

THE YORK CAT STORY

Cats have played a part in York's history and luck has been linked with them since records began. Cats always land on their feet and having nine lives is a piece of luck that we can all relate to.

York Glass is the home of **York Lucky Cats** where we celebrate the **York Cat story**. Statues of cats have been placed on buildings in York for around two Centuries, although statues since removed or rotted are thought to date from medieval times.

The original cat statues were placed on buildings to frighten away rats and mice which can carry plague and illness. They were also thought to ward off wandering evil spirits and generally to bestow good luck and good health on citizens who needed feline friends to ensure a good nights sleep in old and temptingly chewy timber framed buildings!

York Lucky Cats are small hand-made glass cats which are available in twelve jewel-like colours that match the gem stones considered lucky for each month of the year. The design is in response to the famous and appealing cat statues to be found on many of the historic buildings of York.

York Lucky Cats are handmade and original. There is something special about watching glass being melted and shaped. Visit our shop and you may well be lucky enough to find one of our glass formers at work.

Our lucky cats have been adopted and loved by many people. They have travelled the world and are coveted as good luck charms.



York Glass is found in a beautiful listed building in the middle of Shambles which is at the heart of 'Olde' York. The traditional shop window displays a vivid, colourful and changing mixture of products. We sell gifts, predominantly in Glass for all occasions. Handmade glass jewellery with Murano beads, friendship globes, spun glass, fused glass, crystal glass, glass Christmas trees, glass flowers, glass hearts, glass nail files! Glass is our thing.

We are a small group and are passionate about offering the best products at competitive prices and we pack it with care too!

Make sure you have a look inside. You are truly welcome. If you are lucky you may find one of our glass artists at work. You can buy your lucky cat online along with our other glass products at:

www.yorkluckycats.co.uk

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Have fun finding the cat statues located on some of the historic buildings of this beautiful City

Start the trail in the Shambles outside **York Glass** which is home to **York Lucky Cats**. Go downhill to the end of the street and look across to **Cat 1**. Clue: somewhat ghostly.

Turn left and walk up Whip-ma-whop-ma-gate on to Colliergate, stop at Barnitts emporium of retail excellence to find **Cat 2**, an unusual cat, being a carving and not a statue. **Cat 3** can be difficult to find. Clue: tick tock.

Cat 4 is in Kings Square, scan the roof-line around the square and you will see the cat stalking a pigeon. What's stopping the pigeon flying away?

Proceed down St. Andrewgate, picking off **Cats 5 and 6**, situated at 1/2 and No.1. Clue: knock, knock (also certain cats relative sizes).

Continue along St. Andrewgate turning left onto Bartle Garth past the church. Head towards York Minster past Bedern Hall and the York Glaziers Trust, turn left onto Goodramgate looking for **Bob (Cat 7)** Clue: veggies

Follow Goodramgate to the crossroads and turn left, cross Kings Square and go down the Shambles which was your starting point. **Lucky (Cat 8)** is located on a shop which sells handmade and original **York Lucky Cats** in a variety of colours to match the gem stones which are considered lucky for each month of the year.

Congratulations, you've just completed the pedestrian friendly Kitten Trail, there's still more cats to find though!

Cat 9 can be found on Walmgate which is a continuation of Fossgate. Fossgate is to be found by turning left at the bottom of the Shambles and then first right. Keep your eyes peeled 100m past the River Foss and located close to another animal statue. There are as yet unconfirmed rumours of another cat a handful of metres past Cat 9 (not yet numbered). See if you can find it? On the same side of the street as Cat 9 at Ale House.

Cat 10 is to be found in the relaxing riverside garden of our sponsor **The Watergate Inn**.

Now retrace your steps and take your first left (Merchantgate) and then right onto Picadilly. Head up to the city centre and then turn left up Coppergate to find **Cat 11**. Clue: feeling thirsty!

Turn right, then turn left onto Ousegate for **Cats 12 and 13**. These are probably the oldest surviving Cats. They are on the building of a former grocers where originally there were nine cat statues dating back into the 19th century.

The nine statues were apparently put there to represent the lucky nine lives that cats have. Clue: If stuck, then go a couple of doors past the grocer that is now eating all the competition.

Cat 14 is difficult to spot. Move onto the middle of Ouse Bridge and look up River finding the Park Inn. Once found look directly across the River from the Park Inn and **Cat 14** is on the roof line. Clue: Can't see the cat for the trees... move back towards Coulters.

Cross the road and there are some steps down from the bridge towards the Kings Arms pub which floods at times. If safe, go down these past the pub and walk approx. 300m South along Kings Staith by the River Ouse. **Cats 15 and 16** are close to each other where Friars Terrace and South Esplanade merge. If you find a walled up entrance with a now unnecessary gate, then you are close.

Go back to the bridge and turn right and then left into Coney Street where **Cat 17** can be found about half way down the street. Clue: H and B

Continue down Coney Street passing the Post Office on Lendal. Cross over the road to the entrance to Museum Gardens. Look back and spot **Cat 18**. Clue: he's called Chambers, the same as the name of the building.

Now go into the Museum Gardens and follow the path around to the right, sign posted York Art Gallery. Walk straight past the fountain, cross the road (carefully!) and carry on down Gillygate. Half way down is **Cat 19**. Clue: look for an old fashioned gas style street lamp.

Retrace your steps to the traffic lights then turn left through Bootham Bar and walk along High Petergate then (York Minster on the left) Low Petergate until you reach Stonegate. **Gordon (Cat 20)** is a little way down on the left. Clue: above a door.

Go back onto Low Petergate, turn right and make your way back to the Shambles. **Cat 21** will be watching you from the right-hand side.

One more cat to find!

Carry on back to the Shambles where **Lucky (Cat 8)** has a friend very close by called **Fortuitous (Cat 22)** if you can't find him just pop in to York Glass and ask.

