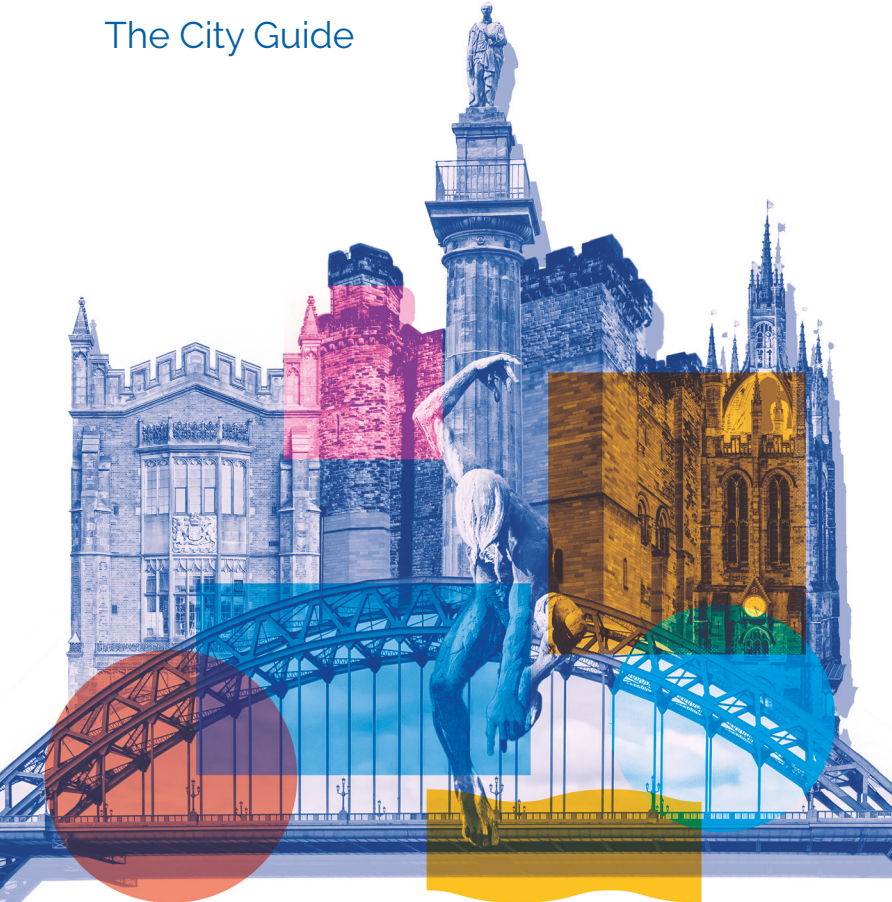


Newcastle

The City Guide





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A warm Geordie welcome to Newcastle

Fun, friendly and effortlessly cool – that's Newcastle. Or at least we think so! And we're hoping you'll agree, once you've read our mini guide to this wonderful city with a big heart.

Ready for a taste of what it'll be like to live, learn and make memories here?

The city that has it all

Newcastle is the regional capital of North East England so expect stunning architecture, world-class culture, great nightlife and a vibrant and multicultural shopping and food scene. We're also just 25 minutes from award-winning beaches!




Students love Newcastle!

Newcastle is a UK top 5 and world top 50 student city, and top 5 city for affordability in the UK (QS Best Student Cities 2026).

Geordieland

Natives of Newcastle are affectionately known as 'Geordies'. No-one's really sure where the nickname came from, but possible origins include a rebellion, an inventor and a mining lamp.

Newcastle

-  **Population:** 307,565 (Office for National Statistics 2022)
-  **Students:** 1 in 6 people here is a student
-  **Community:** 29,000 students from over 135 countries at Newcastle University



Why call Newcastle home?

The warm welcome

Compact, but with a big personality, Newcastle is known for its warm welcome. With so much to see and do, and a multicultural community, you'll feel like you belong.

Low cost of living

Newcastle is a UK top 5 city in the UK for affordability*. Excluding rent, it's 21.6% cheaper than London (Numbeo, June 2025). Make your money go further here with student-friendly deals in restaurants, bars and shops, student accommodation close to campus and discounted local travel.

The perfect location

Fast road and rail links to major UK cities, and direct flights to worldwide destinations from Newcastle International Airport will make going to university feel like an adventure, but home will never be far away.

Fantastic city life

With an eclectic mix of restaurants, comedy and music venues, bars and clubs, it's not surprising that Newcastle is ranked among the best student cities – we're top 5 in the UK and top 50 in the world*.

Top class sport

Newcastle hosts the world's biggest half marathon – the Great North Run. It's also home to Premier League Football club Newcastle United, rugby union's Newcastle Falcons, and the Newcastle Eagles basketball team.

Sensational selfies!

Glorious green parks, classical 19th-century architecture and a stunning Quayside will have you snapping selfies. Our beautiful red brick city-centre campus is picture perfect, too!

*QS Best Student Cities 2026

Unique Newcastle



Newcastle Castle

What is it? Although the Romans built the city's first fort, it wasn't until 1080 AD that today's structure started to take shape.

Originally in timber, then rebuilt in stone, during its history the 'New Castle' has protected the city, was used as a staging post for invasions into Scotland, and even served as a prison.

It fell into disrepair in the 1300s with only the Black Gate and the Castle Keep surviving.

Why go? It's the reason the city got its name. You can explore ancient passageways and chambers, and climb to the top for awesome views of Newcastle.

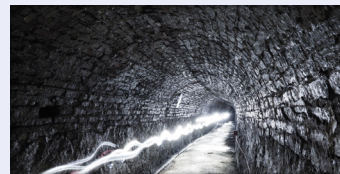


Seven city bridges

What are they? The Tyne Bridge has become a symbol of the city, but it's actually one of seven bridges – all within a mile of each other – that cross the mighty River Tyne.

Linking Newcastle to Gateshead from west to east are: the Redheugh Bridge; King Edward VII Bridge; Queen Elizabeth II Bridge; the High Level Bridge; the Swing Bridge; the Tyne Bridge; and the Gateshead Millennium Bridge.

Why go? Day or night, they're a fantastic sight, particularly when viewed from the Quayside – the city's rejuvenated dockside of trendy bars and restaurants. See also pages 26-29.



Victoria Tunnel

What is it? Running under the city, the Victoria Tunnel was used to transport coal to the River Tyne ready for loading on to ships. Built in 1842, the tunnel is nearly 2.5 miles long.

Multiple entrances were added when the tunnel was used as a wartime air raid shelter, but only one is still in use at Ouseburn where you can book a tunnel tour. See also page 31.

Why go? A tunnel tour is fascinating. Not only will you learn about Newcastle's history, you'll also find out which city landmarks are above your head! And you'll get the unique chance to walk under the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall.

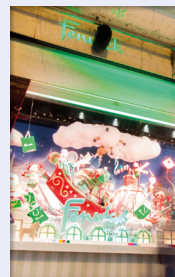


Newcastle United, St James' Park

What is it? Since 1892, St James' Park has been the home of Premier League football club Newcastle United.

The 'Magpies' stadium can hold 52,000 'Toon Army' fans, with home matches played in the club's distinctive black and white striped kit. See also page 16.

Why go? You need to be a season ticket holder to watch the matches, but a behind-the-scenes tour – including a rooftop option 150ft above the pitch – will get you entry to this hallowed ground.



Fenwick's Christmas window

What is it? Fenwick's department store has had a Christmas window display since 1971.

Created in secrecy, elaborate scenes with mechanical puppets tell a different festive story every year.

Why go? It's a Christmas tradition. Crowds line up for the big reveal in early November and queue throughout the festive season. Each display is hotly discussed and compared to previous years. Everyone has their favourite!



Getting around

There's only one thing you need to know about getting around Newcastle – it's easy!

On foot



Find everything you need within walking distance of our city-centre campus. Shops, restaurants and attractions are just five minutes away. A 20-minute stroll will take you to the Quayside with its iconic bridges, arts venues and restaurants.

By bike



With 2,000 cycling spaces on campus, well-marked city-centre cycle paths, and cycle-friendly routes exploring the nearby suburbs of Gosforth, Jesmond, Heaton and Ouseburn, it's easy to get on your bike.

Need to hire a bike or scooter? Search online for local rental companies or support local charity Recyke Y'Bike which refurbishes donated bikes and sells them at reasonable prices to fund its work.

You can also pick up one of Newcastle's bright orange e-scooters, available to hire from on-street locations across the city.



By bus



Both of the city's main bus stations – Eldon Square and Haymarket – are close to campus. Discounted student tickets and passes make this a great way to get around Newcastle.

To explore the wider region and beyond the National Express service is just the ticket.

By rail



Hop on the Metro, Newcastle's light rail system, and be connected with nearby suburbs, the coast and countryside. The Metro links the city's railway station and Newcastle International Airport and there's a Metro station (Haymarket) directly opposite campus. Student discounts and travel passes are also available.



Origins of a proud city

Over the millennia Newcastle has been a Roman settlement, a Norman stronghold and a key player in the Industrial Revolution that transformed Britain.

Coal mining and ship building brought huge wealth. Innovation shaped the city and wider region – the North East became the birthplace of railways, where electric light and turbine power were developed.

Bright sparks welcome

Newcastle's Mosley Street was the first street in the world to have electric lights after switched-on North East inventor Joseph Swan developed the first incandescent light bulb.

Going green

Over 30 public parks and open spaces paint our city green, including:

- **Exhibition Park:** on the edge of campus with a lake, pavilion, skate park, all-weather sports courts and café. It's also home to a 30-barrel micro-brewery housed in the grandly titled Palace of Arts. Built for Newcastle's 1929 world fair that was attended by over four million people, this Art Deco building now offers craft beers, great food, live music and events
- **Leazes Park:** the oldest park in the city, this tranquil space behind Newcastle United's football stadium has a lake, bandstand, memorial garden and basketball/tennis courts
- **Town Moor:** bigger than Central Park in New York, London's Hyde Park and Hampstead Heath, these 1,000 acres host the annual Hoppings, Europe's largest travelling fun fair

Our city

Newcastle is... exciting; multicultural; enigmatic; cultured; dynamic; creative; sporty; green; historic; fresh.

And it's just waiting to be explored.

Whether you fancy cocktails with friends, music that's live and loud, a night at the theatre, delicious street food, independent coffee shops, museums, galleries or glorious green spaces, you'll find them all in Newcastle.



Love to shop?

Who doesn't like a little retail therapy? And in Newcastle you're spoilt for choice:

- **Eldon Square:** home to over 130 shops, eateries and coffee houses, including Newcastle's major department stores, big-name brands and high-street favourites
- **Northumberland Street:** just five minutes from campus, major high-street shops run the length of the street which also leads on to Monument Mall
- **Monument Mall:** a stone's throw from Grey's Monument, boasting high fashion, luxury beauty and designer stores

Just a seven-minute train trip away (or 15 minutes if you hop on the bus) is Gateshead's **Metrocentre**. A mega-mall and entertainment complex, it has over 270 stores and 60 places to eat.

For foodies

Our food is fabulous – from pancake stacks to gourmet sandwiches served in delis, burrito bars, bakeries and brunch spots with an Instagrammable vibe.

We've got cafés serving cuppas (you can even cuddle a cat at some pawfect venues), vegetarian and vegan options, fine dining and creative cuisine from India, China, Mexico, Lebanon, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Brazil...you get the picture.

Chinatown. It's easy to find some of the best Chinese restaurants in the city – just head for Chinatown on Stowell Street.

Guarding the entrance to this thriving Chinese community is a paifang, or archway, the traditional Chinese symbol for prosperity and success.

Built by Shanghai craftsmen in the style of a Chinese Royal Palace, the 11-metre-high archway is flanked by two Chinese guardian lions.

Chinatown was founded in 1978, on land that was once part of a monastery. It's also close to one of the most intact remaining sections of Newcastle's medieval town wall.

As well as delicious eateries, there are Chinese supermarkets and shops, health and beauty salons, and a bustling community centre.

Every Chinese New Year, Chinatown plays host to a parade including traditional dragon and lion dancing that's believed to bring good luck and scare away evil spirits.



Got to try... The Greggs 'stottie' – a round flat bread - or one of Greggs' flaky pastry favourites.

Founded in nearby Gosforth in 1939, Greggs has 20 stores and outlets in Newcastle and Gateshead serving its sensational savoury bakes and sweet treats.



Pssst...

Dine out with a discount during the twice-yearly NE1 Restaurant Week (January and August).



Fizzy fact

Sold around the world, energy and sports drink Lucozade was invented in Newcastle by chemist William Owen.

Over in Times Square, Life – a science centre complete with planetarium – encourages its 250,000 visitors a year to explore and enjoy science. You can also get your skates on at Christmas time and enjoy its temporary outdoor ice rink.

Newcastle's theatres (there's six of them) concert venues, cinemas, exhibition and entertainment spaces make for a great day or a great night out – and you can find out more on pages 38-45.



Sporting life

Newcastle is a sporting city – currently basking in the glory of Newcastle United's historic victory in the Carabao Cup. The win ended the club's 70-year wait for silverware.

Even if you don't like football, the sight of black and white clad fans streaming into St James' Park stadium on match day, and the chant of 'Toon, Toon, Black and White Army!' reverberating around the city is electric.

You can cheer on the region's only professional rugby union club, the Newcastle Red Bulls, watch the Newcastle Eagles (the most successful team in British basketball history) or enjoy a day at Newcastle Racecourse which hosts over 60 fixtures a year.

Want to play sport? Then choose from an A-Z of sports, clubs and activities in the city – from athletics teams that train at nearby Gateshead International Stadium (the scene of five world records), to Zumba classes.

Culture class

Bursting with creativity, Newcastle's art galleries are many and varied. From the Hatton Gallery (see page 19) to the Laing founded in 1901, there's every medium imaginable – ceramic, glass, oil, photography, metal, textiles, watercolour, wood...

The city's spirit of invention is on show at the Discovery Museum. Founded in 1934 and the first science museum to be built outside of London, it houses the world's first steam turbine powered ship, the 32 metre long Turbinia.





Our campus

A Global top 140 university (QS World University Rankings 2026), Newcastle can trace its origins back to 1834.

A vibrant and multicultural campus, 29,000 students from over 135 countries call it home.

Learning comes alive among red brick buildings and striking contemporary architecture, state-of-the-art teaching spaces, an award-winning library service and high-tech sports facilities.

Glorious green places and outdoor spaces are perfect for catching up with friends or enjoying a break between lectures.

Campus art and culture

Add a little art and culture to your day on campus with LIVE lunchtime concerts by professionals and students at the King's Hall in the Armstrong Building.

Pop into the Hatton Gallery, regarded as the birthplace of Pop Art. At the heart of cultural life in the North East for almost 100 years, it's also the venue for our Fine Art degree shows.

Or get gig tickets for the bands that rock the Student's Union basement space, The Venue. A lively social hub, the SU also has its own student bar, merchandise shop, eateries and more.

Explore 350 million years of evolution at the Great North Museum: Hancock – and meet 'Big Mike', a life-sized replica T-Rex skeleton, with an impressive set of teeth.

Visit the Farrell Centre, a public centre for architecture and cities and part of the University's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape. It's named after alumnus Sir Terry Farrell who designed London's M16 building famously 'blown up' in the Bond movie Skyfall.

Or watch contemporary theatre, live performances and join creative programmes at the Northern Stage theatre – the largest producing theatre in the North East of England.



Safety on campus

A security team on duty 24/7, CCTV network, dedicated Northumbria Police constable and free safety app, keep campus a welcoming and safe space.

Under the Arches

The original gateway to campus, the Arches were built in 1911 to honour King Edward VII. They're now an iconic symbol of the University around the world.

Sporting chances

Enjoy the sport you love at Newcastle University's Sport and Fitness Centre. Take part in an intramural programme or join 'Team Newcastle' and one of 60+ student-led sports clubs.

The University is ranked top 10 in the British Universities and Colleges Sport league (BUCS 2023-24) and recently won the Varsity competition against city neighbours Northumbria University for the fourth year in a row.

Go Team Newcastle!



Hit the art trail

Multiple works of art are dotted around campus – from the Dr Martin Luther King statue commemorating a visit by the famous American Civil Rights activist, to 'Clasp', a work by Angel of the North creator Antony Gormley.

Graduate Joseph Hillier's 'Generation' sculptures add to the atmosphere of the Student Forum. Poetry leads the way through the Hadrian Bridge pedestrian tunnel to the University's main library.

Can you find the others?

Hedgehogs welcome!

Newcastle University's campus is officially Hedgehog Friendly! Initiatives to protect the spiky snufflers are just a tiny part of the University's sustainability work – we're ranked 56th in the world for sustainability (QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025).

Solar panels, 'blue roof' sustainable drainage systems, wildflower planting, bat boxes and a heat and power plant (CHP) generating electricity for six campus buildings are helping us go green and reduce our carbon footprint.



Grainger Town's historic heart

In Newcastle's city-centre, Grainger Town and Grey Street certainly have the Insta-factor.

Their beautiful buildings date back to the 19th century, while both Grey's Monument and the Theatre Royal are Grade I listed (that's the same listing as Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament).

A city landmark, Grey's Monument was built in 1838 to remember British Prime Minister, Charles Grey, the 2nd Earl Grey who came from the North East. The famous blend of tea was also named after him.

Climb the 164 steps to the top of Grey's Monument for spectacular views of Grainger Town.

The Theatre Royal originally opened on Newcastle's Drury Lane in 1788 but moved to Grey Street in 1837.

One of only nine Grade I listed theatres in England (together with the city's Tyne Theatre and Opera House), it hosts 350-400 performances a year, including touring productions from London's West End.



Heads up!

Earl Grey lost his head in 1941 when the statue was struck by lightning. The head fell on to a city tram and had to be replaced by a local sculptor.



Insta-views

Voted Britain's best street in 2010 in a BBC Radio 4 poll, stunning Grey Street regularly features in surveys of the UK's most beautiful streets based on Instagram hashtags.

Soak up the views from roof-top restaurants, bars and pavement cafés, and you'll understand why.

Grainger Market

Grainger Market is home to the last surviving example of a Marks and Spencer's Penny Bazaar – the shop that gave birth to the national chain. The Newcastle stall is also the world's smallest Marks and Spencer's store!

Pop-up events

Watch out for pop-up markets around Grey's Monument, especially at Christmas time when you can festive shop and enjoy mulled wine in heated igloos.

Hidden treasures

There's plenty to discover in Grainger Town. Here's just three top spots to get you started:

- **The Stand:** just off Grey Street, this comedy club attracts big names and local acts from the UK comedy circuit.
- **High Bridge Street:** a cobbled hideaway and a 'must visit' for vintage finds and gift shops. It's also where you'll discover Newcastle's oldest pub, The Old George.
- **Central Arcade:** an Edwardian arcade with a stunning glass roof, tiles and mosaics.

Top tip

Head for the Grainger Market for quality fresh produce from local butchers, artisan bakers and greengrocers. You can also enjoy exceptional street food at a growing number of food stalls.



On the Quayside

The Quayside is a hub of music, art, food and nightlife that's loved by students.

Once a bustling dockside for the River Tyne which separates Newcastle from its Gateshead neighbour, it's now the place to go for a great night out.

Dine at top-class restaurants, gastropubs and cafés, or enjoy cocktails and drinks with friends at some of the trendiest places in the city.

If you love live music, head for the Gateshead side and the soaring steel curves of The Glasshouse International Centre for Music. This concert venue and musical education centre hosts rock legends, pop icons, folk gigs and opera stars. It's also home to the Royal Northern Sinfonia.

Close by is the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art – six floors of galleries and event spaces, including a library, café and restaurant.

Glass lifts travel the height of the building at a speed of two metres per second giving panoramic views of the River Tyne. There's also a glass viewing box and outdoor viewing terrace to soak up the scenery.

Bridging the Tyne

Newcastle is famous for the seven bridges that cross the River Tyne.

The most iconic – and a symbol of the city – is the Tyne Bridge. When it was completed in 1928, this 7,112-tonne steel and granite structure was the largest single-span bridge in Britain.

The oldest, and the world's first combined road and rail bridge, is the High Level Bridge, built in 1848.

The newest is the Millennium Bridge – the world's first tilting bridge.

Costing £22 million it contains enough steel to make 64 double decker buses or 16 tanks. Built to take pedestrians and cyclists across the River Tyne, it tilts at noon every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday during the summer.

This 'winking eye' bridge is also lit with white light during the week and a rainbow of colours at the weekend, creating a glorious light show from dusk to dawn.

Market day

Buskers, bakers and handicraft makers can be found at the Quayside Sunday Market (9am-4pm). Go with an appetite for delicious street food, browse the stalls of quality goods and local produce and soak up the atmosphere. Rain or shine it's a great day out.

Flame on

As part of the torch relay for the London 2012 Summer Olympics, survival expert Bear Grylls zipwired from the top of the Tyne Bridge carrying the Olympic flame... and it didn't go out!



Turner on the Tyne

Nearly 150,000 people queued to see the Turner Prize exhibition when it was staged at the BALTIC in 2011, beating all previous visitor records.

Race day

The Quayside features in two important Newcastle athletics races:

- the Great North Run, when 60,000 runners cross the Tyne Bridge during the world's largest half marathon
- the Blaydon Race, a six-mile race starting on the Quayside road. Based on a famous Geordie folk song written in 1862, it's held – as the lyrics demand – on the 'ninth of Joon'





Exploring Ouseburn

The cradle of Newcastle's industrial revolution, Ouseburn takes its name from the burn that flows through this cultural quarter on its way to the River Tyne.

Once home to the city's potteries, mills and factories, where barges were loaded with goods and coal to be shipped around the world, today Ouseburn is a hip residential area with a growing food scene and thriving arts venues.

Look closely, and you can still catch echoes of Ouseburn's industrial past – from the imposing Lime Street chimney, originally part of a steam-powered mill that processed flax for linen thread, to the Biscuit Factory, a former Victorian warehouse that's now the largest independent art, craft and design gallery in the UK.

Converted to provide two floors of gallery space, the Biscuit Factory houses the craftsmanship of over 200 artists every season.

Victoria Tunnel

Built to carry coal to Newcastle's Quayside, the Victoria Tunnel is an underground waggonyway that runs under the very foundations of the city.

The entrance to this feat of 19th century engineering is at Ouseburn where you can book a tour of the tunnel and learn about its fascinating history – from how it was constructed to its use as an air raid shelter.

On your bike

Newcastle's original bike café and workshop, Ouseburn's Cycle Hub is smack bang on the UK's C2C (Sea to Sea) challenge ride.

Pop in for cycle hire and repairs, or a coffee overlooking the River Tyne and be inspired to tackle the unforgettable 140-mile route across Britain, from the Irish Sea to the North Sea.

Down on the farm

Get back to nature in the urban heart of Newcastle at Ouseburn's community farm. Sheep and cows graze the meadows, there's farmyard animals, a well-stocked garden and orchard, plus a farm shop selling fresh produce.

Ouseburn, live and unplugged

Ouseburn is at the heart of Newcastle's live music and performance scene.

Leading the way are The Cluny and The Cluny 2, a former mill and whisky bottling plant that hosts both established artists and new bands.

Or for more intimate gigs, comedy, poetry and traditional music sessions, try the Cumberland Arms. The pub got its first music and singing licence in 1891. Now, it supports hundreds of artists, performances and community events every year.

There's free live music at Tyne Bar, where local bands get the beer garden rocking, and DJ sessions, dance nights and poetry readings at Ernest's, an independent art café/bar run by a group of artists, makers and designers.

You could also check out the Star and Shadow Cinema, for club nights, film screenings and quizzes... and that's just a taste of what Ouseburn has to offer!



The Late Shows

Every year Ouseburn's creative businesses throw open their doors for a free after-hours culture crawl.

Part of the NewcastleGateshead Late Shows, this is your chance to meet the artists in their studios and marvel at their art, sculpture, print, ceramics and jewellery.

You can also take part in short taster activities as you soak up the creative vibe.



Street art

A walk through Ouseburn will uncover its quirky street art – from installations and sculptures, to murals and stickers on houses, under bridges, pub walls, abandoned buildings and along riverside paths.

The trail began with the Great Exhibition of the North 2018, a showcase of Northern England's art, culture, and design. Since then, local artists have continued to leave their mark.





Jesmond and suburbs

Venture out of the city centre to explore Newcastle's suburbs and you'll discover some real gems..

Jesmond and Jesmond Dene

Distance from campus: 1-2 miles

Public transport: Bus; Metro

A reputation for being one of the best foodie suburbs in Newcastle makes Jesmond a top student hotspot.

But there's more to this leafy suburb than just some of the best bars and restaurants in the city – although many of them do offer great deals for students!

Jesmond's quiet residential streets lined with Georgian and Victorian homes make it a popular choice for student housing when you're ready to move out of university-owned accommodation.

Its daytime café culture, stylish independent fashion boutiques and vintage traders add to Jesmond's vibe.

And it has Jesmond Dene at its heart.

This beautiful woodland valley is just one of Newcastle's green spaces and creates an important wildlife corridor. It's hard to imagine it was once home to watermills, quarries, pits and even an iron foundry.


Transformed and gifted to the city by Victorian industrialist Lord Armstrong (our Armstrong Building is named after him), the dene is now a perfect spot for walking and cycling. The Ouseburn that flows through the dene to the River Tyne is dotted with waterfalls, weirs and rock islands. Grassed areas are perfect for picnics and packed with sunbathing students on a sunny day.

You can also enjoy seasonal events and outdoor performances here, visit Pets' Corner, or the food, arts and craft market held on Armstrong Bridge which spans the Dene.

Just so Jesmond...

For gifts, vintage finds, fashion and more, check out Jesmond's Acorn Road and Brentwood Avenue. For a night out, head for Osborne Road with its lively restaurants and bars.

Heaton

 **Distance from campus:** 2 miles

 **Public transport:** Bus; Metro

According to The Sunday Times, Heaton has 'just the right amount of grit and glamour'. That's why it was named one of the best places to live in the North of England in 2024.

Quirky and charismatic, this bustling neighbourhood centred around Chillingham Road draws coffee quaffers and evening diners with its Bohemian café culture and independent restaurants.

Heaton Park adds a green and leafy feel – look out for the park's original gates and pillars, an echo of its Victorian heritage.



Sandyford

 **Distance from campus:** 1 mile

 **Public transport:** Bus; Metro

It's easy to see why Sandyford is a popular choice for students.

Close to campus and the city centre, this popular neighbourhood borders Jesmond Dene giving easy access to Jesmond Dene and Ouseburn.

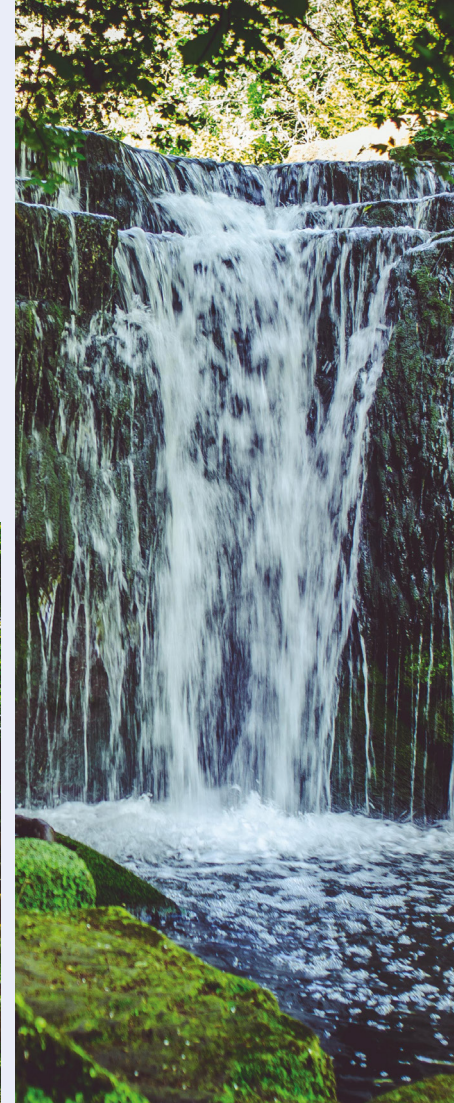
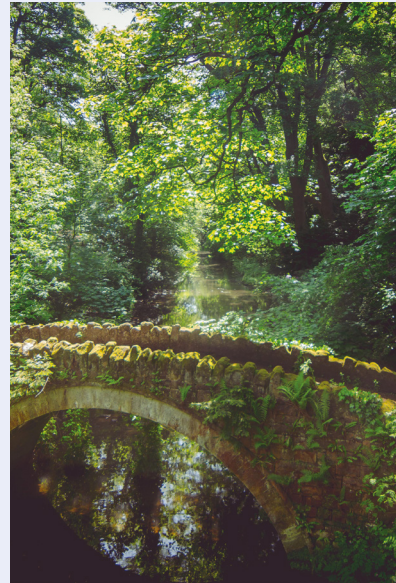
It's also a foodie's dream with an impressive choice of affordable, fabulous eateries.



Park perks

A network of paths connects Jesmond Dene, Armstrong Park and Heaton Park. Follow your feet to discover:

- the ruins of King John's Palace, the 13th century manor house for the Sheriff of Newcastle in Jesmond Dene
- a restored Victorian pavilion and Terrace, dating back to 1880 in Heaton Park
- the Shoe Tree in Armstrong Park, strung with shoes, boots and trainers by students celebrating the end of exams





The county is also home to Kielder Water and Forest Park – England's largest forest and the biggest manmade lake in Northern Europe.

Hadrian's Wall country. Take a westbound train out of Newcastle to discover the Tyne Valley, including the ancient market town of Hexham, and picturesque Corbridge where some of Britain's oldest Roman artefacts were found.

Head out from Haltwhistle, the self-proclaimed Centre of Britain, to discover some of the best sections of Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Built during the Roman invasion of Britain, you can explore this wild frontier and the remains of the forts that once kept the Scots at bay.

Fantastic fortresses. With over 70 fortresses Northumberland has more castles than any other county in England.

Among the best to visit are:

- **Alnwick Castle:** the second largest inhabited castle in the UK, it starred as Hogwarts in two Harry Potter films.
- **Lindisfarne Castle:** originally a 16th-century Tudor fort on Holy Island, it can only be reached at low tide via a causeway from the mainland.
- **Bamburgh Castle:** the seat of kings in Anglo Saxon times, it overlooks one of the best beaches in the North of England. Bamburgh has also been voted Best UK Seaside Destination for four years running (Which? Survey 2024).



Town trips. Hop aboard the East Coast Main Line to explore the market town of Morpeth with its pretty parks, charming shops and a bagpipe museum. Or join the annual Morpeth Gathering to celebrate Northumbrian traditional music, song, dialect, craft, dance, stories and heritage.

Journey on to Alnmouth for colourful houses strung along the banks of the River Aln and take a peek into the past at The Ferryman's Hut. The smallest museum in Northumberland, it's dedicated to the men who would row passengers back and forth across the river.

Berwick-upon-Tweed is also worth a visit. Captured, controlled, sacked, traded and fought over time and again, it's been both English and Scottish.

At the moment, it's England's most northern town...

National treasure. Stretching from Amble to Berwick-upon-Tweed, the Northumberland coast has been designated a National Landscape.

Covering 53 square miles of outstanding natural beauty, it's a haven for wildlife and one of the best places in England to see the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights.

Great days out

Bordered by the North Sea and the beautiful counties of Northumberland and Durham, Newcastle is literally surrounded by stunning countryside and dramatic coastlines.

So, if you fancy a break from your studies, there's plenty to discover, and it's easy to explore by public transport.

Northumberland

One of the largest counties in England, Northumberland is big on clear skies, wild landscapes and even bigger adventures.

Its national park is 410 square miles of the great outdoors and a magnet for ramblers, rock climbers and riders (horses and mountain bikes).

You'll breathe England's clearest air, walk the banks of its cleanest rivers and be dazzled by a star-studded show at its International Dark Sky Park.

Light pollution is so low here that on a clear night you can ditch the telescope and, with the naked eye, see the Milky Way and the Andromeda Galaxy 2.5 million light years away.



County Durham

Once a virtually independent state, County Durham was the land of the Prince Bishops.

Appointed by William the Conqueror to protect the North against the invading Scots, the bishops could mint their own coins, levy taxes, raise an army and establish their own court.

Powerful men, they weren't always in favour with England's kings and queens. One of them became the first prisoner of the Tower of London and the first to escape! After getting his guards drunk, he used a rope smuggled in by friends to escape and flee to France.

Visit their stunning palace complete with throne room at Bishop Auckland, or marvel at the cathedral and castle, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, that they built in the city of Durham.

From Newcastle's Central Station, Durham is just a 15-minute train journey away, making it easy to explore the city's cobbled streets, riverside walk, cafés, boutiques, galleries and museums.

Living museum. World-famous open-air museum, Beamish, brings the history of North East England to life.

Explore a recreated pit village, colliery, town and farm from the 1900s, meet costumed characters from the era, and ride the Beamish Tramway.

An epic tale of England. Spectacular historical show 'Kynren' captures moments in British history and myth spanning 2,000 years.

Performed by a 1,000-strong cast and crew on a 7.5-acre outdoor stage at Bishop Auckland, it features hand-to-hand combat, stunts, incredible horsemanship, and amazing special effects.

Kynren runs every Saturday evening throughout the summer.

Coastal destinations

For a day at the beach just hop on the Metro. Here's some of the best places to visit:

Whitley Bay. Enjoy the classic British seaside experience of fish and chips, miles of golden sand and amusement arcades.

Watch out for grey seals at the nature reserve on St Mary's Island, or climb to the top of its Victorian lighthouse.

The landmark Spanish City boasts a champagne bar, restaurant and tearoom, while the uniquely named Jam Jar Cinema serves up an affordable cinema experience, plus all the big releases.

A community enterprise, it was founded by a Newcastle University Business School graduate.



Tynemouth. Go surfing, visit the aquarium, eat at a beach-front café, or sink your toes into award-winning Longsands beach. A short walk away is the secluded King Edward's Bay, overlooked by Tynemouth Priory and Castle.

Every weekend Tynemouth's Victorian station platform is turned into a market, with stalls selling arts, crafts and vintage bric-a-brac as well as fabulous street food.

Cullercoats. Try watersports, from paddleboarding to 'coasteering' – adrenaline-fuelled cliff jumping – at this former fishing village. Cullercoats Bay is home to the University's Dove Marine Laboratory.



World Cup winners

An amateur football team from the County Durham village of West Auckland has won the World Cup twice. Made up of local miners, the team won the first-ever competition in 1909, beating FC Winterthur from Switzerland 2-0. Two years later they were back, thrashing Italian side Juventus 6-1.



For theatre

You're spoilt for theatrical choices in Newcastle, with no fewer than six theatres.

- **Theatre Royal:** one of the most stunning buildings on Grey Street where the curtain goes up on West End musicals, panto, dance, family shows, drama, comedy, ballet and opera. See also page 22
- **Northern Stage:** nurturing local talent, welcoming top touring productions, staging events – this campus-based theatre is a major player in the cultural life of the city. See also page 19
- **Live Theatre:** dedicated exclusively to developing new talent through its original and bold productions that are often rooted in the North East, as well as its artist development programme
- **Alphabetti Theatre:** not-for-profit theatre offering plays, cabarets, gigs and workshops. It's also the hub of the annual Newcastle Fringe Festival, a 10-day performing arts showcase
- **Tyne Theatre and Opera House:** combining great shows and Victorian history – the theatre has one of the UK's only surviving examples of wooden modular stage machinery
- **People's Theatre:** a non-professional theatre company that's brought entertainment to the North East for over 100 years. After starting life in the city centre it moved to Heaton where it stages up to 14 productions a year

The city's first concert venue was the O2 City Hall. For 40 years it focused on classical concerts, but that changed in the Sixties with shows by The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. It's continued to host almost every rock and pop 'great' since and built a reputation for sell-out comedy nights.

A former picture house, then a bingo hall, the NX Newcastle was reinvented as a music venue. It's welcomed its share of the stars and continues to stage major bands and buzzing club sessions.

For breakthrough artists and exciting local bands, try the city's smaller venues and pubs, especially in the Ouseburn area where you can enjoy a huge range of musical genres. See also pages 30–33.

Great nights out

Nights out in Newcastle are legendary.

We know you'll find your own top spots for big tunes and the best of times, but here's a few suggestions...

For concerts

Newcastle's St James' Park is a regular fixture for stadium tours by the world's top artists. Music royalty Bob Dylan, Queen, Ed Sheeran and Bruce Springsteen have all performed here.

When Brit award winner and local hero Sam Fender first played at the ground, he realised a childhood dream. The concert was pretty spectacular, too.

Newcastle's largest indoor concert venue is the 11,000 capacity Utilita Arena. It's been hosting some of the biggest names in music, comedy, and family entertainment since 1995.

For cinema

Tyneside Cinema is based in an historic and beautiful Art Deco building. A specialised independent cinema and digital arts venue, it's passionate about all aspects of film – from screenings to film clubs.

Watch mainstream, independent and classic films from the comfort of cosy sofas at Everyman. Or get your ticket for big screen blockbusters at Cineworld in The Gate (also see far right) or the ODEON at Gateshead's Metrocentre – easily reached by public transport.



For great times

Newcastle's party persona needs no introduction. So, whatever you're celebrating – and even if you're not – you'll have a great night out in the city.

Going underground. It's Newcastle's longest-running independent, multiracial, underground club, but that's just one of the reasons World Headquarters on Carliol Square gets a special mention.

Offering live gigs and DJ sets, it started out with the aim of uniting a multicultural city through youth culture and banging tunes. Three decades later it continues to do just that.

In 2017, owner/founder Tom Caulker received an honorary degree from Newcastle University for his dedication to social change and his creative approach to promoting equality through music.



Going Bigg. For some of Newcastle's liveliest clubs and mainstream bars head for the Bigg Market. Named after a type of barley once sold at this medieval marketplace, it's now home to a range of restaurants and bars.

Venues with a different vibe include a Bavarian bierkeller and a converted gentleman's underground toilet that's now a swanky space.

Going alcohol-free. Newcastle welcomes free spirits – alcohol-free spirits that is!

Most bars and restaurants in the city have really upped their mocktail game, without compromising on great drinks or a great atmosphere. And you can always ask the bartender for his alcohol-free spin on a favourite tippie.

Look out for low-alcohol beers from local microbreweries – a couple of which also have their own taphouses offering tours and tastings.



Diamonds are forever. Close to Newcastle's Central Station and running along Collingwood Street to the end of Mosley Street is the 'Diamond Strip'. Expect bars with stricter dress codes and discerning door staff, as well as some of the best DJs, dance floors and glitzy lounges.

'Pink Triangle.' Newcastle's lively LGBTQ+ scene is focused around the affectionately known 'Pink Triangle' – stretching from Central Station to the Utilita Arena and Neville Street. Incorporating the bars set around Life with its Times Square events space, at night this area is a hub of flamboyant pubs, cabaret bars, live drag shows and dance-party venues.

The Gate. It's a one-stop destination for a great night – or even day – out. The Gate combines eateries with leisure facilities and a regular selection of discounts and student deals.

Under one roof are restaurants, bars, a 16-screen cinema and casino. There's also an axe throwing experience, two escape rooms, a gaming lounge offering over 200 retro games and a VR gaming centre.

Nights out with a difference. Book a city ghost tour and hear spine-tingling tales of body snatchers and mysterious murders, go ice skating on the Times Square outdoor rink at Christmastime, or try your hand at 10-pin bowling.

Getting here

Newcastle really is closer than you think. Here's a breakdown of popular transport options and travel times.

By road

Newcastle is easily accessible by road via the A1 from the north and south and the A69 from the west.

Park and ride centres linked to the city's Metro network make visiting the city hassle-free. Our city-centre campus location means facilities are on the doorstep so you won't need a car to get around once you join us.

By rail

Fast and frequent rail services link Newcastle with major towns and cities across the UK.

City	Fastest journey times by train (trainline.com)
Birmingham	2 hours 50 m
Bristol	4 hours 50 m
Cardiff	5 hours 20 m
Edinburgh	1 hour 25 m
Leeds	1 hour 20 m
Liverpool	2 hours 50 m
London	2 hours 35 m
Manchester	2 hours 15 m
York	55 m

By air

The flight time to Newcastle from most UK airports is around an hour. Direct flights to Newcastle are available from Belfast, Bristol, Dublin, Exeter, London Heathrow, Newquay and Southampton.

You can also fly direct to Newcastle from a number of world destinations, including popular international transport hubs:

Popular international airports with direct flights to Newcastle include:

Amsterdam	1 hour 20 m
Dubai	6 hours 50 m
Dublin	1 hour
Paris	1 hour 50 m

By sea

Newcastle has an international ferry port in nearby North Shields, connecting the region with northwestern Europe.

dfds.com/en-gb/passenger-ferries



- Main University campus
- Newcastle Helix
- City centre
- Parks and open spaces
- M Metro

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