

Otley Unique Shopping Trail



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Otley as a thriving market town

Farmers have been selling their goods in Otley for almost 800 years and that tradition continues today with a thrice-weekly market and a monthly farmers' market offering artisan and local produce.

On market days, where the cobbled streets around Market Place bustle with people and traffic is reduced to a trickle thanks to the market stalls, the atmosphere in the town would be little different from the days of 1222 when King Henry III granted a Royal Charter for a market in Otley: traders calling to offer their goods and the local populace stocking up their larders, all under the watchful guard of Otley Chevin.

The market may be an evocative place to shop, but the surrounding streets are also lined with many specialist and artisan shops, some of which you might not expect to find in a small West Yorkshire town. Follow this simple shopping trail that picks out some of the highlights of a visit to Otley. Have fun exploring – and expect to go home laden with goods.

For more information see buyinotley.co.uk

About this walk

Length: 0.9 miles (1.5km)

Time taken: 30 minutes (brisk) to 1.5 hours (slow), depending on the amount of shopping you wish to do

Difficulty: Easy

Other Otley Trails in this series

Best of Otley Walking Trail
Otley History & Heritage Trail
Otley Family Riverside Trail
Chippendale's Otley

1. Jenni's Dresser

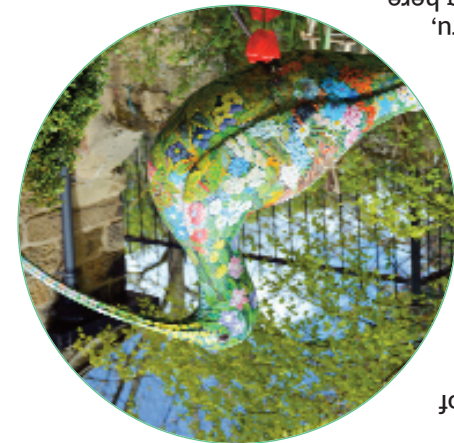
Looking for something special for a night out? This fabulous treasure trove of a shop offers women's pre-loved designer clothing at a fraction of the original price, all curated by owner and fashion guru Jenni Small. Jenni and her team are on hand to offer fab fashion tips and help co-ordinate outfits ready for you to create that wow look.

2. Dodgshons Kitchen & Sugarcraft

For those bitten by the Great British Bake Off bug, Dodgshons is the place to go. From cupcake cases to cutters and storage containers to sprinkles, this little iced gem has everything you need, including kitchenware, to turn you into a superstar chef. As a long-standing, family-run business, you can expect a highly personalised service and staff who will offer tricks of the trade to help your buns rise to any occasion.

3. Courtyard Planters

Set in the historic cobbled stableyard of what was once the Half Moon Inn, Courtyard Planters is a garden centre offering its own nursery, a garden school and lots of friendly advice. Whether you're a budding botanist or a green-fingered guru, you'll find something here to help your garden bloom.



4. Patisserie Viennoise

Award-winning, Parisian-trained master chocolatier and cake-maker to the famous Trevor Backhouse has been the Willy Wonka of Otley since 1986. The shop's glass-fronted workshop allows pedestrians to stop and marvel at the chocolate gurgling away as Trevor and the team fashion their magnificent creations. Once inside, get ready to be transported to chocolate heaven, thanks to a fantastic selection of incredible truffles, pastries, and wedding and celebration cakes.

5. Curious Hop

For the beer-curious, this is the place to try out an amazing ale or super stout. Owner Marcus Garcia hand-picks beers from all over the world, as well as offering a vast selection from right here in Yorkshire. The wide array of bottles inside represents a fine sample of the diverse flavours and styles currently on offer in the flourishing brewing community. Growlers – refillable glass bottles – that allow you to sample keg beers in the home are also available.

6. Sweet Treats

Remember the good old days when you could go into a sweet shop, stare up at the glass jars and order a 'quarter' of Midget Gems or Pear Drops? Well, you can relive your youth with a visit to this fascinating store on New Market. Marvel at the rows of jars, pick up a gift box or tuck into some toffee. The Traditional Sweet Shop is the kind of place where you can spoil yourself rotten!



7. Chez Vin

This specialist wine merchants stocks more than 350 wines sourced from around the world, as well as some 50 single malts, ports, sherries and spirits, with gin being a popular favourite. Special events and tasting evenings are also available, and owner David Lawson is always on hand to offer tips on his favourite tipples.

8. Glide + Slide

Under the shadow of Otley Chevin lies this super ski gear shop, one of the best specialist stores in the country. It offers a range of top brands such as Stolz, Atomic and Lacroix, industry-leading ski boot fitting, and ski and snowboard servicing – all designed to get you kitted out in style and ready to zigzag down the slopes.

9. Yorkshire Runner

Whether you like to hit the hills or pound the pavements, Yorkshire Runner will get you kitted out. The shop offers shoe fitting via gait analysis, and clothing and nutrition from some of the biggest names in running.

10. Bondgate Bakery

Baking like it should be: there are no additives, pre-mixes, preservatives, hydrogenated fats, improvers or artificial colours in any of the goods from this fabulous bakery and shop that opened in 1984. It has since been named as Best Independent Retailer in the Food and Farming Awards.



11. Chevin Cycles

TV commentary at the 2018 Tour de Yorkshire proclaimed Otley as the cycling capital of England and this store, jam-packed with equipment and a knowledgeable team of cycling experts, has gone a long way to securing that prestigious title. Award-winning service, a workshop and demo hire bikes (including electric ones to take the strain out of riding our surrounding hills) are hallmarks of a visit.

12. Modelsport

This specialist hobby store selling radio-controlled cars, trucks and spare parts not only offers a fabulous walk-in service, but will ship all over the country.

And there's more...

We have butchers (three of) to go with the bakers, but it's true, we're missing a candlestick maker. You can furnish the house, buy coffees and teas, or tuck into cake, if that's what you please. There are jewellers in which to buy that special ring – and plenty of gift shops to make your heart sing. Find something rare from an antique store; our galleries will ensure your walls are no bore. Pick up toys for the kids, or spruce up your 'do, we're sure Otley shopping has something for you.

Otley's main shopping areas

Market Place: Otley's historic cobbled Market Place (pictured) is the heart of the town. Home to our iconic Jubilee Clock, it plays host to a market three times a week, as well as a monthly specialist farmers' market offering mainly local produce. Otley's annual July food festival also takes place here. The surrounding streets are home to a number of Otley shopping heroes.



New Market:

Despite its name, New Market is anything but new. This pretty, central street that joins Bondgate and Market Place is lined with stone Victorian buildings. Many of their ground floors are home to some of Otley's quirkier and most original shops.

New Inn Court: Tucked away in buildings on the west side of New Market is this open courtyard of hidden gems including shops and cafés.

Bay Horse Court: Off Boroughgate and by the Bay Horse pub is a small ginnel that leads to this quaint open courtyard of shops.

Kirkgate Arcade: This covered Victorian arcade is worth a visit just to look up and see its old glass ceiling and quirky architecture. Stay awhile to discover a range of shops offering collectors' items and bric-a-brac.

Orchard Gate: A central, premier shopping area in the heart of town, Orchard Gate is home to a number of unique businesses from pet shops to specialist drinks outlets, as well as the Town Council offices, bus station and public (and accessible) toilets.

Produced in partnership with the following local organisations

