



THE BAR CONVENT

Living Heritage Centre

Staying With Us Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have a car park?

The Bar Convent, as a Grade I Listed building, does not have its own parking facilities.

There is a Pay & Display long stay car park just around the corner on Nunnery Lane. This car park now has facilities to Park and Pay by phone on arrival. The number to call is 0870 4283854. Quote location number 7709 and you will be able to select the number of hours you wish to pay for using your credit/debit card.

If this car park is full then alternative parking is available at the railway station or by using the Park and Ride car park at Askham Bar. [Read more about York Park and Ride.](#)

Do you have access for guests with disabilities?

Wheelchair access is via a large lift which leads to the disabled toilet on the first floor. The passenger lift serves the first and second floors, but access to the third floor is via stairs only. For more information, you can contact our Housekeeper on 01904 464 902.

When can I check-in and check-out?

Guests can check-in from 3pm to 9.30pm, unless you have arranged otherwise with us in advance. Check-out is by 10am on your day of departure.

Can I leave my luggage?

Luggage storage is available on request until 9.30pm at no additional charge.

Can I book online?

Guests are very welcome to [book a room with us online](#). If you require assistance, or would like to discuss your requirements further, please call us on 01904 643 238. Our reception office is open twenty-four hours a day.

When do I pay for my room?

We usually take the cost of your first night's stay as a deposit at the time that you book. The rest of your bill is then to be paid on the final day of your stay. (In the case of a one night stay, your deposit is the full payment.)

We accept cash, debit and credit cards, and sterling traveller's cheques (though please note, no change can be given for traveller's cheques).

Do your prices include VAT?

All of our prices include VAT at the current rate.

What is your cancellation policy?

In the event of a cancellation, if a guest notifies the Guest House 28 calendar days before the first night's stay the deposit is refundable. Thereafter, 50% of the deposit will be refunded if a guest notifies the Guest House 14 calendar days before the first night's stay.

No refund will be provided for cancellations made within 14 calendar days of the first night's stay. All cancellations must be made by telephone or email and acknowledged by a member of staff to be valid.

We strongly advise customers to buy travel insurance when travelling.

What shared facilities do you have?

There are ample shared bathrooms, toilets and showers available on the top floor, and all towels and linen are supplied. All other rooms are entirely en-suite. Free wi-fi internet access is available in most rooms and communal areas, and a sitting room with TV is located on the second floor.

Is breakfast included in the price of the room?

Yes. Guests have the choice each morning of a full English breakfast or a lighter continental option, including pastries, fresh fruit, cereals, toast and preserves.

Breakfast is served downstairs in our cafe from 7.45am-9.30am during the week, 7.45-10am on Saturdays, and from 8.15am-10am on Sundays.

Do you serve evening meals?

At this time, hot food is only served in our cafe until 3pm each day. Fortunately we are within easy walking distance of a wide variety of restaurants, pubs and takeaways. Our reception team are available 24 hours a day, and are happy to recommend you places to eat.

Are you actually a convent?

The Bar Convent is the oldest living convent in England, and we have been on this site in York for over three hundred years.

A living convent is one with a resident religious community. You will almost certainly see our sisters around during your stay, though you might not recognise them at first.

Our sisters belong to the Congregation of Jesus, also known as the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and they do not wear habits. The founder of the order, Mary Ward, believed that religious women should engage with the wider world, and our sisters feel that the wearing of habits creates an unnecessary barrier between them and the world. Instead, you can identify one of our sisters by a particular pendant or brooch they wear, which is the symbol of their order.

We are also home to a state-of-the-art Exhibition detailing the history of the Convent, our sisters, and the radical Yorkshire nun Mary Ward who founded their order.

The Bar Convent, as it says on our front door, is open to those of all faiths and none. We aim to provide a welcoming atmosphere to absolutely all of our guests, regardless of spiritual faith or belief.

Do you take bookings for one night stays?

Yes - we are one of few guest houses in York to do so.

Do you accommodate large, single-sex groups?

We do not accept bookings from stag or hen parties (or similar).

This is for the benefit of both the resident religious community here and our other guests, many of whom value the peaceful nature of the Bar Convent.

There are a number of other places to stay within close distance of York Railway Station. Our neighbours include [Premier Inn](#), [York Micklegate Travelodge](#), [Ibis York Centre](#), [The Royal York Hotel](#) and [The Grand Hotel & Spa](#).