access at JORVIK? Yes   No

Does your group have any special Educational or other Access needs?

*Please note coaches are not allowed inside York's city walls. St George's Field and Union Terrace are the only designated Coach Parks. Remember to allow time in your schedule for the short walks between your chosen attractions*

## 2 CONTACT US

Contact our Reservations Team on 01904 6155505 or email [schools@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:schools@yorkat.co.uk) to enquire about a booking, providing the information needed in the box opposite. If you wish, you can download this pdf and open it on your computer, fill out the fields in the box above and then save the pdf (press CTRL+S or CMD+S to Save, editing the name of the document to include your school name as an extension) to send to us at the above address as an email attachment.

Remember to book any extras to make your visit run smoothly. Let our Reservations team know if you want to reserve a lunch space or pre-order Souvenir Packs.

## 3 CONFIRM YOUR BOOKING

Our Reservations team will offer you a schedule based on your requirements. **Please note that this does not represent a booking at this stage.**

If you would like to book this schedule, please let us know **within 3 working days**. After those 3 days, the proposed schedule will no longer be valid and you will need to make a new enquiry. Please have full payment details ready at this stage so that we can record them on our bookings system.

## 4 CHECK & RETURN YOUR CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK

Once you have confirmed you would like to book, our Reservations team will send you confirmation paperwork detailing your visit schedule and final pricing. Check the details are correct and sign the form. Return the form to us via email to [schools@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:schools@yorkat.co.uk) or posted to: **Reservations Department, JORVIK Viking Centre, 15-17 Coppergate, York, YO1 9WT.**

*We will also ask you to confirm that you have read and understood our [COVID-19 Advice for Visiting Schools requirements and procedures](#).*

## 5 BOOK A FREE FAMILIARISATION VISIT

Ask our Reservations team to organise a teacher familiarisation visit to allow you and your colleagues to tour the attractions free of charge. Our Visitor Operations staff will be happy to answer any questions, and you can familiarise yourself with the locations of our workshops and facilities.

## 6 ENJOY YOUR VISIT

Countdown to the big day and enjoy your session!

*Follow the guidance in these [Teachers' Notes](#) and our [COVID-19 Advice for Visiting Schools](#) document to best prepare your group for their visit.*

We hope that you will find organising your visit well in advance will give you peace of mind and allow your class to have a great educational experience with The JORVIK Group.

## 7 HOW DID WE DO?

Remember to fill in an Evaluation Form to let us know how your visit was or contact us at [schools@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:schools@yorkat.co.uk) to pass on your feedback.