



# Castles, Cathedrals and Holy Island in North East England

Take an imaginary step back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century, a time and a place shaped by powerful personalities, Viking raids and above all else, faith. Northumberland and Durham in North East England were centres of power and politics for centuries. Today that legacy remains in two World Heritage Sites, some of England's most important castles and cathedrals and a landscape that is steeped in myth and legend.

Over six days visit two magnificent structures, Durham Cathedral and Bamburgh Castle, discover Newcastle, a regional capital bursting with culture and history, and on Lindisfarne find the tranquillity and peace that drew St Cuthbert and his monks to this magical holy island.

Durham Cathedral and Castle



'If you have never been to Durham, go there at once. Take my car. It's wonderful', says US author Bill Bryson in *Notes from a Small Island*. Spend two nights and two days in this picturesque university city that is dominated by the magnificent edifices of Durham Cathedral and Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Three Kingdoms private guided tour explores the cathedral treasures and includes morning coffee and lunch.

Next stop is Newcastle is a vibrant regional capital with Roman origins. Newcastle Castle's guided tour of the city's medieval past can be combined with one of Newcastle Cathedral's behind the scenes VIP tours. Leave time to stroll along the banks of the River Tyne with its seven iconic bridges and sample fine food at Blackfriars restaurant in the city centre.

A short train and taxi transfer brings you to Seahouses on the Northumberland Coast. From here you take a boat excursion to mystical Holy Island, cut off by the tides twice each day. A short bus ride from Seahouses brings you to the gates of Bamburgh Castle to begin a full day guided tour of two mighty seats of power - Bamburgh Castle itself, set 45 metres above sea level and brimming with tales of Viking raids, fierce battles and Victorian invention, and Alnwick Castle, ancestral home of the Dukes of Northumberland. Lunch and refreshments are included

## Schedule summary

Recommended 6 nights, 6 days	
<b>Arrival/departure</b>	London Heathrow, underground or car to/from London Kings Cross.
<b>Transfers</b>	Train to Durham, 2hrs 45, Durham to Newcastle 10mins, Newcastle to Alnmouth (Seahouses) 45mins.
<b>Stay</b>	2 nights in Durham, 2 nights in Newcastle (city centre hotels), 2 nights in Northumberland (4 star inn with rooms)
<b>Highlights</b>	Durham Castle and Cathedral, Newcastle Castle, Newcastle Cathedral Lindisfarne (Holy Island), Alnwick Castle, Bamburgh Castle
<b>Combine with</b>	4 nights in York, 3 nights in Edinburgh
<b>Visitor passes</b>	English Heritage pass for entrance to Lindisfarne Priory.



The Iconic Tyne Bridge, Newcastle



Mystical Lindisfarne (Holy Island)