

Explore TEESDALE



Teesdale Tour

Teesdale & Education Groups

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

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TEESDALE AND EDUCATION GROUPS

Teesdale's attractions appeal to a wide range of differing groups and educational and school visits are always warmly welcomed.

Route

A1 to Scotch Corner – A66 west - Thorpe Farm Centre - Barnard Castle - B6278 – Eggleston - B6282 - Middleton in Teesdale - Newbiggin (Bowlees Visitor Centre) - B6277 -High Force (* *Langdon Beck Youth Hostel* – see under “commentary”) - return to Eggleston - B6282 – Woodland - Copley – B6282 (direction Toft Hill) –A68 north – unclassified road to Hamsterley – Bedburn - Hamsterley Forest - return to A68 south - West Auckland – A688 – Staindrop – Raby Castle

Coach Timings

Scotch Corner – Thorpe Farm Centre 15 mins
 Thorpe Farm Centre – The Bowes Museum 10 mins
 Barnard Castle – Bowlees Visitor Centre 35 mins
 Bowlees Visitor Centre – High Force 5 mins
 High Force – Hamsterley Forest 45 mins
 Hamsterley Forest – Raby Castle 25 mins

Attractions

Thorpe Farm Centre 1 hour (inc falconry display) Tel 01833 627242
 The Bowes Museum 2-3 hours Tel 01833 694605
 Bowlees Visitor Centre 45mins Tel 01833 622292
 North Pennines AONB Partnership Tel 01388 528801
 Langdon Beck Youth Hostel Tel 01833 622228
 Hamsterley Forest 2-3 hours Tel 01388 488312
 Raby Castle 2-3 hours Tel 01833 660202

Refreshments

Thorpe Farm Centre Tel 01833 627242
 The Bowes Museum Tel 01833 694605
 Barnard Castle Tel 01833 690909
 Bowlees Visitor Centre Tel 01833 622292
 Country Kitchen, Holwick (nr Middleton in Teesdale) Tel 01833 640506
 Raby Castle Tel 01833 660202

Commentary

A fun start to an educational day out is a visit to **Thorpe Farm Centre** and its fascinating **Falconry Centre**. (Pre-book for flying demonstrations of 20-30 mins). Then onto **The Bowes Museum** with its internationally important art collection and famous Silver Swan (check performance times). Expert curators can tailor make tours of the paintings, art, ceramics and textiles and **John and Josephine Bowes** (professional actors) can be pre-booked to give that very special **living history** experience. The Museum's **Streatlam Galleries** (opening 31 March 2007) are planned with young people in mind and introduce the museum and its collections with child friendly interpretation and activities.

Teesdale provides a fantastic opportunity for educational groups to learn about geology, landscape, farming and flora and fauna. Much of the dale lies within the **North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** which became Great Britain's first **European Geopark** in 2003. Internationally important flora such as the Teesdale Assemblage are explained at **Bowlees Visitor Centre** and students can walk through millions of years of geology along Bowlees Beck. (NB: coaches **are** allowed to park in the wide entrance of the access road leading to the Visitor Centre. The “no coaches” sign refers to coach access to the car park).

For that all important healthy fresh air a walk to **High Force** waterfall (small charge. Approx 12 minute walk to falls) combines exercise with learning. This site is part of the AONB Partnership's “**Teesdale Time Trail**” (interpretation panels)

* For educational groups seeking accommodation the award winning **Langdon Beck Youth Hostel at Forest in Teesdale** is a short drive from High Force. Conservation issues are a priority and include cutting energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions. Water recycling programmes ensure the hostel operates along environmentally sensitive lines. Perfect for educational groups with an eye on “green” issues.

Hamsterley Forest provides a range of activity facilities for education groups. There is a Visitor Centre on site and a newly opened **mountain bike skills loop trail**.

For history lessons **Raby Castle** is hard to beat. Taking its place in national as well as local history the castle was the centre of power for the medieval Nevill family (Earls of Westmorland) and the launch pad for the Rising of the North in 1569. With its magnificent Barons Hall and medieval kitchen it is the perfect setting to explore the past. But the **Raby Estate** is a modern agricultural estate, too, and educational groups can enjoy talks on estate management for the 21st century.

“GET ACTIVE”

Walks from Bowlees Visitor Centre

0.5 – 1 mile

OS Landranger Map 92

Follow the footpath from Bowlees Visitor Centre to Gibson Cave and learn about geology along the way.

Alternatively, walk from Bowlees Visitor Centre and cross the B6277 to reach a gate leading into a field. Keep to the field footpath to reach the historic Wynch Bridge and Low Force waterfalls. Cross the bridge and turn right to join the Pennine Way alongside the River Tees.