

# Explore **TEESDALE**

## **Teesdale Tour**

## **Perfect Pennine Day**

## **Teesdale Tours**

A selection of themed itineraries highlighting that very special Teesdale mix of great scenery, fantastic history and culture, award-winning visitor attractions and a warm, professional Teesdale welcome.

For groups wishing to "Get Active" we have included optional countryside walks. Routes require stout footwear, suitable outdoor clothing and basic map reading skills and are a great way of exploring Teesdale's treasures and of keeping fit and healthy.

OS Map numbers are provided so you can plan the exact route to suit the abilities of your group

Tour itineraries were prepared for Teesdale Marketing by Jan Williams, Registered Tourist Guide, in 2004. The information was correct at the time of writing. The information has been updated to the best of our knowledge (January 2015). However Teesdale Marketing cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Group organisers are advised to confirm opening times and arrangements for groups with individual attractions/organisations.

## THE PERFECT PENNINE DAY

Teesdale is the hub of the vast North Pennine upland area. This is a full day exploring the best the area has to offer with a stop at an award-winning visitor attraction.

### Route

Barnard Castle - B6277 - Cotherstone - Romalldkirk - Middleton in Teesdale - High Force - B6277 - Alston - A689 - Nenthead - Stanhope - B6278 and unclassified road - Blanchland - B6306 - B6307 - Dilston - A69 - Corbridge - A68 south - West Auckland - A688 - Barnard Castle

### Coach Timings

Barnard Castle - High Force	40 mins
High Force - Alston	45 mins
Alston - Stanhope	45 mins
Stanhope - Corbridge	45 mins
Corbridge - Barnard Castle	1 hour 15 mins

### Attractions

Barnard Castle	2-3 hours
High Force	45 mins
High House Chapel and Weardale Museum	45 mins
Middleton in Teesdale	1 hour
Raby Castle	2-3 hours
Newbiggin Chapel	30 mins
Bowlees Visitor Centre	45 mins
Durham Dales Centre	1 hour
Blanchland	45 mins
Corbridge	1 hour

### Refreshments

Barnard Castle	Variety of cafes/pubs
Bowlees Visitor Centre	On-site cafe
Alston	Variety of cafes/pubs
Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope	On-site cafe
Blanchland	Tearooms and bar/restaurant
Corbridge	Variety of cafes/pubs

## Commentary

Barnard Castle is the perfect gateway to the North Pennines with its mix of cultural opportunities including The Bowes Museum and the castle ruins and its shopping choices. Market Day (Wednesday) or the award winning Farmers' Market (1st Saturday of each month) have a great atmosphere and The Bank is good for antique shops.

Cotherstone is home to Hannah Hauxwell, the retired Dales farmer featured in the 1970s TV documentary "Too Long a Winter". In June the annual scarecrow festival takes place in the village - spot the best on the drive through. Cross the River Tees at Middleton in Teesdale and at the T-junction in the town centre look right for the ornate drinking fountain dedicated to Robert Bainbridge, Superintendent of the London Lead Company as his retirement present in the 1840s.

This side of Teesdale is peppered with whitewashed farm buildings, a trademark of the Raby Estate ownership. High Force waterfall is a perfect stop to admire the River Tees in all its thunderous glory (small charge. Approx. 12 mins walk to view falls). Beyond Langdon Beck the character of the landscape changes. Leaving the pastoral landscape behind the journey through Upper Teesdale to Alston is through awesome upland landscape where black grouse and merlins nest and sheep dominate the farming economy.

Lead-mining was a significant industry in Alston and the surrounding dales. Killhope the North of England Lead-Mining Museum in Weardale is an award winning museum vividly bringing to life the working and living conditions of those hardy leadminers. Underground tours available.

Teesdale and Weardale share a common heritage of Methodism and High House Chapel at Ireshopeburn in Weardale and Newbiggin Chapel in Teesdale are both worth visiting.

North of Stanhope and Crawleyside the moorland road runs parallel to the route of the Stanhope and Tyne railway (1834). A left turn onto an unclassified road (coach accessible) leads to a small village with a big history. Blanchland was established by Premonstratensian Canons in the 12th century on the banks of the River Derwent and is now an estate village owned by the Lord Crewe Charity. Full of charm and worth a stop (coach parking).

Corbridge is a prosperous village with a Roman fort on its outskirts. In the village centre the Vicar's Pele Tower is a reminder of the troublesome medieval Border Reivers who frequently raided Corbridge.

Return via the A68 south to Barnard Castle to complete this "Perfect Pennine" Day.

### **"GET ACTIVE"**

#### **High Force to Low Force**

**1.5 miles (1-way)      OS Landranger Map 92**

**Exit the coach park at High Force, turn left and cross the road. Walk a few yards to a public footpath sign which leads through a gate onto a downhill path towards steep stone steps (chain link handrail). Join the riverside footpath. Downstream is Holwick Head Bridge. Cross this to join the Pennine Way to Low Force and Wynch Bridge.**

#### **Blanchland to Baybridge**

**0.75 miles (1-way)      OS Landranger Map 87**

**Starting point near village Sports Club. "Access for All" surfaced footpath suitable for wheelchair access.**