

TOUR 5

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE

Many of Yorkshire's better-known restaurants lie in the Dales or the populous western half of the county. This day-long tour generally avoids well-beaten tracks, although much of the countryside you will pass through is as beautiful as any that the region has to offer.

Begin by heading east from York along the A166 towards Drifffield. If you have time, stop off for coffee at the **Balloon Tree Farmshop** between Gate Helmsley and Stamford Bridge (01759 373023; www.theballoontree.co.uk), a friendly family-run business with a slew of awards after only two years in business.

After ascending the hill that takes you up into the wonderfully empty, rolling hills of the Yorkshire wolds, take the right turn to the quiet village of Millington. It is highly advisable to just park the car and do a spot of walking in the countryside roundabout. The Wolds Way footpath runs nearby – there are signposts in the village – and you can follow it for a mile or two to work up an appetite for lunch at **The Gait Inn**, a proper, non-twee village pub with soul and stupendous Yorkshire puddings.

After lunch set off in the car again, and dawdle along the narrow, winding wold roads for a while, passing through Huggate, then Fridaythorpe, Thixendale, Birdsall, North Grimston, Duggleby, Sledmere, East Lutton, Weaverthorpe, and Butterwick, before joining the B1249 northbound. At the top of steep Staxton Hill you can stop to admire the view over the flat coastal plain out to the North Sea, and then head into Scarborough for ice-cream or hot drinks amid the perfectly preserved Fifties glamour of the **Harbour Bar**.

Depending on your taste, you might like to walk along the beach, or head out of town for an extemporised drive north-westwards into the North York Moors national park before continuing

east along the A170 for dinner at **The Star Inn** at Harome (turn left to Wombledon two miles after Kirbymoorside). The fare so far has been people's-choice type stuff, but the cooking at the friendly and popular Star is critically acclaimed, and the venue is Egon Ronay's 2006 gastro-pub of the year. Try to end with coffee in the loft. The Star does have some accommodation, but if you're heading back towards York, you may find it quicker to join the A64 at Malton than follow the B1363 from nearby Helmsley.

*This tour was created by Richard Benson, author of **The Farm** – a memoir of food, farming and family in Yorkshire.*

