

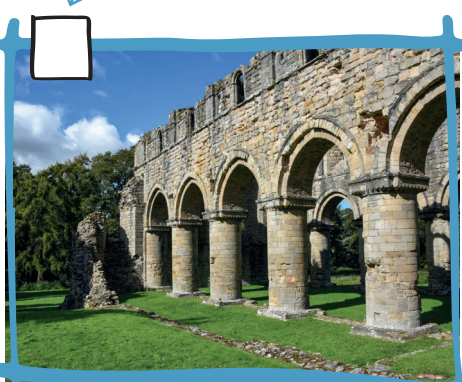


ABBEYS & PRIORIES

Top things to look out for on a visit to our monastic sites!



Tick the empty boxes as you go!



1 ARCHES

Arches are a key feature found in Norman buildings, including abbeys and priories, and are usually supported by huge pillars. They are sometimes combined in layers, with rows of arches built on top of one another to create tall, decorative walls.

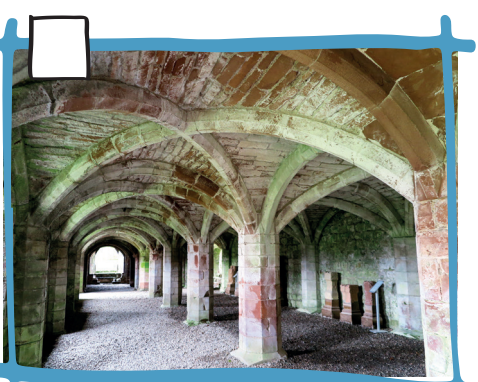
📍 See me at: **Buildwas Abbey**



2 WINDOWS

Many medieval churches had beautiful stained-glass windows, depicting scenes from the Bible, saints and important people. The glass from the windows at Whitby Abbey is long gone, but you can still spot the shapes of frames which used to hold the glass.

📍 See me at: **Whitby Abbey**



3 VAULTS

A vault is a ceiling made of stone, built on stone pillars. Many monasteries had vaulted interiors, which were often big store-rooms called undercrofts. The thick stone walls of these rooms helped to keep stored food, wine and beer cool.

📍 See me at: **Lanercost Priory**



4 DECORATED STONE

The carved stone on the buildings at Castle Acre Priory was designed to impress visitors. The Cluniac monks who lived there had very strict rules, focusing on prayer, silence and solitude, but were also known for their beautiful art and decorative buildings.

📍 See me at: **Castle Acre Priory**



5 CARVED FIGURES

Many medieval churches were decorated with carved heads of patrons (people who donated land and money to build monasteries) and saints. At Battle Abbey, you can see these carvings right at the top of the arches, looking down on people below.

📍 See me at: **1066 Battle of Hastings, Abbey and Battlefield**



6 LATRINES

A long time before flushing toilets were invented, monastery latrines (toilets) were very basic. Monks and nuns sat on a wooden bench with a round hole cut into it. Their waste dropped into an open stone drain below to be washed away by springs or rivers.

📍 See me at: **Rievaulx Abbey**



7 FLOOR TILES

The medieval floor tiles at Cleeve Abbey are over 700 years old! They are decorated with the heraldry (symbols) of King Henry III, his brother Richard Earl of Cornwall, and the earls of Gloucester, important medieval patrons of the abbey.

📍 See me at: **Cleeve Abbey**



8 PATRONS' SHIELDS

At Mount Grace Priory you can see carved stone shields. Some show coats of arms that belong to the noble family who had funded the monks' building work. People believed that if they donated money to monasteries, they would be less likely to go to hell when they died!

📍 See me at: **Mount Grace Priory, House and Gardens**

