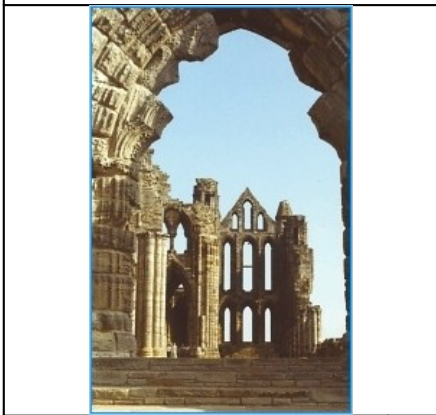


Robin Hoods Bay > Whitby

This tour will take approximately six hours. Time to visit tourist attractions is allowed for in our itineraries.



Robin Hoods Bay
 Robin Hoods Bay is first mentioned in 1538 as a "fisher townlet of twenty boats" and fishing remained the main livelihood of the bay up until the end of the 19th century. In the 1820s, more than 130 fishermen worked from here on sailing cobbles and the larger herring boats. The whole family was involved in the industry, with the wives salting fish and baiting lines, and young lads fixing the nets. Today, although not as large a fleet as yesteryear, boats still put out to sea. One of the most famous and picturesque villages along the coast, Robin Hoods Bay is a network of steps and narrow alleyways amidst tightly packed red-roofed cottages, all huddled around the slipway at the foot of a steep ravine. It is easy to imagine the days of smugglers slipping their contraband up the hill under cover of darkness. At low tide the 'scars' (exposed rock) become visible. These Jurassic period rocks are good fossil-hunting grounds and the pools left by the tide contain a myriad of marine life. The old coastguard station has recently been transformed into a visitors centre, and a locally sponsored museum shows a variety of fossils found in the area.



Whitby
 Whitby Abbey was founded in the seventh century on cliffs by the sea; its haunting remains can still be seen from the sea and are a testament to the Golden Age of Northumbria. Although Whitby later became well-known as a sea port associated with Captain Cook and for the stairway to the parish church and monastery which inspired portions of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, its legendary history began with the seventh-century abbey whose monks and nuns included such illustrious figures as Hild, Caedmon, and other of the most well-known churchmen of seventh-century Northumbria.

