

Explore TEESDALE



Teesdale Tour

Teesdale's Deep Peace

Teesdale Tours

A selection of **NEW** themed itineraries highlighting that very special Teesdale mix of great scenery, fantastic history and culture, award-winning visitor attractions and a warm, professional Teesdale welcome.

For groups wishing to “**Get Active**” we have included optional countryside walks. Routes require stout footwear, suitable outdoor clothing and basic map reading skills and are a great way of exploring Teesdale’s treasures and of keeping fit and healthy.

OS Map numbers are provided so you can plan the exact route to suit the abilities of your group.

To obtain a copy of all of our Teesdale Tour itineraries on a CD then please email admin@teesdalemarketing.co.uk.

Tour itineraries are prepared for Teesdale Marketing by Jan Williams, Registered Tourist Guide.

The information is correct at the time of writing.

Group organisers are advised to confirm opening times and arrangements for groups with individual attractions/organisations.

TEESDALE'S "DEEP PEACE"

In today's frantic 24/7 world the opportunities to relax and refresh seem more attractive than ever before. Teesdale has a growing reputation for providing just the sort of peace and relaxation which tours are all about.

Route

Barnard Castle – A67 – A66 (west) – exit into Brough B6276 – Middleton in Teesdale – B6277 – Bowlees Visitor Centre – Low Force/Wynch Bridge – High Force – B6277 – Langdon Beck – turn left on unclassified road to Cow Green Reservoir – return to Langdon Beck – unclassified moor road to St John's Chapel – A689 – Stanhope – B6278 – Eggleston Hall Gardens – B6278 – Barnard Castle

Coach Timings

Barnard Castle – Brough 35 mins
 Brough – Middleton in Teesdale 40 mins
 Middleton in Teesdale – Cow Green Reservoir 25 mins
 Cow Green Reservoir – Stanhope 45 mins
 Stanhope – Eggleston Hall Gardens 25 mins
 Eggleston Hall Gardens – Barnard Castle 10 mins

Attractions

Barnard Castle 2-3 hours Tel 01833 638212
 High Force 45 mins Tel 01833 640209
 Middleton in Teesdale 1 hour Tel 01833 641000
 Raby Castle 2-3 hours Tel 01833 660202
 Newbiggin Chapel 30 mins Tel 01833 638272
 Bowlees Visitor Centre 1 hour Tel 01833 622292
 Durham Dales Centre 1 hour Tel 01833 527650
 Eggleston Hall Gardens 45mins-1 hour Tel 01833 650115 (pre-booking essential)

Refreshments

Barnard Castle Tel 01833 690909
 Middleton in Teesdale Tel 01833 641000
 Teesdale Hotel Tel 01833 640264
 Bowlees Visitor Centre Tel 01833 622292
 Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope Tel 01833 527650
 Eggleston Hall Gardens Tel 01833 650432 (pre-booking essential)
 Country Kitchen, Holwick Tel 01833 640506

Commentary

Peace and quiet can be found on any group tour throughout Teesdale. Soak up the atmosphere of **Raby Castle's** mellow stone walls. Stand in the quiet of a gallery in **The Bowes Museum** and admire the artists' skill. Or follow the road from **Barnard Castle** to the A66 **Stainmore Gap** and enjoy immense views across wide open moorland. Stainmore is an ancient cross-Pennine route used by successive generations of travellers for thousands of years. The A66 passes the site of the Roman fort of Rey Cross. And in 954AD Eric Bloodaxe – a red-haired, fearsome Viking warrior – was killed in battle near this site. Not always so peaceful.....

Brough is the gateway to sparsely populated **Lunedale** and the former turnpike road crosses land now owned by the **Strathmore Estate** who as responsible landowners help conserve the local flora and fauna. Stop for photographs or to listen for the haunting call of curlew and grouse. Or watch the acrobatic displays of the peewits (summer season).

Continue past **Selset** and **Grassholme** reservoirs where windsurfers and fishermen find their own version of peace and quiet. Then on the skyline look for the distinctive tree-covered hill of **Kirkcarrion** marking the grave of a Brigantian Prince called Caryn.

Middleton in Teesdale has a strong lead-mining heritage and a stop here to browse the independent local shops at a relaxed pace is a world away from the usual English high street. This is where an

authentic Teesdale welcome can be enjoyed. The Tourist Information Centre stocks postcards and souvenirs.

Continue up peaceful Teesdale to **Bowlees Visitor Centre** (Coach parking permitted at the wide entrance but not in the official car park area. Advance booking required). The exhibition on the **North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**, the second largest AONB in England, explains the geology which provides Teesdale with its internationally important habitats. An amazing 40% of the UK's remaining upland hay meadows are found in the NP AONB.

High Force waterfall is where the River Tees makes its thunderous drop over whinsill rock. Not exactly peaceful. But undoubtedly inspirational for artists and photographers. (Small charge. Approx. 12 minute walk to view falls).

For raw beauty and remoteness **Cow Green** reservoir takes some beating (No facilities. Best visited on a clear day. Access to the reservoir is undertaken at drivers' own risk). Then a lovely moorland crossing to **St John's Chapel** in Weardale and **The Durham Dales Centre** at **Stanhope** providing another oasis of calm in the form of the delightful Dales Garden.

Gardens can provide the ultimate feeling of deep peace so this journey ends back in **Teesdale** with **Eggleston Hall Gardens** – a plantsman's delight. Or continue to **Barnard Castle** for the French-style gardens surrounding **The Bowes Museum** where the water fountain has been newly restored (access to the grounds and Museum café free of charge). Or try the **Sensory Garden** in the grounds of the castle in the town.

“GET ACTIVE”

Cow Green reservoir nature trail to Cauldron Snout

1.5-2 miles (1 way)

OS Landranger Map 92

Follow the tarmac road leading from the car/coach park (information panels) at Cow Green Reservoir to join a nature trail leading to the top of Cauldron Snout. (Warning: Cauldron Snout cascade has a steep drop and rocky terrain).