The Vintage Inns of South Yorkshire Collection

Complex and contrasting; the region around South Yorkshire is an astounding mix of breathtaking scenery and rich heritage from the earliest days of old England to the boom of the Industrial Revolution.

The pubs in the Vintage Inns Collection are a reflection of the landscape, its people and centuries of events that have shaped their fabric from their foundations to their gable ends.

Sheffield is a good example, known for its rich industrial heritage, and yet where pubs built from the local stone, such as The Dore Moor Inn and The Fox House, stand on the fringes where the high country of the Peak District dominates the way of life.

Pubs such as The Admiral Rodney at Loxley, surrounded by wild natural beauty, have become much sought after destinations. And what were once necessities for survival – food and drink, and shelter from the elements - have been refined. Now one can savour a range of mouth-watering dishes, choose from a variety of delicious wines from around the world, and, of course, great British cask-conditioned ales.

Each Vintage Inn offers the same quality yet each has its own unique story to tell. The Sovereign at Shepley was reputedly founded on the loan of a gold coin; and others such as the ancient Boat Inn at Sprotbrough, have helped inspire the tales of others, like guest Sir Walter Scott.

Travellers will need little help in finding things to do: there is an abundance of sensational countryside walks; vibrant, contemporary cities still proud of their roots; and first class museums, parks and visitor attractions. And there's always a good Vintage Inn where they can get the real flavour of their surroundings.
Tucked away right in the heart of the stunning Peak District, The Castle is aptly named - a delightful retreat in which to enjoy a lovely meal and a quiet drink with friends and family.

A destination in its own right, the pub's roaring log fires provide comfort in the winter. It is a pub with rooms, so it is a great a base all year round for walkers and other visitors exploring this beautiful part of the country.

The Castle is hundreds of years old, and guests return again and again, though some are more welcome than others - no less than four spirits haunt the grounds of the inn, including a jilted bride, a lady in grey and a middle-aged man in a pinstripe suit.

An integral part of the local community, the pub was once the stop-off point for the Wellington Express coach, which travelled between Manchester and Sheffield in the 1800s.

The pub is surrounded by rolling hills and just outside the path is signposted to the ruins of Peveril Castle, which is poised on a cliff top above Castleton, and flanked by the steep side of Cavedale. It is an evocative place, with impressive views in all directions.

Castleton lies at the western end of Hope Valley. On Oak Apple Day, a garland king is paraded around the streets wearing an extremely large garland of flowers, and followed by local girls dressed in white. The village is also famous for its Christmas lights.

The area is mineral rich and has a long mining history: there are four show caves to visit, and at least one is open all year.

For information about The Castle and just some of the many things to see and do in the Castleton area, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/thecastlecastleton
Admiral Rodney
592 Loxley Road, Loxley, Sheffield, S6 6RU
Tel. 01142 336121

Loxley is an unusual place to find tales of heroic action on the high seas, but The Admiral Rodney hints at just that.

Built stout and strong to provide a cosy retreat from the breezes that blow down from the nearby moors, the inn is a good vantage point from which to plan a day in some of the most beautiful landscape in the country. It has stunning views of the valley.

The pub was built in the 1950s for the trade from many tourists cycling or motoring their way to take in the sights of the Damflask and Derwent Reservoirs, or perhaps going further to the wild lands of the High Peak and Kinder Scout.

The Admiral Rodney takes its name from a local hero, George Brydges Rodney, who saw battle and made his name by defeating a Spanish fleet off Cape St Vincent in 1780 and a French fleet at the Battle of the Saints in 1782 in the West Indies.

No doubt he appreciated a good square meal (the phrase comes from square plates used aboard ship because they would not roll), and would have tucked heartily into the fare at the pub bearing his name.

Loxley has kept its village feel, and its hilly and leafy common lays claim to being the birthplace of Robin of Loxley, or Robin Hood as he is better known. Loxley and Wadsley Commons are woodland and moorland areas, with panoramic views over Sheffield.

The city is famous for its cutlery, and you’ll want to put the Rodney’s tableware to good use before taking on the seven mile walk in the Loxley Valley, starting and ending at the pub. It takes in the village green, the remains of the water wheel at Little Matlock Rolling Mill and the River Loxley.

Enjoy a day...
• Take morning coffee with us at The Admiral Rodney.
• Stretch your legs in the Peaks or around the Loxley Valley.
• Come back to ‘the Rodders’ for a well earned lunch before an afternoon in lively Sheffield.

For more information about The Admiral Rodney and the great things to do in the area, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/theadmiralrodneyloxley
The Red Kite is a landmark building on the outskirts of Wakefield, offering a warm welcome and refreshment to travellers on the Denby Dale Road.

Its smart white walls and grey slate roof mark it out, and you can be sure of a memorable meal here, whether you’re passing through to visit Wakefield Cathedral or are stopping to enjoy the leisurely delights of Pugneys Country Park, almost on the pub’s doorstep. Accommodation is also available.

The park has two lakes, the largest of which caters for canoeing, sailing and windsurfing. The smaller of the two is only 24 acres and is a nature reserve overlooked by two hides. There is a footpath around the larger lake, and at just over one and a half miles it is perfect for a little stroll. There are more natural attractions at Newmillerdam Country Park, a short drive from the pub, with a pleasant two mile walk around the dam, which can be extended further to the village of Notton.

Wakefield is a modern city that prides itself on its historic buildings, with the ruins of a 15th century castle painstakingly excavated and open to the public, as well as various museums and heritage centres. Wakefield Cathedral is a 14th century parish church, restored in the 19th century. At 247 feet, the spire is the fourth highest in England.

For ‘culture vultures’, there are more historical and contemporary treasures to be found at Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Nostell Priory.

Astonishingly, this is the heart of rhubarb country! The Rhubarb Triangle is a nine square mile area between Wakefield, Morley and Rothwell where, until recently, over 90 per cent of the world’s forced rhubarb crop was grown. A rhubarb festival is held each February, and there is a monument to this extraordinary claim to fame standing not far from the pub.
Clad in gorgeous, patterned old red bricks, The Hare and Tortoise at Doncaster makes a great deal of its long and unique history – and if you’re travelling far, the pub is very convenient for Robin Hood Airport.

Dating to the 1700s, the inn has welcomed many guests, both respectable travellers on the toll road and the not so respectable - it is rumoured the notorious highwayman Dick Turpin stayed at the inn when it adjoined the old tollhouse. In 1890 the tolls were abolished, the gates removed, and the inn was converted into a private dwelling.

Doncaster, originally the site of a Roman fort guarding a crossing over the River Don, was an important route between Lincoln and York. From the 16th century, Doncaster embraced the coaching trade, providing a dishonourable living for the likes of Turpin but also giving rise to horse breeding and in turn racing.

The earliest race to note was the Doncaster Gold Cup, first run over Cantley Common in 1766. During World War I, fighters were based first at the racecourse, and later from a purpose-built airfield alongside, and deployed against zeppelins.

There’s a lot to see and do in the area: Doncaster was traditionally very wealthy and known for its rich landowners with vast estates and huge houses such as Brodsworth Hall, Cantley Manor, Nether Hall, Wheatley Hall, Hickleton Hall and Cusworth Hall. On the High Street stands the luxurious, gilded 18th century Mansion House.

Brockholes Farm Visitor Centre, a short drive from the pub, shows off traditional farm buildings and farm animals, and there is a fine art gallery and museum in Doncaster. Just half a mile from the pub is the Aeroventure Museum of Aviation.

It is also worth seeing Doncaster Minster, completed in 1858, and crowned by a magnificent 170ft bell tower. It was described by Sir John Betjeman as “Victorian Gothic at its very best”.

For a terrific day out and about...

- Stroll the Trans Pennine Trail which takes a route along peaceful riverside and railway paths to the outskirts of Doncaster town centre.
- Refresh yourself with a long lunch at The Hare and Tortoise.
- Head to Cusworth Hall for a leisurely afternoon of sight seeing.

For more about The Hare and Tortoise, and what Doncaster has to offer, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/thehareandtortisedoncaster
Originally a coaching inn offering rest and refreshment to travellers on the Chapel-en-Le-Frith turnpike road, The Dore Moor Inn is a substantial stone-built pub that has itself become something of an attraction.

Built in 1816, and set on the edge of the Peak District, its hospitality became such that extensive stabling had to be added – outside the pub there is a dry stone wall which was part of the stables. First called The Devonshire, the inn was renamed in 1827 after the village. The pub's sagging joists and ceilings, uneven floors and an original fireplace all contribute to its distinctive character and charm, and it retains a reputation for a warm welcome.

The area is amazingly rich in history – the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle reports that King Eanred of Northumbria submitted to King Egbert of Wessex at Dore in 829, making Egbert the first king of England. The event is commemorated by a gritstone monolith on the village green. Tradition has it the meeting took place at Kings Croft next to the green.

Small stones are tucked away near the main road, a humble memory of the itinerant labourers and their families who died of smallpox during the digging of the nearby Totley Tunnel in 1893. At 3 miles 950 yards, the tunnel is the second longest in Britain.

The area offers the best of town and country, with the stunning Peak District on the doorstep, and the vibrant centre of Sheffield a few miles away.

Ecclesall Woods to the south west of Sheffield covers 140 hectares and is an extremely popular visitor destination. With miles of easy walks, it is valued for its wildlife, and historic and archaeological features.

Make time to check out Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet, and the connection of St. Michael and All Angels Church with Charlotte Bronte.

Why not spend a day...

- Exploring the delights of the Peak District.
- Join us at The Dore Moor Inn for a delicious meal and your favourite drink.
- Explore the fine architecture of St. Michael and All Angels Church and its connection to Charlotte Bronte.
With breathtaking open country all around, it’s plain to see why so many people make a detour to enjoy a glass or two and a bite to eat at The Hare and Hounds in Mirfield, a village whose famous sons include a highwayman and a starship captain!

According to a map dated 1851, the inn was originally known as The Fox and Hounds. Built from local stone, it has seen many years’ service as a hostelry, keeping out the chill winters with roaring log fires, and providing a great base for walkers all the year round.

Mirfield has a surprising number of claims to fame from the past, present and the futuristic! Black Dick’s Tower is a pleasant half-hour walk from the pub. Noted as The Temple on maps, it was the summer house of Whitley Hall, said to be haunted by gentleman highwayman Black Dick (Sir Richard Beaumont).

Reputed to walk in the grounds with his head under his arm, Black Dick of the North was the nickname given him by James I. Mirfield also lays claim to being the birthplace of Patrick Stewart, otherwise known as another amazing character, Jean-Luc Picard of the Starship Enterprise.

One unlikely must-see for the tourist is the Emley Moor transmitter – in fact it’s unavoidable. At 328m, it is the UK’s tallest free standing structure, with the top of the tower often disappearing into the clouds. Naturally, it is a much loved subject for photographers.

The Hare and Hounds is close to many fine golf clubs including Hanging Heaton and Bradley Park. Numerous walks from the pub include one along Liley Wood which leads to the side of the Huddersfield Broad Canal. Another path goes to Upper Hopton and into Mirfield where the Town Trail provides a comprehensive introduction to the town.

For a great day out...

• Find out what colliery life was like at the National Coal Mining Museum.
• Dig into a great meal at The Hare and Hounds.
• Sharpen your appetite for dinner with a stroll around the countryside of Mirfield.

If you want to find out more about The Hare and Hounds, and what’s happening in and around Mirfield, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/thehareandhoundsmirfield
The Sovereign

172-174 Penistone Road, Shepley, Huddersfield, HD8 8BE
Tel. 01484 609725

A good, solid traditional British pub, worth its weight in gold – The Sovereign at Shepley is a rare treasure to be found glinting at the edge of the beautiful Peak District.

Those seeking good food and drink and an entertaining yarn will enjoy The Sovereign, where there’s always a warm welcome and a history going back over 160 years to the reign of King George IV.

Entrepreneur Seth Senior reputedly borrowed a gold sovereign to establish a brewery in 1829 at The Royal Sovereign Inn. The brewery was moved, but many believe that in commemoration of its origins, a gold coin was buried on the premises. In 1929, the Sovereign Anthem was written to commemorate 100 years of the brewery.

A carving of a man’s face can be seen on the eastern gable of the inn – a tradition to commemorate any builder killed during construction work. He is not thought to be one of the two spirits that haunt the inn, an essential part of the legend of any historic pub.

There are pleasant strolls to be had from the pub into the village of Shepley, via numerous footpaths. In the village they link to the Kirklees Way. The Dearne Way is only a few hundred yards from the inn, a route following the riverside. The nearby Lane Head quarries provided the stone to build Buckingham Palace.

Shepley derives from *Sceaplei*, mentioned in the Domesday Book, and means a clearing or meadow where sheep are kept. The village once had 30 tailor’s shops, a result of the four mills manufacturing fine woollen worsteds. Today, it is the home to bottled water, aptly named Shepley Spring.

With the Peak District National Park so close, and with many quaint towns and villages nearby, there is plenty to enjoy in the area.

For a grand day out...

- There’s ample opportunity to stretch your legs in the countryside around Shepley.
- And at The Sovereign, there’s plenty to satisfy your appetite.
- Round off your day with a trip to see the sights in and around Holmfirth.

There’s more to be found about The Sovereign at Shepley, and some of the attractions in the area, by visiting www.vintageinn.co.uk/thesovereignshepley
A traditional British stone-built pub, you can expect The Mossbrook to serve up some great traditional fare, accompanied by a good drop of ale or a tasty glass of wine.

Typical of the style of the area, the building dates to the 1800s and is a popular retreat for those seeking distinctive surroundings in which to relax and chat with good friends. There is a patio on the front to be enjoyed when the weather is fine, and when conditions turn inclement, there are good fires inside to keep out the chills.

The Mossbrook stands on the outskirts of Eckington, close to Renishaw Hall and Golf Club, and near some pleasant country walks. A footpath leads from the church 300 yards away, via Eckington to the village of Ford and then up to the Ridgeway, over Ridgeway Moor and back to The Mossbrook – a three hour walk.

The Moss Brook, after which the inn is named, runs parallel with the Trans Pennine Way on its way to the Rother Valley Country Park and the Cuckoo Way, the towpath of the Chesterfield Canal.

Eckington is a long sprawling village, with picture postcard scenes of its manor houses and cottages built of local Derbyshire stone. Nearby Renishaw Hall has been the family home of the Sitwells for nearly 400 years, and became famous through the writing of Edith Sitwell.

Eckington Woods form part of the Moss Valley conservation area. They are also known locally as the Bluebell Wood – bluebells carpet the area in spring.

A town trail takes in the parish church; an old cruck barn, which in part dates to the 16th century; and Coldwell’s Cottage, the last remaining thatched cottage in Eckington. It is thought that D H Lawrence loosely based Tevershall, the village in Lady Chatterley’s Lover, on Eckington.

For more about The Mossbrook and attractions in and around the village of Eckington, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/themossbrookeckington

Take time out to…

• Enjoy morning coffee at The Mossbrook before exploring the lanes around the village.

• Return to us for a long lunch.

• Suitably refreshed, head into Sheffield for some serious shopping.

The Mossbrook
Sheffield Road, Eckington, Sheffield, S21 4FP
Tel. 01246 432 771
The warm friendly stones of The Fox House make the visitor feel like they have known this pub for years – everyone knows where it is, and adore it so much it has become a destination in its own right.

Contrary to local belief, The Fox House takes its name from a Mr Fox of Callow Farm in Highlow, rather than from any local hunting tradition. Dating to 1773, the building was extended by the Duke of Rutland, the landlord in the 1840s, and was the favoured resting place for drovers and the travellers on passing coaches. This remains a pub with rooms: the large bottom room was known as The Duke’s Room because the Duke and his sons sometimes slept there.

The pub’s remote location at the edge of the Moors has made it a very well-known landmark, marking the junction of two of the main routes into the scenic Peak District National Park. And at 1,132 feet above sea level, its distinctive outline can be seen from miles around.

Naturally, its cosy interior, heated by roaring fires, makes it an appealing place to sup a pint or sip a glass of wine while admiring the views. And with a good meal inside you, you’ll be in fine shape to tackle any of the numerous walks around the area. A seven mile circular route from The Fox House goes down to Grindleford then to Leadmill, before returning.

Padley Gorge is a deep but narrow valley between Grindleford and The Fox House. The gorge is wooded and has a stream, the Burbage Brook, which used to be the boundary between Derbyshire and Yorkshire. The moorland to the north and east of the gorge has relics of stone circles, such as Stoke Flatt on Froggatt Edge, and ancient settlements such as Swine Sty.

Take time to...

• Explore the wilds of the moors in the morning.

• Join us at The Fox House for a hearty meal and a glass of something good.

• Take a trip to picturesque Eyam, once ravaged by the Plague.

If you want to know more about The Fox House, and things to see and do in the area, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/thefoxhouselongshaw
With its pretty gardens and leafy surroundings, The Foxglove at Kirkburton is a pub with rooms, well known as a great stop for refreshment, particularly among railway enthusiasts.

Dating to 1868, and originally known as The Railway Junction Inn, The Foxglove was built in anticipation of a railway junction linking Barnsley to the London and North West Railway – Kirkburton is as far as it got, but Barnsley’s loss is our gain.

The largest pub in the village, The Foxglove’s quaint mock Tudor style is quite distinctive, and it offers great traditional pub fayre, fine cask-conditioned ales and delicious wines.

In the 1930s, the pub was known as The Three Owls, reflecting its rural situation. While there were once over 30 pits operating around the village, the last colliery closed around 70 years ago and so the village has reverted to a more tranquil aspect.

Burton Dean, known locally as Teppy Dike, runs from the village centre down to the Penistone Road: it is now a sleepy, green tree-lined corridor and includes Burton Dean Park, but in the 18th century tanning was a major activity here, and later it became the setting for weavers’ cottages, warehouses and mills.

Myers Wood is famous for the discovery of a Middle Ages iron works by a team from the University of Bradford. Worked by Cistercian monks, the site was in operation from the 12th to the 14th centuries, using advanced techniques and water power for blacksmithing. It is possible to access the site through Saville Wood.

There are plenty of pleasant and interesting strolls to be had through the village, which is home to the world’s oldest, operating, independent, single retail Co-op. Watch out come New Year’s Day though – Kirkburton and Highburton are noted for traditional sword dances at the pubs!

Take time to:
• Enjoy a ride on The Kirklees Light Railway.
• Join us at The Foxglove for a well earned meal.
• Round off your day with a pleasant walk around Kirkburton.

Visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/thefoxglovekirkburton for more information about The Foxglove and things to do in and around Kirkburton
Boat Inn

Nursery Lane, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 7NB
Tel. 01302 858500

If you're looking for a good story to accompany some delicious pub fayre, The Boat Inn at Sprotbrough can serve up a little Gothic romance and a hint of wartime heroics.

Sitting easily by the grassy banks of the River Don, next to Sprotbrough Lock, the stones of this attractive inn date to 1652; the narrative of centuries ingrained in the building’s very fabric.

It’s a place of character and atmosphere and little has changed since Victorian novelist Sir Walter Scott stayed here. The white cylindrical keep of Tickhill Castle, a few miles away, was one of his inspirations for his famous tale of medieval chivalry, Ivanhoe.

The location no doubt attracted a great deal of trade from river traffic and now offers many possibilities for exploring the countryside. There is a three mile walk from the pub and the huge Sprotbrough Lock, following the Don to the majestic Conisbrough Viaduct, which strides across the valley on a series of high arches through which you can see the town of Conisbrough.

You can turn and retrace your steps along the river path until you reach a right turn where a gate straight ahead leads into the Sprotbrough Flash & Woodland Nature Reserve and woodland area.

For centuries Sprotbrough was an estate village owned by the Fitzwilliams who gained it by marriage into the ancient family of Elmley in the 12th century. It was Sir William Fitzwilliam who in 1117 set up a cross in the Market Square and began a tradition of hospitality in the village.

The village can claim Second World War hero, Sir Douglas Bader, among its former residents. The pilot, who saw action despite having lost both legs, was brought up in the rectory here.

There’s more history and culture to be discovered at nearby Cusworth Hall and Conisbrough Castle.

You can find out more about The Boat Inn and the many things to do in and around Sprotbrough by visiting www.vintageinn.co.uk/theboatinnsprotbrough
The Golden Ball Inn is situated in the middle of picturesque Whiston village, which lies in a deep valley surrounded by stunning walks and scenery. However, it’s also within easy reach of Rotherham town centre - and the Meadowhall shopping mall and Junction 33 of the M1 Motorway are less than a mile away.

Whilst little is known of history of the pub building itself, a 1911 census reveals a carter named Frank Eames ran a wagonette service very close by and the vehicles were kept on Turner Lane - where the pub car park is today.

Originally a small rural village between Sheffield and Rotherham - within the Saxon “Shire of Hallun” (Hallamshire) - Whiston is now a suburb of Rotherham. The name comes from two Old English words wite and stan - meaning “The whitestone” which is in reference to a nearby quarry where large amounts of white stone were once mined. It is referred to as Witestan in the Domesday Book of 1086.

Some notable old buildings remain including a parish church with a tower that dates back to Norman times, plus a post and truss structure manorial barn from the 13th century, which is one of the oldest agricultural buildings in the country.

Even in 1900 Whiston was still a small rural village, separated from the nearby town of Rotherham by open countryside, and although Rotherham expanded to incorporate Whiston as the century progressed, there is still something of a green belt separating Whiston from other local villages.

The Golden Ball Inn, with its lovely rear garden offering plenty of seating, is a great base from which to plan a day in the beautiful countryside. The walk to Canklow Wood is a popular one, not least because it’s of national importance for archaeology as the summit of the site is occupied by the remains of a Bronze Age Settlement.

Stretching your legs...

- Head off to Whiston Meadows which is home to species of wildlife and wading birds, plus a number of interesting historic features including the remains of an old mill, an unusual historic bridge over the former course of Ulley Brook and Blue Man’s Bower.

- The Golden Ball is also ideal as a starting (or finishing!) place for walks on to Upper Whiston, Guiltwaite and beyond.

- Apart from more beautiful walks, nearby Ulley Country Park hosts sailing and fishing clubs, while the reservoir and the surrounding country park are a haven for a variety of plant and birdlife.

For details on more attractions around Whiston and Rotherham, plus other ideas for days out in the area, visit www.vintageinn.co.uk/thegoldenballwhiston/