

YORK CITY OF CATS

In ancient medieval York cats always acted as effective pest controllers and whilst the first cat statue is attributed to Sir Stephen Aitchison in 1920, it is fairly certain that other wooden carved statues of cats were on buildings to act as scarecrows long before.



It has always been held that the cat statues provided people with good luck and certainly in ancient times if either a cat statue or a live cat deterred a rat or mouse from coming into your home then it was your lucky day. Especially when you consider that the rat might then have carried the plague.

The late Tom Adams, an Architect deserves a special mention as he, along with others helped to reinvigorate the York Cat Trail, commissioning Sculptor Jonathan Newdick to produce Statues to be placed on buildings he either owned or worked on, as a kind of trademark. Other sculptors including York based Eoghan Bridge, Susie Marsh and Antony Bartyla have also had involvement through commissions from shopkeepers and owners.

THE YORK CAT TRAIL®

Our fabulous FREE self- guided tour...



Our trail has been revised countless times whenever new cat statues are added and we hope that you pick up a copy and enjoy the experience.

It's a beautiful way to discover the city and looking up for the statues adds an extra dimension to appreciating the beautiful architectural detail in the heart of York.

There are currently about 35 cat statues. Our 'Original York Cat Trail'® focuses on the most central ones and takes around two hours to complete. It's as pedestrian friendly as we can achieve and all within the ancient city walls. Fabulous free fun for all, and also wheelchair friendly.



Fill in the quiz below and hand in at the York Lucky Cats shop on Coney Street in York and **every child will receive a free gift!**

MINI QUIZ!

Name	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
What animal is with cat no. 15?	<input type="text"/>
What does cat no. 12 chase?	<input type="text"/>
What colour is cat no. 21?	<input type="text"/>

HOW ARE THE CAT SCULPTURES ARE MADE?

From the versatile embrace of various materials like clay, stone, resin, and wood, emerge cat sculptures that capture the essence of our feline companions in exquisite detail. The expertise lies in the intricate casting process, predominantly utilising resin to breathe life into the sculptures.

As the prototype takes shape, a rubber mould is carefully crafted around it, preserving every delicate detail.



Once the mould is set, the clay is removed, leaving behind a hollow shell ready to receive the next phase of transformation. Layer by layer, bronze is applied to the mould, infusing the sculpture with durability and depth. Finally, as the mould is gently lifted away, the raw beauty of the bronze sculpture is revealed, awaiting the skilled hands that will meticulously polish and refine it to perfection.



Our wholly unique York Lucky Cats were first designed, crafted and created at York Glass our then Shambles based shop.

YORK LUCKY CATS



FREE FUN FOR EVERYONE



Expore York with the fabulous and original Cat Trail

www.YorkLuckyCats.co.uk



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- York Lucky Cats
- The York Cat Trail

34 Coney Street, York, YO1 9ND





THE YORK CAT TRAIL

- 1 & 2** Starting from our York Lucky Cats shop. You will see the two newest cats in the window. Grab the leaflet from the shop and let's go cat hunting?

3 Turn right on leaving and walk to Lendal. Cross the road. Look back across the road from the entrance to Museum Gardens. Can you see the cat called Chambers? *Clue: Accountancy Office*

4 Follow Museum Street towards the Minster. Turn right onto High Petergate and then first right on Stonegate. Just look above the doorways and you will see Gordon, the pirate cat.

5 Retrace your steps and continue passing through Minster Gates, turning right at the Minster. Then find Goodramgate. *Clue: Look for Veggie Cafe*

6 Continue along Goodramgate, keep looking right to find a climbing cat called Hope. *Clue: You can find some real cats there in the cat themed cafe below.*

7 Continue along Goodramgate to find a gate to the Holy Trinity Church, on the right hand side of the road. Look around the church grounds and you will find the memorial to York Minster cat, Gerald.

8 Continue along Goodramgate until the crossroad. Turn left to King's Square and left again onto St. Andrew's Gate. You will find a climbing kitten on house no. 1/2.

9 Just next door on the house no. 1 you will find another cat balancing.

10 Retrace your steps back to King's Square. Turn left and look up. *Clue: Tick-Tock*

11 Keep walking along Colliergate another few steps to find another black cat. *Clue: Two-dimensional cat*

12 Retrace your steps to King's Square again and look up to the roof line to spot a cat chasing a pigeon.

13 Next follow the signs and the crowds towards the Shambles. One cat is climbing above our former Shop where The York Cat Trail story began and first and original York Lucky Cat was made.

14 Look opposite, slightly left and spot another Shambles cat.
- 15** Continue down to the bottom of the Shambles. Look across the road and look for a ghostly looking cat going through the wall of the most haunted York pub. *Clue: Look for a sheep*

16 Cross the road, turn left and then right onto Fossgate. Continue to Walmgate. Keep left to find a gate between another haunted pub and hairdresser. The cat statue can be found in the back yard of the pub.

17 Back on the Walmgate and just opposite you will find another cat proudly sitting on the windowsill. *Clue: Look for a horse head!*

18 A few meters further along Walmgate is a further statue above the restaurant doorway.

19 Retrace your steps along Walmgate turning left onto Merchantgate and right onto Piccadilly and then left again to Coppergate. The cat will be looking at you from above the pub window.

20 & 21 Carry onto the end of Colliergate and then turn right to Low Ousegate to find a cat climbing the wall. Next cat is balancing on the windowsill on the neighboring building. They are the oldest cats on the trail.

22 & 23 Descend the steps towards the river and King's Steith. Continue along the river's edge until Friar's Terrace and South Explande join. Can you see two cats on the window ledges? *Clue: If you are stuck look for a black gate going nowhere!*

24 Return to the bridge. Cross the road safely. On the middle of the bridge look right. If you have good ayes or binoculars, you will see a cat walking on the roof line of the brick building.

25 Continue along Ousegate and turn left by the street crossing, returning to Coney Street. Halfway down the street a black cat will be lurking high on the window ledge. *Clue: no. 25*

CONGRATULATIONS & WELL DONE!

YOU FOUND ALL THE CATS ON THE YORK CAT TRAIL.

Now pop back to our fabulous shop to get one of our famous Original York Lucky Cats. There are still plenty of cats to find around the city if you feel adventurous. You can find more about them in the cat directory on our website.