Press Release

Enjoy mindful walks in the fresh air at Yorkshire Sculpture Park

22 December 2025

Jaume Plensa, *Wilsis*, 2016. Courtesy the artist. Photo © Jonty Wilde, courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

With a longer Christmas break this year, Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) invites visitors to wrap up warm and experience walking in acres of stunning landscape, connecting to nature and art, guided by audio meditations.

This winter's walking experience is enhanced by *Of the Oak*, a new immersive installation by international art collective Marshmallow Laser Feast, displayed in YSP's Chapel. The work explores the hidden life of an oak tree through sound and moving image. Visitors can then take the experience outdoors, connecting to nature and the land by following a mediative guided walk. There are seven audio routes available on Bloomberg Connects, which can be downloaded or accessed through web browser. It offers gentle audio prompts that encourage awareness of breath, sound, texture and the living rhythms of the landscape.

Winter brings a quiet beauty to YSP's 500-acres of rolling parkland, lakes and ancient woodland. Frosty grass, soft winter light and drifting mist create a peaceful backdrop for walking, while sculptures emerge along the paths, offering moments of surprise and reflection. It's the perfect season to wrap up warm, pull on walking boots and enjoy fresh air and have a cultural experience close to home.

A recent survey by outdoor clothing company Regatta found that 61% of respondents said going for walks is an important part of their Christmas tradition, with people planning around six walks over the festive period. The same polling reports that almost three quarters of these “holiday walkers” want fresh air, 63% like the physical activity, and 38% see it as valuable family time, all framed specifically as part of Christmas. Earlier research into Christmas habits found that about 42% of Brits go for a walk on Boxing Day, typically covering around three miles, explicitly described as a response to long hours sitting indoors over Christmas. YSP is open on Boxing Day, and invites you to take advantage of what it has to offer at this time of year.

Henry Moore, *Upright Motives No.1 (Glenkiln Cross); No 2; No 7*, 1955-6. Courtesy of Tate. Photo © Jonty Wilde, courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

A network of trails and pathways makes YSP ideal for winter walking, whether visitors are looking for a gentle stroll, an accessible route suitable for wheelchairs and trampers (which can be hired for free at YSP), or longer energising walks. Lakeside paths offer flat, accessible routes, while hilltop trails reward walkers with expansive views across the Bretton Estate. Along the way, around 100 sculptures and installations can be discovered, including works by Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, Damien Hirst and Andy Goldsworthy - each engaging with the landscape in different ways as the seasons change.

The routes also pass heritage features such as the Deer Shelter, Greek Temple and Camellia House, with woodlands and lakes providing ever-changing scenery. For many local walkers, a winter visit to YSP has become a seasonal ritual - a chance to enjoy art, movement and nature in a calm, open setting.

After a bracing walk, visitors can warm up in YSP’s cafés. The Weston Restaurant offers delicious seasonal dishes as diners enjoy panoramic views of the Park, whilst the Kitchen Café balcony offers unrivalled views across the rolling landscape and lakes. Here visitors can enjoy hot meals and drinks, soups, sandwiches and homemade cakes - perfect for a winter refuel.

Dogs on leads are also welcome in the Park and in the Kitchen Café. The YSP gift shops provide an opportunity to browse art-inspired gifts, jewellery, clothing and homeware, ideal for post-Christmas shopping without venturing too far afield.

Kevin Rodd, Yorkshire Sculpture Park Interim Director, said: *"Winter is a wonderful time to walk at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, including over the Christmas and New Year break when people have a little more time to slow down. The landscape feels calm and restorative, the paths are quieter, and the sculptures really come into their own in the crisp winter light.*

"Whether visitors come for a short meander or a longer walk, we hope people from across the region enjoy taking some mindful time outdoors, reconnecting with nature and returning home feeling refreshed."

Yorkshire Sculpture Park is open throughout the festive period, except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Admission is £11 with Gift Aid, and parking is free. Advance booking is recommended.

-ENDS-

Marshmallow Laser Feast, *Of the Oak*. Photo © Marshmallow Laser Feast, courtesy Yorkhire Sculpture Park.

Notes for Editors

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Check online for opening hours.
Book tickets at ysp.org.uk

Social media

Instagram: @YSPsculpture
Facebook: @YorkshireSculpturePark
LinkedIn: Yorkshire Sculpture Park
#YSPSculpture

About Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Awarded VisitEngland's gold accolade in 2023-24 for an outstanding visitor attraction, Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture. Welcoming around 380,000 visitors each year, YSP is a registered charity and accredited museum situated in the 500-acre, 18thcentury Bretton Hall estate in West and South Yorkshire.

YSP is the largest sculpture park in Europe. Founded in 1977 by Sir Peter Murray CBE it is currently led by Interim Director Kevin Rodd. It is the only place in Europe to see Barbara Hepworth's *The Family of Man* in its entirety, alongside a significant collection of sculpture, including bronzes by Henry Moore, important pieces by Hemali Bhuta, Roger Hiorns, Damien Hirst, Kimsooja, Marc Quinn, Hank Willis Thomas and Erwin Wurm, and site-specific works by Andy Goldsworthy, Alfredo Jaar, David Nash, Sean Scully and James Turrell.

YSP mounts a year-round temporary exhibitions programme including some of the world's leading artists across three indoor galleries and the outdoors. Highlights include exhibitions by Fiona Banner, Anthony Caro, Tony Cragg, Leonardo Drew, Robert Indiana, Amar Kanwar, KAWS, William Kentridge, Bharti Kher, Joan Miró, Henry Moore, Lindsey Mendick, Annie Morris, Giuseppe Penone, Jaume Plensa, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Sean Scully, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Chiharu Shiota, David Smith, Joana Vasconcelos, Bill Viola and Erwin Wurm.

Across its 48-year history, YSP has worked with over 1,000 artists from more than 40 countries, on varied projects from short-term residencies to major surveys. YSP supports artists at vital stages in their careers and is rare in having the accommodation, workshops and expertise to enable open-ended and risk-taking practice, giving artists space, time and support to think and to develop new ideas.

Over this time, YSP has sought to ignite, nurture and sustain interest in and debate around contemporary art and sculpture, especially with those for whom art participation is not habitual or familiar. It enables open access to art, situations and ideas, and continues to re-evaluate and expand the approach to considering art's role and relevance in society. Supporting 40,000 people each year through YSP's learning programme, this innovative work develops ability, confidence and life aspiration in participants.

YSP's core work is made possible by investment from Arts Council England, Wakefield Council, Roger Evans, the Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation and the Dunard Fund. YSP was named Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2014 and awarded the 2023 Visitor Attraction of the Year and Cultural Award in the Yorkshire Post Tourism Awards.