



REGIONAL GUIDE

DISCOVER NORTHUMBERLAND | 5 Must-Do Activities



Bamburgh castle on the stunning Northumberland coast

Discovering Northumberland:

Five Must-Do Activities for a Jolly Good Time!

Welcome to Northumberland, England's best-kept secret!

Nestled in the northeast, this gem offers more than just stunning landscapes and historical sites

Here are the top five things to do in Northumberland, sprinkled with a bit of humour and a dash of local charm

1. Explore Alnwick Castle

Feel like a wizard, or just an enthusiastic muggle...

Alnwick Castle isn't just another medieval fortress; it's the Hogwarts of the North! As you wander through its majestic halls, keep an eye out for any broomsticks that might take off on their own. While you're unlikely to spot Harry or Hermione, you can still enjoy a broomstick flying lesson (though gravity remains undefeated). Don't forget to visit the beautiful gardens, but watch out for the deadly poison garden—one whiff of certain plants and you might find yourself needing a real-life Professor Snape!



Facts and figures:

Website: www.alnwickcastle.com

Owner: Ralph Percy, 12th Duke of Northumberland

Built: 11th Century

Filmed here: Harry Potter, Downton Abbey, Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves

Rooms: Over 150!

Fun fact: Alnwick castle is the second largest inhabited castle in England



2. Walk The Wall

Channel Your Inner Roman at Hadrian's Wall

Hadrian's Wall is Northumberland's version of an ancient treadmill. Stretching 73 miles, it was built by the Romans to keep the Scots out—or perhaps they just wanted a scenic route for their morning jogs. Today, you can walk along this UNESCO World Heritage Site, imagining life as a Roman soldier. Just think: two thousand years ago, a legionary might have stood right where you are, pondering the same question: "Why is it so windy here?"

Facts and figures:

Hadrian's Wall was built around 122 AD, making it almost 2000 years old!

Length: 73 miles, starting at Wallsend, and ending at Bowness-on-Solway

It took 15,000 men six years to build it!

Best place to visit: Walltown Crags near Housesteads

Fun fact: The Romans brought burgers to the North East!

3. Stargazing in Kielder

An Evening with the Cosmos

Kielder Forest is not just for the tree-huggers; it's also a designated Dark Sky Park. This means it's one of the best places in the UK to stargaze, provided you can tell your Orion from your Ursa Major. Bring a blanket, some hot cocoa, and a basic knowledge of constellations—or just make up your own! "Ah, yes, that cluster of stars looks exactly like my cat after he knocked over the trash bin."



Facts and figures:

Website: kielderobservatory.org

Number of stars in the known universe: 200 billion trillion! (estimated)

Other things to do: Bike rides, walks, watersports, see rare red squirrels

Fun fact: Kielder forest is the largest man-made woodland in England with three-quarters of its 250 square miles covered by forest

4. Visit Holy Island

A Tidal Treasure Hunt

Holy Island, or Lindisfarne, is accessible only at low tide, making every visit a timed adventure. It's like playing an epic game of "The Floor is Lava," but with water. This serene island boasts a rich history, including an ancient priory and a castle perched on a dramatic hill. Just remember to check the tide schedule, or you might end up spending the night with some very confused seals!



Facts and figures:

The island is three miles long and one mile wide

There are only 160 residents here but a whopping 650,000 visitors per year!

Lindisfarne Castle was used by Henry VIII to prevent attacks from Scotland

Fun fact: The 'island' is only an island at high tide! At low tide you can walk or drive across but always check tide times first as the sea always comes back!

5. Visit Bamburgh Beach

More Than Just a Pretty Castle View

Bamburgh Beach offers breathtaking views of Bamburgh Castle, which stands majestically against the backdrop of the North Sea. But there's more to do here than just marvel at the castle (although it's worth it). Why not try your hand at sandcastle building? Aim high, but keep in mind the competition: the real castle has been standing for over 1,400 years, so your work might be cut out for you.



Facts and figures:

Bamburgh castle dates back to the 12th Century

Scenes from Transformers: The Last Knight were filmed here

Bamburgh beach is just over 1.5 miles long

Fun fact: Legend has it that Bamburgh Castle was built on the site where King Arthur himself once held court

Eat Like a Local

While you're exploring, don't forget to fuel up with some local delicacies. Try a "stottie" (a thick, round bread) or some fresh seafood. And if you're feeling particularly adventurous, sample some Craster kippers—just don't expect a kiss afterwards!

Northumberland is a place where history and nature meet in a dance as old as time, with a rhythm that's uniquely its own. Whether you're a history buff, a nature lover, or just someone looking for a bit of fun, Northumberland has something to offer. So pack your bags, lace up your walking boots, and get ready for an adventure filled with laughs and awe-inspiring sights. Just don't forget to wave at the sheep—they've been known to wave back!



Here's a few traditional Northumberland foods to try on your trip:

1. Smoked kippers from Craster and Seahouses
2. Lindisfarne oysters
3. Singing hinnies
4. Ham and pease pudding stotties
5. Pan haggerty
6. Berwick cockles