

Explore TEESDALE



Teesdale Tour

Teesdale's Hidden Gems

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

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 HIDDEN GEMS

Everyone likes to discover the unexpected and we know how important it is to offer something new for those repeat visits...

Route

Barnard Castle – A688 – Staindrop – left turn signed Cockfield (see “commentary” for detailed route) – return to A688 – Staindrop – B6279 – Ingleton – B6275 – Piercebridge – B6275 – A1 – Scotch Corner – A66 west – Thorpe Farm Falconry Centre – Rokeby Hall - Bowes village – A67 – B6277 – Cotherstone – Romal Kirk – Middleton in Teesdale – Eggleston Hall Gardens – B6278 – Barnard Castle

Coach Timings

Barnard Castle – Cockfield Fell 25 mins
 Cockfield Fell – Piercebridge 25 mins
 Piercebridge – Thorpe Farm Centre 20 mins
 Thorpe Farm Centre – Rokeby Hall 10 mins
 Bowes village – Middleton in Teesdale 30 mins
 Middleton in Teesdale – Barnard Castle 25 mins

Attractions

Barnard Castle 2-3 hours Tel 01833 638212
 Rokeby Hall 1 hour Tel 01833 637334
 The Bowes Museum 2-3 hours Tel 01833 694605
 Piercebridge Roman remains (2 stops: Roman Fort and Roman bridge abutment) 15 mins each.
 Middleton in Teesdale 1 hour Tel 01833 641000
 Eggleston Hall Gardens 45 mins-1 hour Tel 01833 650432

Refreshments

Barnard Castle Tel 01833 690909
 Jersey Farm hotel (A67) Tel 01833 638223
 Thorpe Farm Centre (A66) Tel 01833 627242
 Morritt Arms hotel (A66) Tel 01833 627232
 Middleton in Teesdale Tel 01833 641000
 Eggleston Hall Gardens Tel 01833 650432 (pre-booking essential)
 Rose and Crown hotel, Romal Kirk Tel 01833 650213

Commentary

Barnard Castle TIC is not exactly hidden. But it is a gem of a place to visit with a cyber café and sculptured ash wood counter carved with Teesdale scenes by local firm Anthony Nixon Furniture. Definitely the smart option for planning further group tours to Teesdale.

The A688 passes **Raby Castle** (Stable Café available seasonally as independent refreshment stop) and in 0.5 miles a left turn off the A688 leads to **Cockfield** and **Gaunless Valley Visitor Centre**. Continue to **The Slack** for a choice of routes:

For **ROUTE A** (cars and mini-buses only) turn left at the junction in The Slack onto B6282 direction **Copley**. The **Gaunless Valley Visitor Centre** adjacent to the disused Stag's Head pub provides information on local archaeology (check opening times. Car/mini bus parking only). Continue to **Copley** and take left turn (signed Barnard Castle and car park) leading downhill. Access point for **Copley Lead Mill chimney** in car park on left. Return uphill to main road junction, turn right and then take left turn signed **Lynesack Church** and **Butterknowle** and return to The Slack to join the route below.

For **ROUTE B** (accessible to full size coaches): from the A688 the road to **Cockfield** crests a hill before descending into **The Slack**. A bus turning area near the crest provides a panoramic view (interpretation panel in adjacent car park). **Cockfield Fell** is England's largest scheduled ancient monument and evidence of its agricultural and industrial past pockmark the landscape. This circular route descends to **The Slack** and at the t-junction turns right across a cattle grid and then bears right (signed Toft Hill B6282). At the next crossroads turn right for Esperley and Cockfield via **High Lands**

and **Low Lands**. At next crossroads turn right towards Cockfield's main street leading to another t-junction. Turn right to return to **The Slack** and then back to the A688 and Staindrop.

Continue through the picturesque village of **Ingleton** which is close to the hidden gem of **Headlam Hall Hotel**. A luxury meal stop with a fantastic new spa development.

Piercebridge village occupies the site of a Roman fort and the partly excavated ruins are accessible off the main street (Free. Interpretation panels).

Thorpe Farm Centre (on A66) provides a mouthwatering refreshment or lunch stop (groups pre-book) and the well stocked farm shop offers a real taste of the country. New to the site is the **Falconry Centre** where flying displays can be pre-booked (lasting 20-30 mins).

Rokey Hall (pre-book essential) is another hidden Teesdale gem. A gracious Palladian style family home with a fine collection of 18th needlework pictures, period furniture and a print room it has strong associations with 19th century writers and artists.

Return to the A66, turn west and head to **Bowes** village. Charles Dickens visited here in 1838 whilst research material for his novel "Nicholas Nickleby" (turning circle available beyond village church in main street). Ruined **Bowes Castle** occupies the site of the Roman fort of Lavatrae.

Cotherstone village is renowned for its superb local cheese (semi soft texture) which has been produced in Teesdale for over 100 years to an age old family recipe. The award-winning **Rose and Crown** pub in **Romaldkirk** offers the cheese on its scrumptious menus. And on the village green just opposite is the old village stocks!

Cross the River Tees at **Middleton in Teesdale** and at the t-junction in the town centre look right for the ornate drinking fountain dedicated to Robert Bainbridge, Superintendent of the London Lead Company as his retirement present in the 1840s.

And the final hidden Teesdale gem is..... an angel! Located inside **Eggleston Hall Gardens** is a scale version of "The Angel of the North" sculpture. This "secret garden of the north" is well known for its signature plant, the Mount Cook Daisy (*Celmisia spectabilis*). Follow the garden paths to discover the ancient ruined chapel before returning to **Barnard Castle**.

"GET ACTIVE"

"The Meeting of the Waters"

0.5 – 1 mile

OS Landranger Map 92

Near Rokeby Hall the rivers Greta and Tees join together at a local beauty spot called "The Meeting of the Waters". Turn right out of the entrance to Rokeby Hall and where the public road bears sharp left, a footpath leads off right. Follow this to the "Meeting of the Waters" viewing point. Return the same way or cross the Dairy Bridge and follow a wall along to Mortham Tower.