



# Newcastle & Northeast England

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Jolly Fisherman (p643)
- ➔ Cross Lanes Organic Farm Shop (p633)
- ➔ Bouchon Bistrot (p638)
- ➔ Broad Chare (p625)
- ➔ House of Tides (p626)

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Langley Castle Hotel (p638)
- ➔ Marshall Meadows Country House Hotel (p648)
- ➔ Otterburn Castle Country House Hotel (p641)
- ➔ Jesmond Dene House (p625)

## Why Go?

The irrepressible city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne anchors England's northeast. Set on the mighty River Tyne, this former industrial powerhouse's steep hills are lined with handsome Victorian buildings, and many of its one-time factories and warehouses have been transformed into galleries, museums, bars and entertainment venues. Newcastle's nightlife is legendary, and revelling in an evening on the tiles here is a quintessential experience.

Newcastle is also an ideal gateway for escaping into the northeast's utterly wild, starkly beautiful countryside – from the rounded Cheviot Hills to brooding Northumberland National Park and the remote North Pennines. Spectacular Hadrian's Wall cuts a lonely path through the landscape, dotted with dramatic fortress ruins that are haunting reminders of the bloody struggle with the Scots to the north, while the region's unspoilt coastline takes in long, desolate beaches, wind-worn castles and tiny, magical islands offshore.

## When to Go

- ➔ Costumed re-enactments and Roman celebrations take place throughout the year at Hadrian's Wall.
- ➔ The best time to discover the region's miles of wide sandy beaches is during the summer season (June to August), although for surfers, Tynemouth's world-class waves are best (if chilliest) in winter and spring.
- ➔ September and October are great for losing yourself in the autumnal landscapes of Northumberland National Park.
- ➔ September is also the month to grab a Newkie Brown ale, or your running shoes, and join the party along the route of Tyneside's Great North Run, one of the world's biggest half-marathons.

# Newcastle & Northeast England Highlights

- 1 Victoria Tunnel** (p623) Exploring a coal-wagon tunnel and WWII air-raid shelter beneath Newcastle's streets.
- 2 Kielder Observatory** (p640) Stargazing from this observatory in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park.
- 3 Holy Island (Lindisfarne)** (p646) Negotiating the tidal causeway to reach this other-worldly pilgrimage site.
- 4 Bowes Museum** (p633) Viewing extraordinary objects d'art in this château-housed museum at Barnard Castle.
- 5 Berwick Walls** (p647) Circumnavigating

