

# Harrogate

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Harrogate, England, United Kingdom  
Saturday, May 14, 2016

*If anyone was to ask for my opinion, which I note they're not, I'd say we were taking the long way around. -- Gimli*

### Wednesday 10th of May 2016

Time to move on and head off towards Chester. We took the "park and ride" into the old part of town and walked the wall. This town has been described as being black and white due to its white sheep, black cows and the black timber framed houses with white walls. Lonely Planet describes Chester as graceful and elegant, and that is a perfect description. The pink stone of the cathedral was a contrast to all other cathedrals we have seen so far. After walking about the Rows we had lunch and soon it was time to continue our journey.

From Chester it was a maze of freeways and interchanges to bypass Manchester, Bradford and Leeds before getting onto the road to Harrogate. The traffic was very heavy on the motorways and it was quite a complex drive ensuring that we were in the correct lane to get onto the correct intersecting motorway at various points. Anyway, we made it safe and sound to arrive at our guest house in Harrogate in the late afternoon. On the advice of our host, Nita, we had dinner at a bistro in town and then had an early night. Overcast and cool - about 14 degrees. 120 miles today.

### Thursday 11th of May 2016

We spent today exploring Harrogate on foot using a map from the information centre. The walk took us past the old spa buildings and wells that were the original attractions to the town for people to "take the waters". The walk included the Valley Gardens, a huge park called The Stray which was lined with trees in full pink blossom, and the more notable buildings in town. The rest of the day was spent people watching and then afternoon tea (scones and jam and cream) at Betty's. Had dinner in our room at the guest house. Fine but cool - about 12 degrees.

### Friday 12th of May 2016

After another full English breakfast, Brad headed off by train to York to visit the National Rail Museum. Anna took the opportunity to check out the shopping in Harrogate and met Brad for lunch in York later on.

Did a walk of the old town inside the wall visiting The Shambles, the Treasurer's House - a National Trust home formerly owned by eccentric businessman Frank Green - and The Minster. Steph had suggested we visit Mansion House, but it was under renovation. We caught the train back to Harrogate and had dinner at a restaurant that specialised in fish and chips cooked in animal lard. The fish was excellent - encased in perfect batter and very tasty. Fine but a cold breeze - 11 degrees.

Now that we have been in England for a couple of weeks, we feel we are qualified to make some observations with respect to their road habits - and these are purely observational and not intended to be in any way judgemental:

- The English are very polite and accommodating drivers. They are forgiving when you decide to change lanes at the last instant to get into the correct lane for your motorway exit; they invite you take precedence in the tight and narrow spaces in the ridiculously placed "main roads" through towns.
- If you drive a German car, the speed limits on motorways do not apply to you.
- They have no idea in programming pedestrian signal cycles. After pressing the button you can wait and wait and wait. In fact, the locals don't bother pressing the button ever and cross against the "red man" - even when a young constable is standing there with a solemn look on her face.

## Where I stayed

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Ashwood House - 7 Spring Grove, Harrogate, United Kingdom

## Comments

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*Told you, there is no such thing as 'Jay Walking'. You just walk. Nice friendly Community Support Officer is there, but he is a Pal, not a 'Police Person', he is just someone that gives 8 hours (or more) a month to be a representative of the community and the Police, and he is way more than helpful. Ask them anything. They is way good!*

— From Craig McArthur, on May 14, 2016 at 10:06PM

## Loving

*I am loving the Quotes.*

— From Joy, on May 14, 2016 at 11:56PM

*How could you not love the UK....so beautiful.*

*How are the feet are holding up Anna....still weeks of walking to go.*

*P.S ...you write very well Brad,enjoying the narrative.*

— From Lindy, on May 15, 2016 at 04:36AM

*Hi Lindy, Anna's feet are going fine which is good as we are doing a lot of walking.*

— From Brad McArthur, on May 15, 2016 at 02:45PM

*I agree with lindy, I too am enjoying your eloquent writing brad. I think we will change your name from brad to bard.xx*

— From Carol, on May 16, 2016 at 09:37PM

## Pictures & Video

 Roman Amphitheatre  
Chester

Roman Amphitheatre  
Chester



Chester wall clock



Chester looking towards  
wall



The Rows, Chester



Chester Cathedral



Inside Chester  
Cathedral



Chester Cathedral Court



Chester Cathedral  
Interior



Chester Cathedral



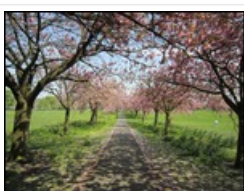
Chester Canal



Timber frame buildings  
Chester



Ashwood House - our  
accommodation in  
Harrogate



Blossom in The Stray,  
Harrogate



Harrogate Pump House



Harrogate Valley Gardens



York railway station.



The Shambles, York



York



York Minster



Some unusual tourists, York



Roman Amphitheatre Chester

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Chester wall clock



Chester looking towards wall

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The Rows, Chester

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Chester Cathedral

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Inside Chester Cathedral

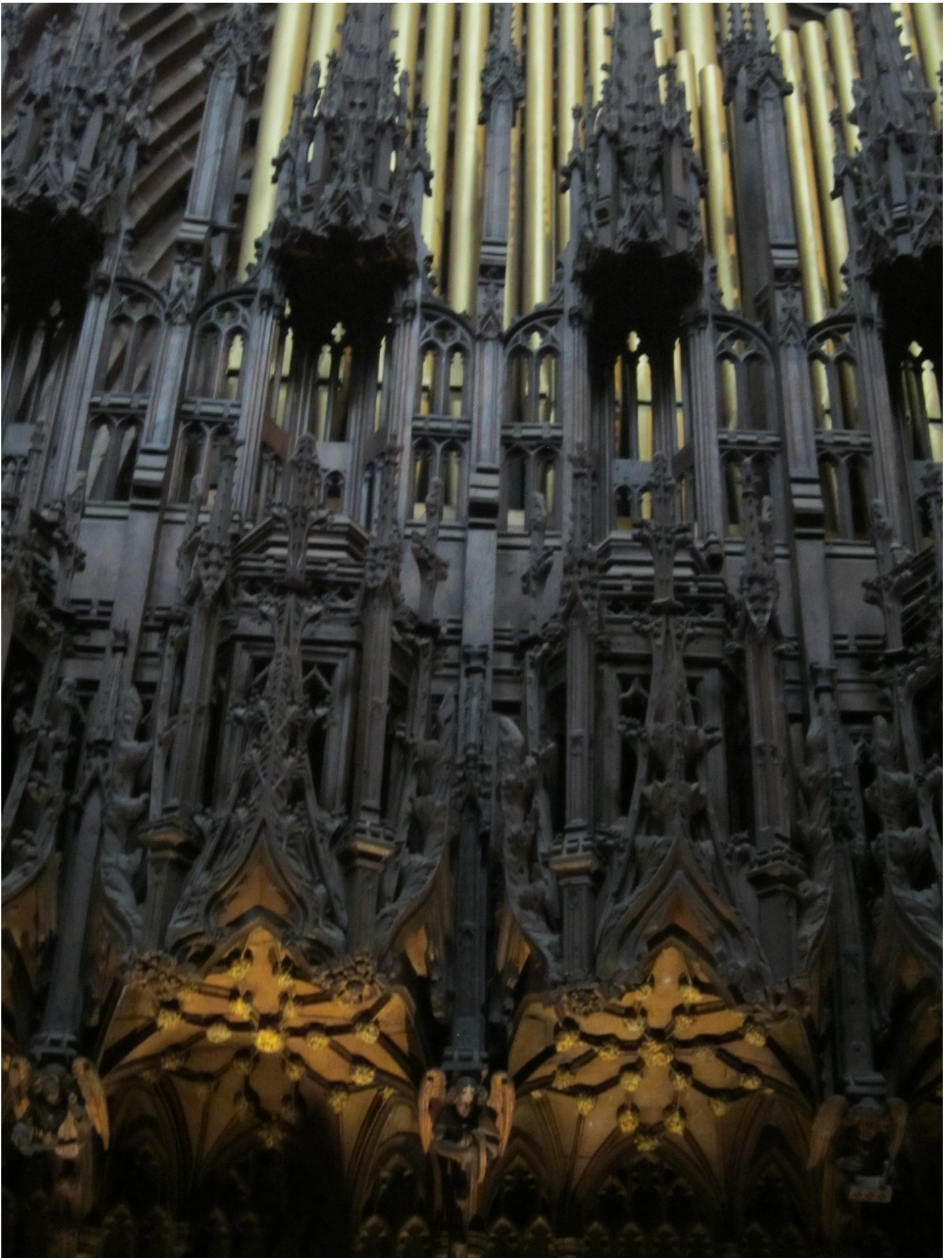
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Chester Cathedral Court

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Chester Cathedral Interior

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Chester Cathedral

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Chester Canal

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Timber frame buildings Chester

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Ashwood House - our accommodation in Harrogate

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Blossom in The Stray, Harrogate

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Harrogate Pump House

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Harrogate Valley Gardens

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York railway station.

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The Shambles, York

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York

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York Minster

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Some unusual tourists, York

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