

Explore TEESDALE



Teesdale Tour

The Perfect Pennine Day

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.

THE PERFECT PENNINE DAY

Teesdale is the hub of the vast North Pennine upland area. This is a full day exploring the best the area has to offer with a stop at an award-winning visitor attraction....

Route

Barnard Castle – B6277 - Cotherstone - Romaldkirk – Middleton in Teesdale – High Force – B6277 – Alston – A689 – Nenthead – Stanhope – B6278 and unclassified road – Blanchland – B6306 – B6307 – Dilston – A69 – Corbridge – A68 south – West Auckland – A688 – Barnard Castle

Coach Timings

Barnard Castle – High Force 40 mins
 High Force – Alston 45 mins
 Alston – Stanhope 45 mins
 Stanhope – Corbridge 45 mins
 Corbridge – Barnard Castle 1 hour 15 mins

Attractions

Barnard Castle 2-3 hours Tel 01833 638212
 High Force 45 mins Tel 01833 640209
 High House Chapel and Weardale Museum 45 mins Tel 01388 537417
 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 45 mins Tel 01833 622292
 Durham Dales Centre 1 hour Tel 01388 527650
 Blanchland 45 mins
 Corbridge 1 hour

Refreshments

Barnard Castle Tel 01833 690909
 High Force hotel Tel 01833 622222
 Alston: various
 Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope Tel 01833 527650
 Blanchland: White Monk Tearooms Tel 01434 675044 or Lord Crewe Arms hotel
 Tel 01434 675251
 Corbridge: various

Commentary

Barnard Castle is the perfect gateway to the North Pennines with its mix of cultural opportunities including **The Bowes Museum** and the **castle** ruins and its shopping choices. **Market Day** (Wednesday) or the award winning **Farmers' Market** (1st Saturday of each month) have a great atmosphere and **The Bank** is good for antique shops.

Cotherstone is home to Hannah Hauxwell, the retired Dales farmer featured in the 1970s TV documentary "Too Long a Winter". In June the annual scarecrow festival takes place in the village – spot the best on the drive through. Cross the River Tees at **Middleton in Teesdale** and at the 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.

This side of Teesdale is peppered with whitewashed farm buildings, a trademark of the Raby Estate ownership. **High Force** waterfall is a perfect stop to admire the **River Tees** in all its thunderous glory (small charge. Approx. 12 mins walk to view falls). Beyond **Langdon Beck** the character of the landscape changes. Leaving the pastoral landscape behind the journey through **Upper Teesdale** to **Alston** is through awesome upland landscape where black grouse and merlins nest and sheep dominate the farming economy.

Lead-mining was a significant industry in **Alston** and the surrounding dales. **Killhope the North of England Lead-Mining Museum** in Weardale is an award winning museum vividly bringing to life the working and living conditions of those hardy leadminers. Underground tours available.

Teesdale and **Weardale** share a common heritage of Methodism and **High House Chapel** at **Ireshopeburn** in Weardale and **Newbiggin Chapel** in **Teesdale** are both worth visiting.

North of **Stanhope** and **Crawleyside** the moorland road runs parallel to the route of the Stanhope and Tyne railway (1834). A left turn onto an unclassified road (coach accessible) leads to a small village with a big history. **Blanchland** was established by Premonstratensian Canons in the 12th century on the banks of the River Derwent and is now an estate village owned by the Lord Crewe Charity. Full of charm and worth a stop (coach parking).

Corbridge is a prosperous village with a Roman fort on its outskirts. In the village centre the Vicar's Pele Tower is a reminder of the troublesome medieval Border Reivers who frequently raided Corbridge.

Return via the A68 south to **Barnard Castle** to complete this "Perfect Pennine" Day.

"GET ACTIVE"

High Force to Low Force

1.5 miles (1-way)

OS Landranger Map 92

Exit the coach park at High Force, turn left and cross the road. Walk a few yards to a public footpath sign which leads through a gate onto a downhill path towards steep stone steps (chain link handrail). Join the riverside footpath. Downstream is Holwick Head Bridge. Cross this to join the Pennine Way to Low Force and Wynch Bridge.

Blanchland to Baybridge

0.75 miles (1-way)

OS Landranger Map 87

Starting point near village Sports Club. "Access for All" surfaced footpath suitable for wheelchair access.

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.

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.