



Quality of life

South Yorkshire provides a dynamic and economically vibrant environment for 21st century business.



Quality of Life



But of course there is more to life than work and the area also offers superb opportunities to enjoy a high quality of life, outside the office or factory.

The cornerstones of this close-knit region are the city of Sheffield and the major towns of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham, each with their own distinct cultural identity but all sharing a common pride and sense of place. Some of South Yorkshire is set in the beautiful Peak District, which offers serene landscapes and a unique National Park setting for hiking, climbing, horse riding and nature spotting.

House prices

Average house prices in South Yorkshire:

Area	Detached	Flat	Semi	Terraced	Overall
Sheffield	£233,704	£118,102	£129,578	£104,701	£137,099
Doncaster	£190,138	£92,668	£105,461	£74,893	£111,925
Rotherham	£186,113	£78,155	£100,494	£72,791	£109,652
Barnsley	£172,546	£77,560	£97,050	£66,776	£104,640

The Cost of Living

South Yorkshire residents have the distinct advantage of living in an area where housing remains far more affordable for all sections of the market than in the rest of the UK. Every type of accommodation is readily available, with both town and country homes ranging from large detached houses to picturesque cottages, modern estates and cosmopolitan city apartments. And, a previous survey by Barclays Bank compared a region's average salary against the cost of living and stated Sheffield Hallam as the second wealthiest in England and Wales.

Safe South Yorkshire

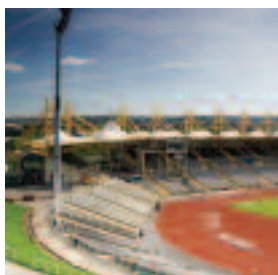
South Yorkshire has a low crime rate. Doncaster became the first town in South and West Yorkshire to achieve the prestigious "Safer Shopping Award" sponsored by the British Retail Consortium and endorsed by the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers. Recent statistics show Sheffield has the lowest rate of violence against the person in England's nine major urban areas.

Recharging the batteries

Whether it is exercising the body, stimulating the mind or indulging in a little retail therapy, South Yorkshire has much to offer.

Sports and leisure facilities

- The Don Valley Athletic Stadium was built for the World Student Games in 1991;
- Ponds Forge, with its Olympic-sized swimming pool, is the most advanced aquatics centre in the UK;
- The Sheffield Ski Village houses the largest artificial ski resort in Europe;
- Doncaster Racecourse is a national fixture on the horse racing circuit, and is home to the world famous, classic St Leger Festival;
- The area is home to no less than five football league teams;
- Sheffield has hosted the World Snooker Championships at the Crucible Theatre every year since 1977;





- Doncaster Lakeside is a constantly evolving 300 acre site, containing the Dome leisure complex, the Doncaster Bowl, Warner Village cinema and many restaurants and bars;
- Barnsley offers a range of sports and leisure facilities and is especially proud of its Metrodome Leisure Complex, which offers a wide range of indoor, wet and dry sports.

Culture

- Cultural stimulation is on offer all year round at Sheffield Theatres, the largest regional theatre complex outside London;
- The innovative Magna Museum in Rotherham is the UK's first science adventure centre; a spectacular exploration of Earth, Air, Fire, Water and Power, held in an impressive refurbished steel factory;
- Sheffield's Millennium Galleries, opened in April 2001, is a beacon for the progressive, dynamic region. The Gallery has hosted major exhibitions from the Tate in London;
- Sheffield is also home to the Winter Gardens - one of the largest temperate glasshouses in a European city centre, with plants and flowers from around the globe. The city, the urban heart of South Yorkshire, lies on the doorstep of the beautiful and dramatic Peak District National Park and is of one of the greenest cities in Europe. Its many parks and open spaces include the 19-acre Botanical Gardens;
- South Yorkshire boasts impressive country parks and grade 1 listed buildings including the 750-acre Rother Valley Country Park, Cudworth Hall Country Park, with its elegant listed buildings, and the beautiful and unique Wentworth Castle Gardens;
- South Yorkshire has some of the UK's most fascinating and well preserved historical buildings, including Doncaster's Conisbrough Castle and Mansion House, Barnsley's Cannon Hall and Rotherham's 12th Century Roche Abbey.

Shopping and nightlife

- Meadowhall, with its distinctive green domes, is more than one of Europe's largest shopping centres. It is an icon and made a brief cameo appearance in the blockbuster film 'The Full Monty'. Under its roof there are 270 shops, a multi-screen cinema, restaurants, cafes and bars;
- Elsewhere, specialist boutiques offer the latest in designer fashions;
- Lively and colourful Barnsley market offers some of the best poultry, game, meat and fish in the region, with over 300 stalls offering a huge variety of produce.

The Leisure Traveller

The wider county of Yorkshire itself has over 1,000 square miles of national parkland, and its open countryside and breathtaking landscapes cannot fail to captivate. The Yorkshire Dales, the North York Moors and the Pennine hills to the west of Bradford in West Yorkshire, provide countless opportunities for energetic pursuits such as hiking, walking, horse-back riding and climbing. There are also many stunning historical attractions such as the captivating ruined Rievaulx and Fountains Abbeys and the village of Haworth, home of the Brontë sisters.

Along the 120 mile stretch of Yorkshire coastline lie the traditional seaside resorts of Scarborough, Bridlington and Filey, and the thriving picturesque town of Whitby, home of Captain Cook. Close by lies Robin Hood's Bay, a charming village sloping steeply down to the sea, whose warren of narrow streets and alleyways was used during the 18th century by smugglers.

The legacy of the enduring legend of Robin Hood can also be found in the National Forest in Nottinghamshire, less than half an hour from the airport named after him. Yorkshire also has strong connections with the legendary hero and parts of the Hollywood movie

'Robin Hood Prince of Thieves' were also shot in the county at stunning Aysgarth Falls in Wensleydale, where thousands of gallons of water flow over stepped waterfalls over a mile long.

Further a field, though only a few short hours away north and south, are the capital cities of Edinburgh and London, and the rest of Europe is a short flight, train or ferry journey away.

