North East of England edition!

Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland & Durham

A Wee Travel Guide To...
Contents

- Where is the North East of England?
- Things to do: Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland & County Durham
- Make an itinerary
- How to get there
- Choosing accommodation
- Food and drink
- Discounts and saving money
- Safety tips
Where is the North East of England?

The North East of England is situated around just 3 miles beneath the Scottish Border at its most northern tip, the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. The county Northumberland is the most northern area of the North East, with Newcastle Upon Tyne (in county Tyne and Wear) located to the south of Northumberland. County Durham is further south of Newcastle Upon Tyne. Both Newcastle and Durham are “university cities” (home to Newcastle University, University of Northumbria and University of Durham respectively).

Northumberland is famed for its many castles, Roman settlements and hillforts, standing stones, ancient battlefields, coastline & beaches, nearby islands, woodland & parks, rural towns & villages. Northumberland was part of Scotland at times between 616 and 1018. The Earldom of Northumberland was briefly held by the Scottish royal family between 1139–1157 and 1215–1217. Scotland relinquished all claims to Northumberland as part of the Treaty of York in 1237. It is now a popular tourist location due to its wide range of outdoor activities, beautiful scenery and ancient history.

Newcastle-Upon-Tyne is arguably the most famous North East city, renowned for its bustling, busy night-life, shopping facilities, vibrant quayside, iconic bridges, festivals & fairs, local markets and historic castle & keep. The city centre is a mixture of award-winning modern, historic Victorian, Georgian and Edwardian architecture. Football is a very popular sport in Newcastle, followed by Geordies, Mackams and Sandancers alike. Many weird & wonderful tales & spooky stories can be found in Newcastle’s past – and the buildings in these tales can still be visited today. Look out for the Vampire Rabbit when you go!

A small city, Newcastle is easy to navigate and has excellent transport links to surrounding areas. Just outside of Newcastle in Tyne and Wear, is the historic Tynemouth Castle and Priory overlooking Tynemouth Beach and Lighthouse. The coastal towns of North Shields and South Shields can be also accessed from Newcastle by bus or the Tyne & Wear Metro.

The leafy city of Durham is located in the County of Durham, beneath Tyne and Wear. The 11th Century castle and cathedral at Durham still remain to be visited today. Once, Durham was an important outpost in England; the Battle of Neville’s Cross – a battle between the English and Scots – took place close to the city in 1346. Durham city is home to many beautiful Grade I and Grade II listed buildings and landmarks, including the Observatory and Framwellgate Bridge, and is host to many activities and attractions. The award-winning Beamish Museum offers an authentic experience of Durham and the North East’s history through the industrial revolution and beyond.
Things to do

There are many things to see and do in Newcastle, Northumberland and Durham, for example:

- Castles: Newcastle, Northumberland and Durham
- Wildlife and animals: Northumberland and Durham
- Outdoor sports and activities: Northumberland & Durham
- Shopping, restaurants, gigs and nightlife: Newcastle
- Theatre, cinema and music: Newcastle
- Art galleries: Newcastle
- Landmarks, cathedrals and churches: Newcastle, Northumberland and Durham
- Beaches, fishing villages and coastline: Northumberland
- Countryside: Northumberland and Durham

Follow the links on the “Where is the North East of England” page for ideas and inspiration!
Things to do – make an itinerary

When you’ve chosen the things you’d like to see and visit, you may want to make an itinerary (a plan and timeline of your day). You can create an itinerary here:

- http://www.tripomatic.com/

Pre-made itineraries can be found here:

- Newcastle
- Northumberland
- Durham

To plan your holiday budget effectively and spend enough time at the attractions you visit to appreciate them, you may also wish to check:

- How long it takes to travel there
- How long you would like to spend there
- Opening times
- Public transport timetables
- Entry fees? How much?
- What dates and time your train / bus / flights are booked for?

Day 1: Newcastle Upon Tyne
Arrive at 8.45am!!
Hotel check-in at 11am (find storage for luggage until we can check-in to the hotel)
✓ Newcastle bus tour
✓ Liang Art Gallery
✓ Eldon Square Shopping Centre and a quick bus journey to Gateshead’s Metro Centre
✓ Get close to nature at Jesmond Dene!
✓ Drinks down the Quayside

Day 2: Durham
✓ Durham Cathedral and Observatory
✓ Durham indoor markets – lunch overlooking the river
✓ Beamish Museum (brilliant gift shop!)
✓ Comedy at The Stand club

Day 3: Northumberland
✓ Alnwick Castle and Gardens
✓ Bamburgh Castle
✓ Shopping and sightseeing in Morpeth and lunchtime picnic in Carlisle Park
✓ Dinner in Craster (yummy for seafood!)
Train home at 9pm!
## How to get there

Plan your journey for free using [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of transport</th>
<th>Journey time</th>
<th>Web links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Train (Glasgow to Newcastle Upon Tyne)</td>
<td>From 2 hours 38 minutes</td>
<td>The Trainline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach (Glasgow to Newcastle Upon Tyne)</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>Megabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>National Express Coach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Choosing accommodation

It is a good idea to consider what you want from your accommodation before booking:

- Location: is it near to the train station / city centre / attractions you will visit? Is it easy to travel to?

- Price: is it good value? Is breakfast / Wi-Fi included in the price?

- Privacy: does it offer a shared or private bathroom?

- Hostels / Twin Rooms: are you happy sharing the room or would you prefer a private room?

There are many types of accommodation to choose from: B&B (bed and breakfast), hotel, hostel. You will need to book on the internet or by phone.

Confirm check-in and check-out times

- You may want to use a “left luggage” service if you will arrive a few hours before you can check-in at your lodgings or when going for a day out before getting the train home.
Food and drink

Most places in England have a wide range of cuisines on offer, but it is a good idea to check how easily you will be able to access the food you need or want if you have any dietary needs.

If you have allergies be sure to check when you order your food that it does not contain any ingredients that you cannot eat.

If you require food that is prepared in a certain way or meat-free meals for example, it is a good idea to research which cafes and restaurants will offer this option before travelling.

Use the internet to find restaurants, cafes, fast food outlets, delicatessens that you may want to visit – simply type “Newcastle Upon Tyne” and your food needs (e.g. “vegetarian”, “vegan”, “halal” etc)

If you would like to see reviews of the local eateries try websites such as:

www.tripadvisor.co.uk
www.virtualtourist.com/

Download a free app to help you find restaurants & make reservations, e.g.:

www.opentable.co.uk/start/home
www.foodspotting.com
Discounts & Saving Money

- Save money when you travel in the North East of England – see here for details of discounts and offers on shopping, eating, accommodation and transport:
  - Newcastle
  - Northumberland
  - Durham

- Many websites offer discounts on pre-booked activities, shopping and meals, for example:
  - Groupon: www.groupon.co.uk
  - 5pm: www.5pm.co.uk
  - Wowcher: www.wowcher.co.uk

- Don’t forget to check deals available for students!
  - Student Beans: www.studentbeans.com
Safety tips for travellers

Before you go...

○ Take a guidebook/map!
○ Think about how you wish to pay for food, travel etc on your trip – cash? Bank card?
○ Will there be many ATM machines at the places you will visit?
○ Will you need to pay for some activities with cash?
○ Research travel passes before you book transport - you may make substantial savings on the cost of travel
○ Don’t forget your mobile phone charger if you will be away from home more than 1 day!

When you arrive...

○ If you catch a taxi, ensure that it is a licensed cab. Or pre-book a taxi in advance.
○ If your accommodation has a safe for you to use, store your valuable belongings in it if you are not taking them out with you
○ When not in use, keep cameras in your bag or behind your zipped coat (when wearing the carry strap around your neck)
○ When you are travelling on public transport, keep a close watch on your belongings