

EXPERIENCE ENGLAND'S HISTORY  
AND CULTURE UP CLOSE ON  
**THE EXPLORER'S ROAD**



■ Barnard Castle

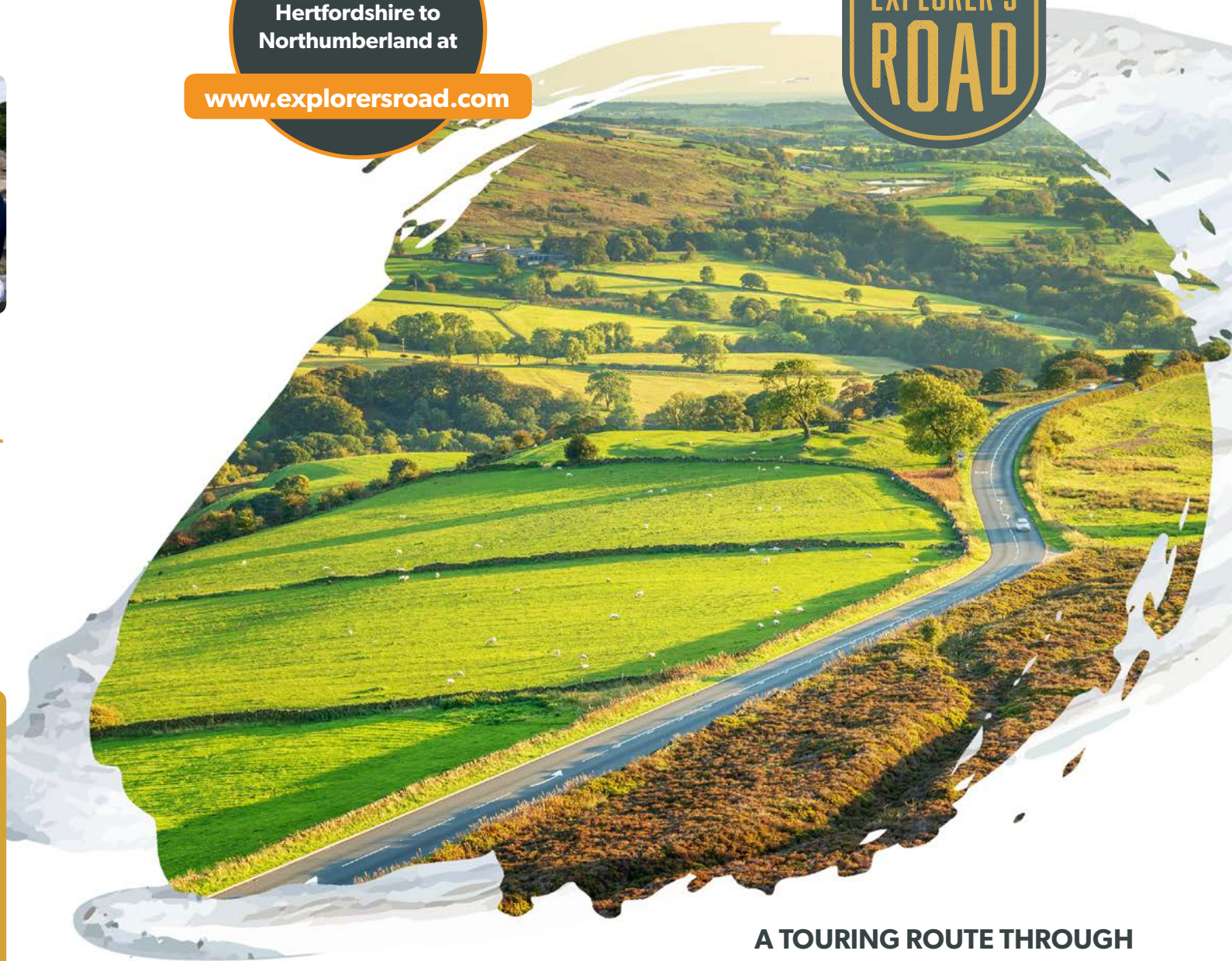
**For two thousand years the English have travelled a highway which connects north to south along a 300-mile route through the historic and cultural heart of the nation.**

Now curious travellers can get to know off-the-beaten-track England as you tour the Explorer's Road, discovering the traditions and eccentricities, enjoying the much-loved countryside, and revealing the hidden attractions and landmarks known only to local people.

The Explorer's Road offers a huge variety of attractions and experiences. Each day you can choose from sightseeing at stately homes and castles, uncovering English history at fascinating and quirky museums, walking and cycling in stunning landscapes or exploring ancient market towns and historic cities. Each evening we invite you to take your pick from traditional coaching inns and cosy bed and breakfasts to pubs with rooms, country house hotels or upmarket city-based properties and enjoy good food in good company served up with a warm welcome.

Create your  
own itinerary from  
Hertfordshire to  
Northumberland at

[www.explorersroad.com](http://www.explorersroad.com)



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**A TOURING ROUTE THROUGH  
THE CULTURAL & HISTORIC HEART  
OF ENGLAND**



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXPLORER'S ROAD

### BURGHLEY HOUSE

In the mid-16th century, William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth 1, created one of the most fabulous homes of the British aristocracy. Take a guided tour through almost 500 years of history from the simplicity of the Tudor kitchen to the Baroque opulence of the Heaven Room. The house is surrounded by a Capability Brown designed landscape where experts guide visitors through grounds heady with the scent of ancient blooms and the sound of water fountains.

[www.burghley.co.uk](http://www.burghley.co.uk)



### YORK MINSTER

One of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, there are 2,000 years of history contained within its ancient foundations and its vast, intricately carved stone. There are unexpected stories to be unearthed around every corner, from deep in the crypt to the top of the Central Tower. Explore treasures in the Undercroft Museum, the huge collection of medieval stained glass and take the Tower Challenge: climb the 275 steps up the Central Tower for close-ups of the Gothic grotesques, and for sweeping views over historic York.

[www.yorkminster.org](http://www.yorkminster.org)



### ALNWICK CASTLE & THE ALNWICK GARDEN

Best known as a filming location for Hogwarts School in the Harry Potter films, Alnwick Castle's history brims with drama, intrigue, and extraordinary people, brought to life with learn-to-fly-a-broomstick sessions, the Historical Grounds Tour and the State Room Tour. Over the past 18 years The Alnwick Garden has transformed into a wonderful combination of spaces, themes and quirkiness including the Grand Cascade centrepiece, one of Europe's largest Treehouses and gated Poison Garden plus a collection of over 4000 plant varieties.

[www.alnwickcastle.com](http://www.alnwickcastle.com)  
[www.alnwickgarden.com](http://www.alnwickgarden.com)



### KIELDER WATER & FOREST PARK

Home to the biggest man-made lake in Northern Europe and England's largest working forest, Kielder Water and Forest Park is nature on a grand scale. Here the views are bigger, the night sky brighter and the outdoor activities as gentle or extreme as you choose. Hire a bike, walk the forest trails, go red squirrel watching or board the Osprey ferry for a trip around the lake. This is a great location for star gazing at The Kielder Observatory in the heart of Northumberland's International Dark Sky Park.

[www.visitkielder.com](http://www.visitkielder.com)





## HOUSES OF HISTORY



■ Selby Abbey



■ Newby Hall

Every era of English history builds new monuments to wealth, architecture and status, be it castles that once defended the realm, or the stately homes that have come to define it. Travelling the Explorer's Road paints for visitors a vivid and awe-inspiring picture of English history, society and time with an intriguing secret hidden behind every door.

## EXPERIENCE ENGLAND'S HISTORY AND CULTURE UP CLOSE ON THE EXPLORER'S ROAD

### ADVENTURE & DISCOVERY



■ City Cruises York

On two feet or two wheels, in classic cars, along rivers and into the estates of the landed gentry, there are many ways to explore England and see it from a different perspective. Take to the water in a kayak, circumnavigate a lake by bike or walk a heritage trail in the company of a local guide. The Explorer's Road will take you off the beaten track to reveal sites and stories that aren't on the usual tourist trail.

## FROM ROSE TO RADISH

The English love to garden and to share their green-fingered creativity and passion. From the intriguing stories of eccentric owners to the impressive landscapes of grand estates cultivated by world famous horticulturalists, Rose to Radish is packed with botanical secrets to uncover and beautiful scenes to explore.



■ Easton Walled Gardens



■ Barnsdale Gardens

### DISCOVER THE FOLLOWING AT DESTINATIONS ALONG THE EXPLORER'S ROAD...

- Berwick's massive Elizabethan defensive walls
- England's largest second-hand bookshop at Alnwick
- Grainger Town and seven dramatic bridges in Newcastle
- A complete Anglo-Saxon church in Bishop Auckland
- Barnard Castle's 19th-century French-style chateau
- An iconic clock town and brick train in Darlington
- England's largest cobbled market place in Richmond
- York's medieval Snickleways and historic Shambles
- The 14th century stained glass Washington Window in Selby
- A seriously Steep Hill in Lincoln
- Southwell's Anglican minster with twin pepper-pot spires
- Newark-on-Trent's earthwork fortification, The Queen's Sconce
- Collection of over 200 giant horseshoes at Oakham
- Stamford, 'the finest stone town in England'
- Uppingham's Saxon sculpture
- Hertfordshire's largest parish church at Hitchin
- The UK's largest collection of toothbrushes in Hertford

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### The ROUTE HIGHLIGHTS

- KEY
- THE EXPLORER'S ROAD
  - MARKET TOWN
  - HERITAGE CITY/MAIN CITY
  - AIRPORT
  - FERRY PORT

### EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY

Tour England's culinary landscape, from centuries-old inns serving flagons of dark ale, to the artisan cheeses, gins and baked goods of small-scale local producers, and the outstanding young chefs redefining modern British cuisine. Discover a country with a kitchen culture as deep, varied and delicious as any gastronomic nation on earth.



### CULTURE & CURIOSITIES

The English take afternoon tea and amass vast collections of everything from clocks to horseshoes. They made Robin Hood and Dick Turpin folk heroes. And they invented Earl Grey tea. Often shaped by these eccentric ancestors, The Explorer's Road is a chance to uncover the quirks and peculiarities which have sculpted England's cultural landscape.



■ Beamish, The Living Museum of the North



■ Newcastle Castle