

York Castle Museum

Welcome to the Castle Museum York!

The Castle Museum opened in 1938 and is located in what used to be the old Castle Prison. In 1068 William the Conqueror built a castle in York, which included a prison. Although the old prison is part of the museum, the castle building itself is now York Crown Court. Dick Turpin was one famous prisoner who was hanged in 1739 for horse stealing.

The museum shows aspects of British daily life throughout the ages. Current exhibitions include Period Rooms, Toy Gallery, Kirkgate, and the 1960's Gallery. There are thousands of objects on display at the museum as well as recreations of rooms, streets, prison cells and shops.

There is something for all ages at the Castle Museum!

Period rooms

The Period Rooms in the Castle Museum give visitors a glimpse into the lives of real people in different eras. The rooms include a Victorian parlour, a 1850's Moorland Cottage, a Georgian drawing room (1718) and a 17th Century (Tudor) dining room. The rooms are decorated as they would be in their eras and include authentic objects and artefacts which include telescopes, a doll's house, a coffee urn, clocks and much more.

Toy Gallery

The Toy Gallery is an exhibition which showcases toys from the last 150 years.

There is a carousel which dates from 1905, a 1950's room (do you recognise any Christmas presents?) a boy's and girl's room complete with toys, techno toys, dolls and clockwork toys.



Follow the paw prints to find the teddy!

Kirkgate

The pride and joy of the Castle Museum is Kirkgate. Kirkgate is a recreation of a street in York which includes shops from 1870-1901. The shops are named and recreated from actual shops which would have once stood in York. Take a look at shop windows of a Victorian pawnbrokers, printers, ironmongers, gunsmith, taxidermist, milliners, watchmaker, and antique shop among others.

The sweet shop and chemist provide an interactive element to your experience in Kirkgate. Why not buy some authentic Victorian sweets or ask the chemist about Victorian medicine? A life-size hansom cab adds the extra realistic effect!

You can also learn about poverty in York in Victorian times by visiting Rowntree alley, which shows some recreations of poor people's homes and how they lived.

The Exercise Yard

This museum was also a prison and the yard in which you are standing is the prisoner exercise yard. Prisoners used to do exercise for around 30 minutes per day. The following was the one and only exercise that they were allowed to do.

Follow these steps:

1. Stand in a circle.
2. Put your head down. Do not speak
3. Start walking in a circle
4. Do this for 30 minutes.

Boring – isn't it?!



Whilst staring at the ground, can you spot the graffiti from one of the bored prisoners?
What does it say?

1960's Gallery

The 1960's Gallery offers an insight into the fashions, art, sport, music and people's everyday experiences of the era. The exhibition includes a life-size replica of the 1962 Mercury Space Capsule used by John Glenn (the first American to orbit the Earth).

Items such as clothes, toys, records, food packaging and electrical items give an idea as to what the decade was like and a jukebox enables visitors to experience music from the sixties.

Which soap opera was first shown in the 1960s? (There is a clue in the first cabinet as you enter the exhibition.)

Eastenders	Coronation Street
Brookside	Emmerdale

**Look at the track list on the jukebox and the records in the cabinet next to it
Which of these singers/ bands is the odd one out?**

The Monkees	The Spice Girls
Helen Shapiro	Cliff Richard

Look at the big picture in the window of the Fashion and Style section. What is this model's name?

Woody	Twiggy
Sticky	Tree



In the Setting up Home section: Which of the following CANNOT be seen here?

Microwave oven	Cooker
Vacuum cleaner	Blender

Mobile phones were very popular in the 1960s.

True

False

In the Play Hour section: The name of which popular toy means 'Play well' in Danish?

Meccano

Spirograph

Sindy

Lego

Who was the first man to walk on the Moon?

Neil Armstrong

Buzz Aldrin

Louis Armstrong

Alexander Armstrong

What did Mary Whitehouse become famous for in the 1960s?

She invented the mini-skirt

She was the wife of President Kennedy

She campaigned to 'clean up' television

She was an actress



Which of these is a film starring The Beatles?

Mary Poppins

The Sound of Music

A Hard Day's Night

West Side Story

According to Andy Warhol, how long will everyone be famous for?

15 minutes

One day

Four months

Ten years

*We hope you have a pleasant visit,
and that we may see you again soon.*