



SHORELINE
WHITBY

FESTIVE GUIDE TO WHITBY 2023

I'm dreaming of a Whitby Christmas...



Waves crashing on the shore, salty air swelling to the clifftops, and boats busy with the daily catch – life rarely stops for this beautiful fishing town, even at Christmastime.

Christmas and New Year in Whitby is like stepping back in time to a more leisurely life. Experience festive traditions alongside fantastic local events, long beach walks and warm Yorkshire hospitality.

Please note that festive events and activities are often added across the Whitby region and we will endeavour to update this guide with amendments when we can. Correct at time of publication.

The best Christmas holiday cottages in Whitby

For a cosy Christmas or lively New Year, every Shoreline cottage offers the ultimate in self-catering luxury: Beautifully clean bedding, spotless bathrooms and fluffy towels, free TV viewing and Wi-Fi for streaming Christmas movies, party music or kids' gaming.

Several Shoreline cottages have steaming hot tubs for bathing in the chilly air, designer kitchens for rustling up party food, or amazing views for watching New Year fireworks.

One thing you can be certain of is a cosy and welcoming arrival. The heating will be on, the lights turned low and (from 20th December onwards) a decorated Christmas tree to set the festive mood. All you need to do is unpack and put your feet up with a mug (or glass) of something warming. Should you need us, our local team on the ground is available, even on Christmas Day.

Most Shoreline cottages and apartments are dog-friendly, and have cosy wood-burning stoves with ample starter fuel for a roaring fire – lovely after a day on the beach. Whether you're seeking a romantic getaway, a family New Year party or a peaceful retreat, Whitby will welcome you with open arms for an unforgettable Yuletide break.



10 reasons to take a Christmas break with Shoreline

The experienced few know it's wonderful to take a break over Christmas and New Year and Whitby is among the most scenic spots to visit:

1

A break makes the festive season even more fun

2

Celebrate with family and friends in one of our larger homes...

3

... Or escape the relatives at a Whitby hideaway!

4

Parking in Whitby is generally easier in winter, and in some car parks, free

5

Enjoy hot fish and chips in the open air on a crisp winter's day

6

Shoreline provides a decorated Christmas tree in each cottage

7

Join in the Boxing Day Dip in the icy North Sea, brrr!

8

Watch the New Year fireworks on Tate Hill Beach

9

A refreshing beach walk is the perfect hangover cure

10

The house cleaning is left to someone else

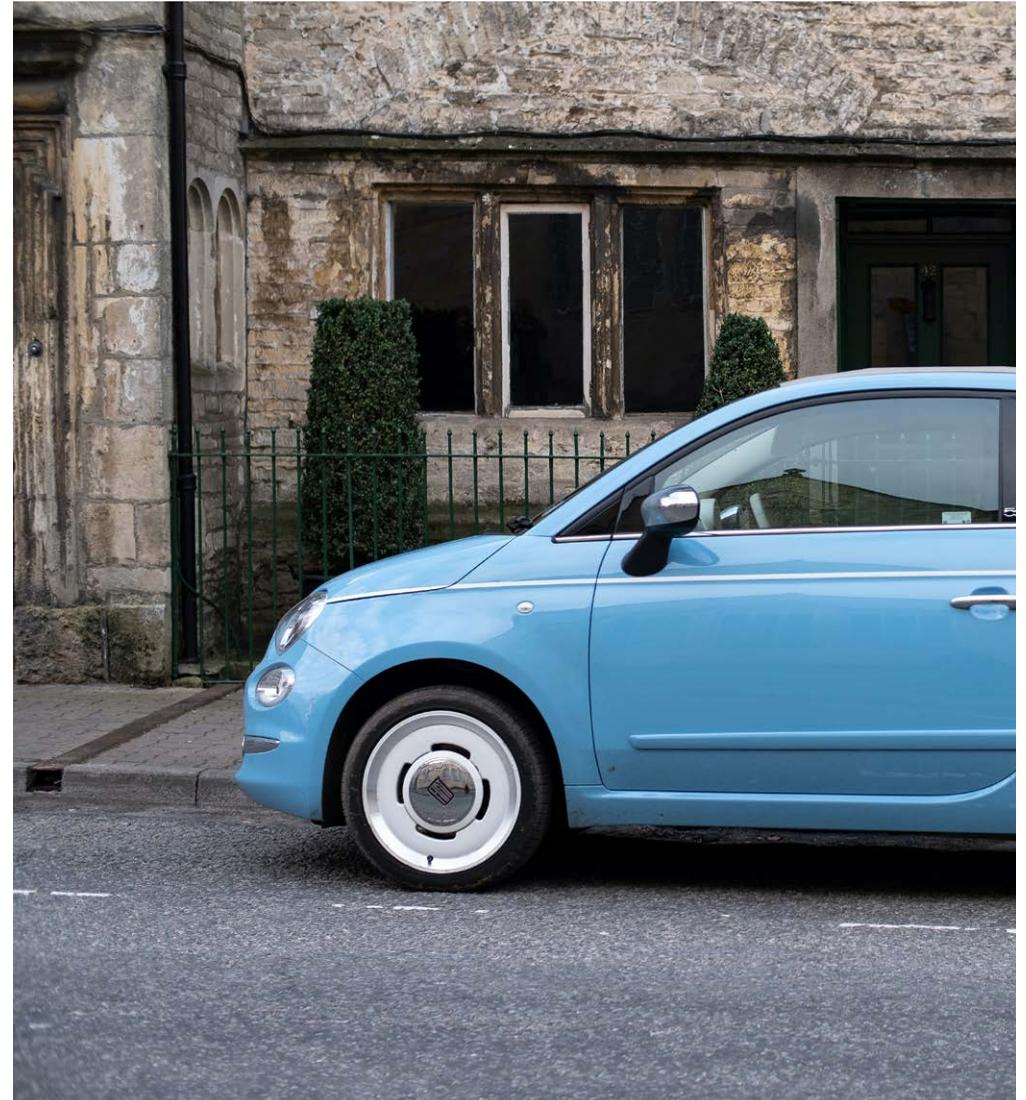
Christmas car parking in Whitby and public transport

Whilst Whitby is usually quieter at Christmas, normal car parking charges apply (seven days a week) across the festive season. This includes Bank Holidays unless the car park is a seasonal car park (such as [West Cliff](#) car park). Ticket machines will be covered over when charges don't apply. Search for [Shoreline properties](#) with on-site parking or [pre-book](#) one of our private parking bays in the town.

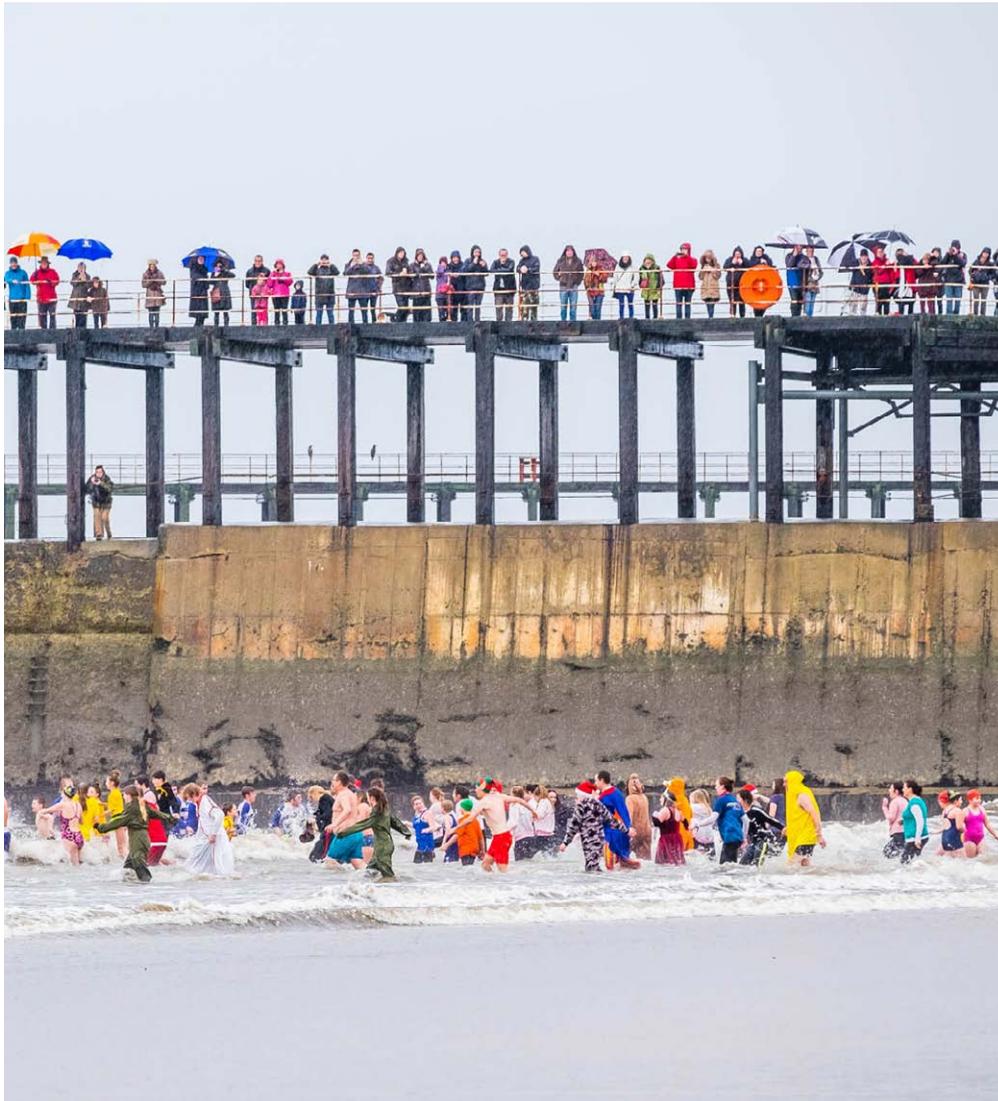
Central Whitby public car parks include [Church Street](#), [Cliff Street](#), [Endeavour Wharf](#), [Marina Back](#), [Marina Front](#), [St Hilda's Terrace](#), [Pavilion Drive](#) and [Pavilion Top](#).

Arriva buses operate [several routes](#), so getting around Whitby is easy. The [X93/X94 sightseeing bus](#) connects Whitby to Middlesborough, Guisborough, Whitby, Robin Hood's Bay and Scarborough; check the [seasonal timetable here](#).

Northern Railway operates services from [Whitby train station](#) including routes from Newcastle and Middlesborough, where trains run from all major UK cities. Service updates can be found [here](#).



What's on in Whitby at Christmas and New Year



Whitby has a fantastic community spirit. At Christmas and New Year, the town caters for residents and visitors with several annual events. There's plenty to fill your time.

Christmas at Whitby Abbey

The Gothic ruins of Whitby Abbey are open Wednesdays to Sundays until 23rd December, (closed for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day) and open again 27th December – 1st January. The Abbey's late night shopping event supports more than 400 English Heritage sites. Enjoy mulled mead and traditional music in the visitor centre whilst you shop for Christmas gifts in the stunning setting.

Boxing Day Dip

Will you dare to bare yourself to the North Sea for the annual Boxing Day Dip? This charity event is brought to you by Whitby & District Lions Club. Fancy dress is optional and if you don't fancy throwing yourself in, you can watch the spectacle from the comfort of Whitby Pier.

Krampus Run

On 2nd December 2023 the Krampus Run returns to Whitby. Traditionally, as St. Nicholas visits homes with gifts for good children, he is accompanied by his dark counterpart The Krampus. The Whitby Krampus Run is a public parade and age-old European ritual that weaves local folklore with dark, wintry figures, celebrating an alternative festive spirit and bringing fun and excitement to Whitby's streets.

What's on in Whitby at Christmas and New Year



Whitby Pavilion

On 8th and 9th December 2023, the Whitby Pavilion is showing the pantomime Cinderella – brilliant entertainment for all the family.

New Year's Eve Fireworks

A display can often be seen across the town. From Tate Hill Beach to the Abbey headland and Captain Cook Memorial, every direction you look usually offers a display of colour and sparkles as the clock strikes midnight. Many Shoreline cottages and apartments offer great views of the town and harbour, so you'll be in the best spot to watch.

New Year's Eve Party

If you're looking for an organised party, we recommend the New Year's Eve Extravaganza at The Met Ballroom. Remember, you'll have a supply of champagne glasses at the ready in your Shoreline cottage too, so you don't even need to go out to celebrate.

What's on in Whitby at Christmas and New Year

Guided Walks at Christmas

Join a tour of Dracula's Whitby, the North Yorkshire Moors, or a ghostly lantern-lit walk of Robin Hood's Bay. Private guides are available throughout December with the [Whitby Storyteller](#). Or set a date with [Dr Crank](#) as he takes groups on a 75-minute Whitby walk revealing tales of murder, mystery and suspense.

Scarborough

We recommend a visit to Scarborough on Boxing Day – less than 20 miles from Whitby (half an hour by car). The annual Fishermen and Firemen's Football Match takes place on South Bay Beach: an event since 1893, the match raises funds for the Fisherman and Firemen Charity. Scarborough also hosts its traditional Boxing Day Mile of Pennies – the laying of coins for charity on the kerb from Scarborough Lifeboat House along the seafront.

For many years, Scarborough's Sub Aqua Club has organised a crazy Boxing Day Raft Race in the harbour. Teams race self-built rafts around a course while spectators pelt them with eggs and flour in a bid to thwart them.

North York Moors Railway Santa Special

For a magical family experience, hop aboard the Santa Special Steam Train on dates in November and December. Operated by the [North Yorkshire Moors Railway](#) from Grosmont station (8 miles from Whitby) or Pickering (20 miles from Whitby), this enchanting journey takes you through the stunning North York Moors National Park, with Santa making a visit with gifts for children. If you miss the NYMR steam train, try the Santa Special train ride from Scarborough from 9th to 24th December 2023.

Robin Hood's Bay Victorian Weekend

On the first weekend in December, a trip to Robin Hood's Bay Victorian Weekend sees the townsfolk dress in period costume and the store windows festooned with lights and decorations.

Sewerby Winter Woodland

The [Sewerby Winter Woodland](#) makes its return from 8th to 22nd December 2023. It's a display of lights, sounds, performances and special effects (best enjoyed in the evening) to bring the hall's grounds to life over the festive season.

Christmas Church Services in Whitby

The Parish of Whitby with Ruswarp has three Christian churches in Whitby town: [St Hilda's](#) at West Cliffe, [St John's](#) on Brunswick Street, and [St Mary's](#) high up on the Abbey Plain near Whitby Abbey, which hosts an annual 100+ Christmas tree festival. Please check for advent and carol services.

Christmas markets



A highlight of a Whitby winter break is a visit to the Christmas markets that pop up across the region. Shop for unique gifts, handmade crafts and local produce including Yorkshire gins and liqueurs. Indulge in spiced mulled wine and freshly baked mince pies as you browse the stalls.

Whitby Christmas Festival takes place at Front Marina Car Park, Langborne Road, Whitby, YO21 1YN. It's a free annual event with wooden huts selling crafts, gifts, food and drinks. Expect family activities, music and entertainment. Friday 17th November 2023, 5pm – 8pm; Saturday 18th November 2023, 10am – 8pm; Sunday 19th November 2023, 10am – 4pm.

Malton Christmas Market takes place in the town's central marketplace, YO17 7LX, on 2nd and 3rd December 2023, 9.00am – 3.30pm. Malton is a pleasant 40-minute drive from Whitby (or 1.5 hours on a direct bus). The regular farmer's market is always popular with foodies, but its Christmas market also sells crafts and gifts. Park at Wentworth Street or Water Lane for long stay, disabled parking, plus electric vehicle charging points.

Last-minute gifts



Picture courtesy of Bothams of Whitby

Gift vouchers

Shoreline gift vouchers make a great Christmas gift. Call 01947 668 888 to buy. All Shoreline vouchers are valid for 12 months from the date of issue and can be used to book breaks throughout the year at any of our Whitby cottages and apartments.

Christmas Shopping in Whitby

Once in Whitby, we recommend heading to Church Street or Flowergate for its independent shops and gifts you won't find anywhere else.

We like the Christmas baubles from J'Adore Whitby, or shop for some Whitby Jet. This elegant, black semiprecious gemstone is sought-after across the world and is unique to the Yorkshire coast. You'll find earrings, bracelets, necklace pendants and rings in several excellent jewellers – particularly around Church Street.

Another favourite is a Botham's of Whitby food hamper. There are lots to choose from and you can order online for delivery by Royal Mail or collect from the shop during your Shoreline stay.

For a unique collection of gifts to remind you of your Whitby holiday try <https://thegreatyorkshireshop.co.uk/collections/whitby>.

Dining in



Most Whitby restaurants close on Christmas Day but cooking a Christmas dinner or New Year feast during your Shoreline break is easy. All our kitchens include oven baking trays, Yorkshire pudding tins, glassware – including champagne flutes for a New Year toast – and a fridge (and freezer/compartment) for stocking up.

The large supermarkets in Whitby offer a food delivery service: both Sainsbury's and The Coop in Whitby accept grocery orders online when you book in advance. There's also Lidl, Aldi and Food Warehouse in Whitby, and several small independent food retailers for fresh groceries.

For something really special, local and inexpensive, visit Fortune's Kippers on Henrietta Street. The family smokers produce world-famous kippers, beautiful salmon, local bacon and homemade kipper pate for a delectable menu starter. They advise pre ordering on 01947 601659 and close around 11am on Christmas Eve, until January. All products can be frozen, so will taste fantastic beyond New Year.

Off-licences, beer and spirit producers in Whitby



A New Year party isn't complete without a toast at midnight. Whether you're raising a glass to absent friends or celebrating with the family, a luxury Shoreline cottage or apartment ensures you do so in the lap of luxury.

For wines, beers and spirits, we recommend Clark's of Whitby off-licence on Skinner Street, Oddies Wine Shop on Baxtergate, The Green Dragon on Grape Lane, or Bargain Booze on Windsor Terrace Whitby.

Alternatively, visit the Whitby Distillery on Botany Way for a gin production tour on weekends in December; their RNLi edition dark-spiced rum makes a warming tippie on a frosty day. Whitby Brewery is another brilliant artisan producer on Whitby's East Cliff. The brewery offers tours of its beer production plant and online shopping for its real ales like the Abbey Blonde, Jet Black or their delicious IPA.

Picture courtesy of Whitby Distillery

Eating out in Whitby



Christmas requires indulging in delicious food! And Whitby has plenty to offer. From traditional fish and chips eaten straight from the paper to a special Christmas menu at a cosy Whitby pub – you’re in for a treat. Book early for the best restaurants and please check opening times direct.

Restaurants

Abbey Wharf chargrill and seafood restaurant Skinner Street, Whitby (dog-friendly)

Estbek House seafood restaurant, East Row, Sandsend

Harry’s Lounge Bar & Brasserie, Pier Road, Whitby

Moutrey’s Italian, Grape Lane, Whitby

Rusty Shears Teashop, Silver Street, Whitby

The Marine Hotel seafood, Marine Parade, Whitby

The Moon and Sixpence modern British, harbourside, Whitby

Albert’s Eatery Seafood, Church St, Whitby (dog-friendly)

Ditto modern British, Skinner Street, Whitby

Met Lounge and Ballroom, Argyle Road, Whitby (dog friendly)

Sanders Yard Bistro Sanders Yard, Church St, Whitby (dog-friendly)

Eating out in Whitby

Pubs in Whitby

[The White Horse & Griffin](#), Church Street, Whitby

[The Badger Hounds](#), Hinderwell, Saltburn-by-the-Sea

[The Dolphin](#), Bridge Street, Whitby

[The Fylingdales Inn](#), Thorpe Lane, Fylingthorpe (dog friendly)

[The Black Horse Inn](#), Church Street, Whitby (dog friendly)

[The Granby](#), Skinner Street, Whitby (dog friendly)

[The Hart Inn](#), Sandsend (dog friendly)

[The Pier Inn](#), Pier Road, Whitby (dog friendly)

[The Little Angel](#), Flowergate, Whitby (dog friendly)

[The Windmill Inn](#), Stainsacre Lane, Whitby (dog friendly)

[The Middle Earth Tavern](#), Church Street, Whitby (dog friendly)

[The Plough Inn](#), Coach Road, Sleights (dog friendly)

[The Endeavour Pub](#), Church Street, Whitby (dog friendly)

[The Whitby Endeavour](#), Floating pub replica of HM Bark Endeavour, moored at Whitby Harbour



Eating out in Whitby



Fish & Chips

Hadley's fish and chips, Bridge Street, Whitby (dog-friendly)

Fish Box Langborne Road in Whitby and Bay Bank in Robin Hood's Bay

Quayside, Pier Road, Whitby

Royal Fisheries, Baxtergate, Whitby

Magpie Cafe, Pier Road, Whitby

Mister Chips, Church Street, Whitby

Papa's, Baxtergate, Whitby

Silver Street Fisheries, Whitby

The Fisherman's Wife, Khyber Pass, Whitby

Trenchers, New Quay Road, Whitby



Shoreline Christmas and New Year Opening Times

Call us on 01947 668 888

Our phone line is open Monday to Friday 10am-6pm. It is closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day but we check our answering service regularly so if you need us, please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible.

Our team in Whitby is always close by to help you with any emergencies that arise, even on Christmas Day.

www.shoreline-cottages.com