

**2023  
TOUR**

**Northumberland  
Coast**

**GUIDE**



## **Welcome to the 2023 NOPS Kit Kat Tour**

Northumberland has a diverse physical geography and the Northumberland Coast is also a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is low and flat near the North Sea coast with long empty beaches and increasingly mountainous toward the northwest; The Cheviot Hills. There is bare moorland and limestone karst for the landscape lovers. Castles and Hadrian's wall satisfy the history buffs and although we are out of season for the bird life on the Farne islands there is still abundant wildlife for nature shots.

The locations listed in the guide have been selected as popular areas to photograph. I have tried to be accurate with the postcodes but as many locations are rural, they are an approximation. I have also included what3words references which may also help with locations. All the locations are within an hour or so drive from the hotel in Alnwick.

Some locations are run by the National Trust, English Heritage or RSPB. It would be worth holding a membership or going with a member so that the weekend can be enjoyed to the full. Prices listed are correct at time of publication.

Please take care and be respectful of the landscape around you. If you intend climbing or doing any other dangerous activities, please go in pairs (at least).

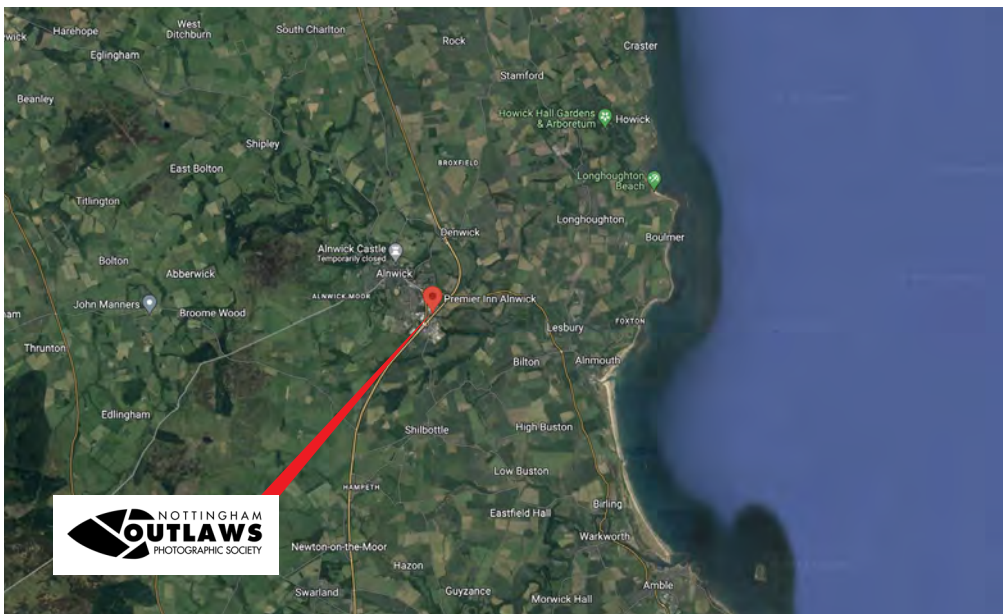
Also lots of guides mention where the petrol stations are. It seems you need to keep your car full!

## **Accommodation**

### **Premier Inn, Willowburn Industrial Estate, South Rd, Alnwick NE66 2PF • 03330 038101**

On the edge of town and close to a Sainsburys for breakfast. Hopefully NOPS members who are staying elsewhere will meet up with us when the photography has finished for the day.

what3words: ///infants.laugh.amuses





# Almouth

**Map Ref 1** NE66 2SD

Sunrise, Daytime

The closest coast and beach to our accommodation. Alnmouth is a pretty village on the Northumberland coast with sparkling sandy beaches and dramatic views across the River Aln estuary. It also appears to have plenty of pubs and cafes for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

It may look like a sleepy coastal village and a quiet backwater, but in the 18th Century Alnmouth was once a bustling trade port, the 'granary' of England, a prosperous exporter of grain and wool. The village was once home to an important harbour but all this changed after the great storm of Christmas Eve, 1806. The powerful storm changed the course of the river leaving Alnmouth's harbour stranded.

The Ferryman's Hut is thought to be the smallest museum in England and is definitely a novelty. It's worth a peek inside although it's only the size of a small garden shed. Free entry. Open most days. Parking nearby on Riverside Road [//sulk.riverbank.bottled](#) NE66 2SD.

Park for town and beach on Marine Road [//shoulders.wishes.stage](#)

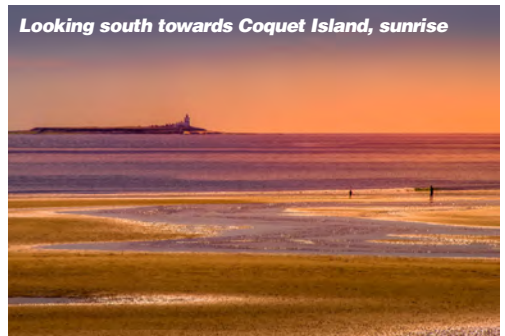
Park for north beach away from town next to Life Boat House NE66 3NJ [//doghouse.poorly.chins](#)

A great place to discover Alnmouth's changing landscape is Church Hill, south of the village. Don't miss the small ruined chapel also on the hill which was erected as a mortuary chapel in 1870. You walk through the salt marshes and nature reserve to get there. To reach Church Hill, take the A1068 (south). Look out for the sign to a footpath to the south beach at [//brew.caused.nips](#). Walk for 300 metres towards to the beach and then take a left turn at the signpost to Church Hill [//slogans.comply.bake](#) Location of St Cuthbert's cross on Church Hill [//curving.hiker.glass](#)

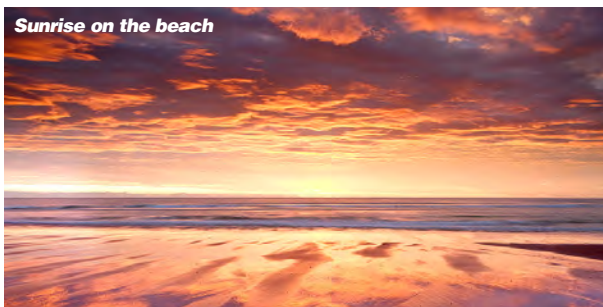
Maybe parking for Church Hill if the road is open [//curls.flames.tamed](#) otherwise park in layby just off A1068 [//weeds.works.shuts](#) where there is a footpath back to the Northumberland coast path on the other side of the road.



**Sunrise from Fisherman's Hut**



**Looking south towards Coquet Island, sunrise**



**Sunrise on the beach**



**View from Church Hill**

# **Alnwick & Alnwick Castle**

**Map Ref 2** NE66 1NQ

Daytime, Sunset

Twisting cobbled streets with an eclectic collection of individual shops are teamed with Alnwick Castle, the location for Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films. Alongside is the Duchess of Northumberland's blooming marvellous creation – The Alnwick Garden – that holds the world's largest treehouse, a grand cascade and a poison garden.

Whether it's rifling through the shelves of Barter Books, one of the UK's largest second hand bookshops housed in the town's old railway station or catching a performance at Alnwick Playhouse there's always something to do in Alnwick.

Alnwick Castle NE66 1NQ [www.alnwickcastle.com](http://www.alnwickcastle.com) Castle entrance [///insist.recliner.cats](http://insist.recliner.cats)

Alnwick Castle & Gardens car park NE66 1YU [///condition.agreeable.interrupt](http://condition.agreeable.interrupt)

Also, closer to the Castle and town, Greenwell Road car park [///downfield.dragons.incur](http://downfield.dragons.incur)

The Alnwick Garden, Denwick Lane, NE66 1YU.

Alnwick Castle & Gardens car park NE66 1YU [///condition.agreeable.interrupt](http://condition.agreeable.interrupt)

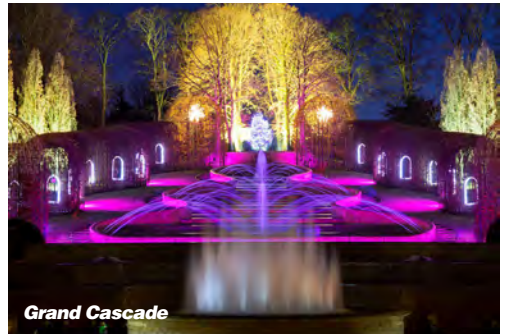
Great view of the castle from across the River Aln, The Peth NE66 1PP. Possible sunset shot.

Park on the road just by the Lion Bridge [///screeches.describe.softly](http://screeches.describe.softly) or on Walkergate.

Gate access to path by the river at [///flow.patching.shrimps](http://flow.patching.shrimps)



**Poison Garden**



**Grand Cascade**



**View from across the River Aln**



**Town Centre**

# Angel & Northumberlandia

Map Ref 3 NE9 7TY & NE23 8AU

Daytime

## 3a Angel of the North

Gateshead Council's brief was simple; to create an ambitious artwork that would become a landmark of the region's character. Antony Gormley's winning design is now one of the most viewed pieces of art in the world. The sculpture was installed in February 1998 and over the last twenty years has become one of the most recognisable pieces of public art ever produced, winning many accolades. The Angel of the North is located close to A1 and is easy to reach by car.

Sculpture location [///furniture.interview.wipe](http://furniture.interview.wipe)

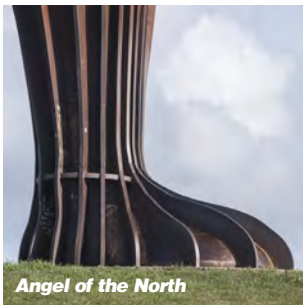
Park Durham Rd, Low Eighton, Gateshead NE9 7TY [///besotted.bloomers.overhaul](http://besotted.bloomers.overhaul)

## 3b Northumberlandia, Lady of the North

Northumberlandia is a unique piece of public art set in a community park with free access and four miles of footpaths on and around the landform. The centrepiece of the park is Northumberlandia, a stunning human landform sculpture of a reclining lady. Made of 1.5 million tonnes of rock, clay and soil, she is 30m high and 400m long. Great choice if you have a drone. Far from being a rigid manicured art form Northumberlandia is a living part of the countryside that will mature over time and change with the seasons. An additional point of interest is that you can see into the Shotton Surface mine from the top of Northumberlandia a particular attraction for fans of big machinery.

Sculpture location [///sleepless.dealings.brew](http://sleepless.dealings.brew)

Park Blagdon Ln, Cramlington NE23 8AU [///tutorial.woods.matter](http://tutorial.woods.matter)



# Bamburgh Castle

**Map Ref 4** NE69 7DF

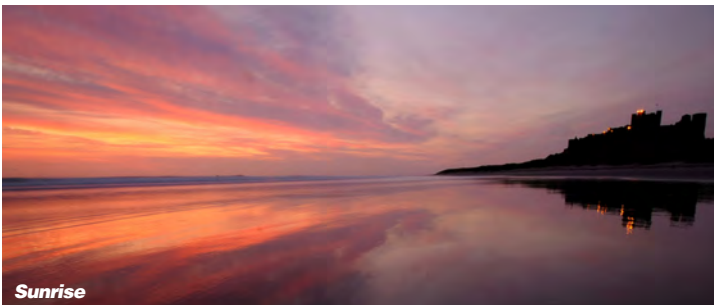
Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

With the brooding ramparts of an iconic castle to one side and the famous Farne Islands on the other, the vast dune-fringed sands of Bamburgh beach makes for a dramatic visit. Explore the fortress, see historic treasures and roam through history-steeped land with stories behind every stone, complete with views to Lindisfarne to the North and Seahouses to the south. But for the landscape photographer it is the opportunities and views from beach which provide the most rewarding visit.

The Nancy Shipwreck (south of the castle) can be seen at low tide, believed to have sunk in 1802, [///half.cautious.trickled](#)

Treacherous, hidden offshore reefs claimed many a vessel, leading to 18th century Bamburgh Castle trustee Dr John Sharp to create the coastguard system. The first ever lifeboat was launched here. The original lifeboat house now stands as a cosy self-catering holiday cottage.

Parking for the castle at Links Road NE69 7DF [///hobbies.verb.lollipop](#). Park on The Wynding, north of the village, for views over the beach to the castle NE69 7DD [///regress.harmonica.rehearsal](#) also [///shut.skim.object](#) and with rocks for foreground, park at [///anchors.replaces.soups](#)



# ***Beadnell***

**Map Ref 5** NE67 5EE

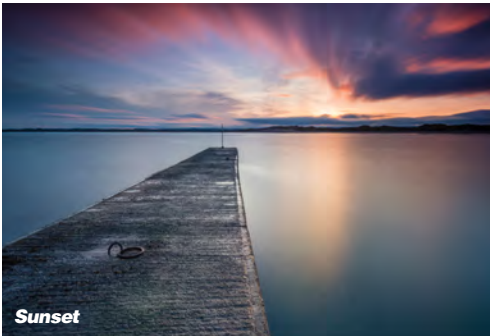
Daytime, Sunset

Beadnell Village is set at the end of a glorious stretch of beach known as Beadnell Bay. It is well known for watersports, lending itself well to surfing, kite surfing, windsurfing, sailing, scuba diving.

The harbour lies at the north end of the bay and from there the beach, backed by huge dunes of sand, stretches south for miles. The harbour area is distinctive as it is the only west-facing harbour on the east coast and has disused lime kilns that were built in the 18th Century.

Ebb's Nook is a headland just north of Beadnell harbour. Access to beach below at [///booms.rising.windows](#) or access the path to the headland from behind the lime kilns or between houses at [///relay.owned.dragonfly](#)

Beach car park for beach and harbour 3 Dunes Court NE67 5EE [///retraced.upstarts.span](#)  
Public toilets at the car park.





# Beamish Living Museum of the North

**Map Ref 6** DH9 0RG

Daytime

An hour from Alnwick, or a stop on your way up to the KitKat weekend, Beamish is a world famous open air museum which brings the history of North East England to life featuring 1820s Pockerley, 1900s Town, 1900s Pit Village, 1940s Farm, 1950s Town and 1950s Spain's Field Farm exhibit areas. Meet costumed folk and discover fascinating stories of everyday life in the region through time.

Pay once for a Beamish Unlimited Pass and visit for a whole year free of charge, including daytime events. Unlimited Pass are not valid for Evening Events. Adult £22.50. Open daily, 10:00 to 17:00. Visitors no longer need time slots to visit the museum, you will just need your Unlimited Pass or Friends of Beamish membership to come to see us, which can be bought online. Last admission is one hour before closing time.

There are a couple of events over the KitKat weekend:

## **Skiffle Session**

24 September, 12:00 to 14:00

Skiffle sessions in the 1950s welfare hall.

## **Classic Car Day**

24 September

The North of England Classic & Pre-War Automobiles Club return to Beamish with a fantastic display of classic cars.

**[www.beamish.org.uk](http://www.beamish.org.uk)**

Beamish Museum, Beamish, County Durham DH9 0RG ///compress.rotations.supposes



# Berwick-Upon-Tweed

Map Ref 7 TD15 1HE

Daytime, Sunset

Berwick-upon-Tweed sits at the most northerly tip of Northumberland, just 3 miles from the Scottish Border. A coastal town with sandy beaches and riverside walks, the Elizabethan walls were built to keep invading Scots from entering the town.

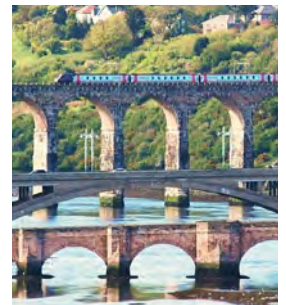
Berwick's Elizabethan walls are the only example of bastioned town walls in Britain and one of the best preserved examples in Europe. Walk the complete circuit, taking in spectacular views across the River Tweed estuary and Berwick's three bridges, including the iconic Royal Border Bridge, built by Robert Stevenson. Artist L.S. Lowry was a regular visitor to Berwick and today you can walk in his footsteps on The Lowry Trail.

In 2009, a small group of volunteers led a project to get lighting on the 28-arch viaduct Royal Border bridge to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of Robert Stephenson. We visited the location in 2016. However, the lighting has been beset with problems in recent years, with floods and ice on the River Tweed damaging underwater cables and preventing some of the lights from functioning. I cannot confirm whether the lights will function this visit but if you want to try, the best viewpoints are on the riverbank access through Castle Vale Park [///scar.bliss.oils](#) and park at the station TD15 1NF [///faced.spirit.hunt](#)

From [///forced.device.given](#), you get a fabulous view over the town's three bridges: Berwick Bridge, Royal Tweed Bridge, and Royal Border Bridge.

Parking for three bridges, walls and town: Quayside TD15 1HE [///gosh.skip.indoor](#) or Bridge Street TD15 1ES [///pushes.chop.tiny](#)

Parking for the lighthouse on Pier road [///drain.skin.dinner](#)



# **Black Hole**

**Map Ref 8** NE66 3TW

Sunrise, Daytime

The Northumberland Coast is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and there are many picturesque views such as this one. Hopefully we will be granted a colourful sunrise for the rock formation called The Black Hole, near Craster. Large waves often slam into this small rocky bay, spray was bursting up into the air, providing dramatic conditions for a seascape!

The Black Hole is right off the Northumberland Coast Path between Craster harbour and Cullernose Point. The start of the path is behind the Jolly Fisherman Inn at [///bolt.costumed.lace](#) and an easy walk of only half a mile but a scramble to get to the water's edge once you get to the location at [///spot.extensive.clinking](#)

Park in Craster Car Park, Craster NE66 3TW [///abstracts.showcase.glitter](#) or at the harbour (if you are lucky) [///breed.dissolves.emerald](#)



# Budle Bay

**Map Ref 9** NE70 7EE

Sunrise, Daytime

Budle Bay is a large bay located on the Northumberland coast situated within the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is known for its stunning scenery and rich wildlife. The bay is surrounded by rolling hills, sandy beaches, and a diverse range of coastal habitats, including salt marshes, sand dunes, and rocky cliffs.

The large mud flats at low tide are home to a variety of bird species, including seabirds, wading birds, and migratory birds. Also a great place for wildlife watching, with seals, otters, and dolphins often seen in the waters.

The view from the high dunes looking towards Ross Sands and beyond to Holy Island is a superb vista encompassing the wonderful shapes and contours of the bay that are best photographed at low tide as the colours and shapes of the tidal channels viewed from above are interesting. Reach for a telephoto lens at low tide and zoom into the tidal channels and dunes, picking out the patterns and forms from above, produces wonderful abstract images.

Park in the long layby near Waren Mill on the B1432, NE70 7EE or [///cornering.grace.grapes](#)  
There is a path down to the bay here.

Or you can walk to Budle Bay heading north along the top of the cliffs and dunes bordering the golf club. Park on The Wynding [///anchors.replaces.soups](#) If the tide is out you can drop down to the coast beyond the small lighthouse at Blackrocks Point and walk along the shore.



# Cocklawburn beach

**Map Ref 10** TD15 2RJ

Sunrise, Daytime

Cocklawburn is a very rural beach within the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and part of the Lindisfarne SSSI, with large area of flat sand with black rocks and dunes. Trace fossils can be seen at low tide. The dunes are excellent for wildflowers and the geology here is fascinating. Cheswick Sands is a vast beach that stretches as far as the eye can see and merges in with Cocklawburn beach in the north. On a clear day to the north end of the beach you can see past Berwick to the Border, while to the south Holy Island with it's castle is in full view. Few beaches offer such excellent unspoilt views as this.

Several small, informal free car parks adjacent to the beach. Nearest Postcode: TD15 2RJ but w3w locations are more accurate. There are paths down to the beach from each parking area.

///performed.crunches.property nearest the limestone and from my research, many fossils

///blemishes.kindness.charge closest to the beach and plenty of rocks for foreground interest

///meaty.landscape.skips middle of the beach, maybe with cows

///grownup.squabbles.rainwater closest to the old lime pit at ///consoled.after.demanding



## Corby Crags and Edlingham castle

**Map Ref 11** NE66 2BW

Corby Crags offers one of the best and most accessible views in Northumberland. Looking towards the Cheviot Hills and Thrunton Woods, the small village of Edlingham sits nearby, and Edlingham Castle and the viaduct are great features of the vista spanning out before you.

A hamlet near Alnwick, the village of Edlingham boasts a 13th Century castle and 19th Century Victorian viaduct that represent two distinct epochs in British history. The spirit and decline of these opposing eras are captured superbly in the photos: one an insular period where strong fortifications were required during warlike times; the other an unprecedented era of industrial innovation and expansion that would change the course of history.

St John the Baptist church is also an interesting building with a roofed, square tower.

Corby Crags and the accompanying view are on the B6341 between Alnwick and the A697. Park [///aliens.eggplants.chats](#) for the view. Corby crags are below the parking spot.

Edlingham Castle is English Heritage Edlingham NE66 2BW.

Park on the verge at [///commuting.comply.fail](#) for the church and the castle. To get to the castle, go through the gate at [///contoured.jams.villager](#) and walk along the grass pathway to the castle ruins, about 300m.

The viaduct can be photographed from the B6341 and the castle. If you want to shoot the viaduct from below, walk around the edge of the farmer's fields.



Extraordinary Victorian house, gardens and woodland. Enter the world of Lord Armstrong – Victorian inventor, innovator and landscape genius. Cragside house was truly a wonder of its age.

Discover the first house in the world to be lit by hydroelectricity. It is crammed full of ingenious gadgets – most of them still working. The gardens are incredible. One of the largest rock gardens in Europe leads down to the Iron Bridge, which in turn leads to the formal garden. Explore Nelly's Labyrinth, a network of paths and tunnels cut out of a vast area of rhododendron forest.

National Trust. Adult £22.00. Rothbury, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 7PX. Property sits on B6341, 15 miles north-west of Morpeth on Coldstream road (A697). Turn left on to B6341 at Moorhouse Crossroads, entrance 3 miles on left //soon.unwraps.unwell  
Parking: free, nine car parks throughout estate.



# Craster

**Map Ref 13** NE66 3TW

Sunrise, Daytime

Craster is a fishing village. It has a small harbour and offers a view northwards along the rocky shore to the ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle. This is the nearest point of access to the castle and the approach on foot is along a grassy path.

For many years, the village has had a herring-curing business: Craster kippers are well known in England. The local herrings are smoked in a traditional manner by the Robson family (L. Robson and Sons Ltd, Haven Hill, NE66 3TR). The remains of a tower on the end of the harbour which was part of the overhead equipment which used to convey local stone from the quarry to boats in the harbour. A small distance inland lies Craster Tower, the home of the Craster family who owned the quarry and had the harbour improved for its benefit. The walk along the coast to the south passes Black Hole and Cullernose Point, an example of the basaltic cliffs which are a significant feature of the local landscape.

Park in Craster Car Park, Craster NE66 3TW ///abstracts.showcase.glitter or at the harbour (if you are lucky) ///breed.dissolves.emerald





# Cullernose Point

**Map Ref 14** NE66 3TW

Sunrise, Daytime

Cullernose Point is a south facing crag in a sheltered cove that slopes gently into the sea. It is surrounded by a vast array of rock formations create plenty of choice for compositions. There is a possibility of rock climbers and fishermen to include in the images as well as birds nests on the cliff itself (maybe not occupied in September).

If the tide is low explore the area leading up to the base of Cullernose point, scrambling over the large (and slippery when wet) wave-worn boulders. Also on the lower foreshore the sandbanks limestone is thrown into interesting 'whale-back' folds. Look out for fossils too.

Turn right for Lesbury off the A1068 onto the B1339 heading for Longhoughton. About half a mile past Longhoughton take the right fork, signposted Howick and follow the coast north towards Craster. Parking in the lay-bys at [///simulates.seated.snake](#) the path starts on the other side of the road. Follow path north (about 400m) and scramble down to the beach at [///swanky.general.epidemics](#)



## **Druridge Pools and ruined chapel**

**Map Ref 15** NE61 5EG

Daytime, Night

A former opencast coal mine, bought from British Coal in 1987, the reserve supports large flocks of wintering wildfowl, mostly wigeon, teal and goldeneye.

The deep lake to the north provides an opportunity to catch a glimpse of an otter while wading birds feed along the shores. The two wet fields to the south are very good feeding sites for snipe, redshank and teal, along with occasional rarities.

Low Chiburn Preceptory are the ruins of a Medieval Hospitaller. It had several uses, ranging from a hospital to a dowager house before being razed by French invaders in 1691. The preceptory buildings have undergone repair and restoration by Northumberland County Council, and the site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument protected by law. The chapel served as a pillbox during the Second World War. Possible subject for a night/milky way shot.

A public footpath runs between the lake and fields leading to two bird hides, one facing north [///screen.tentacles.bats](#) and one facing south [///connects.monks.amazed](#), then beyond to Chibburn Preceptory [///mountains.decisive.september](#).

Druridge Pools are two miles north of Cresswell Village NE61 5EG. There is roadside car parking at the adjacent National Trust Druridge Links site. Park here [///slim.tender.loaning](#) for start of path to hide and on to Chiburn Preceptory.

The North East Skinny Dip 2023 will take place with the sunrise at 07:00 on Sunday 24 September. NESD is not just a skinny dip. It's an experience. Last year a record 1217 skinny dippers took to the North Sea! May be an interesting photo opportunity!



## Duddo Stone Circle (Duddo Five Stones)

**Map Ref 16** TD15 2PT

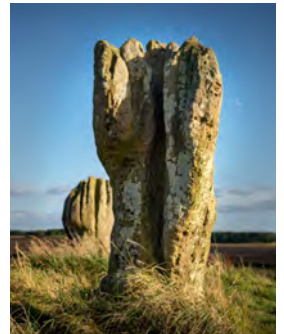
Daytime, Sunset

The Duddo Stone Circle is a prehistoric collection of stones just four miles south of the Scottish Border. The circle next to the small village of Duddo was created in the Neolithic period and is made up of five large blocks of stone. The stones themselves are unusual. They are flat and then taper to the ground. Locally, the stones are known as The Singing Stones, which describes the strange whistling sound they make when the wind blows from a certain direction.

Nearby postcode TD15 2PT. The circle is accessible via the B5364 road, through a gate and up a path. The stones are on private land with no formal right-of-way, but the landowner has cleared a permissive path across the field to the stones. There is parking on the roadside and the circle is well signposted. You can't see the stones from the road, but after a few hundred metres or so they become visible like a crown on a foothill of the Cheviots.

Park and gate access at [///condensed.topped.snuggle](http://condensed.topped.snuggle)

Stone Circle located at [///apprehend.endearing.cabbages](http://apprehend.endearing.cabbages)



# Dunstanburgh Castle

English Heritage, National Trust

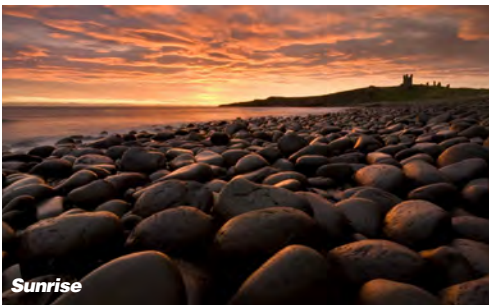
**Map Ref 17** NE66 3TT

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

Dunstanburgh Castle, just north of Craster, is a stunning example of a ruin and makes for an imposing skyline when a photo subject. The castle was built in 1313, but after many conflicts it fell into decay and the latest archaeological research indicates that it was built on a far grander scale than was originally recognised. The 'classic' photograph of Dunstanburgh Castle is from the boulder-strewn bay just to the north of the ruins. It is just as photogenic from the south, and makes for some great shots inside the ruins too.

If you want to enter the castle, park in Craster NE66 3TW [///abstracts.showcase.glitter](#) or at the harbour (if you are lucky) [///breed.dissolves.emerald](#) and walk 1.5km north up the sea front. Dunstanburgh Castle is managed by English Heritage. National Trust members can also enter free with a valid membership card.

To see the classic vista from the north, park near Embleton Golf Course NE66 3XQ and walking onto Embleton Bay, then heading south along the beach. Allow at least 30 minutes to get in position. The boulders are really slippery so take care when clambering over them when finding your perfect composition. Park and start of path at [///saying.mystified.confusion](#). Iconic boulders location around [///lance.replayed.flesh](#)



# Hareshaw Linn

**Map Ref 18** NE48 2BZ

Daytime

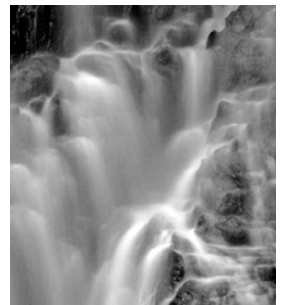
A wonderful walk towards a spectacular waterfall with rare plant life and wildlife on the way. Hareshaw Linn waterfall in the Northumberland National Park and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated for its rare ferns and lichen. More than 300 different types of mosses, liverworts and lichen can be found. The 'Linn' is also home to red squirrels, great spotted woodpeckers, redstarts, dippers, badgers and Daubenton's bats. There are several bridges and small falls on the way to the large waterfall at the end.

1.5 mile moderate walk to the waterfall; full walk description at <https://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/walk/hareshaw-linn-walk/>

Please take care, for your own safety please keep to the main footpath and be aware of any natural hazards. There is one path in and one path out as the falls are in a steep sided gorge.

Park NE48 2BZ ///toenail.cupboards.suffix

Waterfall at ///brightens.draining.trapdoor



# Hindson Cove

**Map Ref 19** NE66 3LQ

Sunrise, Daytime

Between Cullernose Point and Rumbling Kern is another location for seascapes incorporating fascinating rock formations; Hindson Cove. The big plus for this location is the layby parking is also where the beach is accessed so very little walking is required. Views of the historic 'Bathing House' can be taken from this location. You could also walk along the coast path for more compositions.

Park and path at [///marble.clotting.embellish](http://marble.clotting.embellish)



## Howick Hall Gardens

**Map Ref 20** NE66 3LB

Daytime

Howick is the home of Earl Grey tea! The tea was specially blended by a Chinese mandarin for Charles, 2nd Earl Grey, to suit the water from the well at Howick, using bergamot to offset the taste of the lime in it. The house is not open to the public, however, Howick Hall Gardens and Arboretum is open and second only to Kew Gardens. It covers about 65 acres. There are about 11,000 trees and shrubs planted in six geographical groups. Howick also has red squirrels. You may see one anywhere in the arboretum or on the feeder outside the tearoom window.

Open daily 10.30 to 18:00 (last entry 17:00), Adults £9.90. Over 60s £8.80. Take the exit off the A1 at the north end of the Alnwick Bypass on to the B1340 signposted to Denwick and the 'Alnwick Garden'. Turn into Denwick and just past the church fork right signposted to Longhoughton. Drive through Longhoughton on B1339 and after about 1 mile the main road swings sharp left but follow the sign straight on to Howick Garden, which is about another mile further on.

Entrance to car park at [impaired.throats.manly](http://impaired.throats.manly)



# Hulne Priory

Map Ref 21 NE66 2LL

Daytime

Hulne Priory was a friary founded in 1240 by the Carmelites. Substantial ruins survive, watched over by the stone figures of friars carved in the 18th century. The priory is situated in Hulne Park, a walled park covering several thousand acres which belongs to the Duke of Northumberland and close to Alnwick Castle. Originally a hunting park, and still used by the Duke for shooting, it now contains woods, moors, stretches of open grassland and Alnwick's home farm. Apart from the priory, the buildings in the park include the gatehouse of the former Alnwick Abbey, and Brizlee Tower, which is a viewing tower in Gothic Revival style that dates from the 1780s.

The public is admitted to Hulne Park, but it is not marketed as a visitor attraction and has no visitor facilities. Open from 11:00 to sunset (about 18:30 when we are there), Hulne Park is a walled park designed by Capability Brown and owned by Northumberland Estates. The former hunting ground of the Percy family is still a working estate and no public vehicles are allowed to enter. There are three marked walks and the red route takes you to Hulne Abbey (5.5 miles round trip).

Denwick, Alnwick NE66 2LL. Park and entrance/start of walk [///latest.league.intervene](http://latest.league.intervene)

Priory location is at [///wanting.advancing.obstinate](http://wanting.advancing.obstinate)





# International Dark Sky Park

## Map Ref 22

Night

According to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), the star-studded skies above Kielder Water & Forest Park are the darkest in England. The skies so dark, it has been awarded Gold Tier Dark Sky Park status by the International Dark Skies Association (IDA). There are several events over the weekend of our stay, check out the website <https://kielderobservatory.org/our-events>. Apparently Autumn is the best time to see the milky way as it is overhead then. Help to keep light pollution to a minimum by bringing red torches to light your way.

You can look at the sky from just about anywhere in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park. However, some places to start: Kielder Observatory NE48 1ER ///[custodian.luxury.political](http://custodian.luxury.political), Once Brewed National Park Visitor Centre NE47 7AN ///[blink.including.letter](http://blink.including.letter) or Dark Sky Discovery Sites:

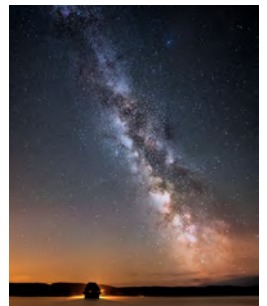
**22a** Kirknewton, Wooler NE71 6XF possible use Gerfin as foreground ///[revise.someone.compliant](http://revise.someone.compliant)

**22b** Wooler Common NE71 6RJ ///[throw.submitted.voices](http://throw.submitted.voices)

**22c** Ingram Bulbys Wood car park NE66 4LT ///[summit.regrowth.restored](http://summit.regrowth.restored)

**22d** Byrness NE19 1TT ///[lordship.assist.usual](http://lordship.assist.usual)

Wherever you choose to set up, make sure you have checked it out beforehand and know where the North star is, the milky way, the moon phase and the weather!



# Kielder Water and Forest Park

**Map Ref 23** NE48 1ER

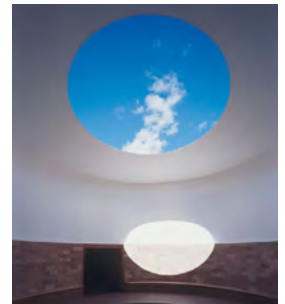
Daytime, Night

Kielder Water & Forest Park brings you nature on a grand scale. Its home to the biggest man-made lake in Northern Europe and the largest working forest in England. Explore Kielder from three visitor centres, Tower Knowe NE48 1BX [///decks.failed.farmland](#), Leaplish NE48 1BT [///dreamers.longingly.limiting](#) or Kielder Castle NE48 1ER [///onions.chills.curly](#)

A highlight of the park is Skyspace, a sculptural artwork by James Turrell. Situated on Cat Cairn, a rocky outcrop overlooking Kielder Water and Forest Park, this circular chamber illuminated only by natural light through the roof opening. Skyspace, part of Kielder Art and Architecture, is a contemplative space that focuses your attention on the sky. [///braked.windmills.sticky](#)

Ospreys have bred in Kielder Forest since 2009. You can follow the progress of the Kielder ospreys by visiting <http://kielderospreys.wordpress.com>. Between March and September ospreys often hunt over the water. The birds use all parts of the reservoir, but some favourite areas are either side of the water at the dam, the area between Bull Crag and Leaplish Bay at Kielder Waterside and at Leaplish Bay itself. The ospreys regularly hunt soon after first light and again in the early evening, around 17.30–18.00, but can be active at any time of the day. New in 2022 has been an osprey viewing point and wildlife cabin at Tower Knowe Visitor Centre.

The fastest route to Kielder Forest is via the A69. Leave at the junction for Corbridge and follow the Brown tourist signs on to the A68.



# Lindisfarne

Map Ref 24 TD15 2SE

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

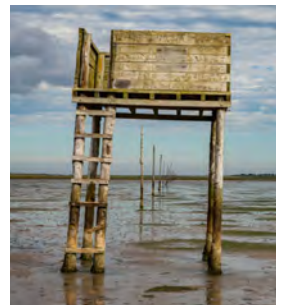
Lindisfarne is a pint-sized island, famous for its medieval religious heritage, ruined Priory and its picturesque 16th century castle contrasting with the remote Northern conservation area. It is a tidal island and linked to the mainland by a causeway. Holy Island harbour is characterised by the upturned fishing boats lining the beach. Now no longer seaworthy and used as work sheds, many of these boats were part of one of the largest herring fleets to sail off the east coast of England.

Holy Island also has an exciting array of wildlife. Its island status protects tidal mudflats, salt marshes and dunes which together form the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve, see <https://www.lindisfarne.org.uk/general/pdf/NNRLindisfarneLeaflet.pdf>

No parking allowed in the village so park at [///bowhead.soft.differ](http://www.bowhead.soft.differ) located on the left of road, immediately after zig-zag bend and before 30mph limit signs. Everything is then within (reasonable) walking distance. Parking charged 08:00 to 18:00, 4 hours £7.50, All Day £11.00. Public toilets in village coach park.

The times provided are for road access to Holy island. The times should be treated with caution, as local weather conditions (such as high wind) can change them. Always allow 30 minutes extra time to compensate for these variables.

<b>Causeway open times</b>  Also refer to Council page for days outside of the KitKat week <a href="#">here</a>	Friday	10:30 until 18:35	22:45 until 07:15 (Sat)
	Saturday	11:10 until 19:45	23:30 until 08:40 (Sun)
	Sunday		12:25 until 21:10
	Monday	00:55 until 10:10	14:10 until 22:25
	Tuesday	02:40 until 11:10	16:05 until 23:20



# Newcastle

**Map Ref 25** Various

Daytime, Night

The imposing Newcastle Castle dates back to the 11th century. It served as a prison and later became a royal residence. The castle has beautiful views over the city and river. Castle entrance ///sailor.drew.indoor with a bit of parking next to the castle.

Whether you park in Gateshead (Baltic Car Park NE8 3QZ ///taking.pretty.bricks) or access the river by Newcastle Quayside (St. Ann's Car Park NE1 3DX ///target.hello.bake or Spiller's Car Park NE6 1BU ///page.notes.notice), in front of you stand the 7 bridges which span the River Tyne. Most notable and the ones featured in the iconic view down the river are the Gateshead Millennium bridge, the Tyne Bridge, a 525m long arch bridge, which remains an enduring symbol for Tyneside, the Swing Bridge and the High Level bridge, a dual level construction with a road and railway. For multiple bridge composition somewhere around here looks accessible ///translated.stage.venue

For more architectural exploration along the river, visit the unmistakable outline of Sage Gateshead, the internationally renowned music centre and conference and event venue. Beyond that, the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, a converted flour mill.

Located in the heart of the city, Grainger Market, is a thriving market hall dating from 1835. It offers 100+ vendors selling produce, meat and vintage goods ///ropes.simple.verbs

Earl Grey's Monument ///enhancement.plates.system, built in 1838 to honor the former Prime Minister who had a tea blend named after him, is a beautiful and imposing structure located in Newcastle upon Tyne. The 164 steps inside reveal an awe-inspiring cityscape from its lofty perch. Along with Grainger's Market, the area around the monument would be great for street photography. For the city centre park; Percy St NE1 7RZ ///souk.chip.maple

Chinatown is the historic area of Newcastle with many Chinese restaurants and an elaborate arch. Also close to St James' Park. Chinese gate; St Andrew's St NE1 5SE ///elaborate.camp.become

Jesmond Dene, a historic park which follows the line of the River Ouseburn in a steep-sided valley for 3km from South Gosforth to Jesmond Vale. Waterfall location ///jolly.elaborate.plot. On road parking for Jesmond Dene ///result.yours.verse. Entrance to park ///chew.anyone.rats

Ouseburn was a derelict former industrial hub but over the last few years the Ouseburn valley has witnessed a transformation into a hip residential area clustered around the Ouseburn River. Today visitors can expect to be greeted by numerous cool bars, delicious farm-to-table eateries and a variety of well attended live music venues providing plenty to photograph. Park in the Ouseburn Central Car Park on Foundry Lane ///cape.coffee.under 40p per hour up to a maximum stay of four hours or on the road around Lime Street ///hoot.wiped.traded There is also a car park under the Arches of Byker Bridge ///blend.spots.escape Charges are £1 for the first hour then 80p an hour up to a maximum stay of four hours. Or park Spiller's Car Park NE6 1BU ///page.notes.notice and walk along the riverside walk past the Toffee Factory ///jump.wiping.stack

Victoria Tunnel, a 3km long 19th Century coal wagon route running under the City from the Town Moor to the River Tyne. Visit to book a tour <https://www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/buy-tour-tickets>

# Newcastle

Map Ref 25

Daytime, Night



Toffee Factory



Ouseburn



Millennium Bridge and Baltic



Bridges at night



View from Tyne Bridge



Newcastle Castle



Bridges at dusk



Jesmond Dene

## Rumbling Kern

Map Ref 26 NE66 3LB

Sunrise, Daytime

This is a very small beach in a rocky cove at Rumbling Kern near Howick south of Cullernose Point. The beach is sheltered behind small cliffs that face inland from the sea. At Rumbling Kern the sea has surged and carved out a hole in the rock, creating beyond it a steep-sided chasm. At high tide, and the sea is rough, it will make a very loud noise as the name suggests. The rocks themselves are a kaleidoscope of deposits with 100 year old graffiti and the occasional fossil. Overlooking the rocks is the old bathing house for Howick Hall, now a holiday cottage. It was built for Earl Grey and his large family. Makes a great subject looking north from the beach.

This is a good sunrise location, but also a great place to hang out. You can explore and scramble over the landscape, or just chill on the beach.

From the A1 take the B1340 turn off at Denwick and follow signs to Longhoughton. At Longhoughton follow the B1339 north and after 1.5 km turn right towards Howick and park at Seahouses farm where the road turns sharp left along the coast. The parking area is on your left side as soon as you get on the road to the farm). It's not a car park, just a strip of gravel that borders the farm's fence  
//ulterior.submitted.liked

Once parked, go through the gate to the left of the parking area. Follow the path down to the coastline. Turn right and take left fork path down to the beach at //trackers.swipes.forecast

As soon as you enter Rumbling Kern, you'll see a big rock wall. To get to the back side of the cove, climb onto the small ledge and then scramble up to the top. If you walk to the right, you'll see the rumbling kern and if you visit when the tide is higher be careful. If you continue walking left and climb up to the next level, there's a tidal pool surrounded by raised rocks. Climb up the hill and get a birds eye view of the entire cove. Definitely magical.



# Seahouses

**Map Ref 27** NE68 7SJ

Sunrise, Daytime

Saunter along the bustling harbour of this colourful fishing village and popular seaside holiday resort. Great for street photography. There are boat trips to the Farne Islands from Seahouses Harbour. The puffins will have flown by the time we are there but terns and seals may still delight. Seahouses' fishing past lives on at Swallow Fish, who operate the UK's oldest operating smokehouses. There is also an opportunity to photograph riders enjoying a gallop along Seahouses' pristine sands.

Parking in Station Yard, Seafield Road NE68 7SJ [//pounds.extension.inflamed](#)



Seaton Delaval Hall is a Grade I listed country house in Northumberland, England, near the coast, located between Seaton Sluice and Seaton Delaval. It was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh in 1718 for Admiral George Delaval and now owned by the National Trust. The house is one of the best surviving examples of English Baroque architecture, characterised by symmetrical wings and elaborate decoration. The Central Hall is regarded by many as the finest work of Vanbrugh.

Since completion it has had an unfortunate history. It passed through a succession of heirs, being lived in only intermittently. In 1822 the central block was gutted by fire, and has remained an empty shell ever since. Under the direction of 22nd Lord Hastings (1912–2007), the fabric was restored and the garden was given new life. The Hall opened to the public in 1950.

Set in a birch grove, the Mirror Cube reflects its surroundings creating an infinite birch forest. Reflecting the Mirror Cube is the Dark Matter Cube, with a similar cubic volume. The cube is made of pleached hornbeam trees. In the centre of the cube is a star shaped mirror that is positioned and angled so that it creates an infinite forest of tree trunks. Whilst the mirror cube reflects its surroundings, the dark matter cube reflects itself, creating an infinite forest within.

Seaton Delaval Hall's iconic pair of cantilever stairs are a feat of 18th-century engineering. Each individual step is fitted to the next without the need for additional central support. The ironwork handrails melted by the fire are left at the upper levels while the lower part was reconstructed as part of the 22nd Lord Hastings' restoration work in the 1960s. Stand at the bottom and look up at the stunning view.

Closed Monday and Tuesday. £10 or free for members. Hall Gardens, Seaton Sluice, Whitley Bay NE26 4QW [///throw.tops.lively](http://throw.tops.lively)





# Seaton Sluice & Charlie's Garden

**Map Ref 29** NE26 4QZ

Sunrise, Daytime

Seaton Sluice is a picturesque harbour which used to export salt, coal and bottles. It sits at the mouth of the Seaton Burn. The stream here flows into the sea by two routes, one being man-made and the other formed by nature. The natural course of the stream is the one to the north but is obstructed by the coastal rocks causing it to make a sudden turn northward to enter the sea at the south end of the Hartley Links beach. Known as Hartley Pans from the salt making pans from the thirteenth century, Seaton was described as a port from 1565. Between 1660 and 1676 Sir Ralph Delaval constructed a small pier in the natural harbour but this was dry at low water and silt accumulated. Delaval built sluice gates which enabled the collection of a considerable volume of tidal water that could then be released twice daily to flush the harbour clean.

A later owner, John Hussey Delaval, found the shallow depth of the harbour unproductive and made a 900ft channel cut through the sandstone rocks so that the Seaton Burn could reach the sea directly. The new cut created a promontory island called 'Rocky Island'. The old Watch House sits here and now houses a museum. It was built in 1880 for the Seaton Sluice Volunteer Life Savers.

A modern day feature of Seaton Sluice is Shanti Art by local artist and sculptor, Tom Newstead. Most of his works use driftwood and other flotsam and jetsam from the Northumberland coast. There is a girl on a swing over The Cut [//festivity.marble.horns](#) and a mermaid on the side behind.

Seaton Sluice is small and there is plenty of street parking all around Collywell Bay Rd NE26 4QZ [//flip.saying.clown](#)

In the next bay, there is a large rock sitting in Collywell Bay at Seaton Sluice that a local once grew things on. This is Charlie's Garden, named after Charles Dockwray, a local who cultivated the top of the rock. Great for seascapes, it is easily accessible and parking is very close [//second.snake.coach](#)



# Simonside Hills

Map Ref 30 NE65 7RR

Daytime, Sunset

The Simonside Hills lie within Northumberland National Park on the northern-most edge of Harwood forest famed for their wild and rugged beauty. The range dominates the skyline forming a dramatic southern backdrop to the middle reaches of the River Coquet. The climb up the hills to the top (at 430m) is rewarded with a panorama of the Cheviots to the north and the whole Northumbrian coastline. As a Special Area of Conservation, it teems with wildlife such as the curlew, red grouse, wild goats, and even red squirrels in the forest below. Legend has it that a race of dwarves known as Brownmen, Bogles and Duergar live in the Simonside Hills. They lead travellers astray into bogs at night, but disappear at dawn.

Simonside is two miles to the south of Rothbury. Take A1 and A697 to B6344 in Northumberland. Take the exit toward Pauperhaugh from A697. Signposted from B6342 (Rothbury to Scot's Gap road). Simonside forest car park NE65 7RR <http://crank.smirks.madder> or un-named car park which appears closer to the Simonside Ridge walk <http://huddled.panicking.tabs> This car park also is best placed to visit Lordenshaw Hill Fort. To access the hills on foot, follow the public footpaths.

4.5 mile circular walk detailed here:

<https://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/walk/the-simonside-hills/>

Start of Simonside ridge walk <http://receive.showering.skater>

Location of Lordenshaw Iron age Hill Fort Rock Art <http://hires.shadows.edgy>



# Snook Point

**Map Ref 31** NE66 3ED

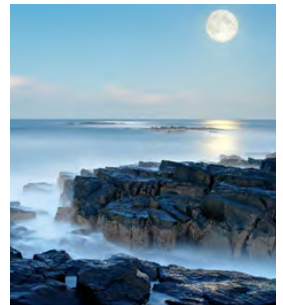
Sunrise, Daytime

You could choose almost anywhere along the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that is the Northumberland coast to shoot misty seascapes but a great spot is the low rocky promontory of Snook Point, an outcrop of the Great Whin Sill whose tough basalt has enabled it to withstand the incessant pounding of the North Sea waves. It forms the northern boundary to the rounded bay of Football Hole.

Park at Newton Steads car park at High Newton-by-the-Sea NE66 3ED //liked.coil.unspoiled head south along the National trail footpath.

Path from car park at //defenders.toned.stand

Snook point location //sprouting.swells.proper



# Sycamore Gap

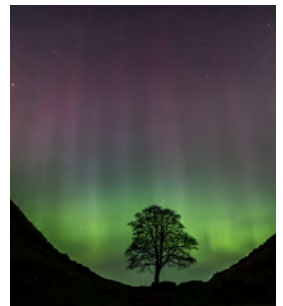
**Map Ref 32** NE47 7AN

Daytime, Night

Made famous through its inclusion in Kevin Costner's Robin Hood Prince of Thieves, Sycamore Gap is a must-see spot in Northumberland. Located somewhere around the mid-point of the ancient Hadrian's Wall, it is a lone Sycamore tree in a near symmetrical dip in the landscape. It is a barren landscape around Sycamore gap but one of the best-maintained sections of the wall. The best view point is from the southern side of the wall. After a walk along the wall, you can always pop into the Twice Brewed Inn (Bardon Mill NE47 7AN 01434 344534) for a bite to eat and a pint.

It is quite a way inland from our base (over an hour and a quarter) and may be a location for the journey there or back. To get to Sycamore Gap use the Twice Brewed pub postcode NE47 7AN to get you onto B6318. Turn north off the B6318 at Once Brewed and follow the road for a short distance until you see the Steel Rigg car park on your right [///shuffles.casino.puzzles](http://shuffles.casino.puzzles). Follow the path down to the wall [///fees.surcharge.nesting](http://fees.surcharge.nesting), then along the wall itself (to the east) until you get to the tree. This is quite an intense hike of about 1km but worth it for an iconic shot.

Tree location [///trombone.goods.handbags](http://trombone.goods.handbags)



# Tynemouth Priory & Lighthouses

English Heritage (Priory only)

**Map Ref 33** NE26 4QZ

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

Tynemouth Castle and Priory was once one of the largest fortified areas in England. Overlooking the North Sea and the River Tyne, it dominates the headland with fantastic views overlooking the river Tyne and the North Sea. Its beginnings were as an Iron Age settlement, then an Anglo-Saxon monastery, a royal castle and finally a coastal defence. The gun battery was designed to defend the Tyne in the First and Second World Wars. You don't need to book in advance, but you will get the best price by booking online: [Englishheritage.seetickets.com/tour/tynemouth-priory](https://www.englishheritage.org.uk/visit/attractions/tynemouth-priory)

Entrance [///choice.area.passes](#) Park for Priory NE30 4DZ [///yours.every.elder](#) or view from north side with beach at Sea Banks NE30 4HG [///apple.bigger.found](#)

Three lighthouses mark the entrance to Tynemouth and the River Tyne. At South Shields, the River Tyne South Pier Lighthouse and Herd Groyne Lighthouse mark the southern entrance. The River Tyne North Pier Lighthouse marks the northern side. All three are operational.

Tynemouth lighthouse [///bleat.prices.ally](#) is the tallest at 26m, emitting a white navigation light that over-arches the horizon for 26 miles. Its lens rotates every 10 seconds with 3 white flashes as the foghorn of the tower gives one blast every 10 seconds. Park for Tynemouth Lighthouse, also view across bay North Shields NE30 4DD [///career.bottom.pops](#)

The South Shields lighthouse [///melt.normal.lived](#) is 15m high with white, red and green navigational lights that reach distances of 13, 9 and 8 miles respectively. Park NE33 2LD [///faced.sunk.soft](#)

At the harbour entrance stands Herd Groyne, [///news.edges.fall](#) a bright red lighthouse at 13m tall. Park for Herd Groyne and sculptures 'The Weebles': River Dr NE33 1TL [///delay.bond.retire](#)

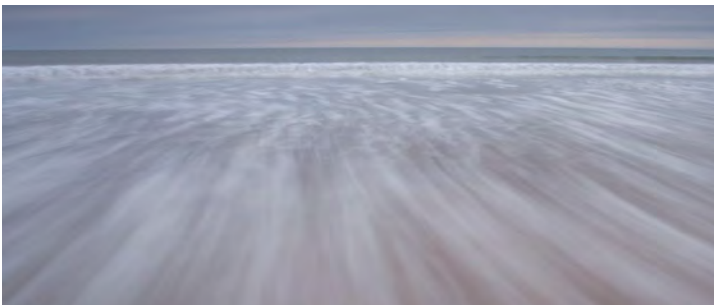


Dominated by the magnificent Warkworth Castle standing out against the skyline is the ancient village of Warkworth. Built on a rocky spur encircled by the River Coquet, the main street of Warkworth has the castle at one end and the church of St Lawrence with a towering spire at the other.

Warkworth Hermitage is only accessible by boat only and only on Sundays and Mondays in September this year. A remarkable 14th century chapel hewn from the rock face. Once the home of monks who prayed for the souls of the Dukes of Northumberland, now home to seals and otters swimming up to this curious cave-like chapel. To get it looks as though you follow the river path from the castle and catch a ferry from [///sharp.declining.botanists](#)

Warkworth Castle, Castle Terrace, Warkworth NE65 0UJ. Free parking for English Heritage members [///villager.honest.scrubbing](#) or park in town on The Stanners [///staring.dives.discussed](#)

Warkworth has a spectacular sandy beach overlooking the RSPB reserve of Coquet Island. Warkworth Beach is around a 20 minute walk from the village or there is a free car park with public loos, use postcode NE65 0SW [///legwork.prosper.distilled](#). The beach is gorgeous with big sand dunes, beautiful silky sand, views of Coquet Island and Amble.



# Winter's Gibbet

**Map Ref 35** NE61 4LE

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset, Night

A lone gallows situated in the middle of stunning Northumberland countryside reminding visitors of a grisly murder that once took place here.

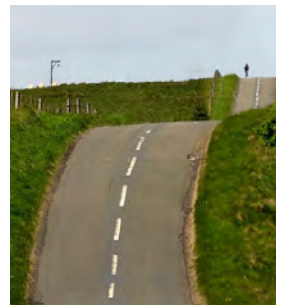
On 10 August 1792, William Winter, along with two female accomplices, killed Margaret Crozier of Raw Pele, a hamlet two miles south of Elsdon.

Winter and his companions were hanged near the site of the crime, and while the women's bodies were given over to local physicians, Winter's body was left to hang from the gibbet until his clothes rotted off. Once his body was cut down, the gibbet remained until weather and local custom destroyed the wood. The gibbet has been remade a number of times since the original stood, but no matter how many times the executioner's pole has been stolen or destroyed, it is always rebuilt.

Today it is the local custom to hang a stone or fiberglass head from the noose, although this too tends to disappear regularly... Makes an interesting foreground subject for night photography too.

Park next to the gibbet NE61 4LE ///grumbles.angers.bolsters

Gibbet location ///conveying.uptown.begun



## **Tide times for Amble**

### **Sun**

	Sunrise	Sunset
Friday 22	06:52	19:09
Saturday 23	06:53	19:06
Sunday 24	06:55	19:03
Monday 25	06:57	19:01

### **Tide Times**

	Low	High	Low	High
Friday 22	00:48	07:07	13:21	19:28
Saturday 23	01:47	08:15	14:31	20:42
Sunday 24	03:15	09:54	16:10	22:21
Monday 25	04:58	11:35	17:43	23:59
Tuesday 26	06:18	12:47	18:50	

## **Tide times for Berwick**

### **Sun**

	Sunrise	Sunset
Friday 22	06:53	19:10
Saturday 23	06:55	19:08
Sunday 24	06:57	19:05
Monday 25	06:59	19:02

### **Tide Times**

	Low	High	Low	High
Friday 22	00:30	06:34	12:55	18:55
Saturday 23	01:23	07:34	13:55	20:01
Sunday 24	02:37	08:56	15:19	21:29
Monday 25	04:10	10:30	16:53	22:59
Tuesday 26	05:36	11:48	18:10	





