

SOME OTHER REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS

UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE

Held in May this year on the River Tyne between Newcastle and Durham Universities. You can watch this from the quayside. (Free)

SUNDERLAND AIR SHOW

This is usually held towards the end of July and is held along the coastline at Seaburn & Roker. Although it is free to attend the event you will need to get the Metro to Seaburn.

GREAT NORTH RUN

Held in September it is one of the world's biggest half marathon events and goes from Newcastle to South Shields. It starts on the central motorway just by the turning for the University so it is within walking distance if you want to watch the start. (Free to watch)

THE HOPPINGS

Europe's largest travelling fair held on the Town Moor which is always in the last full week of June.

JUICE

Annual festival for children and young people with fun-packed events, performances and activities taking place in the October half term.

THE MELA

Newcastle Asian Arts, Music and Culture Festival on 31st July & 1 August 2010 and likely to be around the same time of year during the next two years.

Finally, I hope that this booklet has given you some ideas to get you started on some trips out and about the region. This is only a guide and there is much more to see in Newcastle and the North East. Newcastle and the surrounding region are full of history, culture and stunning countryside. It is well worth exploring.

I'm sure this will enhance the Newcastle experience for you and your families.

Alison Pattison,
SAGE Faculty Office

SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE & ENGINEERING GRADUATE SCHOOL

FAMILY FUN



INTRODUCTION



In the Science, Agriculture and Engineering Faculty (SAgE) we appreciate that a number of students bring families to Newcastle with them whilst undertaking their studies and it is often difficult to find activities that keep young children

amused in a city that you are unfamiliar with.

To help you and your family we have put together this booklet to get you started. It contains some ideas for family activities in the North-East.



We have included family activities in your new home city and surrounding area that are easily accessible by public transport.

There is also information about where to find more suggestions for nearby family activities. We hope you find the guide helpful and that it helps you and your family explore and settle into your new home.

GETTING AROUND

While you have come to Newcastle to study, we know that you need to find activities that will entertain you and your family. Newcastle is a vibrant city with beautiful surrounding areas and full of suitable family activities.

Newcastle tourist information centres are a good place to start looking and provide an excellent source for local activities in the region. They can provide you with a Pocket Guide which provides information to Newcastle, Gateshead, Sunderland, North Tyneside and South Tyneside.

Tourism Information Centres can be found at:

The Guildhall,

Quayside,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 3AF

Tel: 0191 277 800

Opening hours: Monday – Friday 10am to 5pm,
Saturday 9am to 5pm, Sunday 9am to 4pm

8-9 Arcade Centre

Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 5BQ

Tel: 0191 277 8000

Opening hours: Monday - Friday 9.30am to 5.30pm,
Saturday 9am to 5.30pm

Other useful websites for information about family attractions and events in the North-East

Durham Tourist Board: www.thisisdurham.com

Newcastle Tourist Board: www.visitnewcastlegateshead.com

Northumbria Tourist Board: www.visitnortheastengland.com

Sunderland Tourist Board: www.visitsunderland.com

NewcastleGateshead: www.newcastlegateshead.com

The Little Pages: www.the-little-pages.co.uk

Public Transport in Newcastle and the North East

Travelling around the North-East region is relatively easy. The city of Newcastle is compact and a lot of places are within 15-20mins walking distance. One popular means of travel in Newcastle is the Metro, which links Newcastle with nearby towns and the city of Sunderland. Aside from the Metro, another popular form of public transport is by bus.

Metro

One of the quickest ways to get about Newcastle and the surrounding local areas is the Metro. The Metro is the local transport rail system, which links the city centre with the

suburbs, Gateshead, Sunderland and towns on the coast. The nearest station to the Newcastle University campus is Haymarket. Tickets for the Metro can be purchased, using cash, from ticket machines located at the Metro stations. You can also purchase Metro travel cards, which will save money if you are planning to travel on the Metro regularly. Metro travel cards can be purchased from the Haymarket or Monument stations.

For more information visit www.nexus.org.uk/metro

Bus

Newcastle is provided with regular local bus services that run from various points in the city to other city destinations and the surrounding area. You can purchase bus tickets when you travel or advance pre-paid travel cards. The two main providers of public bus services in Newcastle are Nexus and GoNorthEast. For more information about routes and prices visit www.nexus.org.uk/bus and www.simplygo.com

For travelling to Northumberland it is recommended you travel on Arriva bus services. The Arriva bus service provides services that interlink Newcastle with Morpeth, Alnwick, Alnmouth and Berwick. For more information about Arriva bus services and prices visit www.arrivabus.co.uk

The main bus stations in Newcastle are Haymarket Bus Station and Eldon Square Bus Station. Both stations are close to the campus.

Explorer North-East Family Tickets

An ideal means of family public transport in the North East is the Explorer North East ticket option. A family Explorer North East ticket will cost around £16 (2 adults and 3 children) and permit travel around the North East region for one day. Purchasing an Explorer North-East Family ticket allows your family the opportunity to visit more than one North-East location in one day. The ticket is valid on Stagecoach Cumbria Route 685 (Carlisle - Newcastle), on the Tyne and Wear Metro, on the Shields Ferry and on main line trains between Newcastle and Sunderland. Explorer North-East tickets are available from bus drivers or in advance from travel shops.

For more information about the Explorer North-East visit www.explorernortheast.co.uk

TRIPS CLOSE TO CAMPUS



THE GREAT NORTH MUSEUM

Located in Newcastle, the Great North Museum is managed by Tyne and Wear Archive & Museums on behalf of Newcastle University and is home to various exhibitions and collections. The museum is located next to our campus at Newcastle University and within a short walking distance of the Haymarket Metro Station and Bus Station. Admission is free!

CONTACT

Great North Museum

Tel: 0191 222 6765

Website: www.twmuseums.org.uk

DISCOVERY MUSEUM

The Discovery Museum aims to educate about the changing life in Newcastle and Tyneside. The Museum covers maritime history, world-changing science and technology, fashion eras and military history. The museum has interactive displays, making it the perfect place for the whole family to learn and have fun. The Discovery Museum is located in the city centre. The museum is only ten minutes walk from the University campus.

CONTACT

Discovery Museum

Tel: 0191 232 6789

Website: www.twmuseums.org.uk/discovery



OPEN TOP BUS TOUR



An ideal way to familiarise yourself and your family with Newcastle is to take an open top bus tour. You will be able to view the highlights of the city's architecture and many different locations. Included in the tour is audio commentary (in English) to provide information about the city and the featured locations. Among the sites you will see on the tour are the Baltic Gallery, St James' Park, the Sage Concert Hall and the Gateshead Millennium Bridge. The first tour stop departs from Central Station every 30 or 60 minutes. You can also begin the tour from other designated stops.

CONTACT

Open Top Bus Tour

Tel: 0191 228 8900

Website: www.tinyurl.com/newcastlebustour

CENTRE FOR LIFE

Located in the city centre near to the Central Station, the Centre for Life is a science village that is open to visit. Inside the centre is a planetarium, audiovideo films and live science experiments. In the winter there is also an outside ice rink. The Centre for Life is five minutes walk from Central Station.



CONTACT

Centre for Life

Tel: 0191 243 8210

Website: www.life.org.uk

ANGEL OF THE NORTH



The largest sculpture in England and an iconic symbol for the North-East of England, the Angel of the North stands 20 metres high and overlooks Gateshead. There are unique Angel of the North bus services offered by Go North East (services 21 & 22). The buses depart from Eldon Square Bus Station and call in at Eighton Lodge for the Angel of the North.



WALK ON THE QUAYSIDE AREA

The quayside area of Newcastle and Gateshead is one of the most characteristic and scenic areas of the city. A walk in this area will allow you to see the famous Tyne bridges that span the river. You can also visit the Baltic Gallery or the Sage musical building on your walk. Route 1 and 2 Quaylink bus services run from the city centre to the quayside.

SEVEN STORIES

Located near to Newcastle Quayside, Seven Stories is a centre dedicated to the celebration of British children's literature. They have a changing programme of exhibitions, authors and illustrator events, storytelling, and a bookshop. Manor Station is the nearest Metro station to Seven Stories. It is around ten minutes walk from Manor Station to Seven Stories.



CONTACT

Seven Stories

Tel: 0845 271 0777

Email: info@sevenstories.org.co.uk

PUBLIC PARKS

Newcastle and Gateshead have a selection of public parks that are easily accessible. The parks make an ideal option for you and your family to enjoy a picnic in scenic surroundings and admission is generally free. Some of the parks also hold special events throughout the year.

ARMSTRONG PARK

This park is around 2km from the city centre and has entrances from Jesmond Vale Lane and Heaton. There is a bowling green, tennis courts, basketball courts and informal football grounds. The nearest Metro stop is Byker and is around 10mins walk to the park.

GOSFORTH PARK

Located in the Gosforth area of Newcastle, Gosforth Park is one of the most scenic parks in Newcastle. Facilities at the park include bowling greens, tennis courts and a playground. You can reach Gosforth Park using the Metro. The nearest Metro stations are South Gosforth and Regent Centre.

EXHIBITION PARK

Within walking distance of Newcastle University campus, Exhibition Park is an ideal parking if you and your family have sporting interests. Sporting activities provided are basketball, tennis, mini-golf, football, boating, fishing and bmxing/skating. There is also a military museum, picnic areas and gardens. For more information visit www.exhibitionpark.co.uk

JESMOND DENE

Situated between the Heaton and Jesmond areas of Newcastle there is the public Jesmond Dene. Jesmond Dene provides a nice place for a walk and has a collection of farm pets and birds. You can reach Jesmond Dene on bus services 305, 306, 307, & 308 or by getting off at the West Jesmond Metro Stop (about 15mins walk). For information about Jesmond Dene visit www.jesmonddene.org.uk



Saltwell Towers

SALTWELL PARK

A well maintained public park located in the Bensham area of Newcastle. Saltwell Park is easily reachable on either the 53 or 54 bus service which run from the city centre. For news about upcoming events visit www.saltwellpark.co.uk

TYNE RIVERSIDE COUNTRY PARK

Tyne Riverside Country Park lies on the outer west edge of Newcastle, close to Newburn and the river Tyne. It is easily reached by bus from town (no's 21 and 22 from the Central Station). The park covers about 60 hectares and features a riverside picnic area, an equipped children's play area a visitor centre and toilets.

CONTACT

A list of all the public parks in Newcastle can be found at

<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/parkshome>

SWIMMING IN NEWCASTLE

Whatever area of the city you live in, you are likely to live near a swimming pool. Many pools will operate specific times for babies and young children to swim in addition to their normal opening hours. Swimming pools in the Newcastle area are:

JESMOND POOL

Jesmond

Tel: 0191 281 2482

Website: www.jesmondpool.co.uk

WET 'N' WILD

North Shields

Tel: 01912 961333

Website: www.wetnwild.co.uk

GOSFORTH POOL

Gosforth

Tel: 0191 284 3696

OUTER WEST POOL

West Denton

Tel: 0191 277 7980

NEWCASTLE CITY POOL

City Centre

Tel: 0191 211 6249

Website: www.newcastleleisure.co.uk

BEACHES AND AROUND THE COAST



Children love to play on a beach and the Northumberland coastline offers fantastic opportunities for you to explore rock pools and the golden sandy beaches with them.

A lot of these beaches are reachable using Metro transport. Using the Metro you can visit beaches in Tynemouth, Whitley Bay and South Shields. The beaches are a perfect way to relax when the weather permits, providing an ideal, relatively inexpensive and nearby escape from the city. There are also other attractions in Whitley Bay and Tynemouth.

Further north you can also explore the golden beaches of Alnmouth, Bamburgh and Druridge Bay but you will need to get public transport to these and the journey may take over an hour and a half. (By car this will not be as long).

Be careful though as some of the beaches may not be suitable for swimming, you will need to check.

For more detailed information about the beaches in the North-East and UK visit

www.goodbeachguide.co.uk

TYNEMOUTH BLUE REEF AQUARIUM



This is a sea life centre located in the coastal town of Tynemouth and contains living displays of marine life from around the world. The Blue Reef Aquarium also has a cafe for drinks, snacks, meals and a Blue Reef Aquarium Gift Shop. You can travel to the Aquarium using the Metro, the Tynemouth station is around 10mins walk from the Aquarium.

CONTACT

Tynemouth Blue Reef Aquarium

Tel: 0191 2581031

Email: Tynemouth@bluereefaquarium.co.uk

Website: www.bluereefaquarium.co.uk/tynemouth

OCEAN BEACH PLEASURE PARK

A fun coastal attraction for children that is easily accessible. Located in South Shields, Ocean Beach has over 50 attractions that include the latest video games, a selection of cafes and food outlets and fairground rides. The park is free to enter, but you will have to pay for the fairground rides. You can reach Ocean Beach from travelling on the Metro railway. The nearest stop to Ocean Beach is located at South Shields and it is around 10mins walk from the Metro stop. You can also travel to South Shields by using local bus services from the city centre (Service 39).

CONTACT

Ocean Beach Pleasure Park

Tel: 0191 456 1617

Website: www.oceanbeach.co.uk



TYNEMOUTH TOY MUSEUM

The only toy museum in the North-East. The museum has over 7,000 toys on display dating from 1870 to 1970. You can reach the museum either by the Metro or bus. The nearest Metro station is Tynemouth, and bus service 306 goes to Tynemouth from Haymarket bus station in the city centre.

CONTACT

Tynemouth Toy Museum

Tel: 0191 259 1776

Email: info@tynemouthtoymuseum.co.uk

Website: www.tynemouthtoymuseum.com



ST MARY'S LIGHTHOUSE

Situated two miles north of Whitley Bay, the lighthouse is open seven days a week (whenever possible) between April and October. You can climb the 137 steps inside the tower to the lantern room and enjoy the spectacular North East views. The staff also run 'Rockpool Rambles' for children and families during the school holidays. Further details and admission fees can be found on the website. To get there take the metro to Whitley Bay and get either the 301, 308 or 310 to the Whitley Bay Cemetery and walk along the causeway to the lighthouse.

CONTACT

St Mary's Lighthouse

Website: www.friendsofstmarysland.co.uk

CASTLES & ROMANS

Newcastle and Northumberland have an abundance of historical sites and castles to visit in the region.

Romans have played a key part in the region's past particularly because of the building of the Roman Wall. There are many excavation sites that are open to the public and are well worth a visit although some may be difficult to get to on public transport. The closest to the city centre is Segedunum.

SEGEDUNUM

Website: www.twmuseums.org.uk/segedunum/

Others are below but they are further away:

HOUSESTEADS

Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/housesteads-roman-fort-hadrians-wall/

CHESTERS

Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/chesters-roman-fort-and-museum-hadrians-wall/

CORBRIDGE

Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/corbridge-roman-town-hadrians-wall/

BIRDOSWALD ROMAN FORT

Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/birdoswald-roman-fort-hadrians-wall/

The Northumberland region is renowned for its castles. There is a leaflet which can be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre titled Coast & Castles which can provide you with excellent information on bus travel to the most popular castles. The two below are probably the most well known castles in the region. Other castles worth visiting are Warkworth Castle, Dunstanburgh Castle and Lindisfarne Castle.

ALNWICK CASTLE

Alnwick Castle is situated in the medieval town of Alnwick, with cobbled streets and narrow alleys. Alnwick Castle has been used for many film locations, most recently as Hogwarts in the first two Harry Potter films. You can see where Harry learnt to fly. You can also visit The Alnwick Garden which has been created by the current Duchess of Northumberland whose vision was to create a garden for families to enjoy.

The best means of public transport to Alnwick Castle is by bus. You can catch a bus from the city centre city that takes you to within walking distance of the castle. Catch the number 518 bus from the Haymarket Bus Station (near campus).



CONTACT

Alnwick Castle

Tel: 01665 510777

Website: www.alnwickcastle.com

BAMBURGH CASTLE

With over 2,000 years of history, you will find Bamburgh Castle a worthwhile visit for the family. The Castle has over fourteen public areas and 3,000 items including arms, armour, glass, china furniture and artwork.

The nearest train station is Berwick-upon-Tweed station. From Berwick station take either bus service 411 or 510. From Alnwick take either the 401 or 501 bus service. Both buses from Berwick-upon-Tweed and Alnwick are provided by Arriva.



CONTACT

Bamburgh Castle

Tel: 01668 214515

Website: www.bamburghcastle.com