

FREE

NORTHUMBERLAND

GUIDE

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO ENGLAND'S NORTHERNMOST COUNTY

2026



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WELCOME

We're delighted to present the second edition of the Northumberland Guide! Following the success of our debut, we're proud to be recognised by Visit Northumberland as the county's official tourism publication. This newly updated edition contains everything you need to explore the wonderful county that we call home. Our supporter, Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland, introduces this new edition and explains why the region is such a joy to visit...

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the second issue of this magazine and the remarkable county it celebrates. Last year's edition was a great success and so useful for both residents and visitors alike.

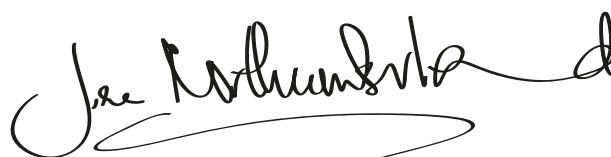
2026 is an extra special year in Northumberland; Berwick Lighthouse is 200 years old, Kielder Forest is celebrating its 100th anniversary and Northumberland National Park is marking 70 years since its official designation as a Protected Landscape. Very close to my own heart, and quite unbelievably, The Alnwick Garden has been welcoming visitors for 25 years. Look out for special events across the county, marking these momentous milestones.

Ours is a landscape of striking contrasts. From the dramatic coastline of rugged cliffs and sweeping sandy beaches to the heather-clad hills and wild moorland, Northumberland offers space, beauty and tranquillity in abundance. Despite being England's most sparsely populated county, it is incredibly rich in wildlife and natural heritage, giving visitors a rare opportunity to experience landscapes that feel wonderfully unspoilt.

For those who enjoy the outdoors, the opportunities are endless. Whether walking one of the many scenic trails, cycling quiet country routes or exploring our rivers and coastline from a paddleboard, there is something here for every kind of explorer. At the end of the day, visitors will find a warm welcome and a wide range of places to stay, from cosy countryside retreats to charming coastal accommodation.

Equally, those who prefer a more relaxed pace will find much to enjoy in Northumberland's towns and villages. Independent shops and boutiques offer something truly distinctive, while our cafes, restaurants and traditional pubs provide plenty of opportunities to pause and savour the county's famous hospitality.

Northumberland is a very special place for both visitors and those fortunate enough to call it home. I hope the pages that follow inspire you to explore all that our extraordinary county has to offer and encourage you to experience its beauty, history and warmth for yourself.



The Duchess of Northumberland, DCVO

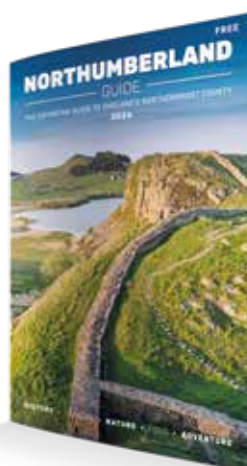
Produced by Offstone Publishing
PO Box 122, Prudhoe, Northumberland, NE42 9BA
www.offstonepublishing.co.uk

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In association with

Northumberland



FRONT COVER: Hadrian's Wall

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VISIT
Northumberland
PARTNER 2026

Keys to symbols

● Railway Station

Long Distance Paths

- St Oswald's Way
- Northumberland Coast Path
- St Cuthbert's Way
- Pennine Way
- Hadrian's Wall Path
- Isaacs Tea Trail

Cycle Routes

- Coast & Castles Cycle Route
- Pennine Cycleway
- Reiver's Cycle Route
- Hadrian's Cycleway
- Sea to Sea (C2C) Cycle Route
- The Sandstone Way (SW)

Bus Routes

- X15 Berwick to Newcastle
- X18 variation route Berwick to Newcastle
- 685 Newcastle to Hexham
- AD122 Hexham to Haltwhistle Railway Station
- X14 Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Thropton
- X20 Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Alnwick

Information correct at time of printing.

Otterburn Ranges (MOD)

Public access is not permitted when red flags or lamps raised. For restrictions, please visit: www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk and search for Otterburn Ranges



Designed by MW Design www.designmw.co.uk
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Berwick-upon-Tweed; Holy Island of Lindisfarne; Bamburgh; Farne Islands & Seahouses; Dunstanburgh & Craster; Alnmouth; Warkworth; Amble; Newbiggin, Blyth & Seaton Sluice; Nature on the Northumberland Coast

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GETTING AROUND NORTHUMBERLAND

/// WHAT3WORDS

Throughout this guide we've referred to some rural places using what3words to indicate their location. What3words has allocated every 3 metre square of the world a unique combination of three words. Visit the website or download their handy app, and input the words listed under the /// symbol, which will take you to the exact location.

[what3words.com](https://www.what3words.com)

PARKING

Many council-run car parks in Northumberland operate on a parking disc basis. Discs cost £1, and allow access to free parking in short stay car parks. Disc dispensers are available at some car parks, or you can buy them at tourist information centres, libraries and some local businesses.

BUS

Arriva's X18 and X15 routes travel between Newcastle and Berwick-upon-Tweed, hitting many of the region's hotspots including Morpeth, Alnmouth and Seahouses on the way. In fact, the X18 has been voted one of the most scenic bus routes in the UK; with prices capped at £2.50, it's a bargain too! The X20 runs between Newcastle and Alnmouth. One of Go North East's handiest routes is the AD122 Hexham to Haltwhistle service, which visits all the major Roman sites along Hadrian's Wall. The 685 links Newcastle to Carlisle. Check [travelinenortheast.info](https://www.travelinenortheast.info) for more details about public transport in Northumberland and beyond.

TRAIN

If you're visiting from out of the area, the East Coast Main Line travels through the region, stopping at Morpeth, Alnmouth and Berwick-upon-Tweed, with Newcastle as the North East hub. Stations at Hexham, Corbridge, Wylam and Haltwhistle are well-placed for visiting local attractions. The Northumberland Line connects Ashington, Blyth Bebside, Seaton Delaval, Bedlington and other rural areas with Newcastle. Visit [northumberlandline.uk](https://www.northumberlandline.uk) for info.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

Get more information on local transport, as well as things to do and places to visit, from Tourist Information Centres at Wooler, Bellingham, Morpeth, Corbridge, Alnmouth, Hexham, Haltwhistle and Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Days Out by Bus: Unlock a World of Adventure

Exploring Northumberland and the wider North East has never been easier, greener or more affordable. With fantastic low-fare initiatives and discounts at top attractions, travelling by bus opens the door to brilliant days out for every kind of visitor.



Amazing Value with The Mayor's Fares

Thanks to The Mayor's Fares, you can enjoy **unlimited travel across Northumberland for just £6 a day with the Northumberland Day Rover**. Heading further afield? The **TNE Day Saver ticket for £7.50 (or £3 if you're 21 or under)** lets you roam across Tyne and Wear and County Durham — and even hop on the **Tyne and Wear Metro** and **Shields Ferry** at no extra cost.

It's unlimited adventure without the stress of traffic, parking or rising fuel costs. And during school holidays, **kids aged 11 and under travel free*** with fare-paying adults, making family days out even more affordable.

Save Up to 25% at Top Attractions

Travelling by bus doesn't just save you money on your journey — it also unlocks discounts across some of the region's most popular attractions. Simply plan your visit, use public transport and show your ticket on arrival.

Discover Northumberland by Bus

A wealth of Northumberland attractions are easily accessible by public transport.

At **Alnwick Castle** enjoy 20% off entry. Step inside one of Northumberland's most iconic castles. Enjoy talks, tours, daily activities from falconry to jesters, and don't miss the famous Harry Potter-style broomstick



training.

Get 25% off entry at **Woodhorn Museum** in Ashington, where you can explore the world's largest former pit village and discover powerful stories from Northumberland's mining heritage.

There's 10% off museum and distillery tours at **Ad Gefrin** in Wooler, where you can travel back to the 7th century Royal Court of Northumbria and sample single malt whisky inspired by the region's 'Golden Age'.

Explore the Wider Region

Your bus ticket can also get you great savings at attractions across Tyne and Wear and County Durham.

At **Beamish**, County Durham, enjoy 25% off entry (Go North East services), and experience life in the past at this world-famous open-air museum. Meet costumed characters and wander through streets from different eras.

There's 20% off entry at **Tynemouth**

Priory and Castle; discover dramatic coastal history dating back to the 7th century, with stunning views across the North Sea.

In South Tyneside, get 25% off admission at the iconic cliff-top **Souter Lighthouse** — the first in the UK built to be powered by electricity — and take in rugged coastal scenery.

You can find full details of all offers at www.northeast-ca.gov.uk/daysoutbybus

Comfortable, Greener and Hassle-Free Travel

Public transport in the North East is undergoing an exciting transformation. New electric buses are making journeys cleaner, quieter and greener, while low fares ensure travel remains affordable for everyone.

Sit back, relax and enjoy the journey — freeing you up to focus on the experiences, memories and moments that matter.

Find out more about The Mayor's Fares and Days Out by Bus: www.northeast-ca.gov.uk/bus
Plan your journey: nexus.org.uk/bus

*Always check term dates before travelling: www.northeast-ca.gov.uk/kidsgofree



Single
journeys only
£2.50
and 21 and
under only
£1

Ditch the car and explore with ease

Hop on, hop off, and see more of the
Northumberland Coast on the bus!



Lindisfarne



Bamburgh



Craster



Amble

For more details please visit
arrivabus.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK

To really understand a region, you need to taste it, and Northumberland's coastal and countryside location means we're spoiled for choice when it comes to food and drink

While you're touring the region, keep an eye out for produce from **Northumberland Honey Co.**, whose honey, cosmetics and candles come from their sustainable bee farm; while on the outskirts of Berwick you'll find **Chain Bridge Honey Farm**, where you can watch their industrious bees and buy their honey; **Doddington Dairy** use local ingredients in their delicious ice cream (try their double ginger or mint and dark chocolate flavours at their super-cute Milk Bar in Wooler); **Lindisfarne Oysters** are revered across the country, find them on menus throughout the county; taste a true regional delight from **L Robson & Sons**, who have been smoking kippers in Craster for over 130 years.

Farm shops are a great way to pick up regional delights. Some of our favourites include **Blagdon Farm Shop**, where produce goes from field to shop in less than 15 minutes; you can pick your own fruit at **Brocksbushes** near Stocksfield, plus there's a huge farm shop, butchery, deli and courtyard kitchen; also in Stocksfield, **North Acomb Farm Shop** are famous for their Aberdeen Angus beef and other locally grown produce; Bamburgh's **R Carter & Son** have been established since 1887 and source all their meat from local farmers; and Alnwick's **Turnbull's Northumbrian Food Hall** is a real one-stop shop for local goodies, from gourmet deli foods to award winning pies. Turophiles can discover all manner of cheesy goodness at **The Cheese Room** in Alnwick and straight from the source at **Northumberland Cheese Company** in Blagdon.

TELLING THE STORY OF FOOD IN THE REGION, VISIT NORTHUMBERLAND'S TASTE OF NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEME CELEBRATES THE DIVERSITY, QUALITY AND PROVENANCE OF THE COUNTY'S REMARKABLE CULINARY OFFERING. THEIR WEBSITE CHAMPIONS PRODUCERS, ARTISANS AND RESTAURATEURS, HIGHLIGHTS IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES AND FOODIE ITINERARIES. TASTEOFNORTHUMBERLAND.CO.UK



Northumberland is a county of brewers and distillers too, and you'll find innovation and tradition across the county. Spirit drinkers are spoiled for choice; **Hepple's** farmhouse turned distillery outside Morpeth creates a modern take on classic gin; **Northumberland Spirit Co** is the home of Alnwick Gin, try their Northern Fables collection which centres around ancient Northumbrian stories; **Ad Gefrin** infuse history into their whisky at their special Anglo-Saxon museum and distillery in Wooler; while **Lindisfarne Mead** is inspired by traditional meads created by monks on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.

Craft brewers in Northumberland are at the cutting edge of flavour and brewing techniques. **Alnwick Brewery** are one of the oldest in the county, try the popular Alnwick Gold or IPA at their taproom; stay over at **Cheviot Brewery's** glamping site in Cornhill-on-Tweed near Etal and enjoy a pint of Upland Ale or Black Hag oatmeal stout at the microbrewery's tap room; **Allendale Brewery** on the edge of the rugged North Pennines produce firm favourites like Dirty Deeds New England IPA and Golden Plover golden ale; Elsdon's award-winning family-run **First & Last Brewery** are experts in small batch cask-conditioned beers and their weekend taproom is a fun place to hang out; while Morpeth's **Rigg & Furrow** brewery and weekend taproom create innovative, fermentation-focused brews.





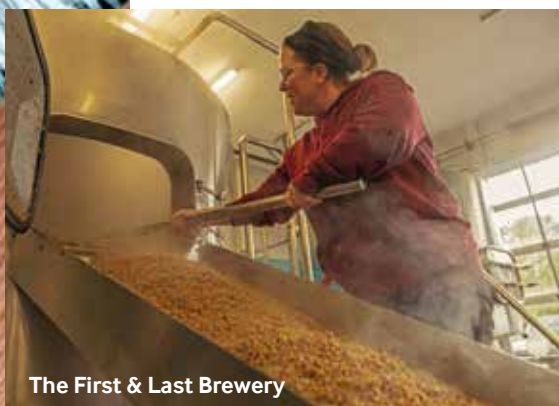
Northumberland Honey Co



Emerald at Matfen Hall



Sonnet



The First & Last Brewery

Join the experts

Northern Wilds, northernwilds.co.uk

Discover the wild food on your doorstep, from seaweed and sushi to wild mushrooms and woodland plants with foraging experts Northern Wilds.

Eating out is a real pleasure here, and we're blessed with Michelin-starred restaurants, quirky bistros and relaxed cafes alike.

Pine's Michelin-starred tasting menu comes with bonus views of Hadrian's Wall; **Sonnet** in Alnwick has a simple yet refined 14-course tasting menu which features big flavours and a local attitude; the three AA Rosette **Emerald Restaurant** at Matfen Hall boasts imaginative seasonal menus; at **The Orangery** at The Tempus in Charlton Hall delivers carefully curated comfort food alongside tempting innovation; **The Feathers Inn** is a family-run pub with award-winning food and drink in Hedley-on-the-Hill; and the menu at Blanchland's **Lord Crewe Arms** is simple, seasonal and sensational; while the historic and award-winning **Pele Tower** in Corbridge is a unique place to enjoy craft beer and live music.

On the coast, enjoy the ocean's bounty at rustic bistro **The Old Boat House** in Amble; in Craster, **The Jolly Fisherman** is an award-winning seafood restaurant rightly lauded for their crab sandwiches; and there's the best of both seaside treats in one beach-front location at **Coastline Fish & Chips & Ciccarelli Ice Cream Parlour** in Blyth; while Cresswell's **Drift Cafe** is a dog-friendly treat serving homemade comfort food and punchy coffee.

Indulge your sweet tooth with handmade chocolates from **The Chocolate Spa** in Alnwick; afternoon tea is always a treat at one of the **Running Fox's** five cafes; while **Grant's Bakery & Cafe** in Corbridge offer cakes and pastries so pretty you almost don't want to eat them (almost!)

The Old Boat House

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

Embrace the great outdoors (whatever the weather!) and discover Northumberland's wide open spaces, rugged coastline and even wilder nature

WALKING

Lace up your hiking boots, Northumberland is criss-crossed by hundreds of walking routes suitable for all abilities.

Long-distance trails provide access to some of the most remote landscapes, with a few of the UK's most famous routes passing through the county. Chief among them is the **King Charles III England Coast Path** which starts in Berwick and traverses over 60 miles of the Northumberland coast on its route around the country. Travel from Holy Island to Heavenfield near Wall for a truly historic walk on **St Oswald's Way**, which links places associated with 7th Century Northumbrian king St Oswald, who is credited with the spread of Christianity in the area. There's more history on **Hadrian's Wall Path**, an 84 mile route from coast to coast along the line of the wall. Roaming across the stunning topography of the North Pennines National Landscape, the brand new **Roof of England** walk takes in tumultuous history, wild nature and dramatic scenery on its 187 mile route. The renowned **Pennine Way** also passes through the region, with its Northumberland highlight the mighty Cheviot. Sculptures dot the forested landscape and ospreys soar overhead on **Kielder's Lakeside Way**, ideal for cyclists as well as walkers.

There are many worthy day hikes too; the **Cheviots** offer a multitude of options, exploring hill forts at **Humbleton** and **Yeavinger Bell**, or the dramatic waterfalls of **Hen Hole** and pretty **Linhope Spout**; learn about Northumberland's bloody history on one of the **Reiver Trails** which take in landscapes around Kielder and Hadrian's Wall. Mix coastal rambles with unique history on jaunts from **Craster** to **Dunstanburgh Castle** and **Seahouses** to **Bamburgh Castle**, while the round-the-island saunter of **The Holy Island of Lindisfarne** offers panoramic coastal views. **Simonside's**

craggs near Rothbury provide lofty views of the countryside, and lesser-known sites like **Ford & Etal**, **Shaftoe Craggs**, **Bolam Lake** and **Wylam Waggonway** have their own individual charm.

Join the experts

Northern Adventures
northernadventures.co.uk

Guided walks throughout the county, from day walks to epic adventures.

CYCLING

With light traffic and plenty of back country trails to explore, Northumberland is well geared up for cyclists. Among the longer trails is the **Reivers Cycle Route**, which veers on and off-road to showcase iconic landmarks and reveal the region's often tumultuous history. The iconic **Coast To Coast (C2C)** trail from Cumbria to Tynemouth traverses the wild and remote North Pennines, where you can also pick up the **Pennine Cycle Way** on its journey between Berwick and Derby. The stunning **Coast and Castles** route travels from Edinburgh to Newcastle, passes strongholds at Bamburgh, Dunstanburgh and Warkworth, while the **Hadrian's Cycleway** is a rugged 170 mile route across the width of the county. Mountain bikers will find thrilling terrain at Kielder, around the Cheviots, and along the excellent **Sandstone Way** which links the coast at Berwick to Hexham through the wild hills of Northumberland National Park.

Join the experts

Good Times Bike Hire
goodtimesbikehire.co.uk

Hire e-bikes, mountain bikes, hybrids and kids bikes, with interactive maps and delivery across Northumberland, plus their website offers inspiration on tried and tested routes.

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY AS A PROTECTED LANDSCAPE IN 2026. TO COMMEMORATE THE MILESTONE THERE WILL BE SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS AT THE SILL ON HADRIAN'S WALL, GUIDED WALKS WILL EXPLORE LESSER-KNOWN LOCATIONS OF THE PARK PLUS THERE'S FILM SCREENINGS AND EVENTS.



Coquet Shorebase Trust



Cycling at Dunstanburgh



Good Times Bike Hire

WATER SPORTS

With 82 miles of coastline as well as countless lakes and rivers to explore, getting out on the water couldn't be easier, and there's a wealth of activities and adventures to be had year-round.

Coquet Shorebase Trust run highly recommended nature viewing kayak trips along the Amble Estuary, and also rent paddleboards, kayaks and sailing dinghies from their base at Ladyburn Lake in Druridge Bay Country Park, making water sports accessible to everyone..

Active4Seasons in Ford & Etal offer relaxing canoe or kayak trips on the River Till as well as sea kayaking. Catch that perfect wave or take a more leisurely pace on a SUP trip with **Northside Surf School** in Amble. If swimming to the depths is your idea of fun, **Sovereign Diving** in Seahouses can show you shipwrecks, playful seals and incredible sea life around the Farne Islands. For real adrenalin junkies, **Adventure Northumberland's** coasteering trips, which involve leaping from rocks, climbing gullies and exploring sea caves, are huge fun.

Join the experts

Northern Latitude
northernlatitude.co.uk

Swim and snorkel at Britain's finest marine nature reserve in the Farne Islands, or head out on a guided SUP experience exploring hidden coves, sandy bays and dramatic cliffs.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

If you'd rather take a more sedate pace, head out into Northumberland to spot some of our iconic wildlife.

Whales and dolphins can be spotted around **Seahouses** and the **Farne Islands**, where you'll also come across grey seals along with iconic puffins, razorbills, guillemots and countless other seabirds. The tremendous **Hauxley Nature Reserve** near Amble is a great place to view waders like curlew and moorhen alongside seasonal visitors like bar-tailed godwits. You have a good chance of seeing red squirrels as well as the iconic ospreys around **Kielder**, while wild goats can be found browsing around the **Cheviots**. Beavers have been reintroduced to the **Wallington** estate near Morpeth, although spotting them is tricky – consider a trip with Wild Intrigue to check out their habitat (wildintrigue.co.uk).



Northern Latitude image by Callum Thompson @adventure_cal



Simonside Hills



The Pennine Way



HISTORY & HERITAGE

The rich history of Northumberland is writ large across ancient and mysterious monuments, imposing castles and grand houses

Given its strategic coastal and border location, it's no surprise that Northumberland has more castles than any other county. Some are romantic ruins and others still stand proud as family homes, visitor attractions and even backdrops for films. Atmospheric remnants of once grand defences include 12th Century **Thirlwall**, the dramatic coastal fortifications at **Dunstanburgh**, **Etal** near the Flodden battlefield, and the medieval fortress at **Warkworth**. Watch history come to life at the impressive **Bamburgh** castle, discover quirky stories at **Lindisfarne**, go on the hunt for dragons or wizards at **Alnwick**, and perhaps even ghosts at **Chillingham**!

The region's heritage is also embedded in stately homes and gardens like **Howick Hall**, the ancestral seat of the Earls Grey (the tea was named after the second Earl); **Cragside** was the first house in the world to use hydro-electricity; **Belsay's** Greek Revival mansion, medieval castle and quarry garden is utterly

unique; the residents of **Seaton Delaval Hall** had an intriguing wild side; while **Wallington's** treasured art collection and extensive woodland is ripe for exploration.

Dig deeper and you'll find wondrous history around every corner, from **Hadrian's Wall** and the astonishing Roman complexes at **Vindolanda**, **Corbridge Roman Town** and **Housesteads**, to **Duddo's** mysterious stone circle and ancient cup and ring marks at **Lordenshaws** in the Simonside Hills.

Religious sites of great importance and beauty include grand **Hexham Abbey**, the ornately sculpted ruins at **Lindisfarne Priory**, and **Brinkburn Abbey & Priory's** former monastery.

Explore more recent history at **Woodhorn** mining museum; uncover Victorian heroism at **RNLI Grace Darling Museum**; learn about the birthplace of the railways at **Wylam Railway Museum**; and hear grisly tales of the inhabitants of **Hexham Old Gaol**, the earliest purpose-built prison in England.



Duddo



Thirlwall Castle



Housesteads



Bamburgh Castle



Discover the Taste of Northumberland

Local food & drink, rooted in place

www.tasteofnorthumberland.com

THE BORDERS DISTILLERY

DISCOVER THE *Spirit* OF THE BORDERS

TOUR

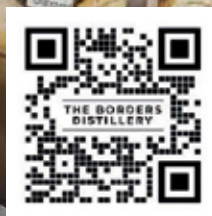
Join us for a tour of our award-winning distillery in the town of Hawick. See for yourself how we make our Scotch Whisky, Gin and Vodka. You'll be guided by our talented distillers who make it all happen.

TASTE

We work exclusively with 10 local farmers to produce malted barley for our spirit, with every grain of barley grown within 35 miles of our distillery.

SHOP

Explore our selection of locally produced gifts and our award-winning Borders spirits. Our Visitor Centre is open to all from Monday to Saturday, 10am - 4:30pm. We are an accessible distillery. Please visit our website to learn more.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
BOOK YOUR DISTILLERY
TOUR AND DISCOVER THE
SPIRIT OF THE BORDERS

thebordersdistillery.com | [@thebordersdistillery](https://twitter.com/thebordersdistillery) | Hawick, TD9 7AQ

Please drink responsibly. Visit drinkaware.co.uk for the facts.



Moments to remember

made with the National Trust

Cross the causeway to explore Lindisfarne Castle, immerse yourself in the dramatic landscape at Cragside, or take in the scenery on a bike ride at Wallington.

nationaltrust.org.uk/northeast

For everyone, for ever

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© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey



COAST

Northumberland is blessed with a ruggedly beautiful coastline which shows off the breadth of the county's appeal. It's a place of heritage and time-honoured tradition, from artisanal producers whose craft has been passed down the generations, to the unique geology which renders history starkly visible.

Castles teeter on rocky outcrops; wildlife teems in seas and skies; England's often tumultuous past is writ large on battlements and batteries; and tales of heroism, pilgrimage and artistic inspiration are easily uncovered. Whether you seek miles of empty sandy beaches or thrilling watersports, bustling market towns or vibrant museums, the Northumberland coast offers something for everyone.

OUR FAVOURITE EXPERIENCES



Paddle the Coquet Estuary looking for wildlife under the gaze of Warkworth Castle

Engage with culture and heritage in the historic walled town of Berwick-upon-Tweed

Walk along golden sands and discover unique geology in Bamburgh



Beadnell Bay

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

Just three miles from the Scottish Border, Berwick-upon-Tweed still bears all the hallmarks of a frontier town. In a game of border ping pong, Berwick has been captured or sacked 13 times by the English and the Scots in turn. Now very firmly south of the border, Berwick's mighty Elizabethan walls, built to keep the troublesome clansmen of the North at bay, still enclose the town.

CASTLE & RAMPARTS

Walking Berwick's Elizabethan walls allow for spectacular views across the Tweed estuary, including Robert Stephenson's Royal Border Bridge, which 170 years after it was built is still carrying trains on the East Coast main line. Notable points along the route include the well-preserved fortification of Cumberland Bastion, the Powder Magazine gunpowder store and the remains of the medieval castle that served to protect the town during Anglo-Scottish skirmishes. A useful starting point is Berwick train station; it's possible to access the ramparts at several points around the town.

BARRACKS & MAIN GUARD

Among the first barracks to be purpose-built in England, Berwick Barracks are undergoing a transformation into a thriving cultural hub, and are expected to reopen in 2027. You can get the scale of the impressive site by walking through the Parade Grounds en route to The Maltings' cinema space. (Parade, TD15 1DF, english-heritage.org.uk). The Main Guard Museum occupies the one remaining guardhouse, and tells the history of the town alongside rotating exhibitions. **Parade, TD15 1DF**
english-heritage.org.uk

Berwick Lighthouse

SHOPPING IN BERWICK

SLIGHTLY FOXED

31 Bridge Street, TD15 1ES,
slightlyfoxedberwick.co.uk

A treasure trove of secondhand books alongside Lowry prints – check out the impressive mural on the domed ceiling!

RKRETRO

Woolmarket, TD15 1DH, [instagram.com/rkretro_berwickshop](https://www.instagram.com/rkretro_berwickshop)

A lifestyle shop full of carefully curated collectibles and fashion artwork, you're bound to find something quirky!



Dockside Gallery

DOCKSIDE GALLERY

Main Street, TD15 2AA,
docksidegallery.co.uk

An eclectic choice of contemporary painting and delightful prints, plus ceramics, jewellery and more. Perfect for a unique gift.

THE MALTINGS

While The Maltings' Eastern Lane building undergoes an exciting transformation, their vibrant programme continues to animate the town in diverse and inspiring new ways. A range of exhibitions, independent cinema, live performance and hands-on creative workshops are now unfolding across a collection of distinctive venues – from the cinema within Berwick Barracks (also undergoing something of a transformation) to The Granary Gallery and a welcoming pop-up creative space on Hide Hill. Wherever you find them, The Maltings offers opportunities to explore, discover and connect through culture. maltingsberwick.co.uk

Join the experts

Berwick Boat Trips,
berwickboattrips.co.uk

Leaving from the pontoon in the town, take a trip along the River Tweed and out into the North Sea on the Border Belle. Choose from a trip to the Union Chain Bridge, a jaunt around the bridges and town walls, or look for wildlife on a sea safari.

Join the experts

Berwick Town Hall & Cell Block Museum, berwicktownhall.org.uk

Tours of the impressive Grade I Listed Georgian Town Hall and jail take place at 10.30am and 2pm Monday-Friday between Easter and September, where you'll discover 18th Century graffiti in the drunk tank and the old town courtroom, as well as interesting artefacts in the museum including a Viking-era sword.

LOWRY TRAIL

The Lowry Trail honours one of the 20th Century's most acclaimed artists, LS Lowry, who was a regular visitor to Berwick from the mid-1930s. Known for his 'matchstick men' figures, Lowry produced around 30 paintings of the town's cobbled streets and beaches. A self-guided 3-hour interpretative walk takes in some of the locations the artist depicted, including Berwick Lighthouse which celebrates its 200th anniversary in 2026, as well as notable features of the town, download from visitberwick.com.

AROUND BERWICK

Make Berwick your base for some interesting day-trips.

UNION CHAIN BRIDGE

[///drumbeat.saints.dozens](http://drumbeat.saints.dozens)

This historic suspension bridge spans the River Tweed linking Northumberland and Scotland.

CHAIN BRIDGE HONEY FARM

TD15 2XT, chainbridgehoney.com

Near the historic bridge, learn about their industrious bees and take home a unique souvenir.

EYEMOUTH MUSEUM

TD14 5JE, eyemouthmuseum.co.uk

Documents the fishing history of the lovely coastal village.

ST ABBS HEAD NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

TD14 5QF, nts.org.uk

An unmissable place of dramatic scenery, squawking seabirds, geological delights and abundant wildlife.

FOOD & DRINK

Foxton's, 26-28 Hide Hill, TD15 1AB, foxtonswinebar.com

This much loved wine bar and restaurant works with local producers to provide a sustainable menu which includes dishes like Eyemouth battered haddock, locally reared meat, gourmet burgers and a special seafood feast

Limoncello Kitchen & Terrace
55 Hide Hill, TD15 1EN

limoncellorestaurantberwick.com

Stylish and laidback, the award-winning Italian menu is filled with authentic recipes from pizza and pasta to risotto

Northern Edge Coffee House, 83 Marygate

northernedgecoffee.co.uk

Enjoy a super fresh caffeine hit from this small batch specialty coffee roasters, plus fresh baking and a chilled out vibe

Karmic Cakery, North Greenwich Road, Spittal
TD15 1RG. [facebook.com/karmic.cakery](https://www.facebook.com/karmic.cakery)

Worth making a trip to nearby Spittal for, the fully vegan menu is imaginative and varied



Paxton House

PAXTON HOUSE, TD15 1SZ
PAXTONHOUSE.CO.UK

A superb example of Palladian architecture, Paxton House is home to collections of Chippendale furniture and treasured art, the grounds are a delight to explore.

THE HOLY ISLAND OF LINDISFARNE

Cut off twice a day by the tide, the Holy Island of Lindisfarne is a breathtakingly beautiful wildlife-rich haven, home to a rich ecclesiastical history and a unique heritage. Discover gloriously empty beaches with endless sea views, unique habitats including salt marshes and mudflats, and sea birds and seals who bask on stretches of sand left by the retreating tide. Be sure to keep your eye on the tide unless you want to find yourself stranded, and never try to cross outside of the safe times. Check tide times a holylislandcrossingtimes.northumberland.gov.uk



Lindisfarne Priory and St Cuthbert's Island



THE PILGRIM'S WAY

The current road to Holy Island wasn't built until 1954, so pilgrims had to cross the tidal estuary using the waymarked vertical poles which indicate the safest place to travel between the mainland and the island. Today, pilgrims (and tourists) still make the journey on foot – despite it being a muddy affair (taking your shoes off is recommended). This crossing should only be attempted on a receding tide, with the ideal setting off time for the 90 minute/two hour walk at least two hours before the lowest tide.

Join the experts

Wild Experiences, wildexperiences-northumberland.com Take time for contemplation and reflection on a guided walk across the sands.



ST. AIDAN'S WINERY & LINDISFARNE MEAD

Lindisfarne Mead has been made by the monks of Holy Island since medieval times; produced exclusively at St Aidan's Winery, the fortified honey wine is made with fermented grapes, honey, herbs and water, and is a uniquely sweet tippale that makes an ideal souvenir. Learn about the history of mead, fruit wines and spirits bottled at the winery in the large shop which also stocks a multitude of gifts, crafts and local produce.

TD15 2RX, lindisfarnemead.com



LINDISFARNE PRIORY

Lindisfarne is recognised as a centre for the spread of Christianity in Anglo-Saxon times, largely thanks to Irish monk St. Aidan, who was gifted the island by King Oswald of Northumbria in 635. The Priory you see today dates from the 12th Century, and is thought to stand on the same spot as its Anglo-Saxon predecessor. The museum tells of Aidan's life, as well as that of venerated bishop and hermit St. Cuthbert, whose shrine is housed in Durham Cathedral, and the remarkable illuminated manuscript of the Lindisfarne Gospels, created around 700AD. **Church Lane, TD15 2RX.** english-heritage.org.uk/lindisfarne



LINDISFARNE CASTLE

Only a hardy soul would buy a 16th Century ex-military fort on a tidal island and turn it into an inviting holiday home, but Country Life founder and publisher Edward Hudson and his architect pal Edwin Lutyens were somewhat obsessed with the restoration. It has to be said, they did a good job of it; the thick stone walls house twisty corridors, hidden rooms, elegantly shaped windows and dangerously low door frames, with quirky delights around each corner. As is befitting such an interesting space, there are often immersive installations to enjoy, which further add to the castle's unusual history.

Outside the castle, Lutyens' singular vision was enhanced by the work of longterm collaborator and respected garden designer Gertrude Jekyll, whose walled garden turns the old garrison walls into a peaceful flower-filled haven. Walks around the coastline show off the castle's remarkable placement; make time for a visit to the old lime kilns on the shore below the castle – they're among the best preserved and biggest in Northumberland. **TD15 2SH, nationaltrust.org.uk/lindisfarne-castle**

NEAR THE PRIORY, DON'T MISS THE LIFEBOAT MUSEUM PERCHED ON ST. CUTHBERT'S BEACH, AND TAKE IN THE VIEWS AT THE HEUGH, THE SITE OF A FORMER COASTGUARD OBSERVATIONAL TOWER.

THE LINDISFARNE CENTRE

The Lindisfarne Centre museum (Marygate, TD15 2SD, lindisfarnecentre.org) makes a great starting point for those looking to understand the island's significance. Interactive displays focus on Viking raids, the Lindisfarne Gospels and the people of the island from Anglo-Saxon times to today, and the shop stocks local crafts and gifts. Friendly staff can help you make the most of your stay on the island, with advice, tips and maps. If religious art is of interest, the nearby **Lindisfarne Scriptorium** (Marygate, lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk) houses beautiful and artistic expressions of faith by artist Mary Fleeson; while **Celtic Crafts** (Front Street, celticcrafts.info) focuses on jewellery and artisan creations.

WALKING & WILDLIFE ON HOLY ISLAND

NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

The island's North Shore is home to nesting birds in spring and summer; the 3-mile trail features well-placed boards explaining the island's plant and bird life.

EMMANUEL HEAD DAYMARK

Past the castle, continue along the coastal path to this navigational aid also known as the White Pyramid. Further on, Sandham Bay is a birding favourite.



COVES HAVEN

Further along the coast, Coves Haven is a vast stretch of deserted beach.

FOOD & DRINK

The Ship Inn, Marygate
TD15 2SJ, theshippinn-holyisland.co.uk

Homecooked meals and ensuite rooms

The Crown & Anchor Inn
Fenkle Street, TD15 2RX
holysislandcrown.co.uk

Locally sourced, seasonal menus; try the fish or cheese sharing platters. Also ensuite rooms

Pilgrim's Coffee House & Roastery, Marygate, TD15 2SJ
pilgrimscoffee.com

Excellent coffee and cake, plus an onsite roastery

Chare Ends Cafe, Green Lane
TD15 2SX

Extensive sweet and savoury treat menu and a lovely patio

1st Class Food & Post Office
Green Lane, TD15 2SQ

1stclassfoodholysisland.co.uk
Highlights include breakfast, fresh crab sandwiches and homemade cakes

793 Spirits Distillery and Hell & High Water Speakeasy, Fenkle Street, TD15 2SR
793spirits.co.uk

Quirky hidden gin and cocktail bar

ST. CUTHBERT'S ISLAND

Everyone needs to get away from it all sometimes, and the same was true for St. Cuthbert, who favoured Hobthrusch Island as a place to retreat from his fellow monks. Cut off by the tide, remains of a post-Norman conquest medieval chapel were found in 1888.

BAMBURGH

Dominated by one of the UK's most iconic castles, Bamburgh's appeal lies in its historic treasures, the spectacular three-mile long beach and its proximity to the Inner Farne islands, which rise like a pod of humpback whales from the water. Centred around the pretty village green you'll find artisan butchers, cake makers and some of the freshest seafood around.

BAMBURGH CASTLE

The iconic Bamburgh Castle stands guard above the Northumberland coastline and remains one of England's largest inhabited castles. There has been a fortress here since 547, and its myths, legends and an astonishing history still resonate throughout the site, brought to vivid life through video trickery and interactive elements. The castle has been home to the Armstrong family since it was bought in the early 19th Century by the great Victorian industrialist the first Lord Armstrong; learn about his tremendous contribution to science and engineering in the Armstrong & Aviation Museum in the Castle's West Ward. The State Rooms house a vast collection of interesting artefacts from archaeological digs which have unearthed the castle's varied history, including Bronze Age pottery, the Bamburgh Beast, royal ceremonial pieces and armour dating to the Wars of the Roses. There's also modern acquisitions including Egyptian treasures, porcelain, art and furniture. The Castle Keep is the oldest part of the building, dating from mid-1100s and is reputedly the most haunted; the bare stone staircases and impressive vaulted stone roof offer a marked contrast to the grand neighbouring King's Hall. Don't miss the fabulously kitsch dungeon, complete with skeletons and tortured inmates. **NE69 7DF, bamburghcastle.com**



BAMBURGH WALLED GARDEN

The renovated garden at the heart of the village was once tended by Grace Darling's grandfather. Great care has gone into lovingly reimagining the space, which has accessibility at its heart, and features a sensory garden, cafe and adventure playground. **Radcliffe Road, NE69 7AE**



© chrisdorney - stockadobe.com

ST AIDAN'S CHURCH & THE BAMBURGH BONES

St Aidan was enlisted by King Oswald to convert the pagan community to Christianity, having established a monastery on nearby Lindisfarne as well as a place of worship in Bamburgh in the 7th Century. Standing on the same site, the 12th Century St Aidan's Church is the final resting place for Grace Darling's elaborate tomb. The crypt contains the famous Bamburgh Bones, an ossuary which houses the remains of people from the nearby Bowl Hole graveyard, unearthed during a storm in the 19th Century, with a sensitive and informative installation detailing the people who lived and travelled here. **Radcliffe Road, NE69 7AE, staidanbamburgh.co.uk**

Bamburgh beach



BEACHES AROUND BAMBURGH

It's hard to imagine a more perfect stretch of sand than **Bamburgh beach**, where endless white sands are hemmed in by grassy dunes, all backed dramatically by the castle. Walk along the coast as far as beautiful **Budle Bay**, part of the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve, where huge mudflats exposed at low tide are a haven for wildfowl and wading birds. Further along the coast at **Ross Back Sands** you'll discover more unspoilt dunes and from May-September (when access may be restricted), ground-nesting birds and a giant colony of grey seals. The two pointed stone obelisks at the tip of Ross beach are the **Old Law Beacons**, guides used by boats entering the estuary at Lindisfarne, which were designed by famous Newcastle architect John Dobson.

RLNI GRACE DARLING MUSEUM

Chronicling the life of Victorian heroine Grace Darling, who alongside her father famously rescued survivors from the shipwrecked steamship Forfarshire during a storm in 1838, the museum tells of Grace's family, her life at Longstone Lighthouse on the Farne Islands, and details the extraordinary rescue mission which catapulted Grace into the spotlight. The famous coble used in the rescue is on display, alongside letters, personal items and family portraits, offering a unique insight into the young woman, who tragically passed away of tuberculosis aged just 26. **Radcliffe Road, NE69 7AE, rnli.org**

FOOD & DRINK

The Potted Lobster
Lucker Road, NE69 7BS
thepottedlobster.co.uk

Super fresh seafood, creatively prepared, in a relaxed yet elegant space

The Copper Kettle
Front Street, NE69 7BW
copperkettlebamburgh.co.uk

Try traditional dishes like Pan Haggerty alongside sandwiches, freshly made quiche and cake galore

The Lord Crewe, Front Street
NE69 7BL, lord-crewe.co.uk

AA Rosette restaurant and accommodation, with a luxurious menu focusing on seafood and high quality local produce

Wyndenwell, Front Street
NE69 7BJ, [instagram.com/wyndenwell_bamburgh](https://www.instagram.com/wyndenwell_bamburgh)

Ice cream, sweet treats, sandwiches and their own Gold Box coffee roastery

The Rocking Horse Courtyard & Cafe, Rock Midstead Farm
NE66 2TH, therocky.co.uk

A few miles from Bamburgh, this friendly gallery and cafe makes a perfect pit-stop for huge breakfasts, salads, stotties and amazing cakes and bakes

BELFORD

The ancient settlement of Belford's history is entwined with that of St Cuthbert; during the late 9th Century, as the ancient Kingdom of Northumbria was collapsing under Viking onslaught, the monks of Lindisfarne fled the island with the bones of St Cuthbert and reputedly hid them for a while in **St Cuthbert's Cave**. Access the cave on a 6.5 mile walk from Belford. In the village, the historic Reading Room is home to the **Belford Museum** (Market Place, NE70 7NE, belfordmuseum.co.uk).

Bamburgh beach

Join the experts

Northern Outdoors, northernoutdoor.co.uk

Led by outdoor expert Dan Smith, Northern Outdoors specialise in a range of adventurous activities from coasteering, archery and axe throwing to game butchery and wilderness survival courses.

FARNE ISLANDS & SEAHOUSES

St. Aidan's beach at Seahouses is a lovely stretch of golden sand backed by long-grassed dunes, with ample space to stretch out and enjoy the far-reaching views of the Farne Islands. The town provides plenty of amenities, from arcades and mini-golf, to an abundance of chippies and cute and quirky gift shops. If the weather turns bad, or you're in the area for a while, see what's on at community cinema and arts space Seahouses HUB (Stone Close, NE68 7YL, [instagram.com/seahousescinema](https://www.instagram.com/seahousescinema)).



Longstone Lighthouse

FARNE ISLANDS

Two miles off the coast of Seahouses and cared for by the National Trust, the Farne Islands are a cluster of 28 rocky outcrops home to more than 200,000 seabirds and one of the largest grey seal colonies on the east coast.

The black dolerite rock juts dramatically out of the sea, covered in noisy birds all vying for space for their eggs and food from the churning waves. A boat trip around the islands is an awesome experience and the sheer abundance of avian life is quite staggering.

Boat trips land on the largest island of Inner Farne to view birds up close; comical and adorable puffins waddle around their burrows while gulls try to steal their haul of freshly caught sand eels; watch out for dive-bombing Arctic terns as they guard their nests on rocky ground; and marvel at the thousands of razorbills, shags, kittiwakes and guillemots lining the cliffs.

The island's spiritual connections are equally as fascinating as the natural ones; it was here the hermit Prior of Lindisfarne, St. Cuthbert, spent eight years living in a monastic cell built from turf and stone; when he died in 687 his body was taken back to Lindisfarne. Visit the tranquil St. Cuthbert's Chapel, built in 1370, to admire its exquisite 17th Century woodwork.

The Outer Staple Islands includes Longstone Island; the home of lighthouse keeper William Darling and his family. Longstone Lighthouse has become synonymous with Victorian heroine Grace Darling who, alongside her father, rescued survivors from the wrecked SS Forfarshire on a nearby island during a terrific storm in 1838. Find out more about Grace and life in the lighthouse at the RNLI museum in Bamburgh, or on a trip to the island with Golden Gate, the only boat company licensed to land on the island, and who as custodians of such an important part of Northumberland's history do a wonderful job in bringing Grace Darling's story to life.

The islands are fascinating at any time of the year, but are best explored between April-July, when weather and the breeding season should be on your side.

Join the experts

Several operators are lined up along the harbour at Seahouses offering informative wildlife watching experiences. Not all trips run year-round so check ahead - generally, early spring and summer bring calmer weather and more wildlife activity.

Billy Shiel's Boat Trips

[farne-islands.com](https://www.farne-islands.com)

Puffins, seals, sunsets and more on a variety of trips.

Golden Gate Farne Islands Boat Trips

[farneislandsboattrips.com](https://www.farneislandsboattrips.com)

The only operator licensed to land on Longstone Island, plus Inner Farne and sealife cruise.

Serenity Farne Island Boat Tours, [farneislandstours.co.uk](https://www.farneislandstours.co.uk)

Themed nature trips and cruises throughout the islands.



FOOD & DRINK

The Bamburgh Castle Inn

NE68 7SQ

inncollectiongroup.com

Pub and hotel featuring a varied menu plus unbeatable views

Black Swan Inn, 2

Union Street, NE68 7RT

northcoastcollective.co.uk

Refined dining with an admirable approach to locally sourced produce and a great cocktail list

Insieme, 52A Main Street

NE68 7TP

insieme-seahouses.co.uk

Reliable Italian dining with extensive menus

HOOK, 19 Main Street

NE68 7RE, facebook.com/hookseahouses

hookseahouses

Traditional fish and chips with a few modern twists

Neptune, 3 Seaford Road

NE68 7SJ

neptunefishandchips.co.uk

Well established and tasty chippy. The addition of an ice cream parlour makes it a firm favourite

Salt Water Cafe Bar & Bistro

The Wynding, Beadnell, NE67

5AS, saltwater-cafe.co.uk

This quirky Beadnell bar and restaurant prides itself on fresh and flavourful seafood and home cooked meals

Beach House Hotel, 12A

St Aidan's, Seahouses

beachhousehotel.co.uk

This contemporary hotel has great food options too, serving tasty local ingredients and a well-curated wine and cocktail list

Swallow Fish, South Street

NE68 7RB, swallowfish.co.uk

Traditional smokehouse, with a range of fresh, seasonal fish from the North Sea



Beadnell Bay

BEADNELL

Overlooking the gloriously sandy Beadnell Bay, cobbles still regularly fish for sea trout and wild salmon from Beadnell, which has the only west-facing harbour on the east coast. One of Beadnell's top attractions is getting out on the water. The harbour and bay provide excellent conditions from which to launch boats, and it's the perfect spot for wakeboarding, waterskiing and jet-skiing, while the middle and south end of the bay are ideal for surfing and bodyboarding. Beadnell harbour is worth a visit to view the historic 18th Century lime kilns, which were later used for curing herring. Between Beadnell and Low Newton the important Long Nanny shorebird site is home to thousands of nesting terns, plovers and other seabirds.

DUNSTANBURGH & CRASTER

Impressive coastal geology, crumbling castle ruins and local delicacies make the villages of Craster, Low-Newton-by-the-Sea, Howick and Boulmer a delight to explore. Embark on a ramble along the Northumberland Coast Path and stop off in Craster for kippers or fresh crab sandwiches.



DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE

The magnificent 14th Century Dunstanburgh Castle sits on a remote headland between the villages of Craster and Embleton. The evocative ruins have had a tumultuous history, from protecting local people from raiding Scots to being fought over during the War of the Roses. Even during its heyday in the late 1300s the castle was little more than a commanding frontage, iconic for its twin-towered gatehouse, extensive curtain wall and turrets. Having fallen into disrepair by the late 16th Century, its ruinous state still served as inspiration for the likes of artist JMW Turner, who no doubt found as much appeal in its dramatic appearance situated against the wind and wave battered coastline as visitors do today. The castle grounds deserve a wander, and nature lovers will enjoy views of nesting razorbill and kittiwake colonies, as well as a great viewpoint from which to spot passing seals and dolphins. Accessible only on foot or by bike, the 1.5-mile route hugging the rocky shoreline is among the UK's favourite walks. **Craster, NE66 3TT, english-heritage.org.uk/dunstanburgh**

HOWICK HALL GARDENS & ARBORETUM

The ancestral home of the Earl Grey family – the famous tea was named after the second Earl – Howick Hall is a stern-looking Victorian pile befitting a family of such importance. The 2nd Earl Grey was one of the forefathers of parliamentary reform and became Prime Minister in 1830, his likeness stands atop the Grey's Monument in Newcastle city centre. Partial to a cuppa, the Earl commissioned a speciality blend that would suit the well water at Howick, and Lady Grey's use of the tea when entertaining political guests would eventually lead to the formation of the Twinings brand, although the Greys didn't register the trademark and never saw a bean (or should that be leaf?) The informal gardens – largely the preoccupation of the 5th Earl Grey, Charles, and his wife Mabel and daughter Lady Mary Howick – are known for wonderful Spring bulbs and mature trees in the arboretum. **Howick, NE66 3LB, howickhallgardens.com**



EMBLETON & EMBLETON BAY

It's the stunning bay just a short walk from the coastal village that has put Embleton on the map. The mile-long expanse of golden sand is backed by wildlife-rich dunes, dominated by the romantic ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle at its southern tip. Perfect for family days out or a leisurely walk, the sands are a short distance down a narrow country lane from the medieval village of Embleton with its 12th Century church, village green and golf course. The peaceful **Embleton Quarry Nature Reserve** is home to rare Whin grassland, wildflowers and a pond which attracts all manner of wildlife. Thanks to the area's low light pollution it's also a great dark sky site.



MICK OXLEY'S COASTAL LOCATION IN CRASTER SERVES AS INSPIRATION FOR HIS WORK. AS WELL AS MICK'S EVOCATIVE SEASCAPES AND ATMOSPHERIC TEXTURAL SHORELINE STUDIES, HIS GALLERY ALSO STOCKS AN ECLECTIC SELECTION OF OBJETS D'ART, PHOTOGRAPHY AND POTTERY. (HAVEN HILL, CRASTER NE66 3TR, MICKOXLEY.COM)

LOW NEWTON BY THE SEA

One of the loveliest spots in Northumberland, this tiny hamlet comprises a square of little cottages around a green next to a stunning stretch of sandy beach. Seals can often be seen cavorting in the sheltered bay of Newton Haven, which provides anchorage for small craft and larger yachts, and this is a popular spot for dinghy sailing and windsurfing enthusiasts.

Join the experts

Adventure Northumberland
adventurenorthumberland.co.uk

Try out coasteering and kayaking in the area.



CRASTER & HOWICK'S COASTAL GEOLOGY

The surrounding coastline is also geologically interesting, dominated by the Great Whin Sill which rises in low outcrops from the land, jutting into the sea and providing Spring nesting sites for kittiwakes at Cullernose Point. The impressive cove at Rumbling Kern was once a haunt for whiskey smugglers.

FOOD & DRINK

The Jolly Fisherman, Haven Hill, Craster, NE66 3TR
thejollyfishermancraster.co.uk
Perched on a headland overlooking Craster harbour, both the view and the food are hard to beat at this historic pub – try their famous crab sandwiches

L Robson & Sons, 9 Haven Hill Craster, NE66 3TR, kipper.co.uk
Historic family business, synonymous with oak smoked kippers and salmon

The Ship Inn, Low-Newton-by-the-Sea, NE66 3EL
shipinnnewton.co.uk
The perfect turn around point for a coastal walk, enjoy hearty homemade food and beer from their own brewery

The Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel, Embleton, NE66 3UN
dunstanburghcastlehotel.co.uk

This hotel and pub sits in the middle of the attractive village of Embleton. Light lunches and classic dishes take pride in locally sourced ingredients, and there's a lovely walled beer garden

ALNMOUTH

With its pretty pastel-painted houses overlooking a vast expanse of golden sands, Alnmouth is the picture perfect seaside village. The beaches offer plenty of chances for sand castle building and wildlife spotting, and the Aln estuary is a lovely place to watch wading birds going about their business.



THE OLD SCHOOL GALLERY

This charming gallery is the place to discover work by established and up-and-coming artists, including local talent. The bright gallery spaces show off a mix of work, including original paintings, handmade prints and ceramics. Tasty cakes and coffee can be enjoyed outside in the old school yard, where there is also a seasonal pizza truck (Thurs-Sat, Apr-Sept).

Foxtan Road, NE66 3NH
theoldschoolgallery.co.uk

THE FERRYMAN'S HUT

This diminutive hut stands on the banks of the River Aln, and was used by the ferryman to row people across the estuary. While the ferryman's services were dispensed with by the 1960s, the historic little building has been turned into the region's smallest heritage centre; the evocative mini-museum brings to life the century-old building and its various ferrymen, fishermen and local memorabilia. **Riverside Road**
alnmouthparishcouncil.org.uk/ferry-hut-museum

FOOD & DRINK

The Sun Inn, 29

Northumberland Street, NE66 2RA, suninnalnmouth.co.uk

You'll know The Sun Inn by its bright yellow exterior, inside you'll find local ales and homecooked comfort food

The Hope & Anchor

42 Northumberland Street NE66 2RA

hopeandanchorholidays.co.uk

Dishing up a simple yet tasty, locally sourced menu

The Red Lion, 22

Northumberland Street, NE66 2RJ, redlionalnmouth.com

Luxury B&B and wood fired pizza during the summer months

The Whittling House, 24

Northumberland Street, NE66 2RA, thewhittlinghouse.co.uk

A real cut above, with a sophisticated cocktail menu and an emphasis on locally caught seafood and high quality meats

Bistro 23, 23 Northumberland Street, NE66 2RJ, bistro23.co.uk

If you catch Bistro 23 during its seasonal opening hours, their seafood platters come highly recommended; also of note is their Tea Room, which is a great spot for brunch, lunch or sweet treats

Scott's of Alnmouth, 15

Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS, scottsofalnmouth.com

Looking for grab-and-go treats? This infallible deli is chock full of pies, sandwiches, pastries and coffee, alongside lots of tasty locally made bits and bobs

WARKWORTH

One of Northumberland's prettiest villages, Warkworth is marked by a long high street which rises to the castle on a grassy mound dominated by daffodils in spring. At the bottom of the high street is the 12th Century church of St Lawrence, where John Wesley preached in 1761.



WARKWORTH CASTLE

Warkworth Castle crowns a hilltop above a natural loop in the River Coquet. Once home to the rebel lord Harry Hotspur, son of the first Earl of Northumberland and immortalised by Shakespeare in Henry IV parts I and II, today the castle is managed by English Heritage. Its imposing tower was commissioned by the first Earl of Northumberland in 1377, and unique facets include its cross-shaped keep and unusual sculptures dotted around the grounds which reveal the lives of its inhabitants in the 15th Century. **Castle Terrace, NE65 0UJ, english-heritage.org.uk/warkworth**

FOOD & DRINK

Bertram's, 19 Bridge Street NE65 0XB, bertrams.co.uk

Bertram's is a real labour of love for the mother-daughter team, which shows in their tasteful décor, breakfast, brunch and lunch menus. Their popular bistro menu kicks in after 5.30pm, with a focus on quality local ingredients. If the weather's nice, you can dine outdoors in the comfy courtyard

The Masons Arms 3 Dial Place, NE65 0UR themasonsarmswarkworth.co.uk

An inviting pub with a well-regarded Sunday lunch

Hermitage Inn, 23 Castle Street NE65 0UL

thehermitageinn.co.uk
Dog-friendly pub and B&B, with regular live music and an extensive food menu



© English Heritage

WARKWORTH HERMITAGE

Half a mile upriver from the Castle is the curious site of Warkworth Hermitage. Hewn from a rock face on the north bank of the River Coquet and only accessible by boat, the English Heritage maintained site is among the most elaborate medieval rock-cut chapels to survive in the UK. It is believed to have been built as a chapel around 1400 for the first Earl of Northumberland and was later lived in by a succession of priests until 1536. Trips don't run every day, so enquire and book your ticket at the castle. **NE65 0UJ, english-heritage.org.uk/warkworth**

AMBLE

Located at the mouth of the River Coquet, this bustling working fishing port is a fantastic base from which to explore the area. Boasting a modern marina, opportunities to get out on the water, and a bird-themed town trail, there's also a good variety of independent shops, restaurants and pubs – many specialising in locally caught seafood. Amble also overlooks Coquet Island, an RSPB sanctuary which is home to seals, terns and several thousand puffins. These colourful, comic birds inspire the country's only Puffin Festival, which takes place every early May Bank Holiday weekend, timed to celebrate the arrival of newly hatched pufflings.



COQUET ISLAND

Located a mile off the coast of Amble, Coquet Island is an important sanctuary for seabirds, home to the UK's only roseate tern breeding colony. It's not possible to step foot on the island, but boat tours from Amble allow visitors to catch a glimpse of all kinds of wildlife including grey seals, eider ducks, oystercatchers, puffins and Arctic terns.

Join the experts

Puffin Cruises

puffincruises.co.uk

The family-run Puffin Cruises has been running trips along the coast for over 40 years, and offers trips to see sea birds and the grey seal colony on the island.

Coquet Shorebase Trust

BORD WAALK

This sculpture trail features work by internationally acclaimed artists inspired by the wildlife of the area. Many of the sculptures cluster around the Harbour Village, and some are easier to find than others, making the experience a fun treasure trail for youngsters. Notable works include the stacked eggs of Stuart Langley's Cracked; the giant fake stone puffin by Ben Greenwood in Paddlers Park; Andrew Burton's three distinct Bird Heads in the town square; and the wonderful Bird Song by Aether & Hemera, which depicts the sound of a roseate tern in a shiny sound wave. On the riverside path leading towards Warkworth you'll find Rob Mulholland's beautiful Flock Sphere, Jon Voss' elegant Tern Wings and Alec Finlay's funky Dokie Egg. Near Hauxley Nature Reserve you'll find Celia Smith's metal sculpture Roseate Terns In Flight and the highly realistic Brick Tree by Rodney Harris, which also serves as a home for sparrows. Pick up a map in town.

Join the experts

Coquet Shorebase Trust, coquetshorebase.org.uk

On a mission to make water-based activities accessible for all, Coquet Shorebase Trust enables anyone aged eight and over have a go at dinghy sailing, canoeing and kayaking, windsurfing and raft building. Their guided estuary kayak tours are a wonderful way to discover wildlife, and all trips are accompanied by expert tutors. They have a base at Ladyburn Lake in Druridge Bay Country Park as well as at The Braid in Amble.

North Side Surf School, northside-surf-school.co.uk

North Side Surf School provides stand-up paddle board lessons as well as surfing suitable for all the family.

Pedal Power, pedal-power.co.uk

Get out on two wheels, with cycle hire, baggage transfers, transport and cycling holidays, plus routes across the county.

FOOD & DRINK

Radcliffe's Cafe Bar
Unit A Coble Quay
NE64 0FB [facebook.com/radcliffescafebar](https://www.facebook.com/radcliffescafebar)

Something for everyone, whether you're stopping for breakfast, lunch or an afternoon cuppa

Jaspers, 8 Bridge Street
NE65 0DR, [facebook.com/jaspersbistro](https://www.facebook.com/jaspersbistro)

This beautiful modern bistro specialises in perfectly cooked seafood alongside well-cut steaks and some sublime dessert options

The Old Boathouse
Leazes Street, **NE65 0AA**
boathousefoodgroup.co.uk

This rustic bistro sits on Amble's picturesque harbour, with a menu that makes use of the fruits of the sea including lobster, crab, mussels, smoked haddock chowder and cod, plus homemade pizza and plenty of meat and veggie alternatives

The Fish Shack
29 Harbour Road, **NE65 0AP**
boathousefoodgroup.co.uk/fish-shack

The sister restaurant to the Old Boathouse was made using an old sea coble. The atmosphere is casual and the food focused on the freshest produce of the sea

Spurelli, Coquet Street
NE65 0DJ, spurelli.com

This boutique ice cream parlour has scooped numerous national awards for its wonderful flavours, including Sicilian pistachio. There's also excellent coffee, pastries and hot soup

SHOPPING AT AMBLE'S HARBOUR VILLAGE

A lovely feature of this picturesque harbour, 15 wooden pods house a variety of independent retailers.
ambleharbourvillage.co.uk

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BALIWOODWORKSHOP.CO.UK

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SEAWAVESJEWELLERY.ORG

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[INSTAGRAM.COM/](https://www.instagram.com/theboatshedgallery)
THEBOATSHEDGALLERY

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LADY MILLY, [FACEBOOK.COM/](https://www.facebook.com/ladymillyshop)
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URBANPOOCH.CO.UK

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GEORDIEBANGERCOMPANY.CO.UK

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MOCHA MONDO
MOCHAMONDO.CO.UK

This roastery and coffee pod provides a caffeine pick-me-up.

NORTHUMBERLAND
SEAFOOD CENTRE
NORTHUMBERLANDSEAFOOD.CO.UK

The Harbour Village is also home to the Northumberland Seafood Centre, which sells fresh fish landed in Amble, also here is the engaging and informative Northumberland Lobster Hatchery, where you can learn more about these fascinating creatures.

NEWBIGGIN, BLYTH & SEATON SLUICE

Whether you visit for watersports in Blyth, art in Newbiggin, or fish and chips in Seaton Sluice; this section of the coast is rich in mining history and seafaring heritage. Newbiggin-by-the-Sea is a focal point for bucket-and-spade fun and the superb Newbiggin Maritime Centre; two miles inland on the edge of Ashington explore remnants of the region's mining heritage at the fascinating Woodhorn Museum; the village of Cambois and its magnificent beach overlooks the estuary of the River Blyth; while in Blyth itself you'll find a pleasant harbourside promenade, colourful beach huts and an increased cultural offering. The coastal village of Seaton Sluice is chock-full of history, and one of the region's finest fish and chip shops!

WOODHORN MUSEUM AND NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHIVES

A short drive from the Newbiggin coast in Ashington, Woodhorn is one of the region's best museums. Explore the story of coal mining in the North East and learn about the lives of the men who worked deep underground at Woodhorn Colliery. The museum, on the site of a pit which brought up 600,000 tonnes of coal per year at its peak and operated for more than 80 years, tells stories of what it was like to work in the mine. The historic colliery site provides a great opportunity to learn about the history of mining in the region, with lots of interactive displays, huge bits of machinery and a myriad of buildings to explore. The museum also houses work by the Ashington Group of artists, also known as the Pitmen Painters, whose work depicts life in the mining communities of the region, from whippet racing to industrial scenes and family life. A short stroll around the pleasant lake will top off your day – watch out for the hungry swans!

QEII Country Park, Ashington, museumsnorthumberland.org.uk/woodhorn-museum





NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA

A popular seaside resort, the bay is marked by a breakwater built to protect against erosion and topped by a 12.5m high bronze and steel sculpture called The Couple (pictured), which at high tide gives the impression the figures are standing on the surface of the sea. Along the promenade, you'll find stone carvings, ceramic panels, stained glass windows and all manner of community-created artworks. The UK's oldest operational lifeboat station dating back to 1851 is close by, and Newbiggin has a seaside links golf course open all year round.

BLYTH BEACH & BATTERY

The stretch of dune-backed sands on the southern approach to busy Blyth port is a haven for wildlife and a designated Special Nature Conservation area. It's not unusual to see dolphins, seals and porpoises in the water off the 3-mile strip of South Beach. Bathers, surfers, jet skiers, canoeists, and anglers are also attracted to the area, and the colourful beach huts are a fun focal point. Blyth Battery was built in 1916 to protect the port and is now a military and local history museum which includes World War I and II coastal defence buildings, ammunition and weapons, and a recreation of a Battery Observation Post from WWII and a WWI trench (open Sat & Sun. South Beach, blythbattery.org.uk)

NEWBIGGIN MARITIME CENTRE

The Maritime Centre brings together the history of the town and its fishing community with a hub for local events. The museum charts the history of North Sea fishermen and is home to Newbiggin's last all-weather lifeboat, while the Breakwater Café serves snacks and lunches daily. You'll also find plenty of events throughout the year, including regular music and film events and an annual kite festival. **Church Point, NE64 6DB, nmcentre.org.uk**



SEATON SLUICE

This area is synonymous with the Delaval family and their industry of coal and glass manufacturing. It was Sir Ralph Delaval who built a pier and sluice gates at the natural harbour to allow better access when exporting his products, and over time the village became known as Seaton Sluice. Nowadays, visitors are attracted by a wide sandy beach backed by grassy dunes, the interesting **Watch House Museum** which houses artefacts belonging to the Seaton Sluice Volunteer Life Saving Company, the unusual **Tower House Gallery** and one of the North East's best fish and chip shops, **The Harbour View**.

FOOD & DRINK

Coastline, Links Road Blyth, NE24 3PL
coastlinefishandchips.co.uk
A one-stop shop for all your seaside food needs, serving up hearty portions of fish and chips alongside Ciccarelli's Italian ice cream

Cafe Bertorelli, 4 Bridge Street Newbiggin-by-the-Sea NE64 6EG, caffebertorelli.co.uk

This Art Deco building was established in the 1930s by the Bertorelli family, their signature ice cream and Italian sourced coffee are a must

Cafe Needles Eye, Promenade Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6XE, cafeneedleseye.co.uk

This delightful location not only offers delicious cuisine with a focus on seafood and locally sourced ingredients, but also a sauna and hydrotherapy room. They also hire paddleboards

The King's Arms, The Harbour Seaton Sluice, NE26 4RD thekingsarms-ne.co.uk

This historic pub commands an enviable location overlooking the bay, offering home cooked food and local beers on tap

CULTURE IN BLYTH

The seaside town has had a resurgence of late, with a revitalised marketplace and new cultural spaces.

MARKET PAVILION, Market Street NE24 1BQ, marketpavilion.co.uk

This shiny new building is a cultural hub for the town, with a 3 screen cinema, cafe, event space and regular performances.

PHOENIX THEATRE 37a Beaconsfield Street, NE24 2DS thephoenixtheatre.org.uk

Eclectic programme of drama, music and comedy.

REPUBLIC GALLERY 85 Bridge Street, NE24 3AE republicgallery.co.uk

Based in the King's Head pub, this independent gallery champions local artists, with regularly changing exhibitions.



NATURE ON THE NORTHUMBERLAND COAST

The South East corner of the Northumberland Coast is a rich area for wildlife. Migrating and native birds hang out at Hauxley Nature Reserve, and you'll find miles of unspoiled beaches at Cresswell and Druridge, where the high dunes are home to tiny, flitting birds and waders year-round. Prehistoric tree stumps, logs and ancient footprints are visible at low tide, alongside critters in rock pools. The nature reserves along the coast are managed by Northumberland Wildlife Trust, whose important work protects wildlife. nwt.org.uk

Hauxley Nature Reserve © NWT

CRESSWELL POND & DRURIDGE POOLS

Inland ponds and pools host a variety of wildlife, from migrating birds to rare butterflies, roe deer and otters. Watch wading birds from hides at Cresswell Pond, while the foreshore is dotted with pools in which varied marine wildlife make their home. The larger Druridge Pools is home to overwintering flocks of geese, wigeon, teal and goldeneye. At nearby Low Chibburn you'll discover a ruined preceptory founded by the Knights Hospitallers, which has variously been used as a country house in the 16th Century and a WWII pillbox.

NE61 5EH for Cresswell, NE61 5EG for Druridge

HAUXLEY WILDLIFE DISCOVERY CENTRE

At the northern end of Druridge Bay, Hauxley is one of the best wildlife-watching spots in the North East, there's a circular walk and several hides. Hauxley is on the flight path of many migratory birds, with Spring seeing an abundance of newborns. Finches, coots, moorhens, a multitude of geese and even otters, stoats and red squirrels all make the centre their home amid wildflower-filled fields. The eco-friendly Lookout Café has giant picture windows so you can bird-watch while supping a cuppa or enjoying a delicious scone, toasted sandwich or sweet treat.

Low Hauxley, NE65 0JR

DRURIDGE BAY & COUNTRY PARK

Stretching from Amble in the north to the village of Cresswell, Druridge Bay is a delightfully windswept stretch of golden sands backed by high dunes. The Country Park has a variety of excellent facilities, including a visitor centre, large children's play area and busy café. Get out on the lake via kayak, canoe or dinghy with Coquet Shorebase Trust, or simply take a stroll on the lakeside walk which passes through a nature-filled reserve, extensive woodland and alongside pretty meadows. Stay overnight at the campsite and take advantage of the peace and quiet after the daytrippers have gone home.

Hadstone, NE61 5BX



CRESSWELL WALLED GARDEN & PELE TOWER

Cresswell's 14th Century Pele Tower and Walled Garden has been lovingly restored. In the garden you'll find accessible paths meandering alongside pretty flower beds, veg plots and a wildlife pond. The castle-like Pele Tower's thick walls and three floors would have protected the Cresswell family against the raiding Border Reivers in the 14th Century, and excavations undertaken as part of the renovation in 2017 unearthed two early Bronze Age burial cists. Climb the narrow stairs to the roof for a marvellous view of the coastline. The Pele Tower is only open on select days, visit the website for info.

NE61 5JU, cresswellpeletower.org.uk



Reedbed at East Chevington © NWT

EAST CHEVINGTON NATURE RESERVE

East Chevington's reedbeds, woodland, meadows and farmland is highly accessible and visitor friendly. Located between Druridge Bay Country Park and Druridge Pools, it's a wonderful birdwatching spot with a 4.5km circular walk, wildlife hides and viewing points overlooking the north and south lakes. Elusive species like spoonbill and kingfisher are occasional visitors, while Marsh harriers have been bred onsite since 2009. The area has also become a vital release site for harvest mice, thanks to a breeding programme at nearby Northumberland Zoo.

Near Red Row, NE61 5BG



Live music in Berwick

Northumberland's must-see **cultural destination**

Berwick is fast emerging as a must-see cultural destination. It mixes its unique heritage and traditions with a vibrant arts scene – and was even named as the number one 'happiest place to live' in the UK by the Guardian.

Make sure you sample some of that happiness during your visit to Northumberland – here are just some of the year-round attractions and one-off events that you can experience in Berwick.

Berwick festivals

Cultural festivals fill the calendar in Berwick, from those which mark centuries-old traditions, through to brand new, grassroots events.

Every spring, the Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival brings a diverse programme of premieres, new cinema and moving image to the town, while the festival's town centre hub, The Burr of Berwick, welcomes visitors all year round. Situated at 22 Bridge Street, this former empty shop has been transformed into a bustling space for

free events, artists' installations, and screenings.

On 31 July and 1 August 2026, the Amped Berwick Fringe Festival takes place for the first time, filling the town with the sounds of live music. Look out for pop-up performances, emerging artists and musical events at multiple venues.

And between 5 and 11 October 2026, the Berwick Literary Festival returns, with novelists and playwrights, historians and poets, songwriters, storytellers and screenwriters taking centre stage for a full week of stories and writing.

Living heritage – the Riding of the Bounds and the crowning of the Salmon Queen

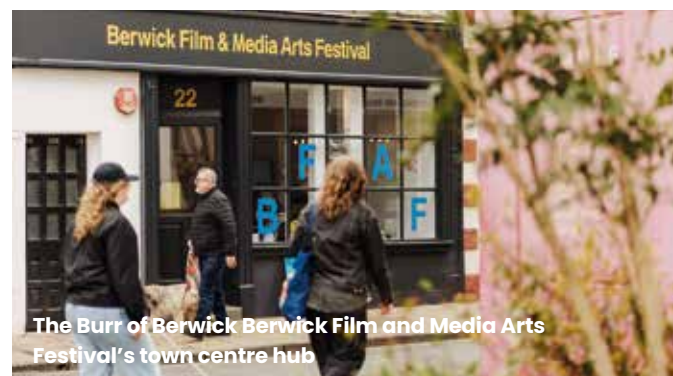
Berwick's heritage is still very much alive, with local residents and visitors to the town coming together to celebrate traditions that stretch back centuries. Join the crowds to witness the music, parades and pageantry.

Every year on the Saturday of the May Day bank holiday weekend, Berwick comes alive with colour as horses and riders take to the streets for the Riding of the Bounds – a centuries-old tradition rooted in the inspection of the boundary between England and Scotland.

And don't miss the crowning of the Salmon Queen, which marks the start of the salmon fishing season in the River Tweed. This year's event will be a three-day spectacular, with the new addition of an exhibition



The Salmon Queen parade in Berwick



The Burr of Berwick Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival's town centre hub



The Riding of the Bounds



The Salmon Queen parade in Berwick

and installation by artist Lucy Wright, honouring present-day kings and queens of Berwick. Our Wic (the title originates from the Old English meaning of 'Berwick') includes portraits of people who represent Berwick's current industries, crowns crafted by local artisans, and an immersive throne room in The Straw Yard at Berwick Barracks. Step inside and pose for your photograph wearing the Our Wic crown!

Berwick Open Studios

The first Berwick Open Studios event takes place on 26–27 September and 3–4 October 2026, with artists, makers and creatives across the town opening their doors to the public. Get a behind-the-scenes look at Berwick's creative community, meet artists and buy

original works. The full programme will be announced at www.createberwick.co.uk/berwickopenstudios.

And whenever you visit, you'll find independent galleries, arts spaces and studios filled with the work of local artists.

At Berwick's historic Barracks site, you can take in films in the cosy 96-seat Maltings Cinema which is situated alongside artists' studios; and The Maltings' Granary Gallery and Hide Hill sites offer year-round exhibitions, workshops and creative events.

Or drop into one of the town's museums or historic sites to learn more about this frontier town's unique history.

Create Berwick

Create Berwick

Create Berwick is a creative regeneration pilot funded by NECA and NCC, meaning that investment has been channelled into its artists, festivals, creative businesses and people. New creative workspaces have been funded, artists commissioned, and large-scale events organised to showcase the vibrant, creative place which Berwick is today.

Find out more at www.createberwick.co.uk



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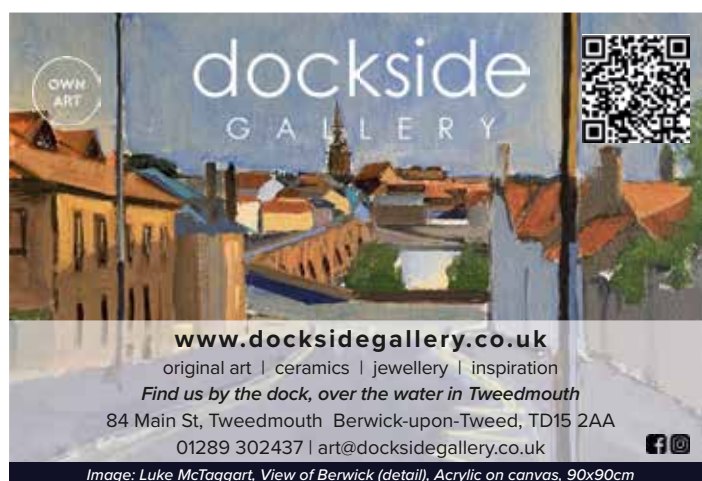
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Image: Luke McTaggart, View of Berwick (detail), Acrylic on canvas, 90x90cm

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MiE Fielding's SOUND OF A LANDSCAPE

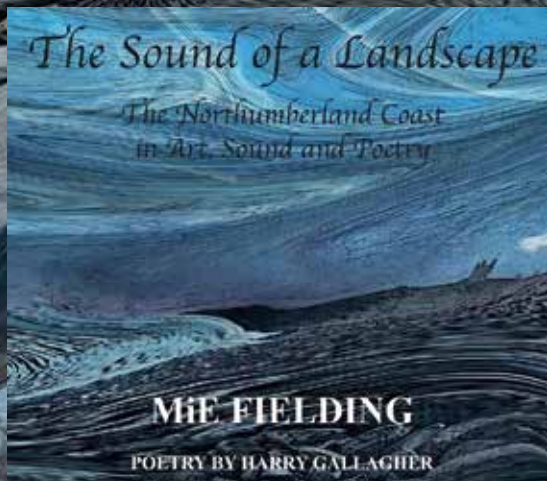
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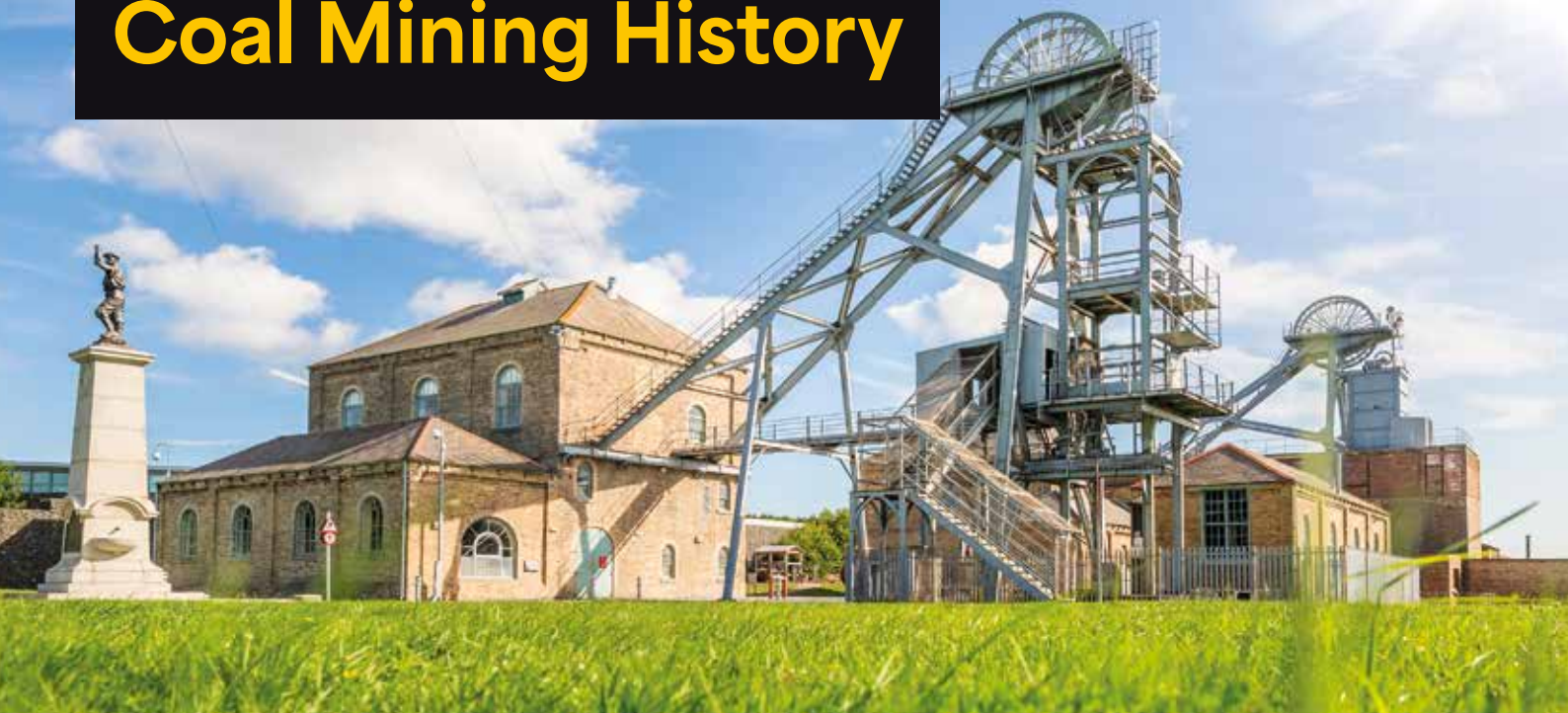
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NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND

Wide open spaces, ancient monuments and an intriguing heritage make this part of Northumberland a vital part of any visit. Encompassing the majority of Northumberland National Park, it's here that you'll find sweeping vistas from hilltops studded with mysterious rock carvings, majestic forests that are home to secretive creatures and hidden waterfalls nestled into the folds of the landscape.

The area's history is as tangible as its landscapes; roam around magnificent castles and through gorgeous gardens, explore galleries and museums and taste some of the county's finest food and drink. Take to the open road by car, on two wheels or two feet, and reap the rewards of this fabulous part of the county.

OUR FAVOURITE EXPERIENCES



Explore iconic Alnwick Castle's impressive fortifications then shop for bargains at Barter Books

Travel on England's most northerly steam railway at Heatherslaw

View waterfalls, wild goats and ancient hill forts in the Cheviots

College Valley

ALNWICK

Approached through the impressive ancient gateway of Bondgate Tower, this market town has earned the nickname of the Windsor of the North, and you only have to set eyes on the imposing bulk of Alnwick Castle – the seat of the dukes of Northumberland – to see why. The town itself is full of cobbled streets, medieval, Georgian and Victorian buildings, and an eclectic assortment of independent shops.



ALNWICK CASTLE

One of the region's most iconic landmarks, Alnwick Castle has been the seat of the Percy family – earls and later dukes of Northumberland – since 1309. The Percy's French Norman family story is ingrained in English history, and the castle served as a strategic defence against the Border Reivers. Informative tours provide an insight into the family, as well as the castle's starring role in films including Harry Potter, Transformers, Downton Abbey and Dungeons & Dragons. Take Broomstick Training on the very spot Harry had his first flying lesson, enjoy performers and falconry displays, or dress up in medieval costume for a taste of 14th Century life. Among the fascinating and most important collections of fine and decorative art in the UK are paintings by Titian, Canaletto and Van Dyck, precious first editions of books by Darwin, Meissen porcelain and many decorative tapestries and furniture. Further museums and displays delve into the castle's history, including the family's connection to aeronautics and the fascinating fusiliers museum.

NE66 1NQ, alnwickcastle.com



SHOPPING IN ALNWICK

Alnwick's charming streets are home to a handful of distinctive independent businesses.

BARTER BOOKS, Wagon Way Road, NE66 2NP, barterbooks.co.uk

One of the largest second-hand bookstores in Europe, Barter Books is housed within a former railway station. Shelves heave with books, from paperbacks and hardbacks to rare books and tomes on everything you can think of. Run in part on a barter system, exchange your old books for store credit and prepare to lose yourself for a few hours. (Refuel at the Station Buffet and the neighbouring ice cream parlour!)

ACCIDENTAL BOOKSHOP

4 Narrowgate, NE66 1JG, forumbooksshop.com

Another noteworthy bookshop in town is the sister venue to Corbridge's Forum Books, the delightful Accidental Bookshop is home to the UK's tallest bookshelf – we're sure they've got some ladders for you.

BOWRING HEPPLE BLACK

8 Narrowgate, NE66 1JG, [facebook.com/bowringheppleblack](https://www.facebook.com/bowringheppleblack)

Trading on the town's Hogwarts credentials, Bowring Hepple Black is the place to hunt for Harry Potter swag, as well as TV and film-themed merchandise.



Bowring Hepple Black

THE CHEESE ROOM AT ALNWICK DELI, 5A Paikes Street

[instagram.com/alnwickcheeseroom](https://www.instagram.com/alnwickcheeseroom)

Delicious deli produce from Northumberland and the wider North East, with a superb range of cheeses and associated accompaniments.

RUBY TUESDAY, 16 Narrowgate, NE66 1JG, rubytuesdayalnwick.com

Carefully chosen clothing and an exclusive gift range is eminently browsable.

PENN GALLERY, 9a Narrowgate, NE66 1JH, penngallery.co.uk

Art-lovers will find something delightful amongst Penn Gallery's diverse and captivating collection.

THE CHOCOLATE SPA, 1 Finkle Street, NE66 1HW, chocolatespa.co.uk

Experts in indulgent sweet treats, chocolates and luxurious hot drinks.



HULNE PARK

The former hunting grounds of the duke and duchess of Northumberland and landscaped by Capability Brown, Hulne Park is an expanse of rolling sheep fields and strutting pheasants, where you'd be lucky to encounter more than a handful of people on its variety of trails. Three reasonably long but easy walking trails snake through the park, where notable features include the Gothic Brizlee Tower, expansive views and the atmospheric ruin of Hulne Priory, the site of a Carmelite friary founded in 1240. Keep an eye out for Nine Year Auld Hole, a cave guarded by a creepy statue of a life-sized white friar, probably placed during the 18th Century when Capability Brown was sprucing up the estate and friary. No dogs allowed.

Ratten Row, NE66 3JE
northumberlandstates.co.uk



EDLINGHAM CASTLE

Not quite as famous as that other leaning tower, Edlingham Castle has its own precarious structure. Fortified against the Scots in the 14th Century, only ruins exist of the riverside manor house. What remains has withstood pilfering for its stone, and now the solar tower is the most complete part of the castle. Situated to the west of Alnwick, it's in the stewardship of English Heritage, and is free to visit.

Edlingham, NE66 2BW
english-heritage.org.uk

THRUNTON WOOD

Thrunton Wood resides between the Long Crag/Coe Crag and Thrunton Crag sandstone escarpments, meaning there's some great viewpoints across the surrounding countryside. You'll get tremendous views of the Cheviots from the mile-long Crag Top route, while the more demanding Castle Hill walk takes a steeper route for a loftier vista. Refuel after your walk with a cuppa at Thrunton Woods Tearoom. **NE66 4SD, forestryengland.uk**

CULTURE & HISTORY IN ALNWICK

As is befitting an ancient market town, Alnwick has a wealth of culture to investigate.

BAILIFFGATE MUSEUM & GALLERY, 14 Bailiffgate, NE66 1LX, bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk

Focusing on local history, with fascinating displays, changing exhibitions, talks and workshops centred around the heritage, art and craft of the area. Located in the impressive St Mary's Church, the building itself is a real treasure to explore too.

ALNWICK PLAYHOUSE Bondgate Without, NE66 1PQ, alnwickplayhouse.co.uk

Those looking for light entertainment will find much to enjoy at the vibrant theatre and entertainment complex which presents diverse and inspirational cultural experiences including touring drama, music, dance and film.

ALNWICK GARDEN

This stunning formal garden in the castle grounds is set around a cascading fountain created under the supervision of Jane Percy, Duchess of Northumberland. The 42-acre gardens sit on the site of the first formal garden designed by Capability Brown in 1750, and are home to diverse plantings, water features and the famous Poison Garden of intoxicating and poisonous plants from around the world. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, it's a garden for all seasons; the cherry orchard, housing the largest collection of Taihaku ornamental cherry trees in world, is particularly attractive during the spring. **NE66 1RA, alnwickgarden.com**

FOOD & DRINK

The Treehouse Restaurant at Alnwick Garden, NE66 1YU
alnwickgarden.com

Dine in the treetops at one of the most unique restaurants in the world, where trees grow through the floor and you reach your table via wooden walkways laced between 16 mature lime trees. The seasonal menu features local seafood, Northumberland-bred meat and regional specialities

Di Sopra, 9 Bondgate Within NE66 1SX, disopra.co.uk

Quality ingredients grace classic dishes like bruschetta and focaccia, alongside pasta dishes and gnocchi. Booking ahead is recommended

The Plough, 24 Bondgate Without, NE66 1PN

theploughalnwick.co.uk
Restored luxury coaching inn with seven bedrooms and an excellent restaurant serving fish fresh from the North Sea and meat from various Northumberland Estates

Sonnet Restaurant, 41 Bondgate Without, NE66 1PR
sonnet.restaurant

Indulge in a 14 course tasting menu inspired by literary history at this remarkable restaurant, which prides itself on attention to detail and a personalised experience for the diner

Adam And Eve, 3 Clayport Street, NE66 1LA
adamandevaelnwick.co.uk

Smart and welcoming, this elevated gastropub offers creative cocktails and a menu of modern European dishes with a focus on Northumbrian produce



LILIDOREI

The largest play structure in the world, Lilidorei is a delightful addition to the Alnwick Garden. Conceived as a fantastical world where children can play, create and explore, the nine clans of Lilidorei – fairies, goblins, elves and the like – are each represented by a clan house, and immersive soundscapes add to the fun. Dotted around the space are Secret Keepers, storytellers who engage visitors and further bring them into Lilidorei's charming world. The play structure itself is a giant construction of walkways and bridges to cross, holes to climb through, and basket swings and hanging bars to clamber around. **NE66 1FJ, lilidoreialnwick.co.uk**

ALN VALLEY RAILWAY

Constructed and run by volunteers, this ambitious project to reopen the branch line from Alnwick to Alnmouth includes a new station and visitor centre which has been created with a three-mile run on the original track bed. Regular events include special open days where you can look around the rolling stock shed. **Lionheart Railway Station, Lionheart Enterprise Park, NE66 2EZ, alnvalleyrailway.co.uk**

THE DIRTY BOTTLES PUB ON NARROWGATE TRADES ON ITS RATHER UNUSUAL CLAIM TO FAME – IT'S REPUTED TO BE CURSED. TWO CENTURIES AGO THE LANDLORD DROPPED DEAD AFTER MESSING ABOUT WITH THE ROW OF GLASS BOTTLES WHICH SIT IN THE WINDOW, LEADING TO A LEGEND WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE SAME WOULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE WHO TOUCHED THEM. THE DIRTY BOTTLES ARE NOW SEALED BETWEEN TWO PANES OF GLASS, JUST IN CASE! THE PUB SERVES A MENU OF PUB CLASSICS AND MODERN DISHES, WITH THE BAR IDEAL FOR A RELAXED DRINK OR COCKTAIL ([THEDIRTYBOTTLES.CO.UK](http://thedirtybottles.co.uk))

FORD & ETAL

The twin villages of Ford and Etal, along with the hamlet of Heatherslaw which lies in between, are one of rural Northumberland's best kept secrets. The surrounding countryside is dotted with castles and battlefields, highlighting centuries of conflict and resulting in a wealth of fascinating heritage attractions to visit. Most of the attractions here operate April–October but it's worth checking ahead. Download maps and walks at ford-and-etal.co.uk

ETAL CASTLE

In the pretty village of Etal lies the ruins of a small, 14th century castle, in what was once a strategic border location. It fell to James IV's invading Scottish army and was partially destroyed shortly before his defeat at nearby Flodden in 1513. A military presence was maintained here until 1603. **TD12 4TN, english-heritage.org.uk**



HEATHERSLAW LIGHT RAILWAY

Travel on England's most northerly steam railway on a charming 4-mile return journey alongside the River Till from Heatherslaw to Etal on the 15-inch narrow gauge railway. Alternatively, take a one-way trip and walk back to enjoy the lovely scenery. **Ford Forge Heatherslaw, TD12 4TJ** heatherslawlightrailway.co.uk



HEATHERSLAW CORN MILL

Stoneground flour and oats have been milled on this site since the 13th Century. Today, the huge waterwheel still activates a series of cogs and gears to drive the massive mill stone. The mechanisation, little changed since Roman times, is fascinating to watch. Learn about hydropower, how flour is produced and the mill's history, you can even try your hand at bread-making. **Heatherslaw, TD12 4TJ, ford-and-etal.co.uk/heatherslaw-mill**



HAY FARM HEAVY HORSE CENTRE

Meet the Scottish Clydesdales, the original form of horsepower, at this charming Rare Breed Approved Conservation Centre. These gentle giants were once a common sight before the arrival of mechanical power in the 19th Century. Visitors can meet the stallion, the mares and their foals. Carriage rides are available during the school holidays. Open Tuesday–Sunday from March to December. **Near Heatherslaw TD12 4TR, www.hayfarmheavies.co.uk**



DUDDO FIVE STONES

Located around three miles north of Etal village, this curious and atmospheric stone circle dates to the Bronze Age, and its purpose remains shrouded in mystery; jutting out of the ground like crooked teeth, worn with grooves and ancient graffiti, their location a few miles from the Scottish border provides stunning views of the surrounding Cheviot hills (///vine.obstruct.advantage).

FLODDEN FIELD

On 9th September 1513 the armies of England and Scotland collided on Flodden Field. James IV of Scotland had declared war on England, leading his troops over the border. On the day of the battle, 10,000 Scots were slaughtered and James IV became the last British king to die in combat. Follow the Flodden Battlefield Trail to learn more..

Branxton, TD12 4SN, www.flodden1513.com

ACTIVITIES IN FORD & ETAL

ACTIVE 4 SEASONS

active4seasons.co.uk

Run by the experienced paddle sports coach Ollie Jay, Active 4 Seasons can get you out on the River Till in a canoe or kayak to view the abundant wildlife.

KIMMERSTON HORSE RIDING CENTRE

Ford, NE71 6JH, kimmerston.com

This wonderful riding centre enables visitors of all abilities to explore the area on horseback, across field and moorland, enjoying spectacular views across to the Cheviots.

RAVN CLAY POTTERY

Ford, TD15 2QA, ravnclay.co.uk

Join Keith the potter for a fun-filled and informative workshop aimed at introducing visitors to a variety of pottery methods. Some sessions are suitable for children, and all you need is some imagination and enthusiasm! Your creations will be fired and ready for collection or posting within 14-28 days, and Keith's own wonderful handcrafted pieces are also available to buy.



LADY WATERFORD HALL

Lady Louisa Waterford commissioned the building of Ford village school in 1860. An artist of some repute, she set herself the task of painting huge Bible scenes to decorate the walls, using local people as models. The school closed in 1957, but this unique building and its remarkable Pre-Raphaelite paintings are carefully preserved. **Ford, TD15 2QG, ford-and-etal.co.uk/lady-waterford-hall**



THE BRYNEICH STUDIO

Heatherslaw, TD12 4TJ

spindriftstories.co.uk

Discover Northumberland's folktales and legends through immersive storytelling performances, visual art and informative displays.

NORTHUMBRIAN EARTH

Ford Forge, Heatherslaw, TD12 4TJ

northumbrianearth.co.uk

Take a guided geo walk with geology expert and enthusiast Dr. Ian Kille.

FOOD & DRINK

The Black Bull, Etal, TS12 4TL

The only thatched pub in Northumberland, sample a selection of light lunches, a la carte evening meals and plenty of traditional dishes. Sit outside and enjoy the views of the village and castle.

The Cheviot Tap, Slainsfield near Etal, TD12 4TP

cheviotbrewery.co.uk

Sample the brewery's own ales, made just next door, in a lovely beer garden or cosy up to the log burning stove indoors and enjoy freshly made pizzas on Friday and Saturdays from April-Autumn. Open Friday-Sunday.

The Lavender Tearooms, Etal TD12 4TN

lavendertearooms.org.uk

A traditional tearoom, village shop and Post Office. Enjoy light meals, and sample local specialities like Singin' Hinnie or a slice of Lavender sponge. A sunny tea garden welcomes dogs.

Ford Village Coffee Shop & B&B, TD15 2QG

fordvillageshop.co.uk

Light lunches, tasty cakes and snacks alongside hot drinks at this coffee shop in the heart of the village.

Corn Mill Coffee House Heatherslaw Mill, TD12 4TJ

[instagram.com/cornmillcoffeehouse](https://www.instagram.com/cornmillcoffeehouse)

Excellent baking, salads, sandwiches and hot drinks made on site in a beautiful setting on the River Till.

SHARING A WORKSHOP IN THE OLD DRYING KILN OPPOSITE HEATHERSLAW MILL, INNOVATIVE JEWELLER SPIRIT OF COLOUR CREATES PRETTY HANDMADE EARRINGS, NECKLACES AND BRACELETS FROM SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES; WHILE JOHN SPEIGHT'S PAPER CUT ART IS INTRICATELY DETAILED. (JOHNSPEIGHT.CO.UK, SPIRITOFCOLOURJEWELLERY.CO.UK)

CHILLINGHAM

OLD BEWICK

This ancient area reveals several interesting and mysterious sites, from Blawearie's ruined shepherd's hut to an Iron Age hill fort, Bronze Age cairn, World War II pillboxes and cup and ring petroglyphs. The area teems with myth and legend, making it ripe for exploration. Also nearby is Cateran Hole, reputedly a smugglers' cave which is notoriously difficult to find; a series of carved stone steps lead 40 metres into the gritstone of the hill amid the lonely Bewick Moor (<http://upwards.kiosk.showrooms>).



CHILLINGHAM CASTLE

This 13th Century castle is endearingly quirky, and its restoration has been a real labour of love for owner Sir Humphry Wakefield. A visit begins with a walk through the dimly-lit dungeon which gives some insight into the eccentricity you're likely to come across during the rest of your visit. History is dense here, and the whole castle is filled with fascinating items that it'd take an age to fully investigate. Not all of the castle is in good condition, but it's all the more fascinating for its whimsical and often quite random collection. Expect to discover astonishing aspects of English history which include visits from kings and ghosts (it's said to be Britain's most haunted castle), Roman artefacts, staircases that become latrines, a collection of forlorn looking rocking horses, arms and armour, American wild west ephemera, mammoth teeth, idyllic gardens and lakes...the list goes on! Buy a copy of the guide to the castle, offered alongside your ticket on arrival and written by Sir Humphry himself in a humorous and characterful style. **NE66 5NJ, chillingham-castle.com**

Join the experts

Ghost Tours For a truly frightful treat, join one of the castle's legendary ghost tours which explore the haunted areas of the grounds, complete with spooky stories!



Join the experts

Chillingham Wild Cattle
chillinghamwildcattle.com

The descendants of fearsome aurochs, and the only wild cattle in the world, a visit with Chillingham's wild cattle is an awesome experience. Learn about the beasts' remarkable history and unique mating and fighting rituals. There are around 130 cattle in the two herds, and there is no interference from humans at all, from birth to death; undoubtedly their isolated location and unique genetics has contributed to their success. Note that while the wild cattle experience is on the Chillingham Castle estate, it is a separate visitor attraction, although joint castle and cattle tickets are available.

WOOLER

The gateway to The Cheviots, the small market town of Wooler lies on the edge of the stunning Northumberland National Park and is a popular base for walkers and cyclists. For short walks close to town, Wooler Common was a frequent site for marauding Scots in the 14th and 16th centuries and later for the Border Reivers. A network of permissive paths and public trails leads walkers around mature woodland and open common, and there's an easy access trail around two picturesque ponds.

FOOD & DRINK

Milan, 2 High Street, NE71 6BY
facebook.com/milanwooler

Located in the old stables of the Black Bull Hotel, Milan has something for everyone, from pizzas and pastas, to fish, chicken and steak dishes, as well as homemade desserts

Doddington Dairy Milk Bar

11 South Road, NE71 6QE
doddingtonmilkbar.co.uk

This cute little cafe on the A697 outside Wooler was built by a local dairy farmer in the '30s and serves the region's famous Doddington ice cream, made by cows who hang out just down the road at Doddington Dairy. They also serve breakfasts, brunches and light bites

The Red Lion Inn, Main Road, Milfield, NE71 6JD
redlionmilfield.co.uk

This coaching house dates back to the mid 1700s, when it was used by sheep drovers and the Mail Stagecoach. Nowadays, visitors will find wholesome home cooked food, with Sunday lunch, locally sourced fish and steak pies being particular highlights, plus there's six en suite bedrooms

AD GEFRIN

This impressive Anglo-Saxon museum and whisky distillery showcases the unique heritage and ancient hospitality of the area. Building upon archaeological finds at nearby Yeavering, Ad Gefrin offers an immersive experience and a revealing insight into Northumbria's fascinating 'Golden Age'. Explore an AV recreation of the Great Hall of the Royal Palace of Gefrin where the Anglo-Saxon period comes to vivid life through stories and artefacts, marvel at beautiful architecture and discover items from the excavations at Yeavering. Building on the legendary ancient hospitality of the area, the site is also home to a whisky distillery which celebrates local provenance and a highly acclaimed Bistro). **South Road NE71 6NJ, adgefirin.co.uk**

Join the experts

Kypie Farm Sheep Trekking, kypiefarm.com

Take one of Kypie Farm's friendly Swiss Valais Blacknose sheep on a wander around this beautiful farm in the foothills of the Cheviots

MAELMIN HISTORICAL TRAIL

THIS QUIRKY SPOT RECREATES AN ANGLO-SAXON HENGE, A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ONCE GATHERED FOR WORSHIP OR COMMUNITY EVENTS, WHICH EXISTED NEAR THE MODERN DAY VILLAGE OF MILFIELD. ALSO ON SITE, AND ACCESSED BY HELPFUL TRAILS, IS A RECONSTRUCTION OF A DARK AGE HOUSE. (MILFIELD, NE71 6HL, [MAELMIN.ORG.UK](https://maelmin.org.uk))



THE CHEVIOTS & COLLEGE VALLEY

The range of rolling hills straddling the Anglo-Scottish border can be viewed for miles around, and the routes of ancient cattle drovers are now bridleways for mountain bikers and horse riders. There are many rewards to hiking in this area, here's a few of our favourite spots...

THE CHEVIOT

///volunteered.crouches.tips

A lure for walkers, and the highest point in Northumberland National Park. A millstone slabbed pathway, part of the Pennine Way, leads to peat bogs and the wreckage of a crashed B-17 bomber. Start your walk from Langleeford farm in the Harthope Valley.

YEAVINGER BELL

///decking.unloaded.wizards

A large Iron Age hill fort which also provides an opportunity to view an elusive herd of wild goats who graze the area. Begin the hike just outside the picturesque village of Kirknewton, the gateway to the College Valley.

HUMBLETON HILLFORT

start in Wooler village centre

Close to Wooler is Humbleton Hill Iron Age hillfort, the scene of a bloody Scottish defeat by Harry Hotspur in 1402 and immortalised by William Shakespeare in the opening of his play, Henry IV Part I.

HARTHOPE VALLEY

approach from Langleeford

Southwest of Wooler, the Harthope Valley is surrounded by high hills; the steep slog up Hedgehope Hill, the second highest peak in the Cheviots, rewards with magnificent views which reach out to the coast. The banks of Harthope Burn and the picturesque Harthope Linn make for perfect picnic spots. if you're lucky, you'll see otters in the shallow rivers.

BREAMISH VALLEY Ingram

In the Breamish Valley, the pretty village of Ingram is a Dark Sky Discovery Site, and the surrounding hills boast the highest concentration of Bronze and

Iron Age settlements and hill forts in Northumberland, including the Iron Age hill fort Brough Law a short walk from the village.

LINHOPE SPOUT

start from Ingram Cafe

Further up the valley, the 3.2 mile trail to Linhope Spout is a great walk for families. Grab a takeaway picnic from Ingram Cafe ([instagram.com/ingramcafe](https://www.instagram.com/ingramcafe)).

BRANTON LAKES

///grocers.populate.increment

On the approach to Ingram, stop off at the peaceful nature reserve of Branton Lakes for wildlife hides and accessible paths.

THE COLLEGE VALLEY

///motivator.ruled.recap

Following the College Burn through 12,000 acres of wild terrain, this is a place of quiet beauty, restricted for cars and perfect for walkers. Parking is available in tiny Hethpool, if you wish to go further (or stay overnight) you'll need a permit (restricted to 12 per day) to park at Mounthooly Bunkhouse. From here, you can explore the hidden remains of Iron Age hill forts at Great and Little Hetha, Ring Chesters, North Blackhags and Sinkside.

HETHPOOL LINN

For an easy day trip, walk along the valley floor to explore Hethpool Lake and Hethpool Linn waterfall, a perfect spot for a picnic on a sunny day.

HEN HOLE

The College Burn falls dramatically at impressive Hen Hole, which sits in a rugged gorge carved by glaciers.



Linhope Spout

Join the experts

Ingram Valley Farm Safari
[ingramvalley.co.uk](https://www.ingramvalley.co.uk)

Take a trip on the fun Ingram Valley Farm Safari traxter to discover how the land has been shaped over millennia, or join an astronomy tour, yoga or art workshop at the historic farm.

Fells Kitchen, [fellskitchen.co.uk](https://www.fellskitchen.co.uk)

Elevate your picnic with a guided walk and gourmet restaurant-quality lunch prepared by chef and mountain leader Chris Reay.

ROTHBURY

Begin your Coquetdale adventures in the pretty market town of Rothbury. At the heart of the town stands All Saints' Church, which can trace its roots back at least 1,200 years, overlooking a small village green. Rothbury lies in the shadow of the Simonside Hills, with their distinctive stepped ridge and craggy profile which invites further exploration whether on foot, two wheels or on horseback. For those who prefer gentler walks, the picturesque banks of the meandering River Coquet offer wildflower meadows and wildlife aplenty.

CRAGSIDE

The grand retreat of Victorian industrialist Lord Armstrong, the mid-19th Century house is filled with Armstrong's inventions and gadgets, many of them still working. The first house in the world to be lit by hydroelectric power, innovation is everywhere; from the hydro-powered roasting spit in the kitchen to unique growing methods in the glasshouse. The extensive grounds will keep walkers and plant lovers busy – under Armstrong's supervision alone over seven million trees were planted! – and include one of the largest rock gardens in Europe, extensive formal gardens and a justifiably revered rhododendron forest through which a network of paths and trails wind across the estate. Take a journey on the six-mile Carriage Drive, which leads to several car parks from which to strike out on walks of varying length. A labyrinth, adventure play area and fun trails will keep little ones interested too.

NE65 7PX, nationaltrust.org.uk/cragside

Join the experts

Cragend Farm, cragendfarm.co.uk

Explore the unique Cragend Farm, one of the finest purpose-built agricultural buildings in the world, and a brilliant example of Lord Armstrong of Cragside's engineering innovations. Operates May-October.

ART GALLERIES IN ROTHBURY

It's no wonder artists and creative types flock to this part of Northumberland, such is the grandness of the scenery.

COQUETDALE ART GALLERY

Front Street, NE65 7TZ

coquetdalearts.co.uk

Discover the work of local artisans at this collective-run space which exhibits the work of over 150 artists across all manner of disciplines, with much of the work affordable and unique.

CROWN STUDIO GALLERY

Bridge Street, NE65 7SE

crownstudiogallery.myshopify.com

This gallery is run by local landscape painter Lynda Taylor and features her original paintings alongside prints, cards and ceramic art.

ELEMENTS ART & CRAFT GALLERY

Bridge Street, NE65 7SE

facebook.com/elementsrothbury

A cooperative featuring an ever-changing range of glassware, jewellery, sculpture, paintings, gifts and more.

FOOD & DRINK

The Turk's Head, High Street

NE65 7TE

turksheadrothbury.co.uk

Charming 16th Century coaching inn with landscaped beer garden. The extensive pub grub menu will suit all tastes

Newcastle House

Front Street, NE65 7UT

rothburynewcastlehouse.co.uk

Historic pub and bunkhouse, known for Sunday lunches and locally sourced food and drink, from sandwiches and pub classics, to steaks and grills

The Narrow Nick, High Street

NE65 7TB, facebook.com/the.narrow.nick

the.narrow.nick

Friendly micropub featuring local tipples and live music

Tully's of Rothbury, High Street, NE65 7TB

rothburyledi.co.uk

Delightful independent deli and grocery, packed with yummy locally made treats

La Mensa, Lindsay House

Townfoot, NE65 7SL, facebook.com/townfoot

Italian and Mediterranean fare

COQUETDALE & REDESDALE

The countryside around the hub towns of Rothbury and Otterburn encompasses swathes of forests, purple heather dotted moors, vast rocky outcrops and bucolic farmland. This is big sky country, where rare flora, red squirrels and wild goats make their home, and where history looms large at bastle houses, lime kilns and ancient rock art sites.

Upper Coquetdale Valley

SIMONSIDE HILLS

///founders.defensive.gold

Rothbury is the gateway to the Simonside Hills, a vast expanse of craggy rocks, scratchy heather and bird-filled woodland, where hiking trails snake along the ridges affording far-reaching views. Extraordinary cup and ring markings are visible on the rocks around Lordenshaws, where Bronze Age burial cairns and the remains of a hill fort are visible amongst the slopes.

HOLYSTONE

///triangles.clauses.asserts

Lady's Well is a pretty pool headed with a stone cross surrounded by trees, according to legend it was used as a baptism site by the Anglo-Saxon Saint Ninian (park in the village). Nearby, explore the Victorian-built Tosson Lime Kiln (///wording.gentle.liberated) and Woodhouses Bastle (///gourmet. endlessly.spenders), which once shielded wealthy local families from the lawless Border Reivers.

HARBOTTLE

///bloodshot.approach.altitude

Continuing North, stop at the ruins of this 12th Century castle, before enjoying an atmospheric walk to the mythical Drake Stone, a massive sandstone boulder perched atop heather-clad hills not far from Harbottle Lake.

CLENNEL STREET

///innovate.success.suddenly

Near Alwinton, Clennel Street was once a route for traders between Morpeth and the border town of Kelso, now it's Iron Age hill forts, big skies and far-reaching views that draw walkers and cyclists.

FONTBURN RESERVOIR

///acrobats.patting.exporters

Around 15 miles south of Rothbury is Fontburn Reservoir, a popular site for fishing, with children's play area and walks.

OTTERBURN

The village of Otterburn was for centuries on the frontline of the battle for land between England and Scotland and the Battle of Otterburn in 1388 saw the English suffer a bloody and humiliating defeat at the hands of the Scots. Today,

Otterburn is still militarily important; the Otterburn Ranges military training area is just outside the village and you can visit parts of it outside live firing times to find wild goats, moorland birds and even the rare black grouse.

WINTER'S GIBBET

///conveying.uptown.begun

Near the ancient village of Elsdon on a lonely old drovers road is the ominous sight of Winter's Gibbet. In 1791 William Winter and two female companions murdered local woman Margaret Crozier; Winter was hanged for his crime until his clothes rotted off his body and Winter's ghost is said to haunt the area! The present gibbet rests on the exact spot of the original, next to the base of a Saxon cross which marked the highest point on the road.

BLACK MIDDENS BASTLE HOUSE

///compacts.transmitted.spot

Near the village of Tarsset, walking routes around here explore Roman remains and important upland habitats of peat bogs and heather moorland attracting migrant birds, wild goats and rare plants.

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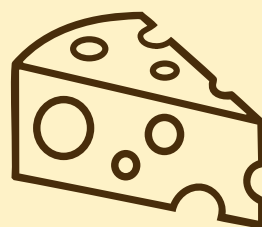
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johnspeight.co.uk spiritofcolourjewellery.co.uk

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On Fridays and Saturdays, the Tipi comes to life as a vibrant space, offering a unique and atmospheric setting to gather, feast and relax.

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www.thetempus.co.uk | info@thetempus.co.uk | 01665 579173



WEST NORTHUMBERLAND

At times remote, with superlative scenery and some of Britain's oldest history, West Northumberland is a joy to discover.

The UNESCO World Heritage site of Hadrian's Wall brings Northumberland's remarkable history to vivid life; standing beside the remains of the north west frontier of the Roman Empire is an evocative experience, and the collections housed in museums and across archaeological sites along the Wall are unrivalled. There's a wild playground of forestry paths at Kielder Water and Forest Park, where birds of prey hunt over Europe's largest man-made reservoir; the majestic North Pennines National Landscape offers rugged countryside and opportunities for dark sky exploration; while the ancient towns of Hexham and Corbridge are home to a wealth of culture, food and drink.

OUR FAVOURITE EXPERIENCES



Hike or cycle around Northern Europe's largest man-made reservoir, surrounded by England's biggest forest at Kielder

Get a glimpse of ancient Roman life at Corbridge Roman Town

Explore Hexham's independent shopping and dining scene

Hexham Abbey

BELLINGHAM TO BARRASFORD

BATTLESTEADS HOTEL & RESTAURANT

The small village of Wark is home to this multi-award winning pub, hotel and restaurant which also provides a focus for star gazers. The former 18th Century farmstead boasts cosy open fires, a sunny beer garden and an inventive menu. It's also flying the flag for sustainable tourism and is officially the greenest hotel in Northumberland. **Wark, NE48 3LS, battlesteads.com**

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battlesteads.com/observatory

Situated within a Dark Sky Discovery site, view the breathtaking night skies alongside dedicated professional astronomers, with regular events and a host of powerful telescopes at your disposal.



HARESHAW LINN

A 3-mile walk from Bellingham past the remains of old ironworks takes you to Hareshaw Linn waterfall, a Site of Special Scientific Interest designated for its ferns and lichen, as well as red squirrels, great spotted woodpeckers and badgers (start from [///guitar.surpassed.discrepancy](http://guitar.surpassed.discrepancy)). If you've built up a thirst after your walk stop off at **First & Last Brewery**, a family-run microbrewery with a cosy taproom open Thursday-Sunday. (Foundry Yard, Bellingham, NE48 2DA firstandlastbrewery.co.uk)



BELLINGHAM

The Pennine Way, Pennine Cycle Way and Reivers Coast to Coast bike route all pass through the ancient market town of Bellingham, which sits in a valley at the confluence of Hareshaw Burn and the River North Tyne, making it popular with walkers, fishing enthusiasts, cyclists and visitors to Kielder and Hadrian's Wall. **Bellingham Heritage Centre** (Woodburn Road, NE48 2DG, bellingham-heritage.org.uk) is worth a visit to learn about the area's industrial and cultural past, while the 13th Century **St Cuthbert's Church** (NE48 2JP) is almost unique in England for its stone barrel vault, built to stop it being burnt down by the Border Reivers. Near the church you'll find **Cuddy's Well**, an ancient well said to be found by the saint that's known for its miracles!

HADRIAN'S HOTEL IN THE VILLAGE OF WALL NORTH OF HEXHAM HAS BECOME A DESTINATION FOR FOODIES THANKS TO THEIR VARIED OFFERING. HOME TO A COSY GASTROPUB AND DESTINATION RESTAURANT WILLOW, EXPECT SEASONAL TASTING MENUS ALONGSIDE CLASSIC PUB DISHES AND COMFORTABLE ROOMS PERFECT FOR LOCAL EXPLORATION. (HADRIANSHOTEL.COM)

BARRASFORD

The picturesque village of Barrasford alongside the River North Tyne is best known as the location of a Bronze Age burial site where, in 1964, the Reaverhill Dagger was found alongside the skeletal remains of its owner. The award-winning **Barrasford Arms** (barrasfordarms.co.uk) in the centre of the village is the place to eat, with a homely atmosphere and an impressive range of real ales behind the bar. The original inn was destroyed in a fire in 1800, which also claimed the life of a villager. His burning apparition has been seen running around the fields nearby.

KIELDER

Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2026, Kielder Water and Forest Park is a place of superlatives; Northern Europe's largest man-made lake (which is actually a reservoir) is surrounded by England's biggest forest, which sits under the darkest skies in the country. Ospreys, red squirrels, water voles, otters and bats live alongside world-class art and architecture, and you can walk, cycle and sail to your heart's content. There's easily enough to keep you occupied here for a couple of days, and it'd be time well-spent.



KIELDER OBSERVATORY

Kielder is one of the largest Dark Sky Reserves in the world. Deep within the forest, the Observatory offers a magical experience where a universe of stars literally opens up before your eyes. Two observing turrets fitted with state of the art telescopes will allow you to peer into space, with experts on hand to explain what you're seeing. Astrophotography and aurora nights are popular, and regular 'star parties' are often held at Kielder Campsite. The annual Dark Skies Festival, held in February, encompasses locations throughout Kielder and the surrounding area.

Black Fell, NE48 1EJ
kielderobservatory.org



KIELDER WATER BIRDS OF PREY CENTRE

Conservation through education are buzzwords at this informative birds of prey centre, which is home to one of the largest collections of owls, hawks, falcons, eagles and vultures in the North of England. Exotic and native species are flown on rotation during displays, so you may see silent owls or giant eagles gliding over your head.

Waterside Park, NE48 1BT
kielderbopc.com



ART & ARCHITECTURE

Bizarre structures and quirky installations that amaze and delight are all part of the landscape at Kielder, contributing to the area's continuing commitment to inspire creative responses to its environment. Discover unusual contemporary artworks dotted around the lake and nestled in the forest including the giant wooden head *Silvas Capitalis*; the Wave Chamber, a brick-built camera obscura reflecting light and sound; Belvedere, a space-age shelter; the contemplative sculptural artwork *Skyspace*; and the delightful Freya's Cabin, which glows golden in the sun. Grab a map from the visitor centres.

ACTIVITIES AT KIELDER

Kielder's visitor centres offer a variety of activities. At busy Kielder Waterside, choose from activities like paddleboarding and canoeing, target sports and games for youngsters and a whole host of family action, plus there's a swimming pool, gym, spa facilities, cafe bar and restaurant. At Tower Knowe, Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Falstone Moss nature reserve is nearby, and you can learn to sail, SUP or surf with Kielder Water Sailing Club, or head out on a motorised boat for a spot of fishing. Upgrades are being made to the former hunting lodge of Kielder Castle, due to reopen in Autumn 2026, with an information centre and cafe. This part of the forest makes a good base for mountain bikers, where thrill seekers will discover rugged wilderness in the MTB Trails Park. Visitors can also pay a visit to the Kielder Salmon Centre, the largest conservation hatchery in England and Wales, or get lost in the Minotaur Maze. Explore the 26-miles of shoreline on the Lakeside Way by two feet or two wheels – hire bikes from Team Cycles at Kielder Castle.

visitkielder.com



OSPREYS AT KIELDER

Kielder has been an incredibly successful site for majestic ospreys, with mating pairs returning to raise their young between March and September. This large raptor can have a wingspan of up to 1.6m, and their hunting antics are spectacular to behold. You'll have a good chance of seeing them around the Bull Crag peninsular, Tower Knowe visitor centre or the weir at Bakethin.

kielderospreys.wordpress.com

Join the experts

Wild Intrigue, wildintrigue.co.uk

Offering wildlife and adventure tours in Kielder, and further afield. Choose from an e-bike safari, guided bat watching, wildlife walks, family activities and their popular and highly recommended osprey watching cruise.



KIELDER FOREST DRIVE

To truly experience the remote wilderness of Kielder, take the 12-mile Forest Drive which runs from Kielder Castle to Blakehopeburnhaugh on the A68. As England's highest forest drive, the unsealed road provides a unique perspective on the landscape, where roe deer and secretive feral goats run wild, and rocky ridges provide excellent vantage points from which to spot buzzards or the iconic osprey. At the midpoint, which crests at 1500 feet, stop at Blakehope Nick shelter and take in the dramatic views. Towards the end of the drive, look out for the Hindhope Linn walking trail to discover a spectacular waterfall in a charming dell. The Forest Drive is a seasonal toll road, and the £5 fee is payable at the toll machine at Kielder Castle (no matter which direction you're travelling).

FOOD & DRINK

The Forest Bar & Kitchen & The Hide, Kielder Waterside, NE48 1BT, kielderwaterside.com
Sourdough pizzas, interesting main courses and Lakes ice cream

Cafe at Tower Knowe Visitor Centre, NE48 1BX kielderwaterside.com
Light bites and snacks (weekends only)

The Black Cock Inn Falstone, NE48 1AA theblackcockinnatfalstone.com
Burgers, grills and traditional Sunday lunch

Falstone Tea Rooms, Falstone NE48 1AE falstonetearooms.com
Breakfast, lunch and sweet treats

The Pheasant Inn Stannersburn, NE48 1DD thepheasantinn.com
Seasonal menus featuring locally sourced meat and fish dishes

THE REIVER TRAILS ARE A SERIES OF WALKING ROUTES THREADING THROUGH KIELDER FOREST AND BEYOND. ALONG THE WAY, YOU CAN DISCOVER SOME OF THE STORIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANGLO-SCOTTISH RAIDERS! (REIVERTRAILS.COM)

FALSTONE

On the southern approach to Kielder you'll pass the pretty village of Falstone, which is worth a stop for a cuppa in the Old Tea Room and a short walk to The Stell, a surprisingly comfortable stone sculpture, and a prime Dark Sky site, created by Sunderland-based artist Colin Wilbourn and decorated with intricate 'throws'.

WYLAM TO STOCKSFIELD

Crossing both the north and south banks of the River Tyne, Wylam was once an industrial powerhouse with collieries and an ironworks. The father of the railways George Stephenson was born in a tiny one room cottage with his parents and four brothers and sisters in 1781, which is now owned by the National Trust (check online for information about special events). Wylam has other connections with the early railway pioneers; the steam locomotive engineer Timothy Hackworth, who worked with Stephenson, was also born in the village, while William Hedley, who went on to design and manufacture Puffing Billy in 1813, two years before Stephenson produced his first locomotive, came from nearby Newburn and attended school in Wylam.

GET AN ADRENALIN FIX ON THE MATFEN ESTATE WITH **TURBOVENTURES**, WHO CAN GET YOU SHOOTING, TANK DRIVING, QUAD BIKING AND MUCH MORE (STANDING STONE FARM, NE20 2RQ, TURBOVENTURES.CO.UK), OR IF FLYING THROUGH THE CANOPY ON SUPER-SPEEDY ZIPLINES AND HIGH ROPES IS MORE YOUR THING, GO APE MATFEN WILL PLEASE DAREDEVILS AND THRILL-SEEKERS ALIKE. (MATFEN, NE20 0RH, GOAPE.CO.UK)



WYLAM WAGGONWAY

The Wylam Waggonway was originally built to transport coal to Newcastle, and is now a lovely tree-covered walk flanked by fields and wildlife-filled woodland. For a nice loop walk, start from Tyne Riverside Country Park in Newburn where there's ample parking, a café and toilets and take the Waggonway path towards Wylam, crossing over the river at the railway station and returning on the other bank alongside Ryton Golf Club. You can also start from Prudhoe.



WYLAM RAILWAY MUSEUM

Learn about the lives and work of local railway pioneers George Stephenson, Timothy Hackworth and William Hedley, along with stories of old waggonways which transported coal from the mines to the river and coast.

The Falcon Centre, Falcon Terrace, Wylam, NE41 8EE
wylamparishcouncil.org.uk

PRUDHOE

This small town in the Tyne Valley has a long and distinguished history of coal mining and provides another starting point for routes through Tyne Riverside Country Park which follows the river all the way to Wylam along the wonderful Waggonway. The surrounding countryside has also numerous pretty walks. In town, the Norman **Prudhoe Castle** was a stronghold of the Percy family and played a major role in the Border wars, it has the unique honour of being the only medieval defensive fortification in Northumbria never to have been captured by the Scots. The grounds are open daily, with a small woodland and mill pond to explore. During occasional guided tours you can explore the keep, great hall and towered walls which enclose a fine Georgian mansion, built as a 'gentleman's residence'. **Castle View, NE42 6NA, english-heritage.org.uk/prudhoecastle**



Prudhoe Castle

FOOD & DRINK

The Wood Oven, Wylam
facebook.com/thewoodoven
 A genuine hidden foodie gem serving breads, olives and antipasto and an often unusual choice of pizzas

The Feathers Inn, Hedley-on-the-Hill, Stocksfield
thefeathers.net
 Having received a number of awards and accolades, the sublime food here takes its influences from the Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa

North Acomb Farm Shop
Stocksfield, NE43 7UF
northacombfarmshop.co.uk
 Everything a farm shop should be; buy the farm's own bestselling Aberdeen Angus beef, lamb and pork, or take away homemade cakes, meals, pies, pasties, biscuits, black pudding and scotch eggs, all made in the farm shop kitchen

The Hearth, Horsley, NE15 0NT
thehearth.co.uk
 This beautifully restored early 17th Century manse is the home of artisans and makers, who create work across a vibrant array of disciplines, while the lively café is a real gem serving up homecooked food

Matfen Hall Hotel & Spa,
matfenhall.com
 Northumberland's only AA 5-star property, this sumptuous hotel and spa also houses numerous dining options, from fine dining to decadent afternoon tea

Restaurant Freyja, Close House, Heddon-on-the-Wall, NE15 0HT
 Opening in Autumn 2026, the new project from Michelin starred chef Alex Nietosvuori promises Scandi-inspired fine dining within Close House's walled garden



CHERRYBURN

The birthplace of artist and naturalist Thomas Bewick, a wood engraver who revolutionised print art in Georgian England, this 19th Century farmhouse offers a wonderful insight into Bewick's life, learn about the art of engraving and watch experts demonstrate how historic printing presses were used

Station Bank, Mickley Square Stocksfield, NE43 7DD
nationaltrust.org.uk/cherryburn

CORBRIDGE

The pretty village of Corbridge is a bustling settlement marked for its beautiful riverside setting, independent shops and welcoming eateries. Once an important Roman outpost, the remains of which can be seen at the English Heritage site just outside of town, there are also notable Saxon remains in the village including the remains of a Saxon place of worship which dates back to 774, located within St Andrew's church. Like many other places in this part of Northumberland, Corbridge suffered during the Anglo-Scottish wars, and the Pele Tower, a fortified vicarage, still stands in the south east corner of St Andrew's churchyard.

CORBRIDGE ROMAN TOWN

This unique landmark was once the busiest and largest town of the Roman frontier, and the exposed town and its museum offer a glimpse of the Roman town built around the site of successive forts. Excavations and treasures found here shed light on how the Romans lived in Britain and the vibrant community which thrived right up until the end of Roman Britain in the early 5th Century. Walk through the streets and experience a time-capsule of Roman life, and see fascinating artefacts including the Corbridge Hoard, a collection of wonderfully preserved armour and trinkets, as well as the impressive Corbridge Lion sculpture, a relief of sun gold Sol and beautifully delicate copper alloy figurines. **Corchester Lane, NE45 5NT, english-heritage.org.uk/corbridge**



FOOD & DRINK

Brocksbushes, NE43 7UB
brocksbushes.co.uk

Famed for its farm shop, tea room and pick your own fruit farm, discover an abundance of local produce and a fun atmosphere. Kids will enjoy the play barn, plus there's regular markets and special events

The Angel of Corbridge
Main Street, NE45 5LA
theangelofcorbridge.com

Tuck in to hearty British pub grub, local ales and a plentiful gin selection at this inn with rooms

Il Piccolo, St Helen's Street
NE45 4BE, ilpiccolo.co.uk

Authentic Italian cuisine with an excellent wine list

The Valley, Station Road, NE45 4AY, valleyrestaurants.co.uk

Occupying a converted Victorian station house on the platform at Corbridge train station, The Valley is an elegant Indian restaurant perfect for a special occasion

Corbridge Larder
18 Hill Street, NE45 5AA
corbridgelarder.co.uk

Artisan produce including local bread, cheese, wine, beer and a well-stocked deli counter and upstairs cafe

The Watling Coffee House
11 Watling Street, NE45 5AG
facebook.com/thewatlingcoffeehousecorbridge

Homemade breakfasts and light lunches

Grant's Bakery, 1 Market Place
NE45 5AW, grantsbakery.co.uk

Award-winning craft bakery and cafe chock full of tempting patisserie and pastries



AYDON CASTLE

This fascinating property in secluded woodland a mile from Corbridge is said by its custodian, English Heritage, to be one of the finest and most unaltered examples of a 13th Century English manor house in the country. During its history it has been fought over by the Scots and English, notably on three occasions when it swapped ownership between the two in bloody battles during the 1300s. It was later a farmhouse and occupied until 1966. Check the website for visiting info.

Off Aydon Road, NE45 5PJ
english-heritage.org.uk/aydon



DILSTON PHYSIC GARDEN

A real hidden gem, the physic garden exclusively houses over 700 European plants which have the ability to heal or keep you healthy. Founded and run by Newcastle University neuroscientist Dr Elaine Perry, this is a magical haven of medicinal herbs and plants, and makes for a fascinating wander.

Dilston, Corbridge, NE45 5QZ
dilstonphysicgarden.com

SHOPPING IN CORBRIDGE

Corbridge is full of thriving independent retailers.

FORUM BOOKS, Market Place, NE45 5AW, forumbooksshop.com

Chief among the village's success stories is Forum Books, located in an old chapel and packed with well-curated stacks for bookworms of all ages and tastes.

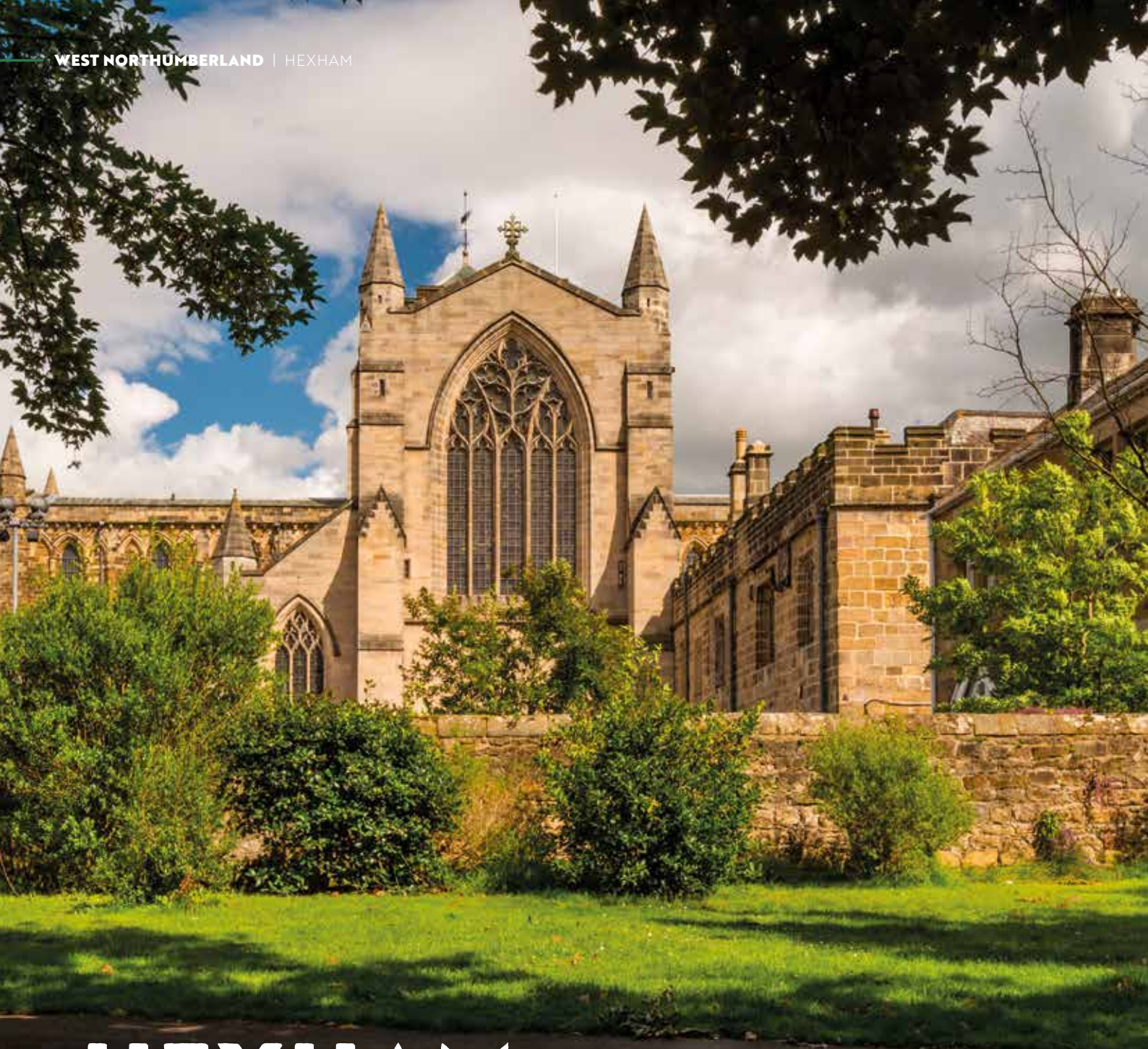
CRAFT WORKS GALLERY
The Forge Bridge End, NE45 5AU
craftworksgallery.co.uk

Take home a special memento of the area from from this gallery located within a historic Grade II-listed forge, it's a treasure-trove of a shop full of art, craft, jewellery and unusual gifts.



ACANTHUS & CORBRIDGE COOKSHOP, Middle Street, NE45 5AT, corbridgecookshop.co.uk

At these neighbouring shops there's stylish giftware and everything you never realised you needed.



HEXHAM

This bustling market town is steeped in history and the compact town centre has excellent independent shopping, food and drink, plus a busy cultural scene. Green spaces make the town even more appealing; at Tyne Green Country Park mature trees flank a meandering path alongside the river, while Grade-II listed The Sele in the Abbey grounds features heaps of green space, play areas and a bandstand with summer entertainment.

HEXHAM ABBEY

Built in 674, this magnificent Abbey church has been a centre of worship, heritage and community for over 1350 years. The Abbey church itself is one of the UK's finest, home to fascinating historic artefacts and a place of beauty and stillness at the heart of bustling Hexham. The site is filled with interesting stories and there are many facets to explore, including the tombstone of a Roman soldier, evocative stained glass windows, wonderful 15th Century painted panels, medieval art and the fascinating Saxon crypt which includes vivid frieze patterns and inscribed stones. The Abbey's medieval former monastic complex is also home to The Big Story exhibition, which tells of the Abbey's fascinating history, from the stonemasons who laboured over it, to the people who worship in the town today.

Beaumont Street, NE46 3NB, hexhamabbey.org.uk

HEXHAM OLD GAOL

The earliest purpose-built prison in England, Hexham's Old Gaol was built in 1333 and offers a fascinating insight into medieval crime and punishment, from the first floor 'upper class prisoners' who had a rather cushy time of things, to the everyday criminals and the poor folk who ended up in the dungeon with the rats! Things were certainly very different in the gaol's early days; prisoners were kept together, with no division depending on their crimes, and while 80% were found not guilty, they were still expected to pay for their time banged up, there was even a fee for the shackles they were chained in. The dungeons, visited via a lift which hangs rather creepily suspended in the dark, still contain archaeological evidence of human remains. The clever use of motion-triggered audio allows for prisoners to tell their stories. You'll walk through the iconic archway of the Moot Hall on your way to the Gaol, the site of the earlier Hall of Pleas, where trials took place.

Hall Gate, NE46 1XD, museumsnorthumberland.org.uk/hexham-old-gaol



FOOD & DRINK

Coach & Horses, 32 Priestpopple, NE46 1PQ
coachandhorseshexham.com
Traditional pub dating back to 1834 with a contemporary twist

The Heart of Northumberland
5 Market Street, NE46 3NS
thehearthexham.com
Grade-II listed historic pub; great cask ales and legendary hand cut chips

Bouchon Bistrot, Gilesgate NE46 3NJ, bouchonbistrot.co.uk
Award-winning French restaurant with superb set-price lunch menus and classic country dishes. A must visit for foodies

Hextol Tans, 11 St Mary's Chare NE46 1NQ
facebook.com/thehextoltans
Veggie and vegan cafe which supports people with learning and mental health difficulties

The Grateful Bread Company
10 Market Street, NE46 3NU
gratefulbread.co.uk
Artisan bakery specialising in sourdough, plus other tasty treats

Cilantro, 19 Market Place NE46 3NX, cilantrotapas.com
Interesting Indo-Latino fusion tapas

The Natural Grocer, 13 Cattle Market, NE46 1NJ
thenaturalgrocer.uk
Independent restaurant, cafe and deli boasting locally sourced goods

Little Mexico, 4a Market Street NE46 3NU, facebook.com/littlemexicohexham
Funky and authentic street food and cocktails

SHOPPING IN HEXHAM

Hexham's shopping scene is endearingly independent.

COGITO BOOKS, 5 St Mary's Chare, NE46 1NQ, cogitobooks.com
A haven for book lovers and a calming, welcoming space.

FRENCH & WILDER, St Mary's Chare, NE46 1NQ, instagram.com/frenchandwilder
Quirky homeware with an emphasis on French design and fashions.

TRAVELS OF AMY M, 16 St Mary's Chare, NE46 1NQ, travelsofamym.com
Travel-themed art, prints and objects to indulge your wanderlust.

STRANGER'S THINGS, 2 Market Street, NE46 3NU, facebook.com/strangers.things.uk
High quality vintage streetwear, with lots of cool accessories.



HASLAM'S OF HALLGATE
22-24 Hallgate, NE46 1XD, tynedalefineartproducts.co.uk
Gallery and art shop with an array of original artwork.

MATTHIAS WINTER, Hallstile Bank, NE46 3PG, matthiaswinter.co.uk
Focusing on ethical and eco-friendly gifts and products.

MR WOLF, 9 Market Street, NE46 3NS, facebook.com/mrwolfhexham
Fantastic shop chock full of imaginative toys and games.

CULTURE IN HEXHAM

Hexham has a buzzy social calendar and some great cultural venues.

QUEEN'S HALL ARTS CENTRE
Beaumont Street, NE46 3LS, queenshall.co.uk

The magnificent early Victorian venue boasts two theatre spaces, galleries, a library and cafe, with an extensive programme of international and national artists across music, drama, dance and comedy, plus community performances, workshops and more.

FORUM CINEMA, 8-9 Market Place, NE46 1XF, forumhexham.com
The Art Deco independent cinema shows everything from Hollywood blockbusters to live theatre screenings. Scott's cafe bar has a great view over the marketplace.

THE VAULT, 22-24 Hallgate, NE46 1XD, thevaulthexham.com
The venue has a unique subterranean history as the location for a medieval brewery. Nowadays, you'll find a variety of live music and stand-up comedy in its cosy space.

NORTH PENNINES

The North Pennines is a designated National Landscape and UNESCO Global Geopark; small villages dot the landscape, comprised of open heather moor, peatlands, hay meadows, woodland, upland rivers, waterfalls and lovely dales, all best explored on foot. Here you'll find reminders of the region's mining and industrial past, along with plentiful wildlife and a pleasant feeling of remoteness.

Thorngreen Lime Kilns near Allenheads

ALLENDALE

Allendale was once in the frontline of hostilities with Scotland, hence it has the biggest concentration of fortified farmhouses, known as bastles, in the country. It's also a place steeped in tradition, with a healthy events calendar which includes a folk festival, May Fair and the unique New Year's Eve Tar Bar'l festival, during which 45 men in colourful fancy dress carry whiskey barrels filled with burning hot tar through the village to ignite a ceremonial bonfire. For a small village, Allendale has some surprisingly unique attractions.

ALLENDALE FORGE STUDIOS

Market Place, NE47 9BD,
allendaleforgestudios.co.uk

The vibrant gallery presents monthly exhibitions and handmade work by local artists, plus a host of facilities and events and a cafe serving homemade food.

MUSEUM OF CLASSIC SCI-FI

Osborne House, NE47 9BJ,
museumofclassicsci-fi.com

For something completely different, this collection includes a meticulously curated collection of sci-fi history amassed by owner Neil Cole, who also restores unloved Doctor Who monsters, so watch out for the mutant spiders!

ISAAC'S TEA TRAIL

isaacs-tea-trail.co.uk

Keen walkers and history buffs will enjoy this circular 37-mile hike named after lead miner turned tea seller Isaac Holden, which links Allendale with Alston, England's highest town. Reminders of the region's lead mining history are visible in chapels, farmsteads and field patterns along the route, and there are stunning views of the hidden valleys and wild moorland that make this part of Northumberland so special.

ALLENHEADS

High in the North Pennines, the village of Allenheads was founded around the lead mining industry which marked this remote and starkly beautiful landscape between 1650 and 1900. Mining has shaped this country, as evidenced at the East Allen River where drainage channels are still visible, while buildings and structures associated with the industry survive in the area.

ALLENHEADS HERITAGE CENTRE NE47 9HN

Housing a fascinating exhibition dedicated to the history of lead mining and upland farming and a traditional rebuilt blacksmiths shop.

NORTH PENNINES OBSERVATORY

The Old School House, NE47 9HR,
acart.org.uk

The North Pennines is one of the darkest areas in the country, so it's perfect for stargazing and planet spotting. Make the most of the lack of light pollution by enjoying bespoke stargazing experiences, workshops and talks at the North Pennines Observatory, run by Allenheads Contemporary Arts.

THE ALLENHEADS INN

Osborne House, NE47 9HJ,
allenheadsinn.co.uk

If you're staying a while, or passing through on the Coast to Coast cycle route, this inn was built in 1770 and makes for a handy place to bed down and grab a bite to eat.



Swinhope Burn, Allendale Common

HAYDON BRIDGE TO HALTWHISTLE

Haltwhistle is a picturesque town famed as the geographic centre of Great Britain, and home to shops, cafés and pubs, while Haydon Bridge is a magnet for outdoor enthusiasts given its location on the River South Tyne.

ALLEN BANKS & STAWARD GORGE

This breathtaking National Trust area comprises ornamental and ancient woodland, including over 600 acres of semi-natural woodland – the largest site of its kind in Northumberland. A deep gorge carved by the River Allen has created the perfect conditions for unique flora, fungi and fauna to thrive. Explore the remains of a medieval pele tower, a reconstructed Victorian summerhouse, and spot abundant wildlife amongst woodland and ponds. **Bardon Mill, NE47 7BP, www.nationaltrust.org.uk**



LAMBLEY VIADUCT & FEATHERSTONE CASTLE

Three miles south west of Haltwhistle you'll find the imposing 14th Century Gothic Featherstone Castle. It isn't open to the public, but that doesn't stop you from gawping at it from a walking trail which runs through the estate which is also home to the remains of a Second World War prisoner of war camp, making for fascinating exploration. Start your walk at the impressive Lambley Viaduct. **Haltwhistle, NE49 0NX**

WALLTOWN COUNTRY PARK IS A HAVEN FOR WILDLIFE FILLED WITH MEADOWS AND SHORT WALKS AMID PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS. (GREENHEAD, BRAMPTON, CA8 7HZ). A REWARDING WALK FROM WALLTOWN, 12TH CENTURY THIRLWALL CASTLE WAS STRENGTHENED USING STONE ROBBED FROM THE REMAINS OF HADRIAN'S WALL AND IS NOW A CRUMBLING REMINDER OF THE AREA'S TURBULENT PAST. (/// MARKETING.DIGNIFY.AMOUNT)

ROMAN ARMY MUSEUM

This fascinating museum provides an insight into the role and life of a soldier in the Roman army. A 30 minute film gives an eagle's eye view of the wall and the soldiers living on it, depicting their day to day duties. Archaeologists are excavating ditches in the hope of finding multiple stacked forts like those discovered at Vindolanda. We recommend a joint ticket which also covers Vindolanda. **Greenhead, Brampton, CA8 7JB omanarmymuseum.com**

TYNE VALLEY COMMUNITY RAILWAY

The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership work to highlight the importance and historical value of the Tyne Valley Railway line, the most Northerly East-West railway line in England, which links Newcastle and Carlisle. With 14 intermediate stations there is ample opportunity to explore what the area has to offer, and their helpful website highlights places to visit, walks and ways to enjoy a day out along the route. Before or after your journey, enjoy a cuppa at the Water Tower Cafe at the railway station. **tvcrp.org.uk**

MR GEORGE'S MUSEUM OF TIME THIS WONDERFUL MUSEUM IS A REAL LABOUR OF LOVE; THE FAMILY-RUN WATCH AND CLOCK MUSEUM DISPLAYS TIMEPIECES AND ASSOCIATED BITS AND BOBS DATING FROM THE 18TH CENTURY. (2 RATCLIFFE ROAD, HAYDON BRIDGE, NE47 6ET, TIMEFORGEORGE.CO.UK)

HADRIAN'S WALL

Hadrian's Wall, the north west frontier of the Roman Empire, stretches across the North of England, covering 73 miles from Wallsend to the shores of the Solway Firth in Cumbria. Built on the orders of Emperor Hadrian by 15,000 Roman soldiers over six years starting in the year 122, Hadrian's Wall became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. Most of the wall, which in parts stands 10ft high, covers rugged, breathtaking country, marked in its Northumbrian stretch by the remains of excavated forts at Corbridge, Chesters, Housesteads and Vindolanda. Go North East's AD122 bus travels year-round between Hexham and Greenhead, with stops along the wall including The Sill, Vindolanda, Chesters, Housesteads and Haltwhistle.

Cawfields Quarry © Kevin Gibson

WALKING HADRIAN'S WALL

Using The Sill as a base for parking and facilities, the surrounding area has some of the Wall's best walking trails. A particular highlight is the 4-mile (2/2.5 hour) moderate hike from Steel Rigg along the course of the wall, pulling up alongside the glacial lake of Crag Lough and returning along the fields past the site of the much-missed sycamore tree. To the west is the dramatic Cawfields Quarry, where the remains of the Wall hang perilously on the sheer edge of Whin Sill, Milecastle 42 is close by. Top off your day with a pint of local ale and a pizza at the excellent **Twice Brewed Inn** located next door to The Sill, which also hosts star-gazing events in partnership with Kielder Observatory. (twicebrewedinn.co.uk).

Join the experts

Curius Compass, curiuscompass.com

Fun and interesting guided hikes along the wall, often with themes and challenges.

IN A RURAL SETTING ALONGSIDE HADRIAN'S WALL JUST OUTSIDE CORBRIDGE, MICHELIN-STARRED RESTAURANT PINE'S STUNNING TASTING MENU OFFERS AN EXCEPTIONAL DINING EXPERIENCE FEATURING LOCALLY GROWN AND FORAGED INGREDIENTS. (MILITARY ROAD, EAST WALLHOUSES, NE18 0LL, RESTAURANTPINE.CO.UK)

© Kevin Gibson

VINDOLANDA

A multi-layered site which was home to nine forts over the span of three centuries, Vindolanda was the first Northern frontier of the Roman Empire before Hadrian's Wall, and what you see today is the remains of the 3rd and 4th Century stone fort, complete with shops, bath houses and garrisons.

Archaeologists have dug up some pretty amazing finds, including the discovery of the Vindolanda writing tablets, which were the earliest archive of written material from Britain; providing a fascinating glimpse into life on the frontier, the tablets contain simple lists of provisions or reports of soldiers available for duty, alongside letters to family and intelligence reports. One of the most charming is the famous birthday party invitation from Claudia Severa to Vindolanda's prefect's wife Sulpicia Lepidina, which is the first surviving piece of writing by a woman found in the world. Discover the tablets and their stories in the excellent museum, which also houses one of the largest collections of leather items found in the Roman Empire; the row of shoes are particularly evocative. Joint tickets for Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum a few miles down the road make for a well-rounded and interesting trip.

Bardon Mill, NE47 7JN, vindolanda.com



HOUSESTEADS ROMAN FORT

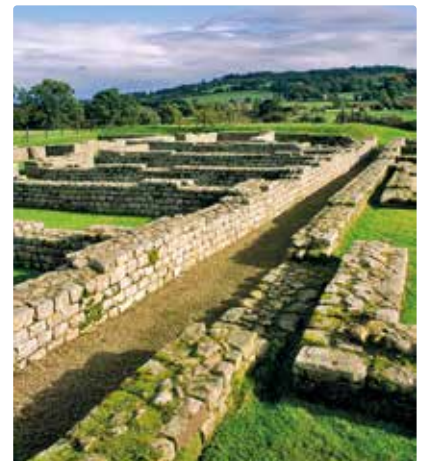
Housesteads is in a particularly evocative setting, and will enable you to imagine yourself back in ancient times. View the remains of barrack blocks and the hospital and see artefacts in the adjoining museum.

Haydon Bridge, NE47 6NN, english-heritage.org.uk/housesteads

THE FASCINATING TEMPLE TO MITHRAS WAS BUILT AROUND 200AD AND IS THE ONLY VISIBLE TEMPLE OF ITS KIND ON THE WALL. THE CULT OF MITHRAS WAS A SECRET SOCIETY POPULAR WITH THE ROMAN SOLDIERS THAT NOT MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT. THE SHRINE TO WATER GODDESS COVENTINA WAS FOUND IN 1876, CONTAINING HUNDREDS OF COINS AND DEDICATIONS TO THE GODDESS. NEARBY, THE EARTHWORK REMAINS OF CARRAWBURGH ROMAN FORT, KNOWN TO THE ROMANS AS BROCOLITIA, WHICH WOULD HAVE HOUSED AROUND 500 SOLDIERS. (///STOLEN.DOPED.HINTED)

THE SILL

Get under the skin of Hadrian's Wall at this superb visitor centre which houses changing exhibitions, a great cafe and flower-filled rooftop walk which affords lovely views of the countryside. Staff will help you make the most of your trip, dispensing advice on walks, local sights and transport. **NE47 7AN, thesill.org.uk**



CHESTERS ROMAN FORT

One of the Roman Empire's most northerly outposts, Chesters is the most complete Roman cavalry fort in Britain. The site includes unusually well-preserved baths and steam room as well as a remarkable collection of Roman objects from the 300-year life of the fort. Today you can still see all four principal gates of the fort, the headquarters building and courtyard, hall and regimental shrine, and an elaborate commandant's house. The external baths 70 metres east of the fort and close to the river were uncovered in 1885 and constitute the most complete set of Roman baths in Britain.

Chollerford, NE46 4EU

english-heritage.org.uk/chesters

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HALTWHISTLE

The Water Tower Cafe next to the railway station is open daily (except Tuesdays). Enjoy freshly made food in the cosy cafe, or sit outdoors and watch the trains pass. Take aways are available.

Come along to the monthly makers market held on the 3rd Sunday of each month (March to October) for wonderful local food and crafts.

From the station, the AD122 bus takes you to Hadrian's Wall sites. Alternatively, you could pre-book an electric bike to explore.

Enjoy one of the many walks in the area or a stroll beside the River South Tyne

More information at tvcrp.org.uk
or on social media @tvcrp



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EAST NORTHUMBERLAND

While other more famous areas of Northumberland may get a lot of the attention, the east of the region is quietly spectacular. From the vibrant market town of Morpeth, with its woodland walks and noble history, to the gardens and country houses of Wallington, Belsay and Seaton Delaval, which reveal magnificent architecture and surprises around every turn; this part of Northumberland has so much to explore.

Taste your way through the region's produce at independent restaurants, artisan farm shops and world-class bakeries; marvel at pretty lakes and lofty crags; and explore lonely country roads where follies and monuments have been literally carved into the landscape.

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Indulge in Morpeth's vibrant dining scene and enjoy pretty riverside walks

Take in unusual sights, from a rock grotto to a gothic folly, dotted throughout the countryside

Bolam Lake Country Park

MORPETH

This bustling market town has it all – heritage, independent shops and restaurants, attractive architecture, parks and river walks. Morpeth has grown around a crossing point on the River Wansbeck, and there is evidence of people here since at least Neolithic times. In 1198 a Cistercian monastery was founded to the south of the castle, the remains of which can still be seen. Nearby is the 13th Century church of St Mary's, which contains some of the most important stained glass in Northumberland.



CARLISLE PARK

Carlisle Park is the town's green lung, with its tennis courts, bowling greens, boating, woodland walks, splash pool and large play area. Between late-March and late-September, take an iconic red rowing boat out on the river, watching for ducks, herons and kingfishers along the way. Also of note is the Turner Garden, celebrating the life of the father of English botany, William Turner, who was born and educated in Morpeth. Don't miss the large steel statue of suffragette Emily Wilding Davison, who lived in nearby Longhorsley and is buried at St Mary the Virgin a short walk away. The sculpture, created by North East artist Ray Lonsdale, depicts Emily with her face turned away from a bowl of food which drips onto the ground, referencing the suffragette's numerous hunger strikes.



MORPETH CHANTRY BAGPIPE MUSEUM

Thought you knew everything you needed to know about bagpipes? Think again! Discover unimaginable facts about an unusual array of piped instruments from around the world. Chief among them are the Northumbrian small pipes, which are native to the region; artefacts and information boards put their history into context, and you can listen to reels and rants through headphones dotted throughout. The 13th Century building itself is equally as charming and also serves as the town's information centre alongside a nice shop.

Bridge Street, NE61 1PD
morpethbagpipemuseum.org.uk



Join the experts

Hepple Wilds, hepplewilds.com

Innovative gin distillers located on an estate managed for wildlife, offering tours of the distillery and estate with a focus on nature.

WHITEHOUSE FARM CENTRE

Interact with traditional breeds and exotic species, meet and greet with mini beasts and check out the antics of marmosets and meerkats. Extensive play areas will tire out little ones in no time.

North Whitehouse Farm, NE61 6AW
whitehousefarmcentre.co.uk

NORTHUMBERLAND ZOO

This not-for-profit zoo supports breeding and conservation programmes, with over 80 species calling it home including capybaras, lemurs, meerkats, raccoons, wallabies, snow leopards, tortoises and a sloth called Sally. Popular animal encounters enable visitors to get up close and personal with some of the residents.

Eshotthugh Farm, Felton, NE65 9QH
northumberlandzoo.co.uk



BRINKBURN PRIORY

The forested approach to this peaceful 12th Century Augustinian Priory is dramatic. Nestled on a picturesque bend of the River Coquet, visitors are greeted by a delightful example of Gothic architecture. The Priory contains some remarkable facets including striking stained glass, a William Hill built organ, intriguing grave slabs and wonderful terracotta tiled floor. The neighbouring Manor House, which was built by the Fenwick family after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, features exposed architectural details including bricked up doorways and fireplaces. Note it's closer to Rothbury than to Morpeth, and entry is by guided tour only.

Longframlington, Morpeth, NE65 8AR
english-heritage.org.uk/brinkburn



LONGFRAMLINGTON GARDENS

This informal 12 acre garden and arboretum was created by horticulturist and garden designer Hazel Huddleston. It offers visitors her large growing plant collection of trees, shrubs and perennials, a peaceful walk through wild meadows and more, including plant sales.

Longframlington, Morpeth, NE65 8BE
longframlingtongardens.co.uk

BIDE-A-WEE COTTAGE GARDEN & NURSERY THIS TIDY LITTLE GARDEN IS THE HOLDER OF THE NATIONAL COLLECTION OF CENTAUREA SPECIES, WITNESS THE PEAK BLOOMING SEASON IN JULY AND AUGUST, BUT PLAN A VISIT HERE BETWEEN APRIL-SEPTEMBER (THUR-SAT) TO ENJOY MANY OTHER FLORAL DISPLAYS AND IMAGINATIVE PLANTING. A NURSERY AND TEA ROOM IS ALSO ON SITE. (NETHERWITTON, NE65 8PR, BIDEAWEE.CO.UK)

SHOPPING IN MORPETH

RUTHERFORD & CO,
 10-16 Bridge Street, NE61 1NJ
rutherfordsofmorpeth.co.uk

This long-established independent department store is a reliable source of gifts, ladies and menswear.

GRAPE AND GRAIN
 3 Bridge Street, NE61 1NT
grapeandgrain.online

Discover fine wines, craft beer and spirits that you won't find in the supermarkets.

THE CHEESE SHOP
 6 Oldgate, NE61 1LX
thecheeseshopmorpeth.co.uk

The very best cheese from artisan dairies, there are over 160 different varieties!



FANNIES EMPORIUM
ANTIQUE CENTRE & CAFE
 Castle Bank, NE61 1YJ
fanniesemporium.co.uk

A treasure trove of antiques and knick-knacks housed in the grand courthouse and former entrance to the town's prison.

SANDERSON ARCADE
 NE61 1NS, sandersonarcade.co.uk

An attractive plaza and mix of well-known and independent shops. Take a break at the lovely Morpeth Larder deli and coffee shop, Barluga bar & bistro or trendy Martino Lounge.

FOOD & DRINK

Lollo Rosso, 40 Bridge Street
NE61 1NL, lollorossoitalia.com
 Vibrant Italian restaurant with reliable antipasti, pasta and pizza

PTMY, Bridge Street NE61 1NB
ptmy-morpeth.co.uk
 Seasonal menus include popular brunch dishes and a treat-worthy a la carte menu

Sober In The Garden
Wheatsheaf Yard, NE61 1AJ, facebook.com/soberinthegarden
 Homebaked treats plus salads, tacos, loaded fries, omelettes and French toast

The Sun Inn, High Church
NE61 2QT, suninn-northumberland.co.uk
 Popular gastropub serving hearty portions, plus a great beer garden

St Mary's Inn, St Mary's Lane
NE61 6BL, stmarysinn.co.uk
 Small plates, proper pies, steak, fish and chips and pizza

The Northumberland Arms
West Thirston, Felton, NE65 9EE, northumberlandarms-felton.co.uk
 Historic inn serving signature pies and tempting desserts

Running Fox Bakery, Kirkharle
Longhoughton, Shilbottle
Felton, Longframlington
runningfoxbakery.co.uk
 The five charming bakeries are renowned for their home-baked goods and generous afternoon tea. Visit hungry!

Olive & Co, 5 Oldgate, NE61 1PY, oliveandcomorpeth.com
 Proper woodfired pizza, tantalising small plates and an attractive wine list

WALLINGTON TO PONTELAND

Two of the region's finest heritage estates offer good reasons to visit this area, while quirky sights and peaceful villages amid the rural landscape will encourage you to stay longer.

Wallington



BELSAY HALL, CASTLE & GARDEN

Few properties boast the diversity of architectural styles, design and horticulture displayed at Belsay. There has been some form of grand country pile on the land since the 13th Century, and remains of the medieval castle, with its magnificent 14th Century pele tower, still dominate the landscape. Visitors can explore the Greek Revival mansion built in the early 19th Century by owner Sir Charles Monck, who was also responsible for the grounds, including the Quarry Garden which was created when stone was cut to create the hall. It now joins the two buildings, and contains some fascinating exotic fauna alongside some interesting ancient graffiti. **Belsay, NE20 0DX, english-heritage.org.uk/belsay**



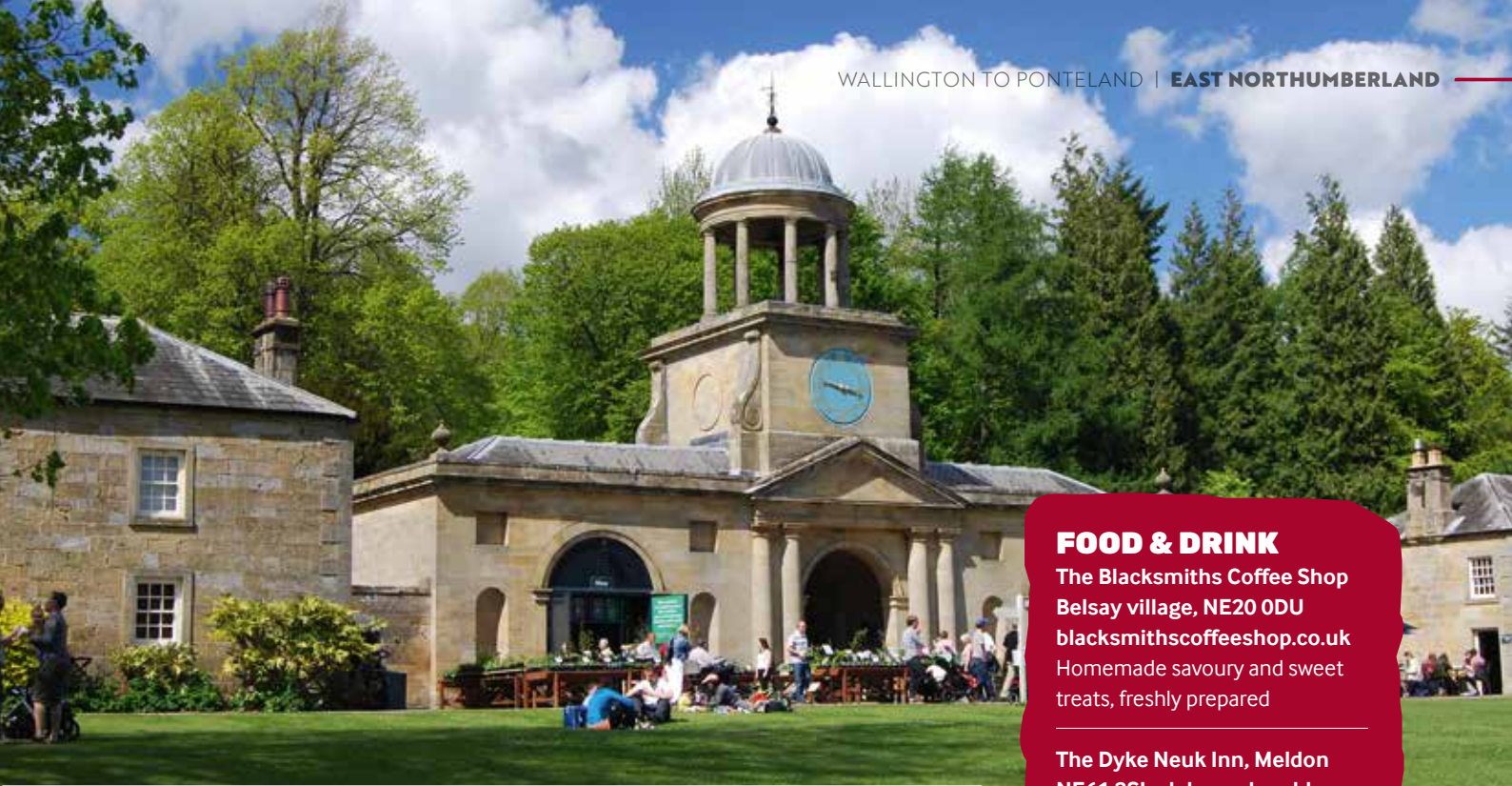
KIRKHARLE COURTYARD

This unassuming jumble of courtyard buildings were once home to the most famous landscape gardener in England, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Brought up at the now much reduced Kirkharle Hall (only the farmhouse courtyard remains), his work as a landscape gardener saw him become much sought after among the aristocracy and his creations are finest at the likes of Chatsworth, Blenheim Palace and Highclere Castle. At Kirkharle, a lovingly reimagined garden and serpentine lake follows an original Brown plan, while the 18th Century courtyard also houses shops and craft studios from independent retailers and artists. Sustenance is provided by the famous Running Fox Bakery, who operate the cafe. **Kirkharle, NE19 2PE kirkharlecourtyard.co.uk**



BOLAM LAKE & SHAFTOE CRAGS

This picturesque lake in the heart of the Morpeth countryside is justifiably popular. A family-friendly lakeside trail meanders through woodland and grassed areas, and wildlife including red squirrels, roe deer, woodpecker and plentiful birdlife is in abundance. A cafe and small visitor centre takes care of the all important post-walk cuppa and cake. For a longer stroll, look out for the loop trail which takes in the impressive Shaftoe Crags, where you'll enjoy panoramic views across the surrounding countryside as far as Simonside and the coast. **Bolam, NE20 0HE**



WALLINGTON

This stunning country house and estate was for generations the much-loved home of the Trevelyan family. Gifted to the nation by the socialist MP Sir Charles Trevelyan, this 13,000-acre estate offers a magnificent 17th Century Palladian-style house with stunning Pre-Raphaelite paintings, some impressive furniture and a beguiling room of curiosities which contains countless weird and wonderful artefacts brought from near and far by the family over many generations. The walled garden is a peaceful space offering a riot of colour in all seasons, and there's woodland walks and calm lakes to explore. Youngsters will find much to keep them entertained, with family friendly cycle trails and four play areas to run wild in. **Cambo, NE61 4AR, nationaltrust.org.uk/wallington**

A HANDFUL OF UNUSUAL SITES DOT THE COUNTRYSIDE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF MORPETH, IT'S POSSIBLE TO VISIT THEM ALL IN A COUPLE OF HOURS. ON THE BANKS OF THE HART BURN, HEWN OUT OF THE ROCK FROM WHAT WAS ALREADY A NATURAL CAVE, THE TWO-ROOMED HARTBURN GROTTO WAS BUILT BY LOCAL VICAR DR JOHN SHARPE IN 1760. A TUNNEL LEADS TO THE RIVER, ALLOWING BATHERS MODEST PRIVACY AND A COSY FIRE TO WARM UP NEXT TO WHEN THEY RETURN. (///DISPUTES.LOBBED.QUILT). A GOTHIC FOLLY RATHER THAN THE MEDIEVAL CASTLE IT'S BUILT TO REPRESENT, ROTHLEY CASTLE WAS BUILT FOR THE WALLINGTON ESTATE IN 1755. THE REMAINS OF THE GRADE II* LISTED BUILDING PERCH ON THE SKYLINE ABOVE ROTHLEY CRAGS (///RUMBLES.JUGGLE.COSTLY). NEARBY, CODGER FORT IS ANOTHER FOLLY CONSISTING OF STURDY PILLARS AND ROUGH HEWN STONE (///POTENTIAL.REGAINING.COPIERS).



PONTELAND

The wealthy suburb of Ponteland boasts boutique shops and restaurants. The surrounding countryside is home to **Northumberland College Zoo**, part of the Northumberland College Kirkley Hall campus. Home to over 150 species including meerkats, alpacas, armadillos, a vast array of invertebrates and plentiful birdlife. The zoo also plays a vital role in education and conservation. **Kirkley Hall, NE20 2AQ, facebook.com/northumberlandcollegezoo**

FOOD & DRINK

The Blacksmiths Coffee Shop
Belsay village, NE20 0DU
blacksmithscoffeeshop.co.uk
Homemade savoury and sweet treats, freshly prepared

The Dyke Neuk Inn, Meldon
NE61 3SL, dykeneukmeldon.co.uk

Situated just outside Hartburn, this much-loved pub serves up great food and real ales

The Beresford Arms
Whalton, NE61 3UZ
theberesfordarmswhalton.co.uk

Historic award-winning pub with rooms, excellently located, and with a menu that's a cut above

The Blackbird Inn, North Road, Ponteland, NE20 9UH
theblackbirdponteland.co.uk
Historic building serving traditional pub classics with contemporary flair

The Hawk, Ponteland, NE20 0DH, the-hawk.co.uk
A refined restaurant and farm shop which places local provenance at its heart

Ristorante Fratelli, Bell Villas, Ponteland, NE20 9BE
fratelliponteland.co.uk
Contemporary Italian and Sardinian dining and great cocktails

Haveli, Broadway, Darras Hall NE20 9PW, haveli.uk
Award-winning classic and traditional Indian recipes using locally sourced ingredients

BLAGDON, CRAMLINGTON & SEATON DELAVAL

This corner of East Northumberland has a rich history, largely thanks to the Delaval family, whose country mansion is well worth exploring. Cramlington is an ever-growing town surrounded by rural and coastal areas which yield delicious produce.



NORTHUMBERLANDIA

The so-called Lady of the North is a large-scale art installation-cum-nature reserve, sculpted out of the leftovers from the Shotton surface mine, which was filled in and returned to its natural state. Depicting a reclining figure, four miles of winding trails lead across her contours; the landform artwork is intended to grow with its environment, and wildlife is making a shy return to the surrounding area, which is also home to a woodland trail and cafe managed by the Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

Cramlington, NE23 8AU, northumberlandia.com

SEATON DELAVAL HALL

Many believe this John Vanbrugh masterpiece to be the finest surviving example of English Baroque architecture; built in the early 18th Century for the flamboyant Delaval family has had a chequered history. A fierce fire almost 200 years ago nearly destroyed the mansion where the extravagant Delavals once held riotous masquerade balls, theatrical productions and outdoor sports events that even by the Georgians' exuberant standards were deemed infamous. Over the years it's been occupied by the military and even used as a prisoner of war camp. Now owned by the National Trust it's a joy to explore; from the grand central hall, marvellous architecture and interesting collection in the furnished west wing, to the formal gardens and peaceful woodland walks. **The Avenue, Seaton Sluice, NE26 4QR, nationaltrust.org.uk**



ALSO IN SEATON DELAVAL YOU'LL FIND MULTI-USE COMMUNITY THEATRE SPACE **SEATON DELAVAL ARTS CENTRE** (NE25 0DY, SEATONDELAVALARTSCENTRE.COM); PETITE MICROPUB **THE CRAFTY LODGE** (30 ASTLEY ROAD, NE25 0DG, FACEBOOK.COM/THECRAFTYLODGE); AND **ARRIGHI'S CRESCENT CAFE**, A HISTORIC ITALIAN CAFE AND ICE CREAM PARLOUR. (3 AVENUE CRESCENT, NE25 0DN, ARRIGHIS-ICE-CREAM.CO.UK)

SHOPPING AT THE MILKHOPE CENTRE

This collection of stone buildings are home to a mix of independent retailers (**Berwick Hill Road, nr Seaton Burn, NE13 6DA, milkhope.co.uk**)

BLAGDON GALLERY

blagdongallery.co.uk

Treat yourself to unique original paintings and limited edition prints from renowned artists.



LA COOKSHOP lacookshop.co.uk

This cookware and kitchen gadget store is great for gifts and treats.

GET SMART getsmarttwo.co.uk

Womenswear specialists Get Smart offer carefully chosen stylish and casual clothing.

BLAGDON FARM SHOP

theblagdonfarmshop.co.uk

For a take-home treat, make a beeline for this local food champion who stock produce including local meat, veggies, cheese, prepared meals, baked goods and more. You can't get fresher than veggies picked right on the doorstep!



FAMILY WALKS IN CRAMLINGTON

Blow off some steam at **Plessey Woods Country Park**, home to woodland trails along the river, a play area and cafe (Shields Road, Plessey, NE22 6HZ). The fields around Cramlington are also home to a couple of unusual pieces of public art. **Eat For England** by Bob Budd is better known by locals as the Giant Spoon, which is basically what it is! The 15ft stainless steel sculpture is situated in between two farmers' fields (/// passes.really.clap). Perhaps more curious is **Capella** – a term for a wayside shrine – a polished aluminium shroud by artist Paula Chambers which is large enough for a person to stand inside – a great photo opportunity! (///tags.froth.firms)



Join the experts

The Cramlington Forager, cramlingtonforager.co.uk

Foraging expert Gemma will lead you through hedgerows, woodlands and along the coast to discover all kinds of fruits, plants and herbs often hidden in plain sight, with tips on safety, medicine and even folklore.

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Closed Monday (incl Bank Holidays)



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Belsay Village,
Northumberland, NE20 0DX
info@blacksmithscoffeeshop.co.uk
www.blacksmithscoffeeshop.co.uk

@Milkhope
01670 789 878,
Milkhope Centre,
Seaton Burn, NE13 6DA

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kirkharlecourtyard.co.uk Just off the A696 nr. Wallington



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wildhive.uk



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Surrounded by the beautifully rugged hills of the Upper Coquet Valley in the heart of the National Park, this really is a place to escape the crowds and get away from it all. The cottages and barns are located within the Northumberland Dark Sky park which is the largest protected sky in Europe. It has gold tier status which makes it a destination for star gazers from around the world.

Kidlandlee is an off-grid experience without compromising on luxury. Sustainable Tourism and our commitment to Improving/ lowering our environmental impact on what is one of the most beautiful hamlets nestled deep in the heart of Northumberland's National Park.



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Kidlandlee, Harbottle, Northumberland, NE65 7DA

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LONGFRAMLINGTON GARDENS

GARDENS & ARBORETUM : NURSERY & PLANT CENTRE
GARDEN DESIGN & ADVICE



Website: www.longframlingtongardens.co.uk

Email: info@longframlingtongardens.co.uk

Tel: 01665 570383 Mobile/text: 07858757339

Contact: Hazel M. Huddleston (Nb re-opening of coffee shop tbc)

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Tranwell Farm Holidays is a small, sustainable, family-run farm offering camping, campervan pitches, glamping and accessible self-catering accommodation located in the heart of the Northumbrian countryside, within walking distance of a country pub and close to visitor attractions.



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www.tranwellfarm.com



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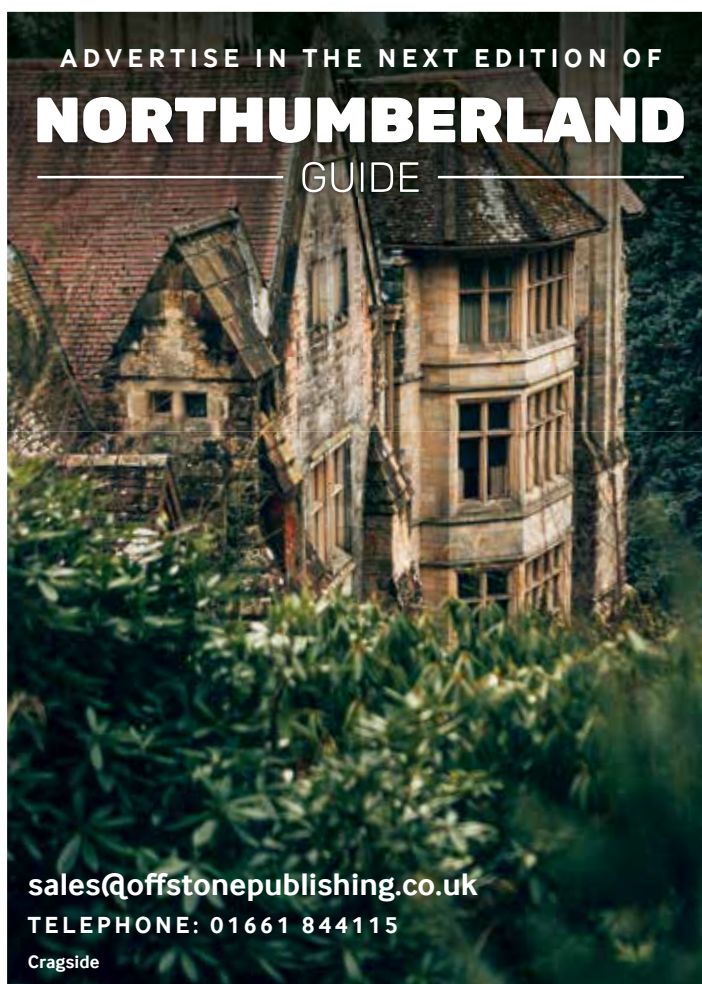
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THE NORTH EAST'S ULTIMATE FAMILY DAY OUT

DAILY ACTIVITIES

Small animal handling

Critter encounters

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Groom-a-goat

Tractor rides

Bottle-feeding and cuddling
lambs (seasonal)



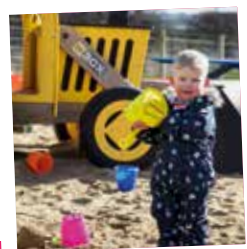
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So
much
fun!



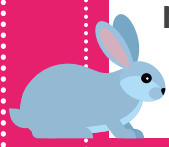
WHAT VISITORS SAY

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Website / book tickets whitehousefarmcentre.co.uk





Whitehouse Farm Centre is the North East's largest family-run farm park and an award-winning attraction, home to over 1,000 traditional and exotic animals. With a farmtastic mix of indoor and outdoor play, it's the perfect day out for visitors of all ages, whatever the weather.

Enjoy immersive, hands-on animal experiences every single day, all included in your admission. From meeting friendly farm animals to exciting interactive encounters, every visit promises a fun-filled, unforgettable day for the whole family.



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Every effort has been made to ensure all visitors can enjoy a comfortable, inclusive experience.



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With no hidden charges, everything listed is included in your admission giving you unbeatable value and a full day of entertainment.

Woo Hoo!



EXCITING EVENTS

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2nd – 4th May:

Character Bank Holiday Weekend

23rd – 25th May:

Dinosaur Bank Holiday Weekend

26th – 31st May:

Magic Shows & Character Days

June (Weekends): Character Weekends

15th – 21st June: Dads Go Free

Summer Holidays: Character Days, Magic Shows & Dinosaur Meet & Greet

October (Selected Dates): Halloween Spooktacular – featuring an indoor pumpkin patch and a packed programme of spooky fun

November & December (Selected Dates):

Santa's Enchanted Elf Journey

(Tickets go on sale 31st July at 10am and typically sell out within 24 hours!)

Be sure to check our website for confirmed dates and full event details.

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Make unforgettable family memories at Whitehouse Farm Centre, where fun, learning, and adventure come together. Join us for some Farmtastic Fun, today.



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Radcliffes Lodge sits on Amble's lovely marina front, a stone's throw from bars, restaurants and many charming attractions.

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BAMBURGH

GLEBE HOUSE & COTTAGE Bamburgh

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