

Durham City and Houghall Discovery Trail

ROUTE 10

DISTANCE: 7 KM (4.5 MILES)
GRADE OF DIFFICULTY: EASY/MODERATE
TIME: 2-3 HOURS

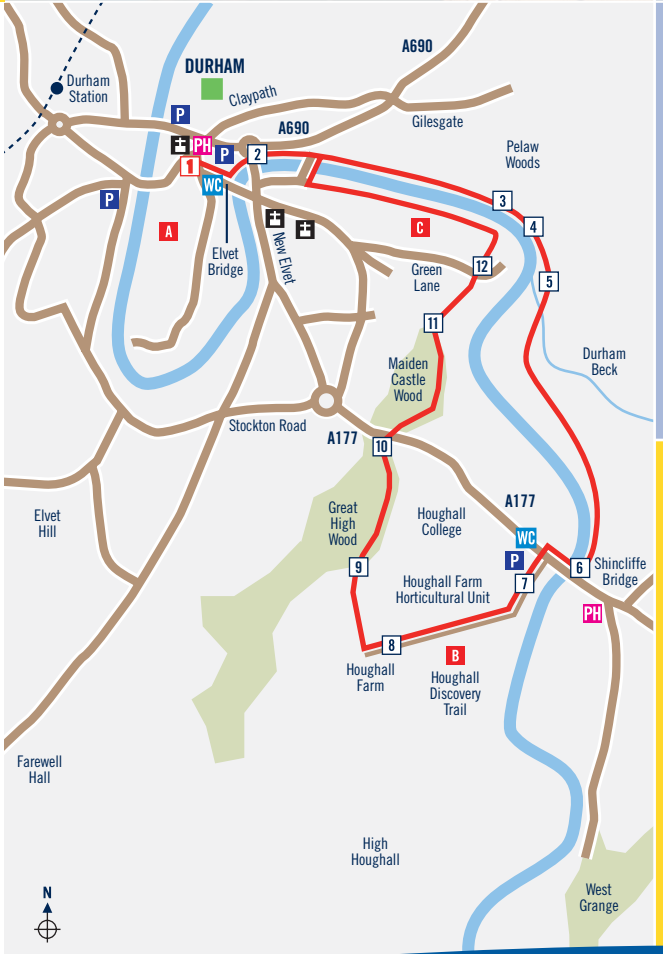
STILES ON ROUTE



No newcomer to the city should miss this historic trail, from which it's easy to visit the World Heritage Site Durham Cathedral and Castle; the medieval Crook Hall and Gardens; take a river cruise on the Prince Bishop or explore the cobbled streets sampling the many excellent cafes and shops. If you're still here in the evening, a night out at the Gala Theatre will round off your day in style.

RECOMMENDED ROUTE:

1. From the Marques of Londonderry statue in the Market Place, head towards the Cathedral along Saddler Street. Descend left towards Elvet Bridge. Before the bridge descend steps on the left.
2. Continue ahead under New Elvet Bridge past the footbridge. Pass the Colleges of St Hild and St Bede on your left.
3. Enter Pelaw Woods, still on the riverside path. On leaving the wood, ignore path on left and go diagonally left over a rough pasture to a track that curves left by a disused railway embankment.
4. Turn right between the supports of a demolished railway bridge to cross two stiles on a metal footbridge over Old Durham Beck.
5. Head towards the suspension bridge across a field. Before the bridge turn left onto a narrow riverside track, which eventually becomes a cart track. Continue to reach the A177.
6. Turn right and cross Shincliffe Bridge, cross the road and after 15 metres turn left into a lane, car park, and signs for the Pump House Restaurant.
7. From the car park enter Shincliffe Bridge Wood onto the Houghall Discovery Trail on left, follow the discovery trail symbol signs (acorns). This trail eventually joins the tarmac lane which could have been followed from the car park. You can either follow this tarmac lane or take a detour along the Houghall Discovery Trail. Each detour will bring you back to the tarmac lane.
8. Either way when you reach Houghall staff houses, where 5 paths/tracks converge, turn right and follow yellow arrow along a lane.
9. Go over a stile to the top of a field. Cross a stile into Great High Wood at an information board. Turn right to reach the A177. Cross the road and enter Maiden Castle Wood.
10. Take the path round the base of the wooded knoll, eventually seeing the top of the suspension bridge that you passed earlier. Continue on and join the riverside path.
11. On exiting the wood bear right with the path. Continue through supports of a disused railway bridge, after 50 metres turn right into pine woods. Reaching a tarmac road, cross into a gravel area and turn right along the gravel track.
12. The track bears left towards Durham Amateur Rowing Club. Continue to the riverside seeing the statue of the 'Dun Cow', 'Mechanical Cogs' and Bandstand. Continue to the footbridge, cross, turn left and head back towards the Market Place.



MAP KEY:

- 1 *ROUTE START*
- P *PARKING*
- *CHURCH*
- PH *PUB*
- WC *WC*

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A Durham Cathedral and Castle
- B Houghall Discovery Trail
- C Dun Cow

See pages 56-61 for information on nearby attractions.

"A great walk to do with the family with plenty of variety from the city's streets and architecture to the tranquility of the river and the mystery of the woods."

PAM ROYLE, ITV TYNE TEES PRESENTER

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT:

HOW TO GET THERE

From the A1, leave at junction 62 and take the A690 towards Durham City.

START/PARKING

Starting point is at the Market Place, Durham City. The nearest car park is the Prince Bishops Car Park. OS Map Grid Reference NZ274424

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

To plan your route call **0870 608 2608** or visit **www.traveline-northeast.co.uk**

EXPLORER MAP 308