

The 3 N's Tour - Norma's Nostalgic Northumbria (5 Day Tour)



Northumbria is an area of magnificent scenery and is famous for its castles and broad golden beaches. Many stretches of the sweeping coastline are designated areas of natural beauty and are dotted with pretty fishing villages, such as Craster, famous for its Oak-smoked kippers and Bamburgh, famed for its rocky fortress. Testimony to the region's turbulent past are the many magnificent castles such as Alnwick, Durham and Lindisfarne

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Day 1 The start of another wonderful trip ! Departing Caldicot by 0800, we begin our leisurely journey to beautiful Northumbria, looking forward to an array of contrasting scenery, from castles to coastline. Comfort stops along the way will be made, and we will arrive at our hotel in plenty of time to relax and freshen up before our evening meal.

Day 2 After a typically hearty breakfast, we leave the hotel to enjoy a day at Alnwick Castle Gardens, one of the most stunning and contemporary gardens in the world. Just ten years ago, Alnwick Gardens were derelict and forgotten, but the Duchess of Northumberland imagined creating beautiful public gardens for families to enjoy, and so the Alnwick Garden project began.

The Alnwick Garden is now a vibrant place, with beautifully landscaped gardens, magnificent architecture and unique features, all brought to life with water. The Garden's centrepiece is the Grand Cascade, an iconic structure and the largest water feature of its kind in the country. Inviting pathways lead among beds brimming with plants in the Rose and Ornamental Gardens, while in the intriguing Poison Garden guides share tales of deadly plants. The Serpent Garden is home to water sculptures by William Pye, and there's also the Bamboo Labyrinth and even one of the world's largest tree houses. It has wobbly rope bridges, walkways in the sky and a treetop restaurant.

Day 3 After breakfast today, we will be joined by Blue Badge Tour Guide, Tom Keating. Starting at 0900, Tom will begin our two day tour of the area by taking us to some wonderful places, such as Ford & Etal, Holy Island and then along the coastal road to Bamburgh, which has one of the finest beaches on the Northumberland coast. The beach itself is overlooked by the impressive and imposing Bamburgh Castle. We return to our hotel with time to relax and look forward to a fabulous evening meal.



Day 4 We leave after breakfast, again at 0900, joining Tom for a second day, taking in some of the best that Northumberland has to offer. A tour of Northumberland is not complete without visiting the wonderful city of Newcastle, after which we will take the coastal route through places such as Warkworth and Alnmouth, and on to Craster. There will be an opportunity to take lunch in one of the cafes, or in the Jolly Fisherman pub, before we head off to Howick Hall Gardens, which was voted in BBC Gardener's World as one of the top 5 coastal gardens in the country.

The gardens at Howick are deliberately aimed at garden lovers with the extensive grounds offering a wide variety of plants throughout the year.

After an afternoon exploring the gardens, we will return back to our hotel, with enough time to recharge our batteries, relax and ready ourselves for our evening meal.

Day 5 Sadly, after a last fulfilling breakfast, it's time to say a fond "Farewell" to Northumberland, and make our way back to South Wales.

Your Hotel

A Grade II Listed Victorian hotel in the heart of Newcastle

Like the city itself, The County Hotel, Newcastle is a fascinating mix of the old and new. Directly opposite the railway station, it's a Victorian Listed building, which has been sympathetically restored and brought right up to date



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