



  
THE SUNDAY TIMES

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WEEKEND ESCAPES

# Malton: Great British Breaks

Eat your fill in Yorkshire's foodie capital, then work it off on the wolds

## Why?

There are only 66 days to go, so we can just about get away with mentioning the “C” word – especially given that it was in his friend’s cramped solicitor’s office on Chancery Lane, in Malton, that Charles Dickens first had the idea for A Christmas Carol. There’s nothing miserable about the market town now. It has reinvented itself as Yorkshire’s foodie capital and there’s a buzz about the artisan producers in its snaggle of 17th-century passageways. Its location is pretty tasty, too, with windy moors, rippling wolds and the North Sea on the doorstep.

## What you do

Get your daily calorie consumption under way at the **Talbot Yard Food Court**, a grade II listed stable block at the top of Yorkersgate. It’s home to stores such as **Groovy Moo**, a gelateria with 20 freshly made flavours, including bakewell tart (£2.50). Next door, swoon over macarons from the Frenchman **Florian Poirot**. They’re only £1 a pop, so try the earl grey and mandarin and the salted-butter caramel. At the **Rare Bird Distillery**, Matt Stewart, a former firefighter, now warms your insides with his gins. You may see Florence, his 300-litre copper still, in action: sample his Rhubarb and Ginger at the on-site bar or concoct your own tittle at his gin school (2½ hours, £85; [visitmalton.com](http://visitmalton.com)).

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### Where you eat

Sit beside a roaring fire at the stylish 17th-century **Talbot**, a former coaching inn that offers dishes such as devilled kidneys on sourdough and rib of beef with bone marrow and Yorkshire gravy (mains from £12; [talbotmalton.co.uk](http://talbotmalton.co.uk)). No prizes for guessing what **Stew & Oyster** specialises in, but this cafe-bar in the former town hall also serves superb pork and leek sausages with buttery mash (mains from £6; [stewandoyster.com](http://stewandoyster.com)).

### Where you stay

A recent makeover at the **Talbot** has given its grand public rooms and 26 bedrooms an injection of glamour, with midcentury furniture and four-posters — it's [one of our Best Places to Stay in the north of England](#) (doubles from £110, B&B; [talbotmalton.co.uk](http://talbotmalton.co.uk)). The **Mount Hotel** started life as a girls' school in 1870. Former pupils probably wouldn't recognise the 13 simple bedrooms and sports bar, but its views of the wolds remain A-star (doubles from £70, B&B; [themounthotelmalton.co.uk](http://themounthotelmalton.co.uk)).

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