

THINGS TO DO – DURHAM

There are so many amazing things to do in Durham, so why not make a weekend of it and explore this great city!

Durham Cathedral

Durham Cathedral has been a place of worship, welcome and hospitality for almost a millennium, inspiring all who come. Built in 1093 to house the Shrine of St Cuthbert, Durham Cathedral is renowned for its magnificent Romanesque architecture and spectacular location at the heart of the Durham World Heritage Site. It is also the resting place of the Venerable Bede.



Durham University Oriental Museum

The Oriental Museum is the only museum in the North of England devoted entirely to the art and archaeology of the great cultures of North Africa and Asia. The world class collections cover Ancient Egypt, West Asia, the Himalayas, India, China, Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia. Objects on display range in date from prehistoric to contemporary art works. Go and see ancient Egyptian mummies, Chinese porcelain created for the imperial court, Japanese woodblock prints and head-hunting swords from Borneo.



The Gala Theatre

The centrepiece of Durham's cultural offer, Gala Theatre is situated in a beautiful, purpose-built £15m building on the banks of the River Wear in the heart of this historic city. Whether you are interested in watching drama from one of the country's leading theatre companies, laughing along to some of the biggest names in comedy, seeing some inspiring bands and musicians, or treating the children to an engaging theatre show, you'll experience the very best in entertainment and culture at our venue.



Beamish - The Living Museum

Experience a real sense of the past at Beamish and discover what life was like in North East England in the 1820s, 1910s and 1940s. Beamish is a living, working museum, set in 300 acres of beautiful Durham countryside. Costumed folk bring to life the Town, Pit Village, Home Farm and Pockerley Old Hall. Experience first-hand how the Industrial Revolution transformed agricultural life in the region.

Durham University Botanic Garden

Wander through the Alpine Garden, Winter Garden, Bamboo Grove, Woodland Garden and wild flower meadow. With many places to sit and muse, view the Modern Art or watch the bees in action in their hive. Walk through the desert house to see the collection of cacti that thrive in this arid climate. Into the tropical rainforest house, see and feel what it is like to be in such environs! It contains a unique collection of plants and just beyond see some of its indigenous inhabitants, bugs, scorpions and tarantulas!



Museum of Archaeology

Explore 10,000 years of Durham in the permanent displays of the Museum of Archaeology at Palace Green Library. Living on the Hills: 10,000 years of Durham includes some of the most important and historically significant objects from the Museum of Archaeology, alongside objects from across Durham University and other regional museums to explore what happened to Durham and the local area over the last 10,000 years.



Finchale Priory

The very extensive remains of a 13thC priory, founded on the site of a retired pirate's hermitage. Part of it later served as a holiday retreat for the monks of Durham Cathedral. Beautifully sited by the River Wear, it can be reached from Durham via a delightful riverside and woodland walk.

Crook Hall and Gardens

Visitors from all over the world come to share the magic of 13th Century Crook Hall and its idyllic English gardens. Soak up the atmosphere over a homemade cream tea in the pretty courtyard. A short walk from the Cathedral and described in Country Life as having 'history, romance and beauty', it's just waiting to capture your heart.



Durham Castle

Durham Castle, together with the Cathedral, was awarded the status of a World Heritage Site in 1986 providing international recognition for this unique, historic and scenic site. Standing side by side on a prominent hill top site and encircled by the wooded slopes of the meandering River Wear, the Castle overlooks the medieval City of Durham with its fascinating narrow streets.

Durham County Cricket Club

Durham County Cricket Club was established in 1882 and celebrated its 21st anniversary as a First-Class County in 2013. Now known as the Emirates Riverside Cricket Ground, it hosted its first ever Ashes Test match in the same year. Emirates Riverside is a world class sporting and music venue which regularly attracts visitors from all over the world. The complex includes Austins Bar and a Learning Centre which is located on the ground floor of the Media and Education Centre.



For further information on the above sites or to see what else Durham can offer please visit <https://www.thisisdurham.com/things-to-do>