Day one – Durham City

AM

Start your day with a stroll through the historic streets of Durham City where you will find high street names jostling for attention alongside independent shops, boutiques and quirky craft shops.

After lunch, stroll up to Durham Cathedral, voted the UK’s No. 1 Landmark in TripAdvisor’s inaugural Travellers’ Choice attraction awards in 2013. The cathedral is an example of breathtaking Romanesque architecture, exquisite stained glass, the Shrine of St Cuthbert and the resting place of St Bede. Guided tours of the cathedral are available and you can even climb the Cathedral Tower to enjoy an incredible view of medieval Durham City below.

Across Palace Green is Durham Castle, which dates back to the time of the Norman Conquest. The castle is a registered museum as well as being the home of University College, the founding College of Durham University. More than 100 students live in the castle during term however guided tours are still available.

The cathedral and castle were awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 1986 and the Durham World Heritage Site Visitor Centre provides an overview of just what is so special about the site along with Durham’s heritage.

PM

Take some tranquil time out in one of the county’s many green spaces. Described in Country Life as having ‘history, romance and beauty’ Crook Hall and Gardens is an oasis of calm just a short walk from Durham City centre along the banks of the River Wear. Visitors from all over the world come to share the magic of the 13th Century hall and its idyllic English Gardens.

Then head to Durham University’s Botanic Garden to get back to nature. Set among beautiful woodlands on the southern outskirts of the city, the 25-acre garden offers a wealth of attractions that will appeal to all and family activities take place throughout the year.

Across the road from the Botanic Garden is the Oriental Museum, the only museum in the North of Britain dedicated solely to the art and architecture of the Orient. Highlights include Chinese and Ancient Egyptian collections of international importance, together with collections from Japan, Korea the Near and Middle East, the Himalayas, India and South East Asia.

Discover the story of the Durham Light Infantry – the county’s own regiment – at the DLI Museum and learn about ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives. The building also houses Durham Art Gallery, the county’s largest modern and contemporary art gallery.

Find out more about Durham City, visit: thisisdurham.com/explore
Day two – Vale of Durham

**AM**

On your second day, head into the Vale of Durham and explore the area’s history and heritage. **Beamish – the Living Museum of the North**, named by the Daily Telegraph as one of the UK’s Top 10 UK Culture sites and attractions, vividly brings the senses alive. Take a tram ride into the past to visit the Edwardian Town, Pit Village and Railway Station. Explore Georgian life at Pockerley Old Hall and visit the Second World War Farm.

Durham is the Cradle of the Railways and is home to the **Tanfield Railway**, the world’s oldest railway. Take a scenic journey through the countryside on Victorian-style wooden carriages and visit **Causey Arch**, an engineering marvel that pre-dates the Stockton & Darlington Railway by almost a century.

**PM**

There’s more railway history to be soaked up at **Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon**. It has more than 70 heritage rail vehicles from the National Collection on display, including the original Sans Pareil. In addition to the permanent collection Locomotion has a range of visiting engines.

**Auckland Castle** is one of the best preserved medieval Bishops’ palaces in Europe, situated in the market town of Bishop Auckland and surrounded by stunning parkland. Home to the Bishops of Durham for more than 900 years, the castle houses many important works of art, most notably the paintings of Jacob and his Twelve Sons by Francisco de Zurbarán.

**Find out more about the Vale of Durham, visit: thisisdurham.com/explore**
Eating Out

Whether it’s dining out, calling into a cosy pub, lounging in a café or stocking up at a farm shop or market, you’ll find a wealth of options to cater for every taste.

Let the Taste Durham mark guide you; the food quality mark, proudly displayed by more than 60 food and drink businesses across the county ensures you a warm welcome and the finest fare.

**Fine dining**

**Byron Bar and Grill**, Seaham Hall, Lord Byrons Walk, Seaham, County Durham, SR7 7AG
W: www.seaham-hall.co.uk  T: +44 191 516 1400

The Byron Bar and Grill is exactly that, a delicious sea grill, perfect for a scrumptious dinner for two or a convivial place for a group of friends to gather to enjoy great food delivered with a warmth and a big dollop of panache.

**Bistro 21**, Aykley Heads House, Durham City, DH1 5TS
W: www.bistro21.com  T: +44 191 384 4354

Bistro-style dishes served in simple surroundings with just the right amount of chic. Flavours come from fuss-free presentation, the most seasonal of ingredients.

**Gastropubs**

**South Causey Inn**, Beamish Burn Road, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 0LS
W: www.southcausey.co.uk  T: +44 207 235555

A friendly, welcoming independent hotel situated half a mile from Beamish museum, South Causey Inn has a menu that will definitely make you full but wanting more.

**The Lambton Worm**, North Road, Chester-le-Street, DH3 4AJ
W: www.thebroadchare.co.uk  T: +44 191 211 2144

A brewery tap for Sonnet 43 Brew House, the Lambton Worm comprises a traditional bar and a gastro restaurant. The menu is a modern take on traditional British cuisine with dishes paired to beers for a sensational taste experience.

**Great food on a budget**

**Market Tavern**, 27 Market Place, Durham City, DH1 3NJ
W: www.taylor-walker.co.uk/pub/market-tavern-durham  T: +44 191 386 2069

The Market Tavern is a traditional pub situated in the centre of Durham City on the picturesque Market Square. The venue has a good range of ales and also serves food, including Sunday lunch.

**El Coto Spanish Restaurant**, 17 Hallgarth, Durham City, DH1 3AT
W: www.elcoto.co.uk  T: +44 191 384 4007

El Coto is a Spanish restaurant specialising in delicious, authentic, home-cooked Spanish tapas with rustic, intimate surroundings. Dining is over two floors and there is a bar area to enjoy a drink before and after your meal.

Find out more about eating out in Durham, visit: thisisdurham.com/food-and-drink

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Visitor Contact Centre

With excellent knowledge of the area, the experienced, professional staff in Durham’s official Visitor Contact Centre are on hand to help before and during your visit.

**CALL:** 03000 26 26 26  **EMAIL:** visitor@thisisdurham.com

**TEXT:** ‘Visit’ and your enquiry to 80011  **SKYPE:** ThisisDurham

Monday to Saturday 9.30am-5.30pm. Sunday 11am-4pm. Bank Holidays 11am-4pm.

Calls - cost of a local call, calls from mobiles may vary. Texts - standard network charges apply. Please note: The Visitor Contact Centre is not open to the public for face to face enquiries.