

# Beamish Park Hotel & The Gibside Hotel

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## **BEAMISH**

### **BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE OPEN AIR MUSEUM**

Beamish is unique. We're no ordinary museum but a living, working experience of life as it was in the Great North.

Step on board our trams and we'll transport you into the past. Remember the days of the "divi" in the Co-op shops, sample the mouth-watering treats at the Jubilee Sweetshop and pay a visit to the awesome surgery of Mr. Jones, the Dentist! Catch a lesson in the Village School and meet the animals at the working Farm. Discover life in the early 1800s at Pockerley Manor and experience the beginnings of steam railways with a ride on the train at The 1825 Railway - Pockerley Waggonway. There's all this to do, to see, to feel, to smell, to touch, to taste.....and so much more.

**Telephone 0191 370 3131 or 01207 231811**

## **METROCENTRE**

### **SHOPPING AND LEISURE SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**

MetroCentre is one of Europe's largest shopping and leisure centres open seven days a week. More than 350 retailers and leisure attractions include famous names - Marks & Spencer, C&A, BHS, Littlewoods, House of Fraser, Argos and Next. In contrast, specialist shops in unique, themed areas - Forum, Antique Village, Garden Court and Mediterranean Village and feature handcrafts - offer everything from Indian art to a miner's lamp, Victorian jewellery to fishing tackle. MetroCentre has more than 50 restaurants, bars and cafes including a 650 seater food court, traditional pubs and restaurants. Many restaurants and cafes remain open after shopping and most are open on Sunday too.

Unique leisure attractions include The New MetroLand, Europe's largest indoor theme park, MetroCentre's 11 screen UCI cinema and the Megabowl Entertainment Centre offering 20 lanes of computerised ten pin bowling and Quasar - a state of the art laser game for all the family. MetroCentre is located three miles south west of Newcastle-upon-Tyne on A1 road west of Gateshead. Travelling to MetroCentre could not be easier with over **12,000 free car parking spaces, bus station, railway station, coach park which can accommodate up to 350 coaches and MetroCentre Taxis.**

**Telephone 0191 460 5299**

## **CASTLES AND PRIORIES OF NORTHUMBRIA**

There's so much to enjoy - look at the map and plan your day - whether it's coast or country, castles or gardens, Northumbria has it all.

### **Lindisfarne Priory - cradle of Christianity**

A visit to Lindisfarne Priory is a journey into our spiritual heritage. Few places are as beautiful or have such special significance. For 1300 years, it has been a place of pilgrimage - when the corpse of St. Cuthbert was discovered undecayed in 698AD, Lindisfarne became one of the holiest shrines in Christendom.

Marvel at precious Anglo-Saxon art and carvings then walk in the grounds where brutal Viking raiders plundered the priory, forcing monks into refuge on the mainland.

Visit our award-winning, lively and atmospheric museum; it explains what life was like more than a millennium ago and illustrates the drama of Lindisfarne.

**Telephone 01289 389200**

### **Etal Castle**

Discover the bloody history of border warfare and the Battle of Flodden. Experience our exciting, award-winning audio tour and exhibition, then tour the castle, including the 14th-century gatehouse and three-storey keep.

**Telephone 01890 820332**

### **Berwick-upon-Tweed Barracks**

Berwick is one of the outstanding fortified towns of Europe. The 18th-century barracks houses a number of attractions, including the "By Beat of Drum" exhibition about the British infantryman; the museum of the King's Own Scottish Borders; "Window on Berwick" exhibition; part of the famous Burrell Collection; and contemporary art exhibition.

**Telephone 01289 304493**

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### **Norham Castle**

Relish the power of a mighty border fortress built above the River Tweed in 1160. A dramatic audio tour conjures up four centuries of sieges and war with the Scots.

**Telephone 01289 382329**

### **Dunstanburgh Castle**

Take an easy walk along the dramatic coastline and explore a once splendid 14th-century fortress. Roam through the castle's dramatic and fascinating remains, climb the tower for spectacular views, and see if you can spot the unusual sea birds.

**Telephone 01665 576231**

### **Warkworth Castle**

Let our audio tour bring you all the magic of this mighty fortress. Regional court, military stronghold, massive aristocratic home - Warkworth was all of these. As home to the all-powerful Percy family it dominated the borders, and Warkworth was the key setting for Shakespeare's war-like drama, Henry IV.

The magnificent, eight-towered keep gives you so much to explore - chambers and a maze of passageways and staircases. Don't forget to visit the Hermitage, just up the river.

**Telephone 01665 711423**

### **Warkworth Hermitage**

Still much as a medieval hermit would remember it, this curious chapel is cut deep into the rock of the river cliff. Visit the castle, then stroll upstream and the ferryman will row you across the river.

### **Tynemouth Priory and Castle**

What a colourful story this place has to tell. Guarding the mouth of the River Tyne, it has been a Saxon monastery, a Benedictine priory founded in 1090, a medieval castle and a World War I gun battery!

**Telephone 0191 257 1090**

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### **Brinkburn Priory**

Take a beautiful walk and discover this almost perfectly preserved idyllic riverside priory. It dates from the 12th-century, but look out for some unusual modern sculptures in the manor house.

**Telephone 01665 570628**

### **Belsay Hall - Castle and Gardens**

Belsay's thirty acres of magnificent grounds and gardens are listed Grade I. Immerse yourself among their ornate terraces, rare plants and the mysterious quarry gardens. Wonder at the stark beauty of the neo-classical Belsay Hall and medieval Belsay Castle.

**Telephone 01661 881636**

### **Prudhoe Castle**

Come and enjoy the extensive remains of this 13th-century fortress perched on a tree-covered hill overlooking the River Tyne. Explore the Manor House, gatehouse, chapel, battlements and towers.

**Telephone 01661 833459**

### **Aydon Castle**

Combine a beautiful manor house and the strongest fortifications. Add some of England's most wonderful landscape and you have Aydon Castle, surviving almost completely intact. Aydon Castle features in the film "Elizabeth".

**Telephone 01434 632450**

### **Finchale Priory**

Uncover a remarkable history at these 13th-century priory ruins. Stroll through tranquil cloisters and enjoy its peaceful riverside setting, a natural habitat to many interesting birds. View the fine vaulted cellar beneath the refectory.

**Telephone 0191 386 3828**

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### **Barnard Castle**

Explore this imposing and dramatic castle, high above the River Tees.

**Telephone 01822 628212**

## **HADRIAN'S WALL COUNTRY**

Admire the unspoilt beauty of Hadrian's Wall Country, where the rugged countryside hides a wealth of activities and attractions.

The area preserves some of the most spectacular sections of Hadrian's Wall. Nearly 2,000 years ago this wall defined the northern frontier of Rome's mighty Empire. Today it is a World Heritage Site, with the surrounding countryside forming a stunning background and offering mile upon mile of exhilarating walks.

But there is much more to see than the Wall. To the north, the Northumberland National Park leads to the vast forest and lake at Kielder. Here, lakeside and forest trails provide a wealth of surprises and things to do. In the south of the area the hills and moors of the North Pennines shelter secluded dales and a rich heritage.

In the valleys between lie towns and villages, each with its own character and charm. Hexham is the centre and main market town for the district; its beautiful and historic face contrasts with its modern shopping, arts and leisure facilities. All around are villages: picturesque Corbridge on the banks of the Tyne, Bellingham and Allendale, quaint capitals of their respective valleys, Haltwhistle, gateway to Hadrian's wall, and Blanchland, a hidden gem in its secluded Pennine Dale.

The range of accommodation and facilities in the area is excellent. For a free holiday guide telephone the Hadrian's Wall Country Brochure Line on **01434 652364**.

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## **TANFIELD RAILWAY**

Located on Tyneside in North East England, Tanfield railway is the world's oldest existing railway, the home of railways. In 2000 the Tanfield Railway looks back as it features the first ever railway 275th anniversary celebrations. The railway is notable for its several distinct phases of coal haulage over several centuries.

The first era started in 1725 and used small, two ton wagons hauled by horses on a wooden railway. The magnificent Causey Arch was built for the opening of this era and still survives today as a feature in the Causey Countryside Park.

The second era started in 1839 and had rope worked inclines using steam engines or gravity replacing horses on the wagon haulage over the steep sections of the line.

In 1881, locomotives replaced the horses and the two steam winding engines, continuing in use along with the gravity worked, rope sections to the closure of the Causey section of the line by British Railways in 1962.

After several years of rebuilding, passenger trains started running in 1977 and on today's preserved railway, the 1725 section is used regularly. A fine selection of locos, carriages and wagons with local origins can be seen.

Rebuilding of the railway was completed in 1992 with trains passing through the full length of the Causey Woods, giving a spectacular three mile journey.

Current information about trains, special events, access and opening hours is available from:

**Telephone: 0191 3887545**