

VISIT Howden



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Two day family friendly itinerary for Howden

Planning a family day out in Howden? This two day itinerary is an easy way to explore, with short walks, simple activities and plenty of stops to keep everyone happy. Follow the itinerary or swap the mornings and afternoons around. You can mix and match to suit nap times and energy levels!



Day one: Cobbles and curiosities

Morning

Let the little ones lead the way as you explore Howden on the **Heritage Blue Plaque trail**. It's a simple, town-centre walk that turns a wander into a game of "spot the next plaque", with plenty of short stops built in.

Top tip: For a self-guided tour to follow, **Howden Civic Society** shares walking routes that introduce the town's key historic buildings.

Midday

After the trail, continue your stroll with a gentle wander through Howden's historic streets and architecture, then stop for lunch. There are plenty of spots to choose from for a bite to eat, keeping even the fussiest of eaters happy. Take a look at our [Food & Drink directory](#) before your visit, or just see what grabs your fancy on the day. If you're visiting on a Friday, you can also call in at the **Shire Hall Community Café and Mini Market**, which runs weekly.



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Afternoon

Head to **The Ashes Playing Field**, a large community green space near **Howden Minster**. It's a great place for kids to run around, with a playpark, a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) for ball games, and a pétanque court. Why not have the little ones bring their bikes or scooters along to do a lap (or two) of the **Howden Mile**, an all-weather track that loops around the edge of the park.



Day two: Wildlife and wider horizons

Morning

Start the day at **Howden Marsh Nature Reserve** for a gentle pace and some wildlife spotting. The site has a flat surfaced route and boardwalk with no barriers, making it suitable for buggies and prams. Children should be supervised, particularly near the water.

Good to know: there are picnic areas, but no toilets on site.

Midday

Keep lunch simple by picking up something easy earlier in the day (or the day before) and having a picnic:

- In the Community Orchard at Howden Marsh
- Back at The Ashes if you want play space nearby.

If the weather isn't on your side, you'll still have plenty of indoor eating options in the town.

Afternoon

Finish your visit with something a bit different at **Howden Minster**, where you can hunt for the 30 tiny carved mice hidden around the Minster's woodwork and furnishings. It's a great family-friendly "find them all" challenge! Afterwards, grab an ice cream before making your way home or back to your accommodation.



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Important logistics for families

Two days in Howden can be as busy or as slow as you like, with a good balance of fresh air, history and kid-friendly activities.

This itinerary is designed to be flexible, so you can follow it in order or build your own two-day mix.

Finding your way

While you're out and about, the [Howden map](#) is handy for getting your bearings and checking locations as you go.

Getting around with little ones

Howden is mostly flat, which makes routes around the town manageable for little legs, buggies and prams.

Toilets and baby changing

Public toilets (including an accessible RADAR-key toilet and a Changing Places facility) are available on Charles Briggs Avenue, Howden, DN14 7SX, and it's worth using them before visiting Howden Marsh, as there are no toilets on site.

What's on in Howden

There's always lots going on in Howden, so be sure to check out upcoming events when you're planning your visit.

Travelling to Howden

Howden is easy to reach by public transport, with a railway station and local bus services connecting the town with nearby areas. More information about [transport links and parking](#) in Howden is available on our website.

Howden has two East Riding of Yorkshire Council pay-and-display car parks (with some streets covered by a Controlled Parking Zone).



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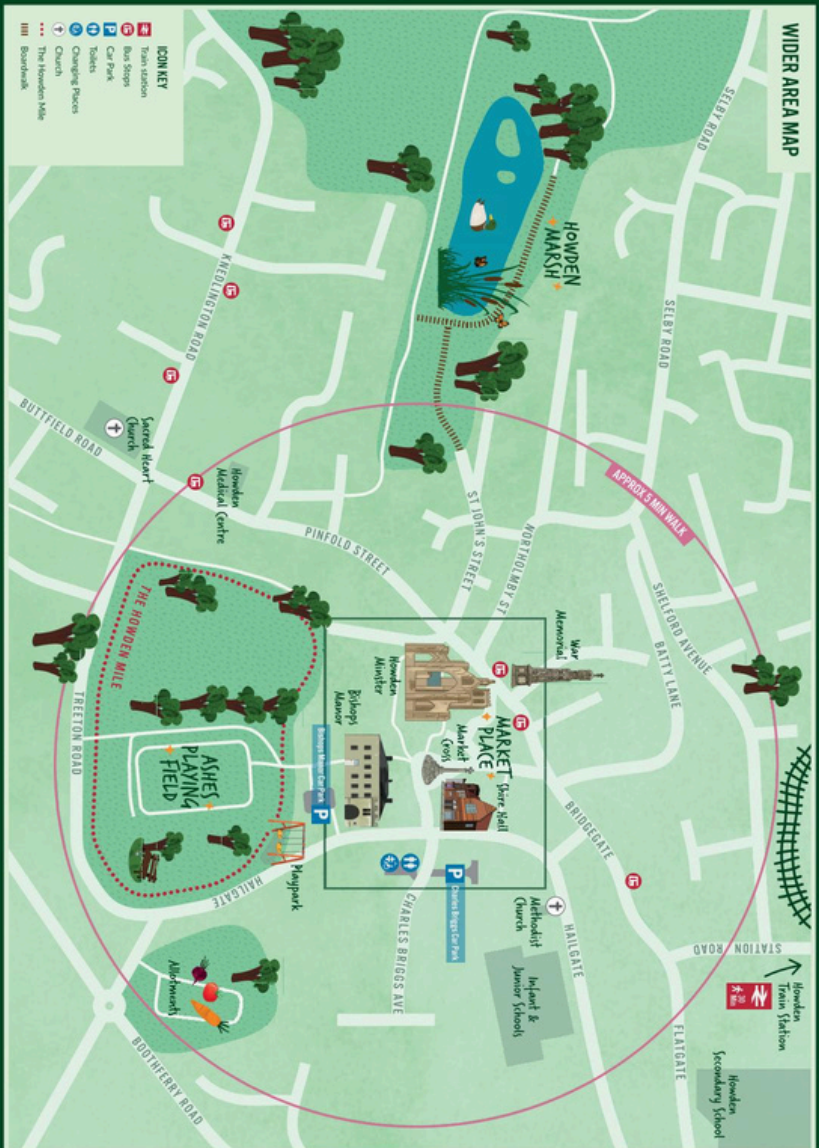
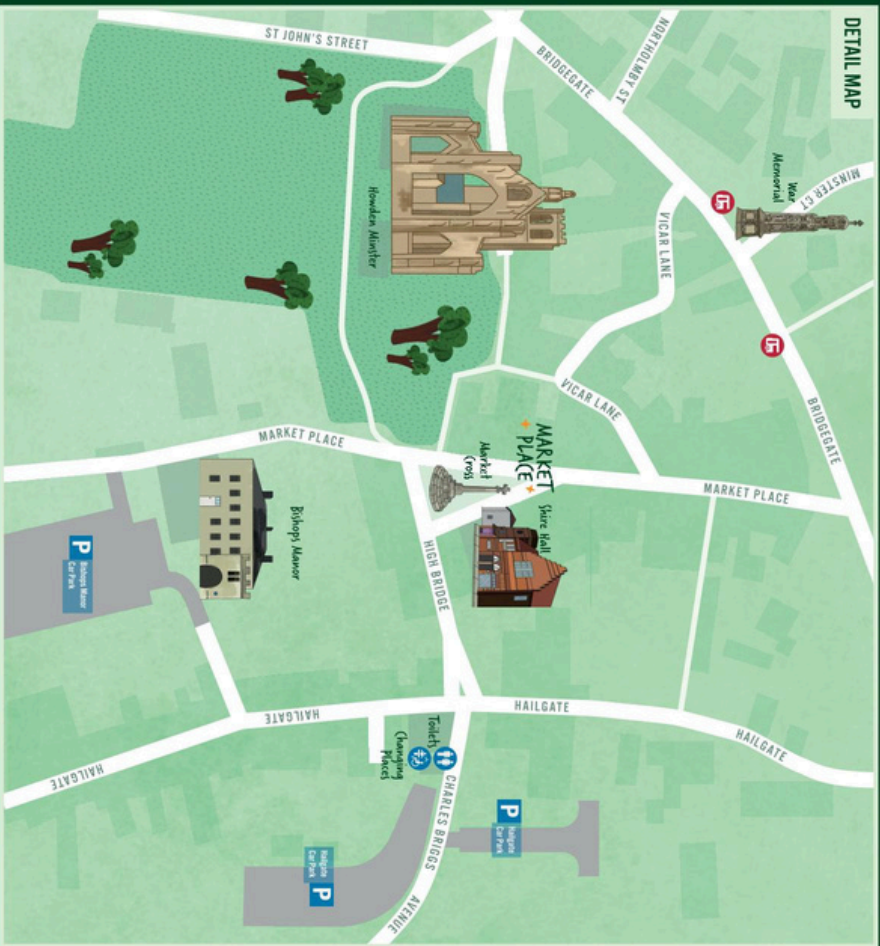


VISIT Howden

An online information hub keeping you up to date with all Howden has to offer.

Welcome to Howden, a charming East Yorkshire town where medieval history meets modern. With its cobbled streets and historic architecture, Howden offers a unique blend of old charm and modern amenities. Visitors can explore the stunning Howden Minster, or enjoy the town's vibrant atmosphere, with independent shops, cafes, and traditional pubs just a short walk away.

Howden is known for its friendly community and year-round events. The town offers plenty of opportunities to enjoy nature, from scenic walks through Howden Marsh to the peaceful green space of The Ashes. Whether you're visiting for a day or staying a while, Howden promises a warm welcome and something for everyone to enjoy.



HOWDEN MARSH

This local nature reserve is a haven for local wildlife, dog walkers and explorers alike. It's hard to believe that such a tranquil space can be located right next to the town centre.

The boardwalk allows access for all and offers a peaceful retreat from daily life, with visitors appreciating the ever-changing scenic views throughout the year. Getting back to nature is a pastime made for any age.

We invite you to explore Howden Marsh and all it has to offer throughout the seasons.

HOWDEN MINSTER

This Grade 1 listed building dominates the local landscape with a 135ft tower that draws in visitors far and wide. Howden Minster is steeped in a colourful history dating right back to Saxon times.

Most of the present structure that we see today was rebuilt in the 13th and 14th centuries, making it one of the most significant churches in the north of England built in a decorated, also known as geometric, style. Now, the ruined east end and chapter house fall under the guardianship of English Heritage.

Throughout the Minster, if you look carefully, there are over 30 hidden wooden mice, by famous carver Robert (Mousselman) Thompson.

In the grounds of the Minster, you can find the Howden sculpture sequence, an installation from renowned sculptor John Maine RA in 2002. The sequence incorporates the four elements: earth, water, air, and fire.

THE SHIRE HALL

Built in 1871 as a market hall and assembly rooms for significant gatherings, its distinctive Dutch Gothic style and stepped gable make it an iconic part of the town's landscape.

Over the years, it has served many roles. Charles Briggs gave it, in trust, to be used by the community in 1942.

It now hosts many classes and groups, live entertainment, and a weekly Friday market.

Outside is the Market Cross, a replacement of the original feature but on the original Medieval base.

THE ASHES

A beautiful sprawling space in the heart of Howden, The Ashes is a versatile 17-acre tree-lined plot housing sports facilities and open parkland. As a registered charity, the park's development falls under the responsibility of The Ashes Playing Field Trust, who continue to invest in the open space.

The park has much to offer visitors, but one of the most popular pastimes is the Howden Mile, where locals stretch their legs by completing two loops of the park's perimeter. This route also forms part of a larger 3K Howden circuit.

Behind the tree-lined path, you'll find the long, five children's playground, and historic Bishop of Maine House beyond. The 11th century building was once part of the Bishop's Palace.



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