

PLACES TO VISIT OUTSIDE THE CITY

1. Wentworth Woodhouse, Rotherham S62 7TQ

<https://www.wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk>

You will hear about Wentworth Woodhouse from our first speaker Dame Julie Kenny. She is the Chair of the Preservation Trust working to restore the house and grounds. One of our workshops is focussed around Catherine Bailey's book "Black Diamonds" which follows the fortunes of the Wentworth Woodhouse estate in the late 19th / early 20th C. It is an amazing house, little known outside of South Yorkshire, yet it has the longest frontage of any country house in Europe, with about 365 rooms inside. The current house was built in the mid 18thC and has a fabulous façade, marbled floors inside, a magnificent curving staircase and a pillared room lavishly decorated with statues. There are various options for visitors, general admission to the house and gardens, regular guided tours take you into some of the rooms of the house and also gives you access to the extensive gardens and recently restored Camellia House. Finally, a special Black Diamonds tour, visiting areas not normally open to the public. **All admission and tours need to be booked in advance, preferably as early as possible**, further details being available on the website. The Butler's Pantry serves refreshments, snacks, and light meals and if there is time there is a vast parkland with some mysterious follies waiting to be explored.

It is about a 40-minute drive from the city centre and difficult to reach by public transport. National Trust membership will gain you a reduction.

2. Chatsworth, Bakewell, DE4 2NX

<https://www.chatsworth.org.uk>

This magnificent estate is about a 30-minute drive south from the city centre, and on Sundays there is an hourly bus service (218) from the Sheffield bus interchange. Check further details at www.travelsouthyorkshire.com The post code above takes you to the main car park where you are close to the house, gardens, parkland, estate village and church, cafes etc.

It is one of the grandest stately homes in the UK, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire and has belonged to the Cavendish family since 1549. Part of the house is open to the public, full of works of art, sculptures, and beautiful furniture. The extensive gardens include an orangery, a RHS Chelsea award winning garden, a maze, water gardens and fountains, lawns, and amazing planting. Further details are on their website including the admission costs. There are miles of paths through woodlands and parkland with stunning views of the house with its gold leafed window frames.

3. Haddon Hall, DE45 1LA

<https://www.haddonhall.co.uk>

Haddon Hall is the private residence of Lord and Lady Manners. It is one of the oldest stately homes in the country dating back to medieval times. The house has parts going back to Tudor times and the chapel is even older. Outside you can explore the very old walled garden and wander the banks of the River Wye. It's not easy to reach by bus but by car it takes about 30 minutes, the journey will take you through the old market town of Bakewell of "Bakewell Tart" fame. Stop and sample a tart – it's very different from the iced Bakewells of today! Further details of prices, car parking are all on the website.

4. Wentworth Castle Gardens, Barnsley, S75 3EN

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>

This is a totally separate venue to Wentworth Woodhouse though historically the two are linked. Since 2017 the National Trust has taken over the gardens and parkland. It's a grade 1 listed landscape including extensive formal gardens, a wonderfully restored 19thC conservatory, a huge parkland criss-crossed by paths with unusual follies and monuments. Come and admire the golden sphere on top of the monument celebrating Lady Mary Wortley the first person to introduce inoculation against smallpox to the UK and enjoy the Stainforth Folly - mock turrets with wonderful views across South Yorkshire. Refreshments are available at the Long Barn and admission is free to National Trust and RHS members. Sadly, this is another place which is difficult to reach by public transport from Sheffield. Approx. 40 minutes drive northwards from the city centre.

5. Castleton Village, Derbyshire, on the A625 west from Sheffield

Castleton village is famous for the very rare Blue John, a semi-precious mineral. Across the centuries the stone has been mined from veins in the local limestone, cut, polished and made into beautiful jewellery, vases, jugs etc and is still sold in the local shops. There are 4 show caverns, namely Blue John, Speedwell, Treak Cliff and Peak Cavern, where you can go on guided underground tours to see the caverns and the illuminated stalactites and stalagmites. There are numerous cafes and gift shops in the village which is overlooked by Peveril Castle on the south side and to the north by Mam Tor, known locally as the shivering mountain, a reference to the numerous landslides which have blighted the hillside. If you are travelling back to the Manchester / Cheshire area it would make a good place to stop for a while. The main car park is S33 8WH and the 272 bus from the Sheffield Interchange will take you there.

6. Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, WF4 4LG

<https://www.ysp.org.uk>

Wander in 500 acres of parkland laid out in the 18thC and pause to look at numerous and varied sculptures by leading sculptors of the 20th C including Sir Henry Moore, Damien Hirst, Andy Goldsworthy, Barbara Hepworth, and many others. Admission includes parking and access to the cafes and shops. Free admission to holders of a National Art Fund Pass. It is just off the M1, junction 38, about 20 miles north of the city.