

This is durham **Pocket Guide**




Amazing days & stays in Durham



Things to see and do and places to eat in **Durham City**,
the **Durham Dales**, **Vale of Durham** and **Durham Coast**

ESCAPE ROOMS


DURHAM



Lily of Lumley

THE ESCAPE ROOM

AT LUMLEY CASTLE



Lumley Castle holds a secret. For centuries the halls and passageway have been said to be haunted by Lily Of Lumley and an investigator has recently disappeared.

You and your team are here to investigate the haunting and solve the mystery.

People at the castle speak of an ancient curse and the cries of a young woman can be heard behind the old stone walls. Work your way through ancient rooms, find Lily, free her from the curse and Escape a deadly fate!

**CAN YOU
ESCAPE?**



**Interactive
puzzles**



**Teams
of 2+**



**Call: 0191
303 6393**

www.escapedurham.co.uk



**LUMLEY
CASTLE**

★★★★★

Whether you are looking for inspiration on great days out or planning the perfect staycation, let the Durham Pocket Guide inspire you.

Welcome to Durham, a county with breathtaking dales, a dramatic coastline, a vale steeped in history and a vibrant city at its heart.

Amazing days...

From city, countryside to coast, enjoy award-winning attractions, exciting activities, stunning landscapes, and fantastic food and drink. Whether you're a nature lover, culture vulture, history buff, or looking for a fun family day out, you can enjoy all this and more in Durham. And when it comes to a little retail therapy, you will find big name brands and independent retailers, as well as Dalton Park – the biggest outlet shopping centre in the North East.

Amazing stays...

Take a break at one of the county's stylish hotels, historic houses, cosy B&Bs or homely cottages. And for a night under the stars, you will find great camping and glamping across the county. So, whether it's quality couple time, a family getaway or a dog-friendly break with your four-legged friend, you're certain to find your perfect place to stay.

Get a taste of Durham

Fantastic food and drink is a key ingredient for a memorable visit – from local produce found only in Durham, farm shops and farmers' markets, to foodie events, experiences and award-winning eateries. Fine dining destinations, hearty pub lunches, tempting tea rooms and cosy coffee shops are all on the menu in Durham.

Supported by:



Contents

How to use this guide	4
Be inspired – Outdoors	6
Be inspired – Heritage	7
See & Do / Food & Drink	
Durham City	8–23
Vale of Durham	24–36

How to use this guide

This handy guide will help you make the most of your time in our amazing county. It is divided into easy-to-follow sections for things to see and do, places to eat, events and visitor information.

Inspire me

In this guide you'll find ideas on how to discover Durham's great outdoors, fascinating heritage and exciting culture, through attractions, activities and events. For even more inspiration, visit: thisisdurham.com/inspire-me

Keep in touch

Keep in touch to find out first about Durham news, events and special offers. Sign up to receive our free e-newsletter, visit: thisisdurham.com/newsletter



thisisdurham #LoveDurham

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

Email info@visitcountydurham.org Tel 03000 26 26 26
For a pdf version, visit: thisisdurham.com/publications



MIX
Paper | Supporting
responsible forestry
FSC® C007785

© Visit County Durham. Published March 2025. All information correct at time of going to print. You are advised to check opening times and event dates before making plans. All photography in this publication is copyright and cannot be reproduced without permission. All images copyright Visit County Durham unless specified.



Durham Dales	37–43
Durham Coast	44–46
What’s New	47
Visitor Information	48–49
Further Afield	52–53

Key to symbols

The following symbols are featured throughout the guide to help you choose the most suitable things to see and do, or places to eat.

-  Shop

 Baby change facilities

 Tea room and/or coffee shop

 Restaurant

 Picnic tables

 Car parking

 No dogs (except guide dogs)

 Dogs welcome

 No admission charge

 Accessible parking

 Accessible toilets

 Wheelchair access all areas

 Facilities for visually impaired

 Facilities for hearing impaired

 Welcome to Durham
-  Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme

 Fairtrade products available

 Green Tourism Business Scheme Award – Gold, Silver, Bronze

 Changing Place facility

Accommodation Only

 Washing machine

 Hot tub

 Free WiFi

 Log fire/open fireplace

 Garden

 Children’s facilities

 Secure cycle storage

 AA Rosette

All images © Visit County Durham unless stated otherwise. Cover – main, Raby Castle: Cover – bottom left, Low Force Waterfall: Cover – bottom right, The Rose & Crown: P3 Auckland Palace © The Auckland Project: P4–5 High Force Waterfall: P6 Durham Coast: P7 © Beamish, The Living Museum of the North: P8 Durham City: P24 Locomotion © Science Museum Group: P41 The Bowes Museum: P48 Durham Coast: P51 S&DR200 Festival – All Change © imitating the dog & SKYMAGIC: P54 Inner Cloister, Adam Frelin. © Lumiere 2023, produced by Artichoke. Photo by Matthew Andrews: P56 Saltburn-by-the-Sea © Visit Tees Valley.

SPECIAL OFFER TERMS AND CONDITIONS
For further information about the deals offered within this guide, or to check terms and conditions please contact the venue direct. To redeem the offer present the advert at the venue. Vouchers are issued in good faith but the Promoter is not responsible for the operator refusing to accept the voucher. The offer details were correct as of March 2025 and Visit County Durham cannot accept any responsibility in respect of changes, errors or omissions which may have occurred.

Escape into our great outdoors

From countryside to coast, Durham provides the perfect opportunity to pause, breathe, and savour our special place.

From walking and cycling to nature watching, watersports and wellness, take some tranquil time out in Durham.

Head to the Durham Dales to enjoy everything from a scenic stroll to a challenging trek, with lots of opportunities for wildlife watching along the way.

If you prefer to explore on two wheels you will find routes for all ages and abilities, and at Hamsterley Forest you can take on some of the best off-road cycling tracks in the UK.

If you want a challenge, a number of long-distance walking and cycling routes, including the Pennine Way, Northern Saints Trails and Sea to Sea, will take you through some of county's most stunning landscapes.

For spectacular sights don't miss High Force, one of England's most dramatic waterfalls, or enjoy an incredible night of stargazing under Durham's dark skies in the North Pennines National Landscape.

Head to the coast to explore Durham's heritage coastline, recognised internationally for its rare plants and wildlife.

Follow the Coastal Footpath for dramatic cliff top views across the North Sea. And for a rush of adrenaline, head to Seaham Harbour where you can take to the water to paddle board, kayak or canoe under expert guidance.

Even in historic Durham City there's the chance to get back to nature, with riverside walks, Crook Hall Gardens and Durham University's Botanic Garden.

And for family fun in the fresh air, head to Wharton Park, Hardwick Park or Chester-le-Street Riverside Park for plenty of play areas and places to explore. thisisdurham.com/outdoors



Durham Coast

Step into our stories

Discover Durham's fascinating past and culture, brought vividly to life through exciting attractions and iconic buildings.

The Durham Cathedral and Castle UNESCO World Heritage Site forms one of the most stunning city skylines in Europe. Between these two iconic buildings explore Durham University's Historic Libraries at Palace Green and Museum of Archaeology, where fascinating exhibits shine a light on Durham's past.

At The Story, discover thousands of years of the county's history through incredible collections, and get close-up to treasures from across the globe at the Oriental Museum. On the outskirts of the city, explore the stunning architecture and grounds of Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens.

In the Durham Dales, discover Raby Castle, Park and Gardens. Step inside one of England's finest medieval castles, stroll through parkland, and enjoy the remodelled 18th Century Walled Garden. Experience the life of Victorian lead mining families at Killhope, and don't miss the magnificent sight of The Bowes Museum, with its outstanding collections of art, fashion and design.

In the Vale of Durham experience the sights, smells, sounds and tastes of times gone by at Beamish, The Living Museum of the North, which brings the past to life. Uncover the county's role in the development of the railways at Locomotion, home to the largest undercover collection of historic railway vehicles in Europe. And at Binchester Roman Fort see what life was like for the Romans in Durham. Delve into 1,000 years of history at The Auckland Project – explore the magnificent Auckland Palace, Mining Art Gallery, Spanish Gallery and Faith Museum, and hop aboard the Weardale Railway to enjoy a journey along the restored heritage line. And for a truly unique experience visit Kynren – An Epic Tale of England, where you will travel through time at this live action outdoor spectacular.

**[thisisdurham.com/
history](http://thisisdurham.com/history)**

Beamish, The Living Museum of the North

This is **durham**

Durham City

The small city with a big reputation.

Durham City: See & Do

Section

Durham City

Adventure Valley



One free bag of animal feed

Show advert to redeem. Terms and conditions apply

Discover endless adventures at Adventure Valley, the North East's biggest family adventure park. With over 18,000 sq ft of indoor play, an indoor animal Farm Yard and acres of outdoor play, the kids won't want to leave! Adventure Valley has it covered with over 40 attractions, activities and shows – including cute friendly animals to meet, Adventure Golf, Forty Towers, Runaway Races, Valley Express Train, Wild West Saloon, Showtime Theatre, Dragon Slide, Pirate Ship, zip line, new fully accessible play frame, tractor rides, and jumping pillows.

Opening times: Daily from 10am. Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. See website for up-to-date information.

Brasside, Durham City, DH1 5SG

Tel 0191 386 8291 adventurevalley.co.uk

Facebook: AdventureV X: Adventure_V



Durham's great outdoors

From countryside to coast, discover stunning scenery and wonderful wildlife.

thisisdurham.com/outdoors

Durham Cathedral



Explore Durham Cathedral, part of Durham's UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the resting places of iconic Northern Saints, St Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede, as pilgrims have done for 1,000 years, and encounter the cathedral's daily rhythm of worship.

Look up to see stained glass windows, pause by the County Durham miners and local regiment memorials and explore the iconic Cloisters. Step into the cathedral's museum to explore the history of the medieval monastery, and see the treasures of St Cuthbert. Plus, see three rare Magna Cartas on display in Durham Cathedral Museum in summer 2025, celebrating the 800th anniversary of the 1225 issue.

No admission charge to the cathedral. If you are able, please consider donating £5 to support the cathedral's future.

Durham Cathedral Museum tickets: £7.50 for adults, under 18s free.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday 9.30am–4.30pm, Sunday noon–4pm.

Durham Cathedral, Durham, DH1 3EH

Email visitor.desk@durhamcathedral.co.uk

durhamcathedral.co.uk

Facebook/X/Instagram: DurhamCathedral



DURHAM
CATHEDRAL

Things to do

- Climb the central tower for amazing views
- Dive into history in the cathedral's museum, see three rare Magna Cartas, 11 July - 2 November
- Light a candle, join a service or pause for Prayers on the Hour
- Find Durham-inspired gifts in the shop
- Enjoy light bites in the café, or a picnic outdoors in the Monks' Garden
- Explore Durham's riverbanks around the cathedral
- See Durham Cathedral in LEGO®

Check the website for what's on, special events, and tickets for the tower, tours and museum

www.durhamcathedral.co.uk



Registered Charity Number: 1205971

Durham Fringe Festival 2025 | 23–27 July

P



This July, Durham Fringe Festival brings you 90+ shows across nine city centre venues. There's something for everyone including theatre, comedy, dance, live music, spoken word, musical theatre, circus, daytime family shows, and much more. Discover the magic of a fringe festival atmosphere, with performances by local and international artists.

All shows cost £10, but you can also take advantage of concession tickets, make a day of it with the three-show Discover Ticket, or see something for the whole family with our discounted family offer.

Celebrate Durham Fringe's fifth birthday in 2025. Tickets go on sale in May. Disability access varies for each venue.

durhamfringe.co.uk

Facebook: Durham Fringe Festival Instagram: [durhamfringefest](https://www.instagram.com/durhamfringefest)

Durham Market Hall



Discover the heart of Durham city's independent retail and explore the bustling Victorian Market Hall in the city centre. Now a thriving hub home to 40 independent traders, you can shop for everything from food and drink, fashion and beauty to homewares and antiques, hobby supplies and collectables. You will also find various useful services, including key cutting, phone and watch repairs, a hairdresser, a body piercer, and a tattoo studio. Once shopped out, refuel with something to eat and drink in the market's café with a view!

Opening times: Monday to Saturday 9am–4.30pm.

Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ

Tel 0191 384 6153 durhammarkets.co.uk

Facebook: Durham Markets Instagram: [durhammarkets](https://www.instagram.com/durhammarkets)

thisisdurham.com

ESCAPE ROOMS

DURHAM

**60 MINS TO SOLVE THE PUZZLES
AND ESCAPE THE ROOM**

DURHAM CITY CENTRE

Our two original challenges
right in the centre of Durham

GAME 01

MR. BORROWDALE'S STUDY

You wake up in a strange dimly lit study belonging to Durham's most feared resident. You are the latest victim of his sinister challenge. Can you work together as a team to solve his series of puzzles and riddles to Escape unharmed before his return?



GAME 02

LAB HEIST

Agents; Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to infiltrate Durham Bio Laboratories and steal Dr Norman Atkinson's secret formula. Unfortunately you have triggered the security system which is slowly filling the laboratory with toxic fumes...



**CAN YOU
ESCAPE?**



**Interactive
puzzles**



**Teams
of 2+**



**Call: 0191
303 6393**

www.escapedurham.co.uk



 facebook.com/DUThingsToDo
durham.ac.uk/things-to-do

Durham World Heritage Site Visitor Centre



Home to the Visitor Centre, Palace Green Library was originally built as the University Library. The ideal starting point for visitors to explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site and includes access to the Museum of Archaeology, the beautiful Bishop Cosin's 17th Century library, and the fascinating Penned and Printed exhibition. Free entry. **Opening times:** See our website for opening times and further information. **Palace Green Library, Palace Green, Durham, DH1 3RN Tel 0191 334 2976**
durham.ac.uk/things-to-do/venues/world-heritage-site-visitor-centre/



Museum of Archaeology



Dig deeper into the history and archaeology of Durham in the Museum of Archaeology. Our family-friendly exhibition explores the Prehistoric and Roman archaeology of the region. Thursday Twilight Talks every fourth Thursday each month. Free entry. **Opening times:** Open throughout the year. See our website for opening times and further information. **Palace Green Library, Palace Green, Durham, DH1 3RN Tel 0191 334 2976**

Durham Castle



In the heart of Durham's World Heritage Site, this impressive Norman castle is steeped in history dating back to the 11th Century. The tour includes the Norman Chapel and finishes in the Great Hall – still in use by students. Hear the stories of the bishops who have influenced the design of the castle. **Opening times:** The Castle is open throughout the year. See our website for tour dates and ticket information.

Visitor Attractions

Oriental Museum



From Ancient Egypt to modern China, this is the only museum in the north of England devoted entirely to the art and archaeology of the great cultures of Northern Africa and Asia. Free entry.

Opening times: Open throughout the year. See our website for opening times and further information.

Elvet Hill, Durham, DH1 3TH

Tel 0191 334 5691



Botanic Garden



Child (under 16) entry is now free Terms and conditions apply

Set against beautiful mature woodlands on the southern outskirts of Durham City, the Botanic Garden offers a wide range of landscapes to explore and discover, with guests young and old visiting throughout the year. **Opening times:** March to October 10am-4.30pm.

November to February 10.30am-4pm.

Hollingside Lane, Durham, DH1 3TN Tel 0191 334 5518

Public Lectures and Seminars

An extensive programme takes place throughout the year to share knowledge and encourage debate with experts and renowned academics speaking on a myriad of topics. Free of charge and open to all. Visit the website for full lecture listings and further details.

durham.ac.uk/news-events/events



Check our website and social media for events

Fowlers Yard



Fowlers Yard is a unique development of creative workspaces for professional artists, craftspeople and creative businesses. The studios are at the heart of the growing cultural quarter, tucked away behind Durham's Indoor Market. Visit our website to find out more about our unique businesses.

Opening times: See website for individual opening times.
fowlersyard.com

Facebook: Fowlers Yard

Guided Walks in Durham City



Enjoy a guided walk around the beautiful City of Durham led by Blue Badge Guide Graeme Logan. This could include a visit to the Cathedral. Tours available for individuals, couples, small or large groups. Graeme will bring your tour alive with a sense of humour and an insight into the way of life, heritage and special features of North East England. He may also treat you to his own rendition of The Blaydon Races and is not unknown to illustrate his tours with a verse or two of poetry! Departs from various locations in Durham. Please contact to check availability. **Tel 01207 506 772** or **07712 117 044** Email gra_logan@hotmail.com

Harry's House Durham



Harry's House Durham offers comfortable pet-friendly accommodation within easy reach of the city. The three-bed end-terrace boasts bespoke artwork and quirky interiors as well as a large garden with private parking, outdoor fireplace, and luxury hydrotherapy spa. A warm welcome awaits for your North East adventures.

42 High Street, Carrville, Durham, DH1 1AS
Tel 07961 889 916 harryshousedurham.co.uk
Facebook: 42harryshousedurham

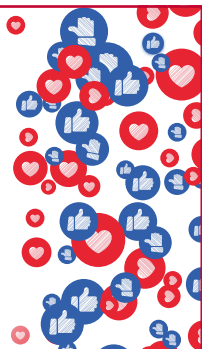
Follow us

f Facebook at: **thisisdurham**

X X at: **thisisdurham**

@ Instagram at: **thisisdurham**

Upload your Durham photos using
#LoveDurham



ODEON Luxe Durham



Step into a world of cinematic luxury in the picturesque heart of the city. Every seat within our six opulent screens has been expertly designed for ultimate comfort, allowing you space to relax and recline in style. Plus, enjoy an unparalleled viewing experience with the state-of-the-art iSense screen. Indulge in our delicious made-for-cinema food offering, pairing perfectly with soft drinks, ice blasts, and enticing beer and wine options from Oscar's Bar. Experience the magic of ODEON Cinema with cutting-edge technology that transports viewers to new dimensions, at ODEON Luxe Durham.

The Riverwalk, Unit 15 Millburngate, Waterside, Durham, DH1 4SL
odeon.co.uk/cinemas/durham/

Poplar Tree Garden Centre & Brambles Coffee Shop



Poplar Tree Garden Centre & Brambles Coffee Shop has a passion for plants and flowers, floristry and catering. Enjoy a selection of hot and cold meals and delightful drinks in the award-winning coffee shop, set within relaxing surroundings of the open countryside just less than a mile from Durham City.

Poplar Tree Garden Centre & Brambles Coffee Shop,
 Hall Lane, Shincliffe, Durham, DH1 2NG
 Tel 0191 384 7553
poplartreegardencentre.co.uk

Stanley & Durham City Taxis



As a passionate, family-run taxi company, Stanley & Durham City Taxis focuses on traditional, value for money services through a committed team and tried, tested and trusted experience. Operating since 1961, the business remains in the hands of the same family who have grown Stanley Travel into a respected company providing taxi, mini bus and coach hire throughout the region.

Tel 0191 306 0606
stanley-travel.com

The Story



The Story is a new cultural and registration venue for County Durham covering thousands of years of everyday life in the county. Visitors can explore internationally significant collections through the permanent exhibition and events. State-of-the-art research facilities enable self-led exploration of the 14km of archives and collections held on site. **Opening times:** Visit the website.

The Story, Mount Oswald, Durham, DH1 3TQ
Tel 03000 268 888 Email info@thestorydurham.org
thestorydurham.org Facebook/X: TheStoryDurham

Unbox at Poplar Tree



Surrounded by magnificent countryside and five minutes from the centre of Durham, in a first for the North East, Unbox offers twin-linked, beautifully converted shipping container lodges with floor-to-ceiling glazing and private raised entrance decks. These cater for up to four with private parking, a full kitchen, bath and walk-in shower. Search for Unbox Durham or Unbox Poplar.

Tel 07793 630 331 Email james@justunbox.co.uk
justunbox.co.uk

Walking with the Ghosts of Durham



Follow Andrew Ross, the Ghost Whisperer of Durham, along historic streets and discover tales of murder, mischief, mayhem and legend from the city's rich and grizzly history.

Tours begin at Crook Hall (DH1 5SZ) at 6.30pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Booking is required, and private bookings are available.

Tel 07939 419 474
Email durhamghostwhisperer@yahoo.com
Facebook: Walking with the Ghosts of Durham
X: GhostsofDurham

Have an eventful time

Discover exciting festivals and events taking place across the county.

thisisdurham.com/whats-on



Toast Stays



Specialist holiday and short-term letting agents

Toast Stays is based in Durham City, North East England. It prides itself on the provision and management of high quality, short-term, self-catering accommodation.

Whether you are looking for time away in an idyllic rural cottage, a short weekend break in a modern, luxury city centre apartment or are looking for short-term accommodation while contracted to work, Toast Stays can help.

Tel 0191 384 0596

Email enquiries@toaststays.com

toaststays.com

Facebook: Toast Stays

Instagram: toaststays

Ushaw Historic House, Chapels & Gardens



On the outskirts of Durham City, explore Ushaw's beautiful gardens, architecturally significant historic house, and breathtaking chapels. Join a guided tour and discover Ushaw's fascinating history, then relax and treat yourself in the café. With enthralling events and exhibitions – from classic car shows to live music, family fun, and an array of art – there's always something to capture your imagination at Ushaw.

Opening times: Visit ushaw.org for opening times and admission charges.

Overnight stays at Ushaw

Our comfortable, private en-suite rooms are on the first floor of the 200-year-old Georgian country house. Single, twin and double room options are available.

Ushaw, Durham, DH7 7DW

Tel 0191 373 8500 Email meet@ushaw.org

ushaw.org

Facebook/X/Instagram/TikTok: [ushawdurham](#)

Durham Cathedral: The Undercroft



Durham Cathedral's café is known for its delicious range of lunches, snacks and drinks. Choose from homemade soups, sandwiches, scones and cakes freshly prepared using local produce wherever possible. During the school holidays, children can eat free (T&Cs apply). Eat indoors or choose a table outside in the Cloister or Monks' Garden.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday 9.30am–4.30pm, Sunday 10.30am–4pm. Closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday.

Durham Cathedral, Durham City, DH1 3EH

Tel 0191 386 3721 durhamcathedral.co.uk

Ebony Champagne & Cocktail Bar



Regarded as Durham's most-prestigious Champagne and cocktail bar serving daytime food and drinks, and night-time drinks only, Ebony is located on the Walkergate complex and offers an extensive food and drinks menu to suit all tastes in a relaxed atmosphere.

8 Walkergate, Durham, DH1 1SQ Tel 0191 375 7121

Email info@ebonychampagnebar.co.uk

ebonychampagnebar.co.uk

Facebook: The Champagne Bar By Ebony

Instagram: [ebonychampagnebar](https://www.instagram.com/ebonychampagnebar)

The Kingslodge Inn – The Inn Collection Group



Combine the best of city living with the relaxed atmosphere of the countryside at this cosy gem of an inn in Durham City. Surrounded by the peaceful woodland of Flass Vale it's hard to believe The Kingslodge Inn is just a 10-minute stroll from the heart of historic Durham City, with its UNESCO World Heritage Site of Durham Cathedral and adjoining Castle.

Voted best venue in County Durham in the national Pub & Bar Awards in 2019 and named by The Times as one of the '20 best places to stay in the UK with a dog', The Kingslodge Inn has all the benefits of a city-centre location but with a laid-back, relaxed vibe.

Opening times: Daily 7.30am–11pm.

Waddington Street, Flass Vale, Durham, DH1 4BG

Tel 0191 370 9977 Email enquiries@kingslodgeinn.co.uk

inncollectiongroup.com/kingslodge-inn

LUMIERE

13 - 15 NOVEMBER 2025
THE UK'S LIGHT ART BIENNIAL



Visit Lumiere-Festival.com

AN
ARTICHOKE
PROJECT

COMMISSIONED BY
Durham
County Council

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Vennels Durham



Soak up the historic ambience with oak beams, crooked ceilings and original fireplaces, all enhanced with moody lighting, old sewing machine tables and quirky antiques –with 150 seats over three floors, including the doggy-friendly heated and covered courtyard garden.

Indulge in no-nonsense café food, using the freshest local produce, including renowned scones and cakes baked every morning on the premises.

The history of this charming café can be dated as far back as 1720 to the tale of Durham's own Mrs Clements, creator of English Mustard as we know it today.

Opening times: Monday to Sunday 9am–4pm.

71 Saddler Street, Durham, DH1 3NP

Email enquiries@vennels.com www.vennels.com

Facebook: vennelscoffeeshop Instagram/X: vennelsdurham

Zaap Thai Durham



Sawasdee Durham! Experience the vibrant flavours of Bangkok at Zaap Thai Street Food – transport yourself to Thailand's bustling street markets with our colourful Thai décor and electric ZAAPY atmosphere rounded off with an unforgettable dining experience that offers a true taste of Thailand.



Unit 21, The Riverwalk, Durham, DH1 4SL

Tel 0191 367 2131 zaapthai.co.uk

Instagram: [zaap_thai_streetfood](#)

Plan the perfect staycation

Everything you need to plan the perfect staycation – things to see and do, places to stay, and more.

thisisdurham.com



This is **durham**

Vale of Durham

Discover the county's heritage and culture at amazing attractions.

Vale of Durham: See & Do

Locomotion

Beamish, The Living Museum of the North



Hop aboard a traditional tram or bus and travel through time, making amazing memories as you experience life in the 1820s, early 1900s, 1940s and 1950s. From beautiful Georgian gardens and an underground tour of a coal mine to a spot of Edwardian shopping, delicious fish and chips, exploring The 1940s Farm and taking a trip to a 1950s cinema, be immersed in history at Beamish Museum. Plus, discover a packed programme of events – there's something for the whole family to enjoy. Daytime events included in admission, pay once and visit free for a year!

Opening times: Open year round, see beamish.org.uk.

Beamish, County Durham, DH9 0RG

Tel 0191 370 4000 beamish.org.uk

Facebook: Beamish Living Museum

Instagram: [beamish_museum](https://www.instagram.com/beamish_museum)

X: [Beamish_Museum](https://twitter.com/Beamish_Museum)

Binchester Roman Fort

A Durham County Council venue



See the impressive remains of the Commandant's house and the neighbouring bath-house (now protected with a new cover building) containing one of the best preserved examples of a hypocaust (underfloor heating system) in the whole of Britain – and see the stupendously well-preserved remains of part of the regimental bath building uncovered by recent excavations.

Signposted from A690 Durham–Crook, from A688 Spennymoor–Bishop Auckland, and from Bishop Auckland town centre.

Adults £6, concessions £5, children £4 (under 4s free). Advance booking required for group guided tours. Much of the site is fully accessible. Check website for details of any special events and closures. Assistance dogs only.

Opening times: Daily 1 April to 31 October 10am–4.30pm (last entry 4pm).

1 mile north of Bishop Auckland beside the River Wear on the road from the market place/town hall to Newfield, County Durham, DL14 8DJ

Tel 01388 663 089 / 03000 267 013 (out of season)

durham.gov.uk/binchester

Bonnors Lodge 5 Star B&B and Touring Caravan Park



Michelle and Ken welcome you to their dog-friendly five-star B&B and touring caravan park. Set in The North Pennines National Landscape and within walking distance of the Waskerley Way, you can also meet the alpacas, goats, sheep, donkey and horses.

North England Prestige Awards 2024/25 Winner – 31130 – Caravan Park of the Year & B&B of the Year!

Bonnors Lodge, Bee Cottage Farm, Near Castleside, Consett, County Durham, DH8 9HW

Tel 07946 536 934

bonnorslodge.co.uk Facebook: [bonnorslodge](https://www.facebook.com/bonnorslodge)



Visit England
Rose Award Winner

Brancepeth Castle



The 14th Century stronghold of the Nevilles, which became a grand Regency country house, is now a family home. Visit the castle on a family-guided tour, for craft fairs and open-air theatre, or stay in the Quartermaster's holiday let. Tours and events run throughout the year – see the website for details.

Brancepeth Castle, Brancepeth, Durham, DH7 8DE

Tel 0191 378 9670

brancepethcastle.uk

Facebook: [BrancepethCastle](https://www.facebook.com/BrancepethCastle)

Facebook: [QuartermastersAtBrancepethCastle](https://www.facebook.com/QuartermastersAtBrancepethCastle)



Durham Cricket's Riverside



Join us for a sensational season of fun at Durham Cricket this summer. The T20 Blast returns with something for everyone – world-class cricket to watch, fun family activities, live music, and a wide range of food and drinks all in the picturesque setting of Durham Cricket's Riverside Stadium in Chester-le-Street. The club's new facilities – including a sensory room, multi-faith space and changing places facility – make the matchday experience more accessible than ever. Tickets are available from just £5 and can be purchased online or by contacting the club's box office – details below.

Seat Unique Riverside, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, DH3 3QR

Tel 0191 387 1717 Email box.office@durhamcricket.co.uk

durhamcricket.co.uk

Facebook: [DurhamCricket](#) X: [DurhamCricket](#) Instagram: [DurhamCricket_](#)

Durham Mining Museum



The display areas of the museum are located within Spennymoor Town Hall. There are also two life-size pit ponies working next to a purpose-built coal seam that children (and adults!) can experience. **Opening times:** Monday to Saturday 10am–2pm. Closed Wednesdays. Visits outside this time and group visits are possible by emailing Mary Stratford, durhamminingmuseum@gmail.com
Spennymoor Town Hall, High Street, Spennymoor, County Durham, DL16 6DG Tel 01388 810 597
Email durhamminingmuseum@gmail.com
dmm.org.uk Facebook: [Durham Mining Museum](#)

Hall Hill Farm



Enjoy a fun-filled family day out with lots of animals, free tractor and trailer ride, soft play barn and crazy golf. Bottle feed the lambs in spring and ride the barrel train. Special events throughout the year.

Winner of a 2023 VisitEngland Gold Accolade & Winner of the Farm Attraction of Year 2025.

Opening times: Please visit the website.

Lanchester, County Durham, DH7 OTA

Tel 01388 731 333 hallhillfarm.co.uk

Facebook: [Hall Hill Farm](#) X: [hallhillfarm](#)

KYNREN

AN EPIC TALE OF ENGLAND

WATCH LEGENDS COME TO LIFE

2025 PERFORMANCES

THE 90-MINUTE SPECTACULAR STARTS AT SUNSET AND ENDS
IN STARLIGHT ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

SAT 19 JULY
SAT 26 JULY
SAT 2 AUGUST

SAT 9 AUGUST
SAT 16 AUGUST
SAT 23 AUGUST

SAT 30 AUGUST
SAT 6 SEPTEMBER
SAT 13 SEPTEMBER

CELEBRATING
RAILWAY 200

BOOK NOW

[KYNREN.COM](https://kynren.com)

BISHOP AUCKLAND, COUNTY DURHAM, DL14 7SF
TEL: 01388 436 030 EMAIL: [INFO@KYNREN.COM](mailto:info@kynren.com)

Locomotion



Looking for a free, memorable day out for the whole family? Come to Locomotion in Shildon, the world's first railway town. Explore two enormous halls filled with more than 90 incredible railway vehicles. Impressive displays and a programme of exhibitions draw on Shildon's heritage as the cradle of the railways. Extensive grounds include historically significant railway buildings, picnic spaces and a children's play area.

Family friendly activities and workshops run throughout the school holidays. Plus, the legendary Flying Scotsman will be on display during the summer months. Free entry.

Opening times: Daily 10am–5pm (summer), 10am–4pm (winter).
Closed 24–26 December.

Locomotion, Shildon, County Durham, DL4 2RE
Tel 0330 058 0058 locomotion.org.uk
Facebook/X/Instagram: LocomotionSHD

Vale of Durham: See & Do

Knitsley Farm Shop & Granary Café



An award-winning farm shop/restaurant based on a working farm near Consett, County Durham, Knitsley boasts many home-produced products including freshly baked breads and cakes, homemade pies and pastries, freshly butchered own/local meat products, along with delicatessen items and local/regional cheeses.

East Knitsley Grange Farm, Knitsley, Consett, County Durham, DH8 9EW Tel 01207 592 059

Email info@knitsleyfarmshop.co.uk

knitsleyfarmshop.co.uk

Facebook: Knitsley-Farm-Shop X: KnitsleyFarm

Moor House Adventure Centre



Outstanding adventurous and educational activities less than 10 minutes from Durham City centre. With 19 acres, visitors can choose from more than 25 adventurous activities including crossbows, climbing, bushcraft and pioneering. Visit for an hour, stay the weekend or longer!

Moor House Adventure Centre, Rainton Gate,

Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 6QY Tel 0191 584 1703

Email bookings@moor-house.org.uk

moor-house.org.uk

Facebook: Moorhouseadventure

Park Head Hotel & Restaurant



A great place to lay your head as well as enjoy an excellent meal in the Oak Room Restaurant, Park Head Hotel has comfortable en-suite rooms and serves up tasty breakfasts, lunch, hot drinks and sweet treats daily, Sunday Lunch every week, and inventive evening meals with ingredients sourced from Auckland Palace's Walled Garden.

New Coundon, DL14 8QB

Tel 01388 661 727

parkheadhotel.co.uk

Strawberry Hill Farm Camping & Caravan Park and Tea Room



Adam and Louise welcome you to their family-run camping and caravan park – a quiet and open countryside park with magnificent views and spacious pitches for touring caravans, motorhomes and tents. Caravan holiday homes are also available for hire. Try some delicious homemade treats in the on-site tea room.

Strawberry Hill Farm Camping & Caravan Park,

Running Waters, Old Cassop, County Durham, DH6 4QA Tel 0191 372 3457

Email info@strawberryhillcaravanpark.co.uk

strawberry-hill-farm.co.uk

The Black Horse Beamish



The Black Horse Beamish is a stunning 300-year-old estate nestled in the picturesque Beamish Valley. Offering a unique blend of history, luxury and natural beauty, the estate features a charming pub and restaurant, children's playground, luxurious accommodation, and two flexible event spaces – catering to diverse occasions, such as weddings, private parties, events, funerals, and corporate functions. Our accommodation comprises a mix of luxury rooms and sumptuous self-catering cottages, perfect for wedding guest accommodation, a family retreat, or a romantic break. We are perfectly positioned to visit local attractions and cities, such as Beamish Museum (2 miles away), Newcastle Central Station (7.3 miles), and Durham Centre (14 miles).

Have an electric car? No problem, we have three electric vehicle charging points.

Opening times: Daily, see website for details.

Contact for events: events@blackhorsebeamish.co.uk

Contact for pub/restaurant: restaurant@blackhorsebeamish.co.uk

Contact for accommodation: stay@blackhorsebeamish.co.uk

**The Black Horse Beamish, Red Row Estate,
Beamish, County Durham, DH9 0RW**

Tel 01207 232 569 blackhorsebeamish.co.uk

Instagram/Facebook: [blackhorsebeamish](https://www.instagram.com/blackhorsebeamish)

The Auckland Project



The Auckland Project is a unique collection of heritage attractions, galleries, gardens and parkland surrounding Auckland Palace. The attractions tell the remarkable story of Bishop Auckland, from the powerful Prince Bishops of Durham to the town's surprising connection with the Golden Age of Spanish Art. Begin your day at Auckland Tower, where you can learn more about the historic town of Bishop Auckland and enjoy far-reaching views.

The Auckland Project is a regeneration charity with a difference, working with local people to build a brighter future for Bishop Auckland. By visiting The Auckland Project's attractions, you will become part of this story.

Venture beyond Bishop Auckland to explore Weardale Railway, also part of The Auckland Project.

Opening times: Visit aucklandproject.org for details.

Tel 01388 743 750 Email enquiries@aucklandproject.org

aucklandproject.org

Facebook/X: [aucklandproject](https://www.facebook.com/aucklandproject) Instagram: [theaucklandproject](https://www.instagram.com/theaucklandproject)

The Auckland Project – Auckland Palace



Auckland Palace is one of the best-preserved Bishop's palaces in the whole of Europe – once home to England's only Prince Bishops. Nowadays you can make yourself at home in this unique palace. Highlights include St Peter's Chapel, the Georgian Gothic state rooms, and Francisco de Zurbarán's Jacob and His Twelve Sons – a must-see for art enthusiasts. Auckland Palace sits at the heart of 150 acres of parkland and 10 acres of gardens, including the 18th Century Walled Garden. The Walled Garden is now blooming and ready to explore, with the Great Garden opening in spring 2025.

The Auckland Project – Spanish Gallery



The Spanish Gallery is unique in Britain, telling the story of the Spanish Golden Age. The gallery houses the UK's largest collection of 16th and 17th Century Spanish artworks outside London, including works by El Greco, Velázquez and Murillo. With exhibitions spread over four floors, you could spend a whole day immersed in the curious world of Spanish art. Complete your day by sampling delicious Spanish food in El Castillo, the tapas restaurant next door.

The Auckland Project – Mining Art Gallery



The intimate and awe-inspiring art collection in The Mining Art Gallery gives a unique insight into the lives and souls of coal miners and their communities, showing how human creativity and spirit can shine even in the darkest places. The Mining Art Gallery provides a permanent home for the renowned Gemini Collection of Mining Art, including works by prominent local artists such as Tom McGuinness and Norman Cornish.

The Auckland Project – Faith Museum



The Faith Museum explores the myriad ways in which faith, belief and religion have shaped lives and communities across Britain. The museum's story begins 6,000 years ago, considering the ways people have encountered faith throughout history and continue to do so. The museum comprises four dynamic gallery spaces spanning two floors, with over 250 objects from 50 lenders across England, Scotland and Wales, including rarely seen objects, national treasures, personal mementos and contemporary commissions.

The Bob Abley Gallery



The Bob Abley Gallery – a hidden gem for North East art lovers in Spennymoor Town Hall – plays host to a wide selection of incredible art for sale by some of the country's most renowned artists, is forever changing, and is always worth a visit. Featuring one of the largest permanent exhibitions of work by the town's most famous son, Norman Cornish, as well as his actual studio (on loan from Beamish Museum), the Bob Abley also has stunning sea and landscapes by Spennymoor twins The Rocks Brothers, as well a wealth of works in a variety of media by the region's finest artists.

It is a must-experience for everyone who appreciates art that captures, celebrates and shines a spotlight on the North east.

Spennymoor Town Hall, High Street, Spennymoor, DL16 6DG

Tel 01388 815276

Email info@spennymoor-tc.gov.uk

The County Restaurant with Rooms



Perfectly situated just off the A1 in the heart of Aycliffe Village, overlooking the picturesque village green, this restaurant with rooms offers an exquisite dining experience serving quality fresh food and real ale along with seven spacious luxury guest rooms, all in a friendly, relaxed environment.



**13 The Green, Aycliffe Village,
Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6LX**
Tel 01325 312 273
thecountyaycliffevillage.com
Facebook: countyaycliffe

The Stables Beamish



After a long day exploring Beamish Museum and the surrounding area, the perfect place to retire is the Stables Bar and Restaurant to enjoy drinks in the courtyard or sample something from the delicious fresh and seasonal menus, prepared from the very best local ingredients.

Featuring everything from light lunches and salads to pub classics and decadent desserts, the Stables has a reputation for great quality food and drink in a cosy, relaxed environment.

Food is served from noon–8.30pm all year round (8pm on Sunday) and the bar is open late. The team looks forward to welcoming you and your friends and family to The Stables.

Beamish Hall Hotel, County Durham, DH9 0YB Tel 01207 288 750

Email stables@beamish-hall.co.uk beamish-hall.co.uk

Facebook: TheStablesBeamish X: BeamishHall

Be inspired

Visit the county's official tourism website for ideas on things to see and do, accommodation, food and drink, events and visitor information.



Thomas Wright House & Restaurant & The Old Hall Cottages



Guest Accommodation ★★★★★ silver ★★★★★ Self Catering



Stay in rural Byers Green, near Durham and Bishop Auckland. There are eight individually styled en-suite rooms – choose luxury in Aquila with a private patio, hot tub and in-room UV sauna, or Phoenix with double spa bath. Licensed for weddings.

Old Hall Cottages nearby both have hot tubs and barbecues.

Thomas Wright House, High Street, Byers Green, DL16 7PF

Old Hall Cottages, Byers Green, DL16 7PS

Tel 01388 664 716

Email enquiries@thomaswrightshouse.com

thomaswrightshouse.com



Plan the perfect staycation

From city, countryside to coast, find your perfect place to stay. thisisdurham.com/stay

This is **durham**

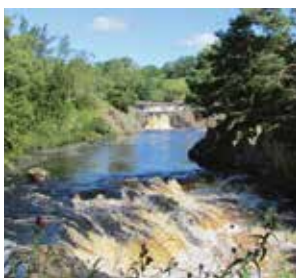
Durham Dales

Explore stunning landscapes home to buildings as breathtaking as the treasures within.



Durham Dales: See & Do

Bowlees Visitor Centre



Bowlees Visitor Centre is the perfect introduction to the nature and landscape of the North Pennines National Landscape and UNESCO Global Geopark. Enjoy walks to Low Force and High Force waterfalls, explore the grounds up to Gibson's Cave, get closer to nature in the wildlife areas, and picnic and play in the attractive woodland site. Packed with visitor information on what to do and see in Upper Teesdale and the wider North Pennines, Bowlees is the ideal place to start your outdoor adventure. The café offers great food and drink, and local produce, art and gifts are available in the shop. Visitor Information – Events – Gift Shop – Gallery – Exhibitions – Café – Family Activities – Walking and Nature Trails – Trammer Hire – Wildlife Garden – Picnic Area – Car Parking.

Opening times: Weekends only until mid-March 10am–4pm, daily 15–30 March 10am–4pm, daily 31 March to 28 September 10am–5pm, 29 September to 31 October 10am–4pm, weekends only 1–30 November 10am–4pm.

Newbiggin, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 0XE

Tel 01833 622 145 visitbowlees.org.uk / northpennines.org.uk

Facebook: VisitBowlees

Clarendon's of Barnard Castle



Quintessentially British, this classic tea room serves traditional breakfasts, lunches, afternoon teas and cake. Local produce is always on the menu and all cuisine is freshly prepared, homemade and delicious! Takeaways are available. **Opening times:** Monday to Friday 9.30am–3.30pm, Saturday 9am–4pm.

29 Market Place, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8NE Tel 01833 690 110

Email info@clarendonsofbarnardcastle.co.uk
clarendonsofbarnardcastle.co.uk

Facebook: Clarendons of Barnard Castle

Hamsterley Forest



Hamsterley Bridge credit Jerry Tatton

Get back to nature as you explore County Durham's largest forest by foot, bike or even horse! There's something for everyone at Hamsterley, including the Wellbeing trail designed to help you stop, reflect and connect during your visit, and the Viking WildPlay trail – perfect for young adventurers with plenty to enjoy along its pushchair-friendly route.

Adrenaline seekers have plenty to enjoy as well with miles of mountain bike routes to explore, or why not enjoy a run through acres of peaceful woodland? However you choose to enjoy the great outdoors, be sure to finish the day with a delicious treat at Hamsterley Forest café.

Hamsterley Forest, Bedburn, County Durham, DL13 3NL

Tel 01388 488 312 Email enquiries.hamsterley@forestryengland.uk
forestryengland.uk / hamsterley-forest

Facebook: HamsterleyForest Instagram: Hamsterley.forest

E-newsletter

Sign up to receive the Durham e-newsletter for ideas on things to see and do, events and competitions.

thisisdurham.com/newsletter



High Force Hotel & Waterfall



Embark on an adventure to one of the highest waterfalls in England. Follow the beautiful woodland trail to the base of the falls to see the natural wonder. Afterwards, step into the charming country hotel, packed with character and warmth, where you can savour seasonal flavours and local drinks. High Force is an incredibly popular destination for countryside walks, hearty Sunday lunches, and superb stays in the heart of Upper Teesdale.

High Force Hotel, Alston Road, Forest-in-Teesdale,
County Durham, DL12 0XH
Tel 01833 622 336
Email admin@raby.co.uk
raby.co.uk / high-force
Facebook: High Force Hotel & Waterfall
X: [highforcewater](https://twitter.com/highforcewater)
Instagram: [highforcehotelwaterfall](https://www.instagram.com/highforcehotelwaterfall)

Raby Castle, Park and Gardens



Visit one of the most impressive intact castles in England. Raby Castle, built by the powerful Nevilles in the 14th Century, has been the family home of the Vanes for nearly 400 years. Venture inside the powerful exteriors and explore superb collections and unique stories of the people who lived and worked here. Set within acres of unexpected beauty, complete with heritage buildings, remodelled gardens, stylish shopping, must-see events, woodland play and local food that is as fresh as it gets, sourced or inspired from the estate.

Raby Castle, Staindrop, Darlington, County Durham, DL2 3AH

Tel 01833 660 202

Email admin@raby.co.uk

raby.co.uk / [raby-castle](https://www.facebook.com/raby-castle)

Facebook: Raby Castle

X: [rabycastle](https://twitter.com/rabycastle)

Instagram: [rabycastleofficial](https://www.instagram.com/rabycastleofficial)

Mission Hall Antiques



Located on The Bank in the heart of Barnard Castle's conservation area and ideally placed for specialist shopping, Mission Hall Antiques is home to over 40 dealers selling everything from Worcester, Early Blue and White, Royal Doulton, Moorcroft and Beleek to 20th Century ceramics, jewellery and collectables, books, kitchenalia, glass, militaria, silver, antique fishing tackle, furniture and vintage clothing.

Also pay a visit to Robson's Antiques – across the road from Mission Hall (at 36 The Bank) which specialises in glass and silverware.

Opening times: Mission Hall: Monday to Saturday 10am–5pm, Sunday 1.30pm–5pm. Robson's: Monday to Saturday 10am–5pm.

51 The Bank, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8PL
Tel 01833 631 101
missionhallantiquescentre.co.uk

The Bowes Museum



Walk through the doors of this impressive French-styled building and you'll find an extraordinary collection of European art, design, textiles, silver and ceramics throughout 22 galleries. Surrounded by parkland, accompanied by a formal garden, the family-friendly museum sits right at the heart of the attractive and historic town of Barnard Castle. A changing programme of contemporary and period exhibitions means there is something fresh and new to enjoy throughout the year. Dogs welcome on a lead in the grounds, but not within the museum. Café Bowes is a national award-winning destination café with high-quality food, service and setting.

Opening times: Daily 10am–5pm (except 25, 26 December & 1 January).

Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8NP

Tel 01833 690 606 thebowesmuseum.org.uk

Facebook: TheBowesMuseum **X:** TheBowesMuseum

Instagram: thebowesmuseum

The Witham



Come experience Barnard Castle's Community Arts Centre! We've got something for everyone: theatre, music, comedy, films, dance, art, and spoken word. Relax in our Café Bar and chill in our large outdoor garden with good food and drinks. Enjoy a show in our Victorian Music Hall or catch an intimate gig in our mock Georgian room. Check out our art gallery and gift shop, plus grab tickets and info at our box office. Stay connected with free WiFi. Why not join one of our community classes like yoga, painting, or tai chi? See website for opening details, events and ticket information.

The Witham, 3 Horse Market, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LY

Tel 01833 631 107 Email info@thewitham.org.uk

thewitham.org.uk

Facebook: TheWitham **X:** BarneyWitham **Instagram:** the_witham

This is **durham**

Durham Coast

Explore the dramatic coastline with
clifftop walks and breathtaking views.

Durham Coast: See & Do



Durham Heritage Coast

thisisdurham.com

Dalton Park Outlet & Outdoors



Dalton Park is the biggest outlet shopping destination in the North East, with over 65 world-famous brands at up to 70% off RRP. Discover big brands at small prices before relaxing at one of our many cafés and restaurants. Situated in the heart of County Durham, just off the A19, Dalton Park offers free parking – including disabled bays and e-charging – plus great public transport links. We are also a dog-friendly destination, both in the outlet itself and our 55 acres of landscaped parkland. Dalton Park – an outlet in more ways than one.

Opening times: Monday to Friday 10am–6pm, Saturday 9.30am–6pm and Sunday 10.30am–4.30pm.

Dalton Park Outlet & Outdoors, Murton, Co Durham, SR7 9HU

Tel 0191 526 6500 Email: guestservices@dalton-park.co.uk

dalton-park.co.uk

Facebook: [DaltonParkOutlet](https://www.facebook.com/DaltonParkOutlet) Instagram: [Dalton_Park](https://www.instagram.com/Dalton_Park)

East Durham Heritage & Lifeboat Centre



The East Durham Heritage & Lifeboat Centre offers the chance to explore Seaham's rich heritage and see the historic lifeboat, The George Elmy, which was wrecked in November 1962 with the loss of its crew. View the photographic and document archives, and perhaps see where your grandparents lived. Enjoy the safe sandy beach and the various cafés and shops. The group are keen to attract additional enthusiastic volunteers to help manage the Heritage Centre.

Opening times: Friday, Saturday and Sunday – summer 10.30am–3.30pm and winter 11am–3pm.

Seaham Harbour Marina, Seaham, SR7 7EE

Tel 0191 581 8904 Email EDHandLC1874@outlook.com

eastdurhamheritagegroup.co.uk

Facebook: [East Durham Heritage & Lifeboat Centre](https://www.facebook.com/EastDurhamHeritageLifeboatCentre)

Seaham Marina



The multi-award-winning Seaham Marina – County Durham's one and only marina – offers an excellent safe haven for family visits. The marina provides facilities for 96 boats, on-site cafés, ice cream parlour and other retailers in the Waterside and Castleside buildings. The activity centre offers fantastic opportunities for water sports and outdoor adventures.

Opening times: 9am–5pm (retail times may vary).
Seaham Marina, The Waterside, Seaham,
County Durham, SR7 7EE Tel 0191 581 8998
seahammarina.com

The Seaton Lane Inn – The Inn Collection Group



Visit The Seaton Lane Inn in Seaham for great food, tempting drinks and an outstanding place to stay. With style and quirky charm in abundance, the inn is open all day, every day, offering laid back dining with delicious, homemade fare, a welcoming bar and comfortable boutique-style en-suite accommodation.

Seaton Lane, Seaton, Seaham, SR7 0LP
Tel 0191 580 3610
inncollectiongroup.com/seaton-lane-inn

See Durham and the North East in a new light as you explore the Northern Saints Trails.

Six themed walking routes which stretch over 200 miles and weave their way through some of the region's best landscapes, taking in exciting attractions and great places to eat and drink along the way.

northernsaints.com

What's new in 2025

2025 is set to be an exciting year for Durham, with a number of new openings taking place across the county – find out more at thisisdurham.com/new

S&DR200

The Stockton and Darlington Railway opened on 27 September 1825, connecting people and places in a way they had never experienced before. To celebrate the 200th anniversary, the nine-month S&DR200 Festival will run from March to November, featuring large-scale outdoor spectacles, events, exhibitions and new art commissions.

Lumiere

A landmark event in the cultural calendar of the North East, Lumiere, the UK's light art biennial, will take place over three evenings from Thursday 13 to Saturday 15 November. The brand new programme promises to feed the imagination with magic and joy, transforming Durham City once again into an illuminated art gallery.

Accommodation at Beamish Museum

The incredible developments at Beamish, The Living Museum of the North continue. This year will see the opening of unique accommodation, where visitors will be able to stay overnight for the first time, in Georgian-themed accommodation.

Redhills Durham Miners Hall

The Grade II-listed Redhills Durham Miners Hall, home of the Pitman's Parliament, is set to open in 2025. Dating back to 1915 and paid for by more than 100,000 working miners, when it reopens, visitors can learn about its fascinating history through tours and enjoy events, conferences and weddings in a historic setting.



S&DR200 Festival

Visitor Information

Local knowledge to make the most of your visit

Visitor Contact Centre

With excellent knowledge of the area, the experienced, professional staff in Durham's official Visitor Contact Centre are on hand to help before and during your visit.

- Information on places to stay
- Information on places to visit, eat, shop and events
- Practical information including opening times and accessibility

Call: 03000 26 26 26

Email: visitor@thisisdurham.com

Calls – cost of a local call, calls from mobiles may vary.

Monday to Friday 9am–5pm. Closed weekends and Bank Holidays.

Please note: the Visitor Contact Centre is not open to the public for face-to-face enquiries.

Visitor Information Points

During your stay, call into one of the Visitor Information Points at 17 locations across the county. They offer the latest information face-to-face or via a touch screen information point, plus access to a wide selection of leaflets and guides.

Durham City

Durham Indoor Market Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ

Durham Town Hall Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ

Gala Durham Millennium Place, Durham, DH1 1WA

World Heritage Site Visitor Centre Palace Green Library, Palace Green, Durham, DH1 3RN

Durham Pointers (seasonal) Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ

Look out for the award-winning volunteer 'Pointers' in their distinctive pink tabards located by the map in Durham City Market Place. Present seven days a week from Easter to early October, assisting visitors with directions to attractions, places to eat, leaflets and maps.

Vale of Durham

Auckland Tower Market Place, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL14 7NP

Bishop Auckland Railway Station Bob Hardisty Drive, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL14 7EJ

Hardwick Park Visitor Centre Sedgfield, County Durham, TS21 2DN

Holiday Inn Darlington North Newton Park, County Durham, DL1 3NL

Locomotion Shildon, County Durham, DL4 1PQ

Durham Dales

Bowlees Visitor Centre Middleton in Teesdale, County Durham, DL12 0XE
Durham Dales Centre Castle Gardens, Stanhope, County Durham, DL13 2FJ
Killhope Lead Mining Museum Near Cowshill, Upper Weardale, County Durham, DL13 1AR
The Witham 3 Horse Market, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8LY
Thorpe Farm Centre Thorpe Farm, Greta Bridge, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 9TY
UTASS Building 9–11 Chapel Row, Middleton in Teesdale, County Durham, DL12 0SN

Durham Coast

Dalton Park Murton, County Durham, SR7 9HU

Durham City Park & Ride

Secure CCTV-controlled sites at Belmont, Sniperley and Howlands. Park & Ride users park free and travel into the city centre for £2.20. Belmont and Sniperley open daily 7am–7pm, including Bank Holidays (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day). Howlands open 7am–7pm, Monday to Saturday – closed Bank Holidays. Buses run every 15 minutes – all sites.

- Belmont DH1 1SR. Route: Belmont – City Centre – Sniperley
- Sniperley DH1 5RA. Route: Sniperley – City Centre – Belmont
- Howlands DH1 3TQ. Route: Howlands – City Centre – Howlands

Simply turn up and park your car for free, then buy your ticket at one of the easy-to-use payment machines with coins, notes or a card by following the on-screen instructions. For more details visit: durham.gov.uk/parkandride

Durham Cathedral Bus

The Cathedral Bus is a dedicated service covering three routes linking the rail station, principal city centre bus stops, coach drop off point and the Market Place with the Durham Cathedral and Castle UNESCO World Heritage Site. The 40/40A services run Monday to Saturday (excluding Bank Holidays). The 40C service operates a summer seasonal service on a Sunday and public holidays (from the Sunday of the May Day public holiday to the Sunday at the end of the October school holidays). For more details visit: durham.gov.uk/cathedralbus

Public Transport

Once you arrive in Durham you'll find a good network of regular public transport services. For further details of routes and times of services visit the Interactive Transport Map at durham.gov.uk/busmap. A printed copy of the transport map can be obtained by calling 03000 268 667 or emailing encts@durham.gov.uk. Arriva and Go North East are the main bus service providers for the area, visit: arrivabus.co.uk or gonortheast.co.uk. The Explorer North East Ticket is the only region-wide integrated public transport ticket, providing great value travel. For more information visit: networkonetickets.co.uk/tickets/explorer

Traveline

For more information about the Cathedral Bus and public transport services across Durham and surrounding areas, contact Traveline direct by calling 0871 200 2233, or visit their website at traveline.info

Have an eventful time in Durham

Whether it's a food festival getting your taste buds tingling, music and dance getting your toes tapping, drama and sport putting you on the edge of your seat, exhibitions that enlighten or a festival that entertains – you're certain to have an eventful time in Durham, the culture county.

In spring the Bishop Auckland Food Festival will get taste buds tingling. The nine-month international S&DR200 festival kicks off with an incredible opening event, with the exciting programme also featuring special exhibitions at Locomotion, The Story, Raby Castle, the Mining Art Gallery and The Bowes Museum.

Summer gets into full swing with the Durham Brass Festival, Durham Fringe and a treat for foodies with the Seaham Food Festival. Get a taste of rural life at the Wolsingham Show or journey through 2,000 years of history, myth and legend at the spectacular outdoor live action show Kynren – An Epic Tale of England, which celebrates a decade of shows in 2025. And for sports fans, catch the England Men's and Women's cricket teams in action at the Seat Unique Riverside ground.

In autumn, reach for the stars with the annual North Pennines Stargazing Festival, and for literary lovers the Durham Book Festival is not to be missed. Winter will see the return of Lumiere, with the UK's light art biennial transforming Durham City into an illuminated art gallery. And festive fun can be found at the Durham Christmas Festival, and attractions across the county.

Throughout the year you will find packed programmes of exciting exhibitions and events at attractions and venues across the county. And for the best in live entertainment, head to Gala Durham.

Find out what's on across the county at: thisisdurham.com/events



Lumiere

Spring Highlights

S&DR200 Festival	March–November
S&DR200 Festival opening event – All Change	29 March
Shakespeare Recovered: Durham’s First Folio (Palace Green Library)	4 Apr–2 Nov
Bishop Auckland Food Festival	12–13 April
Durham World Heritage Day	25 April
Raby Castle Spring Garden Fair	3–5 May
Durham Pride	24–25 May
Beamish Museum’s Festival of Transport	24 May–1 June

Summer Highlights

Durham Cricket – England Men v West Indies ODI	6 June
Durham Regatta	14–15 June
Fuelling the Railway Revolution at The Mining Art Gallery	from 27 June
Durham County Show	5–6 July
Magna Carta on Display at Durham Cathedral	11 July–2 Nov
Durham Miners’ Gala	12 July
Durham Brass	13–20 July
Durham City Run Festival	17–19 July
Locomotion Summer Festival	19 July–1 September
Kynren – An Epic Tale of England	19 July–13 September (Saturdays)
Durham Cricket – England Women v India ODI	22 July
Durham Fringe Festival	23–27 July
Pippa Hale: Pet Project at The Bowes Museum	26 July–1 March 2026
Seaham Food Festival	2–3 August
Derwent Fest 2025	15–16 August
Hardwick Festival	15–17 August
Weardale Agricultural Show	30 August

Autumn/Winter Highlights

Wolsingham Show	6–7 September
Heritage Open Days	12–21 September
Ushaw Viking Weekend	27–28 September
Durham Book Festival	10–12 October
S&DR200 – WOW Festival	17–18 October
North Pennines Stargazing Festival	24 Oct–2 Nov
Lumiere	13–15 November
Jack and the Beanstalk, Gala Durham	20 Nov–31 Dec
AGLOW at Auckland Palace	November
Durham Christmas Festival	5–7 December

*Festival and event details were correct at time of print, however, events may be cancelled or changed at short notice. We advise that you check directly with the event organiser, or view their website or social media channels, prior to your visit.

This is **durham**

Further afield

There's so much to discover on Durham's doorstep.

After experiencing all that Durham has to offer, use the county as a base to explore the rest of North East England.

For fun family days out, head to NewcastleGateshead for the Life Science Centre, Seven Stories – The National Centre for Children's Books and Great North Museum: Hancock.

Get back to nature at the WWT Washington Wetland Centre, or soak up the seaside atmosphere in the lively towns of South Shields and Saltburn-by-the-Sea with their award-winning beaches, Whitley Bay, and Tynemouth with its Priory and Aquarium.

Culture lovers will be in their element at Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead, or modern art gallery MIMA – Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art in Tees Valley.

Discover heritage at The Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick Castle and Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site in Northumberland.

In Tees Valley, take part in epic S&DR200 celebrations to mark the birth of the railway that connected the world, centring on Darlington's award-winning Hopetown attraction. Celebrations are also hitting other sites, such as the beautiful Preston Park Museum and Grounds, which boast a live Victorian street and acres of parkland. Or learn about the region's maritime history at the National Museum of the Royal Navy Hartlepool.

Enjoy a breath of fresh air at the Northumberland National Park or Kielder Water & Forest Park, or splash out at Tees Barrage International White Water Centre, Stockton-on-Tees.

To find out more about what's on Durham's doorstep, visit: [**thisisdurham.com/further-afield**](https://thisisdurham.com/further-afield)



RSPB Saltholme



Our family-friendly wetlands have a visitor centre and hides along with a café, shop, bespoke playground and accessible trails

Summer sees breeding avocet and lapwing join the dragonflies darting overhead, while winter brings thousands of waders and starling murmurations.



RSPB Saltholme, Seaton Carew Road,

Middlesbrough, TS2 1TU

Tel 01642 546 625 rspb.org.uk/saltholme

Facebook: RSPB Saltholme

Instagram: [rspb_saltholme](#)

Sunderland Empire



Recent shows include Disney's *The Lion King*, *Wicked*, National Theatre's *War Horse* and *Les Misérables*.

Sunderland Empire is locally regarded as The West End of the North East due to its impressive programme of shows, and is located a short 30 minute drive from Durham. A pizzeria is also located within the theatre.



Opening times: Check website for full details.

4-5 High Street West, Sunderland, SR1 3EX

atqtickets.com/Sunderland, atqtix.co/PizzeriaSunderland

Facebook/TikTok: SunderlandEmpire

Instagram: Sunderland_Empire

Get a taste of Durham

From tasty experiences to fantastic local food and drink, get your taste buds tingling in Durham. thisisdurham.com/eat



Celebrate 200 Years of the Modern Railway!
Our nine-month festival across County Durham
and the Tees Valley honours the historic first
journey of the Stockton & Darlington Railway.



Aboard

March—November 2025
www.sdr200.co.uk



**Celebrating the
birth of the
Modern Railway**

Art
Events
Exhibitions
Heritage
Performance
Talks

Delivered by



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Major funders



Supported by grants funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**TEES
VALLEY**



Please visit www.heritagefund.org.uk
**Heritage
Fund**



**Funded by
UK Government**



The Bishop Line is part of the original Stockton & Darlington Railway so it is bursting with history and packed with exciting attractions and places to explore.

Travelling by train is a perfect way to get around during this celebration year marking the railway's 200th anniversary.

To find out more about the Bishop Line and the Community Rail Partnership visit

www.bishopline.org



AGLOW

at Auckland Palace

A spectacular light trail

Presented by



Auckland Palace's dazzling light trail will illuminate the skies of Bishop Auckland this winter.

AucklandAglow.org