

*Explore* TEESDALE



## **Teesdale Tour**

### **Teesdale's International Connections**

**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](mailto: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 INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

*International connections? In rural Teesdale? Certainly. Teesdale's local stories strike a chord regionally, nationally and even internationally.*

### Route

Barnard Castle and Bowes Museum – exit town via County Bridge onto B6277 – Cotherstone – Romalldkirk – Middleton in Teesdale – B6282 – B6279 – Staindrop – Raby Castle

### Coach Timings

Barnard Castle – Middleton in Teesdale 30 mins  
Middleton in Teesdale – Raby Castle 30 mins

### Attractions

Barnard Castle 2-3 hours Tel. 01833 638212  
The Bowes Museum 2-3 hours Tel. 01833 694605  
Rokeby Hall 1 hour Tel 01833 637334  
High Force Waterfall 45 mins Tel 01833 640209  
Middleton in Teesdale 1 hour Tel 01833 641000  
Raby Castle 2-3 hours Tel 01833 660202

### Refreshments

Barnard Castle Tel 01833 690909  
The Bowes Museum Tel 01833 694605  
Middleton in Teesdale Tel 01833 641000  
Teesdale Hotel, Middleton in Teesdale Tel 01833 640264

### Commentary

Teesdale's international connections begin with **The Bowes Museum** in Barnard Castle. An extraordinary building in the style of a French chateau this was a purpose built museum founded in 1892 by John Bowes and his French born wife, Josephine. The internationally important art collection includes paintings by **El Greco** and **Canaletto** and porcelain and ceramics from **France** and **Germany**. But it is the English made 18<sup>th</sup> century **Silver Swan** which steals the show with its daily performance – an absolute must!

**Rokeby Hall and Park** is an elegantly designed Palladian style house. In June 1809 the Scottish born writer and poet, **Sir Walter Scott**, stayed as a guest of **John Bacon Morritt** and was inspired by his surroundings to compose the poem "Rokeby". Rokeby Hall is also associated with Spanish artist **Diego Velazquez** (1599-1660). "The Toilet of Venus" is the only surviving example of a female nude by Velazquez and is commonly known as the "**Rokeby Venus**" because the painting hung here before its acquisition by the National Gallery in London, where it remains on display today.

**Barnard Castle** is an attractive historic market town and was named after **Bernard Balliol** who rebuilt the wooden castle in stone in 1125. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century his descendent, John Balliol, gave money for the founding of **Balliol College at Oxford University**. Explore the romantic ruins of the castle and discover the Sensory Garden and wonderful views across the River Tees. In the town's main street is the building where novelist **Charles Dickens** (1812-1870) stayed whilst researching "Nicholas Nickleby".

**Romalldkirk** is a picturesque Teesdale village with stone built houses surrounding a wide village green. The "Cathedral of the Dales" is dedicated to St Romald, English born in 650AD but revered in monasteries as far away as **Sweden**. Reginald Bligh, the local Rector in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, was cousin to the more infamous William Bligh of Mutiny on the Bounty fame (1789) giving Romalldkirk a surprising link with the exotic **South Pacific**.

Local place names here reflect Teesdale's links with ancient **Scandinavia**. "Thwaite", "garth" and "Balder" are all reminders of the Norse invaders of the 10<sup>th</sup> century who left their influence on local dialect.

**Middleton in Teesdale** has long existed as a market town but in the 19<sup>th</sup> century its prosperity leapt forward when it became headquarters of the London Lead Company. The surrounding **North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** has geology of international importance universally recognised in 2003 with its designation as Great Britain's first **European Geopark**. Thus Teesdale is linked to similar areas in **Italy, France** and **Spain**.

Finally, to **Raby Castle** near **Staindrop** ("saen-throp" or "stoney village"). Today's castle occupies the site of the early-11th century hunting lodge of **King Cnut** who became **King of Norway, Denmark** and **England** earning him the title "Emperor of the North". The name Raby comes from "Ra" the **Danish** for a boundary and "Bi" meaning a settlement. In medieval times the powerful **Nevill** family (Earls of Westmorland) helped shape English history but forfeited their estate after the disastrous Rising of the North (1569). The **Vane** family then came into ownership and in 1636 Sir Henry Vane the Younger was elected **Governor of Massachusetts**. Who would have thought Teesdale's international connections reached across the Atlantic Ocean?

### **"GET ACTIVE"**

#### **Bowes Museum to Egglestone Abbey.**

**Distance: 1.5 miles – 4 miles OS Landranger Map 92**

Diagonally opposite The Bowes Museum gated entrance a public footpath sign leads across fields (stone stiles) to the River Tees. With the river on your right walk along the riverbank then follow a steep uphill path through woodland to access Abbey Bridge. Cross the River Tees here and turn immediately right to Egglestone Abbey.

Return the same way or extend the walk by following public footpaths from near Egglestone Abbey, across fields, in the direction of Barnard Castle where a footbridge over the River Tees leads back to the town centre.

#### **Raby Castle Deer Park**

**0.5 miles-3 miles. Leaflet available from Raby Estates.**

**Pleasant walking through the Deer Park. NB: deer should not be approached especially in springtime when the females have their young with them. Any young deer which is found in the undergrowth should be left alone.**