Walled city
Photographs of York
Photography by Richard Flint
Walled City – Photographs of York

A series of images exploring the UK city of York using the backdrop of the huge medieval walls surrounding the city.

The medieval walls of York define the city. Even the modern architecture of the city has borrowed elements from the walls design - most notably York’s Travelodge hotel whose entrance has the styling of a medieval castle turret.

Built between the 12th and 14th century, with certain parts dating back to Roman times, the city walls are some of the most intact in England. 1.9 miles in length, the walls offer some of the best views of the city and are a great platform to watch the day to day goings on within the city.

These images were shot on a hot and very bright day in May. The images have been laid out in the book in the order they were taken.

Thank you for downloading this book. I hope you enjoy the photographs.

Richard
4th June 2009
Homeless man and his dog - Station Avenue
Tourists walking the walls overlooking Station Avenue
York railway station parking area and bus stop
Bus stop outside the Railway Station - Station Road
Looking along the wall back towards York Minster
Photographing the wall
Ivy against the stonework
Giving directions to a motorist - Nunnery Lane
A caterpillar makes its way across the paving stones
Walls along by Dewsbury Terrace
Engraved into stone
Looking from the wall on to Baile Hill Terrace
Entrance to the walls at Fishergate
Worn hand rail at Fishergate
Construction work at Fishergate
Travelodge hotel has a wonderful combination of modern and medieval architectural styles
Fishergate
The City Wall going alongside Paragon Street
At the junction with Barbican Road
Waiting for the lights to change at Walmgate Bar…
Still waiting…
Tourist information noticeboard at Walmgate Bar
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WALLMGATE BAR

 Probably built in the reign of Edward I. The wood and plaster building on the inside is of the Elizabethan period. This Bar was greatly damaged during the siege of York 1644 by Parliamentarians’ battery fire from St. Helen’s Hill. The portcullis and gates remain and this Bar alone retains its barbican which was erected in the reign of Edward III. The Arms of Henry V are on the outer side. The Bar was restored in 1948 and completely renovated in 1959.
Postbox near the art gallery at Bootham Bar
Bootham Bar
Walled City – Photographs of York
Pedestrians crossing at Bootham Bar
Graffiti
Looking over Moatside Crescent towards York University
The wall running alongside Lord Mayor’s Walk
Water bottle and bench
Woman searches in her handbag near Monk Bar
FedEx delivery van near Monk Bar
Monk Bar
Tourists admire the remains of the Roman walls - Jewbury
Battlement view
Little do the tourists know, as they walk past this little plaque, that it symbolizes part of York’s dark past and one of its blackest days. During the medieval period, York had one of the largest Jewish communities in England. In 1190, York’s Jewish community was massacred when they refused to renounce their faith. Many in the Jewish community chose to commit suicide rather than be murdered or baptized. According to the BBC local history website:

‘No documentary evidence has been found of a cherem, a Jewish order of excommunication, on York, however, it is widely accepted within the Jewish community that such an order existed. This cherem forbade Jews from settling within York’s city walls, and reflects the distaste with which Jews viewed the city. According to sources in the Chief Rabbi’s office, devout Jews travelling on the East Coast Main Line still take care not to eat sandwiches as they pass through York, as this would contravene the cherem still associated with the city. On overseas Jewish community internet message boards, the question of whether travel to York is permitted is a frequent one.’

According to the 2001 census, the Jewish population of York is only 191 out of a total population of 181094.
City walls - Jewbury
City walls - Jewbury
Battlement view
View through an arrow slit - Jewbury leading into Foss Bank
Walking the dog - Jewbury
Heading back into the city centre
Smiling man and boy
Using the walls is often quicker than walking on the busy streets
Waiting for the bus - Station Road
The city wall along Queen Street
The corner of the city wall starting along Queen Street
Walking along the wall at Micklegate
Couple walk hand in hand near Micklegate
The best view of York
The Walled City Project

The idea for photographing York via its impressive medieval walls first came about in late 2007 but after a promising start the idea never progressed Further.

Eighteen months later along came the Solo Photo Book Month project. I’d wanted to do a book last year but heard about it too late to realistically join in. I decided then that I would take part in 2009.

Originally I was going to shoot my book project in Newcastle Upon Tyne but time and work commitments made that impossible. I aim to do that project for my 2010 book.

I did have the Walled City project marked up as a plan B. The format of a book seemed to fit the idea perfectly.

All of the images were taken using a Nikon D2H and Nikon/Sigma lenses. Book layout and design were done using Photoshop, Open Office Draw 3.0 and Adobe Acrobat 8.
About the Photographer

Born in County Durham (UK) in 1972, I took up photography when I was ten years old. My first camera was a plastic 126 film camera purchased from a pharmacy shop in Conwy, North Wales in 1985.

In 1991, I went to study Film, TV and Photography which eventually led me onto studying photography to HND and BA(Hons)Degree levels.

In 2001, I became a freelance photographer.

I currently live near York.

More details and images can be found at:-

http://www.richardflintphoto.com
http://www.richflintphoto.blogspot.com
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