

Museums and attractions

There are many museums in Tyne and Wear, with exhibitions ranging from science and technology to local history. We've listed the local museums in alphabetical order below, so keep reading for more details. The exhibitions change regularly, so visit the museums' websites or contact them directly to see what's on before you visit.

Check the accessibility of the place before you visit

[AccessAble](#) and [Euan's Guide](#) are websites that can help you to plan your trips to places like cinemas, theatres, restaurants, railway stations, hotels, colleges, universities, hospitals and more. They visit and review the accessibility of places in Newcastle. Use their directory of venues to find wheelchair friendly venues, read more about facilities and disabled access available. Such as:

- photos of the facilities
 - entrance to the building
 - accessible toilets or changing places
 - how easy it is to move around the venue
 - lifts
 - transport and parking
 - dementia friendly
 - quiet or safe space
 - sign language
-

1900 Hadrian's Wall Country

[1900 Hadrian's Wall Country](#) is a festival of events and activities for families and adults, volunteers, ramblers and heritage lovers. There is something for everyone to take part in this year, 1900 years since Hadrian's Wall was built. Hadrian's Wall is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and has forts along the wall including: Birdoswald Roman Fort, Great Chester's Fort, Housestead's Roman Fort and Harrow's Scar, Milecastle and Wall.

Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort

[Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort](#) shows what daily life was like for those living at the Fort. It has full scale reconstructed Roman buildings: a West Gate, soldiers' barrack and Commanders' house for you to explore, giving a flavour of life at the fort. The museum showcases objects found at Arbeia, like weapons, armour and jewellery. You can discover how the Romans buried their

dead and see tombstones and inscribed altars found at South Shields. With a seasonal programme of events. Donations welcome, admission free.

Bowes Museum

Bowes Museum is magnificent French chateau created in the late 19th century by John and Josephine Bowes, housing internationally renowned collections of European fine and decorative arts spanning five centuries.

Bowes Railway

Bowes Railway is a volunteer led registered charity, aiming to preserve the unique rope hauled inclines colliery workshops and railway line, built in 1826. Take a guided tour of the railway site at 10.00am & 3.00pm or take a self-guided tour. See mining displays and blacksmithing demonstrations as well as diesel shunting. They run different events throughout the year.

The Common Room

The Common Room is within The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers. Using the unique heritage of the Mining Institute to inspire the next generation of innovators & engineers. Providing a range of unique event spaces to hire.

Newcastle Castle

Newcastle Castle is a Norman Fortress with a remarkable history. The area around the Castle is known as Old Newcastle, because it is the heart of the medieval town, including the old market areas. The main landmark other than the Castle is St Nicholas Cathedral. Once the 'Great Tower' at the centre of the 12th century Castle, the Keep was used as a royal residence and a centre for the defence of the North of England. It later became a county prison and a place of execution. Today it is one of the best preserved castle keeps in England. There is also the Black Gate.

Discovery Museum

Discovery Museum explores life in Newcastle and Tyneside from our renowned maritime history and world-changing science and technology right through to fashion through the eras and military history. The museum has lots to offer audiences of all ages with many interactive displays, which makes it a great place to learn and have fun. Admission to the Discovery Museum is **free**.

Life Science Centre (Centre for Life)

Life Science Centre (Centre for Life) is a lively experience which aims to encourage questions about the world we live in. Attractions include interactive exhibitions and live demonstrations. There is an entrance fee.

Great North Museum: Hancock

Great North Museum: Hancock has collections from the Hancock Museum and Newcastle University's Museum of Antiquities, the Shefton Museum and the Hatton Gallery. Highlights include a large-scale, interactive model of Hadrian's Wall, major new displays showing the wonder and diversity of the animal and plant kingdoms, spectacular objects from the Ancient Greeks and mummies from Ancient Egypt, a planetarium and a life-size T-Rex dinosaur skeleton. It also has the Hancock Library with collections on the history and heritage of the Northern Region, Roman Britain and Hadrian's Wall, as well as archaeology and natural history **Free entry (donations welcome)**.

Hetton Colliery

Hetton Colliery Railway is a registered charity established to promote the educational, cultural and historical importance of the Hetton Colliery Railway.

Hylton Castle

Hylton Castle is a historic landmark near Sunderland that was built by Sir William Hylton, shortly before 1400. This distinctive and highly decorative gatehouse-tower style castle makes for an exciting sightseeing trip, as you uncover the history and heritage of the North East.

Jarrow Hall, Anglo-Saxon Farm, Village and Bede Museum

Jarrow Hall is a museum dedicated to exploring the life and legacy of Bede, alongside an Anglo-Saxon farm and coffee shop. Set across 11 acres, the farm houses features over 70 rare-breed and rescued animals and reconstructed Anglo-Saxon dwellings. There is an entrance fee.

The Mining Institute

The Mining Institute is the Royal Chartered membership organisation for science, technology and engineering in the North. Founded in 1852 by the most important contemporary Northern scientists and engineers, by becoming a member you can follow in their footsteps to help shape the future of industrial heritage and cutting-edge science in the North. They hold regular talks and events on all aspects of science and technology and have lots of opportunities for you to get involved further.

Today it holds one of the largest mining libraries worldwide and is also available as a venue for events.

Monkwearmouth Station Museum

[Monkwearmouth Station Museum](#) is now closed.

Newcastle United Museum & Stadium Tours

[Newcastle United Museum & Stadium Tours](#) features photographs and memorabilia from across the years. For an extra charge you can have a guided tour of St. James Park, which takes you on a journey of the history of Newcastle United Football Club. You can see the changing rooms, the Media Suite, the dugouts, and get to see how it feels to stand right by the pitch. There is an admission fee.

North East Film Archive

[North East Film Archive](#) has many films for free on their website, looking back at how things used to be in Newcastle. They currently hold around 30,000 items, from 1900's to the present. They cover a range of subjects, including rural and urban life, industry and agriculture, family life, holidays and leisure, and wartime in the region, as well as a range of styles such as documentary, advertising, amateur footage, newsreels, animation, regional television news and educational material.

Oriental Museum at Durham University

[The Oriental Museum](#) is devoted entirely to the art and archaeology of the great cultures of Northern Africa and Asia. There is a very small admission fee.

Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum

[Segedunum Roman Fort](#) is the most excavated fort along Hadrian's Wall and also has a large interactive museum, which aims to show what life was like in Roman Britain. There are several permanent displays, including a Roman Gallery, Hadrian's Wall and a 35m Viewing Tower delivering spectacular views across the site and wider area. With an annual programme of exhibitions and events. Admission charges apply, children under 16 go free.

South Shields Museum and Art Gallery

[South Shields Museum and Art Gallery](#) explores the history of South Tyneside through art and interactive exhibits. There are permanent displays as well as regular temporary exhibitions. **Free entry.**

Stephenson Steam Railway

[Stephenson Railway Museum](#) is home to historic railway exhibits from the early days of the steam railway right up to the present day. You can take a ride on a real steam train or diesel engine on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. Please check their website for museum opening times and train times. They run special events in December where booking is required. **Free**

entry. Donations welcome.

Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

[Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens](#) combines a museum showing the history of the city, an art gallery, exhibition space and Winter Gardens. **Free entry.**

North East Museums

[North East Museums](#) is our regional museum, art gallery and archives service. They manage a collection of 9 museums and galleries across Tyneside and Tyne and Wear Archives. Many of these museums and galleries are free to visit. They run a range of exhibitions, activities, volunteering opportunities, festivals, and social groups at their venues.

- [Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort](#)
- [Discovery Museum](#)
- [Great North Museum: Hancock](#)
- [Hatton Gallery](#)
- [Laing Art Gallery](#)
- [Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum](#)
- [South Shields Museum and Art Gallery](#)
- [Stephenson Steam Railway](#)
- [The Shipley Art Gallery](#)
- [Tyne & Wear Archives](#)

Read more about [Art Galleries on InformationNOW](#). **Free entry to most of their venues and exhibitions.**

The Late Shows

[The Late Shows](#) is the annual late night culture crawl across Newcastle and Gateshead. For one weekend only in May, cultural venues, museums, galleries, studio collectives and landmark historical buildings come together to offer one-off events including hands-on workshops, behind-the-scenes tours, performances and parties. Visit [North East Museums](#) website for more details on venues and activities available. Booking may be required.

Tyne & Wear Archives

[Tyne & Wear Archives](#) is the largest archives in the North East. They store many historical records and can assist you with your own research. There is a public search room where you can carry out your own research. **Free entry.**

Victoria Tunnel

The Victoria Tunnel runs beneath the city from the Town Moor down to the Tyne. It was built in 1842 to transport coal from Leazes Main Colliery to riverside jetties ready for loading onto ships. In 1939, it was converted into an air-raid shelter to protect hundreds of Newcastle citizens during World War II. Tours must be booked in advance with The Ouseburn Trust.

Washington 'F' Pit

Washington 'F' Pit houses a Victorian steam engine, engine house and headgear. They are preserved as a monument to Washington's coalmining heritage that reaches back over 250 years. Washington 'F' Pit is open seasonally. Check their website for more details. An online tour is available

100objectsNE.co.uk

100objectsNE.co.uk is an online interactive exhibition providing you with the opportunity to view and explore the history of the creativity and innovation of the North East, as told through a 'virtual exhibition' of 100 objects held by museums, galleries and archives across the North East. Together the stories these objects tell us illustrate the richness that comes from this region and its peoples, such as the creation of railways, the flourish of artistic life, the drive for social reform, and the sheer breadth and quantity of world renowned inventions.

Your health and wellbeing

Museums, culture and heritage can help to improve your health and wellbeing. Looking at museums objects, remembering things and telling stories can help people to improve your mood, with memory issues and to feel at home in Newcastle. Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums have free museum object boxes that you can borrow for up to 4 weeks. You can use these can be used as part of a guided session.

[Read more about their free health and social care resources.](#)

Safe Places

Many of the local museums are known **Safe Places**. Where people with learning disabilities and autism can go to get help if they're worried, have lost something, or just need reassurance from staff at the Safe Place. Safe Places will have a yellow sticker in the window or on the door. For more information about safe places please visit our article on [learning disabilities and autism](#).

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Useful Organisations

North East Museums

Email: info@northeastmuseums.org.uk

Website: <https://www.northeastmuseums.org.uk/>

Telephone: 0191 232 6789

Address: Discovery Museum, NE1 4JA

Life (Centre for Life)

Email: info@life.org.uk

Website: www.life.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 243 8210

Address: Life Science Centre, NE1 4EP

Discovery Museum

Email: info@discoverymuseum.org.uk

Website: www.discoverymuseum.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 232 6789

Address: Blandford Square, NE1 4JA

Monkwearmouth Station Museum

Email: museums@sunderland.gov.uk

Telephone: 0191 232 6789

Address: North Bridge Street, SR5 1AP

National Glass Centre

Email: info@nationalglasscentre.com

Website: www.nationalglasscentre.com

Telephone: 0191 515 5555

Address: Liberty Way, SR6 0GL

Tyne & Wear Archives

Email: archives@twmuseums.org.uk

Website: www.twarchives.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 277 2248

Address: Tyne and Wear Archives, NE1 4JA

The National Archives

Website: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Telephone: 020 8876 3444

Address: Kew Gardens, TW9 4DU

Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort

Email: info@arbeiromanfort.org.uk

Website: www.arbeiromanfort.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 277 1409

Address: Baring Street, NE33 2BB

Jarrow Hall, Anglo-Saxon Farm, Village and Bede Museum

Email: Jarrowhall@groundwork.org.uk

Website: <https://www.jarrowhall.org.uk/>

Telephone: 0191 424 1585

Address: Church Bank, NE32 3DY

Great North Museum: Hancock

Email: info@greatnorthmuseum.org.uk

Website: www.greatnorthmuseum.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 208 6765

Address: Barras Bridge, NE2 4PT

Newcastle United Museum & Stadium Tours

Email: stadium.tours@nufc.co.uk

Website: <http://www.nufc.co.uk/page/Club/StJamesPark/StadiumTours>

Telephone: 0191 208 6765

Address: St. James Park, NE1 4ST

Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum

Email: info@segedunumromanfort.org.uk

Website: www.segedunumromanfort.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 278 4217

Address: Buddle Street, NE28 6HR

South Shields Museum and Art Gallery

Email: info@southshieldsmuseum.org.uk

Website: www.southshieldsmuseum.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 211 5599

Address: Ocean Road, NE33 2JA

Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

Email: museums@sunderland.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.seeitdoitsunderland.co.uk/sunderland-museum-winter-gardens>

Telephone: (0191) 553 2323

Address: Burdon Road, SR1 1PP

Washington 'F' Pit

Email: museums@sunderland.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.mysunderland.co.uk/Washington-F-Pit>

Telephone: 0191 561 2323

Address: Albany Way,, NE37 1BJ

Stephenson Steam Railway

Email: info@stephensonsteamrailway.org.uk

Website: www.stephensonsteamrailway.org.uk

Telephone: (0191) 277 7135

Address: Middle Engine Lane,, NE29 8DX

North East Film Archive

Email: nefa@tees.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.northeastfilmarchive.com>

Telephone: 01642 384 022

Address: Constantine Building, TS1 3BA

Ouseburn Trust

Email: hello@ouseburntrust.org.uk

Website: ouseburntrust.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 261 6596

Address: Ouseburn Trust, NE1 2PQ

Oriental Museum at Durham University

Email: oriental.museum@durham.ac.uk

Website: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/oriental.museum/>

Telephone: 0191 334 5691

Address: Oriental Museum, DH1 3TH

Bowes Museum

Email: info@thebowesmuseum.org.uk

Website: <http://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk>

Telephone: 01833 690 606

Address: The Bowes Museum, DL12 8NP

Bowes Railway

Email: info@bowesrailway.co.uk

Website: <http://bowesrailway.uk>

Telephone: 0785 0916484

Address: Springwell Road, NE9 7QJ

Hetton Colliery Railway 200

Email: alantaylorjackson@outlook.com

Website: <http://www.hcr200.org/>

Telephone: 0785 0916484

Address: Easington Lane Community Access Point, Brickgarth, DHE 0LE

100objectsNE.co.uk

Website: <http://100objectsne.co.uk>

Telephone: 0785 0916484

1900 Hadrian's Wall Country

Website: <https://1900.hadrianswallcountry.co.uk/>

Telephone: 0785 0916484

The Common Room

Email: hello@thecommonroom.org.uk

Website: <https://thecommonroom.org.uk/>

Telephone: 0785 0916484

Address: Neville Hall, NE1 1SE

The Mining Institute

Email: office@mininginstitute.org.uk

Website: <https://mininginstitute.org.uk/>

Telephone: 0191 250 9717

Address: The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers Neville Hall , NE1 1SE

AccessAble

Email: hello@accessable.co.uk

Website: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/newcastle-city-council/>

Telephone: 01438 842 710

Address: Unit 7 Arlington Court, SG1 2FS

Euans Guide

Website: <https://www.euansguide.com/>

Telephone: 01438 842 710

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