

The Shambles

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The Shambles is a medieval street located in **York** and it is said to be Europe's best-preserved one. It is believed that it has inspired J.K. Rowling, writer of 'Harry Potter', to incorporate the famous 'Diagon Alley' in her story.

There are 27 listed buildings in the Shambles, including 10 listed Grade II* and another 17 listed Grade II. Most of the buildings date from the 14th-17th century. Their layout has the effect of a **time machine**, which transports the visitors back to the Elizabethan period. The name 'Shambles' comes from the Saxon 'Fleshaments', which means, '**the street of the butchers**', for it was here that York's butchers had their shops.

The street has been named '**most Picturesque Street in Britain**' in the Google street view awards for 2010. Over 11,000 voters selected the Shambles from 51 historic streets which had been selected by a panel of experts.

