

## NewcastleGateshead Top 10 Experiences

Pick up a copy of the NewcastleGateshead Pocket Guide from Tourist Information Centres or download from [www.NewcastleGateshead.com](http://www.NewcastleGateshead.com)

The Official NewcastleGateshead city guide iPhone app is now available to download from the iTunes app store for just £1.19; search for hotels, restaurants, bars or browse upcoming events.

But, in the meantime, here are 10 great ways to explore the ‘twin cities’ of NewcastleGateshead:

### 1. Touch the feet of an Angel

The **Angel of the North** is a multi award-winning 200-tonne sculpture created by artist Antony Gormley and has become a contemporary icon for NewcastleGateshead. Standing at 20m high, it is seen by more than 33 million people every year passing by road and rail. Striking from a distance, the Angel of the North is most breathtaking close up and is well worth the 15 minute drive from the city centre. Stroll around the grass mound on which the Angel stands and don’t leave without perching on its giant feet. [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk) (Search Angel of the North)

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### 2. Bridges over the Tyne

There are seven bridges crossing the River Tyne with the most iconic found on NewcastleGateshead’s Quayside. Discover engineering masterpieces spanning the decades from the landmark **Tyne Bridge** to the newest **Gateshead Millennium Bridge**.

The Tyne Bridge was opened in 1928 by King George V and was modeled on the world famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, with both built by Dormon Long and Co of Middlesbrough.

Gateshead Millennium Bridge – or the ‘winking eye’ as it is sometimes called – is the world’s first tilting bridge. Situated on the banks of the River Tyne, linking Newcastle Quayside and Gateshead Quays, it has won a multitude of awards not least the country’s top architecture prize (Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stirling Prize), since opening in 2004. Check out [www.gateshead.gov.uk/bridge](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/bridge) before you

visit to find out scheduled tilting times (there are also information boards at either side of the bridge displaying these times). A spectacular sight, the Gateshead Millennium Bridge turns on pivots on both sides of the river to form a magnificent gateway arch resembling the opening and closing of a giant eyelid – have your camera ready!

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### 3. Find seventh heaven

To the east of the Newcastle Quayside lies the Ouseburn Valley, an area that has transformed into a thriving cultural quarter.

Featuring everything from art galleries and workshops, to pubs and eateries and attractions including **The Cluny**, one of NewcastleGateshead's coolest watering holes and live music venues.

It is also home to **Seven Stories, centre for children's books**. There was nowhere in Britain that treasured and shared the richness, diversity and innovation of the UK's authors and illustrators for children. Seven Stories has become such a place. It is the only archive and gallery in the UK dedicated to the art of children's literature. Opening in 2005, it has established a nationally important archive of modern children's literature, which is used to bring books and their creators to life, in playful exhibitions, events and inspirational learning programmes.

[www.sevenstories.org.uk/](http://www.sevenstories.org.uk/) [www.thecluny.com](http://www.thecluny.com)

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### 4. Be a culture vulture

No visit to NewcastleGateshead would be complete without soaking up some world-class culture in two high profile venues and the iconic architecture that now dominates the NewcastleGateshead Quayside. **The Sage Gateshead**, a spectacular glass and steel Sir Norman Foster building, is an international music centre with top notch acoustics. It features performances of all genres – from folk and classical to jazz and pop.

**BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art**, just two minutes walk along Gateshead Quays, is based in a converted 1950's grain warehouse. Housing five galleries it offers a changing programme of contemporary art exhibitions and has a roof top restaurant with amazing, panoramic views of Tyneside. Both are free to enter and well worth exploring. [www.thesagegateshead.org/](http://www.thesagegateshead.org/) [www.balticmill.com](http://www.balticmill.com)

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## 5. Buy your own masterpiece

NewcastleGateshead has a vast array of art galleries catering for every taste with a wide range of collections, from classical paintings of international recognition to modern art by emerging artists.

Highlights include **The Biscuit Factory**, the biggest commercial arts space in Europe, based in a beautifully restored Victorian building that was indeed once a biscuit factory. Prices for paintings, sculpture, ceramics and glass range from £20 to £20,000 – so everyone can take home their own piece of original art.

**Shipleigh Art Gallery** in Gateshead is home to the legendary painting “The Blaydon Races” by William Irvine and houses the broadest range of contemporary crafts outside of London.

[www.thebiscuitfactory.com/](http://www.thebiscuitfactory.com/) [www.twmuseums.org.uk/shipleigh](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/shipleigh)

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## 6. Admire the architecture

**Grey Street**, in the heart of NewcastleGateshead’s historic **Grainger Town**, was voted the Best Street in Britain by listeners of national station BBC Radio 4 and the area boasts more listed classical Georgian buildings than anywhere else in England, outside of Bath and the capital. As you’re exploring Grainger Town make sure you look up to enjoy the dramatic architecture on offer.

The focal point of Grainger Town is **Grey’s monument**, which was erected in 1938 to commemorate the Reform Act of 1832, introduced by the then Prime Minister Earl Grey, who was born in the North East and is probably better known for bringing the nation’s favourite Earl Grey Tea to the UK.

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## 7. Gourmet Geordies – eat out in style

NewcastleGateshead has been recognised at a national level as a new hotspot of emerging culinary talent and gourmet excellence having scooped a raft of high profile Restaurant Awards. The outstanding range and quality of the city’s restaurants never fails to surprise first time visitors. Highlights include **Café 21**, **Six@BALTIC** and **Jesmond Dene House**, all supporting local producers to create delectable dishes guaranteed to tickle taste buds.

And now every year, to celebrate the diversity and quality of local produce, NewcastleGateshead hosts **Eat! NewcastleGateshead**, a festival with an action-packed events programme which champions the best the area has to offer.

[www.jesmonddenehouse.co.uk/](http://www.jesmonddenehouse.co.uk/) [www.sixbaltic.com/](http://www.sixbaltic.com/) [www.cafetwentyone.co.uk/](http://www.cafetwentyone.co.uk/)  
[www.eatnewcastlegateshead.com](http://www.eatnewcastlegateshead.com)

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## 8. Explore the World under one roof

Explore the many exciting and interactive museums in NewcastleGateshead. The newest of which is the **Great North Museum**. It has attracted over one million visitors since opening in April 2009 after undergoing a £26million refurbishment and features a scale model of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Hadrian's Wall, natural history exhibits, mummies and a Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton.

Nearby **Discovery Museum** gives an insight into historical life on Tyneside and has an impressive interactive gallery of exhibits.

There is also the Centre for Life an award-winning science centre where imaginative exhibitions, interactive displays and special events promote greater understanding of science and provoke curiosity in the world around us.

[www.greatnorthmuseum.org](http://www.greatnorthmuseum.org) / [www.twmuseums.org.uk/discovery](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/discovery) / [www.life.org.uk](http://www.life.org.uk)

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## 9. Shop till you drop

**Metrocentre**, Gateshead is the largest indoor shopping centre in Europe following completion of the Red Mall. Metrocentre offers a huge array of high street outlets, department stores and speciality shops, all under one roof.

**Eldon Square** in the heart of Newcastle city centre's shopping experience has undergone a £170m redevelopment scheme offering a wide range of high street shops in modern surroundings.

For those looking for a more boutique shopping experience, **Jesmond**, a suburb to the north of the city centre has been dubbed 'the Notting Hill of the North' and is full of interesting and bespoke boutiques.

[www.metrocentre-gateshead.co.uk](http://www.metrocentre-gateshead.co.uk) / [www.eldon-square.co.uk](http://www.eldon-square.co.uk)

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## 10. And finally...

A top 10 of NewcastleGateshead wouldn't be the same without mentioning the fantastic nightlife the destination has become famous for. So much so that in 2010, users of the travel review website Tripadvisor named Newcastle the third best nightlife destination in Europe (behind London and Berlin) and seventh in the world.

So whether it's a traditional pub serving real ales from a variety of North East England's breweries or an uber-cool lounge bar NewcastleGateshead has it all.

Why not start the night with a performance in one of the city's many theatres and cinemas including **Theatre Royal**, **Live Theatre** and the **Tyneside Cinema**?

[www.theatreroyal.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyal.co.uk) / [www.live.org.uk](http://www.live.org.uk) / [www.tynesidecinema.co.uk](http://www.tynesidecinema.co.uk)

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**For further media information and to download high resolution images visit:**

[www.NewcastleGateshead.com/mediacentre](http://www.NewcastleGateshead.com/mediacentre)

### **Why 'NewcastleGateshead'?**

Newcastle (a city on the north bank of the River Tyne) and Gateshead (a town on the south bank of the River Tyne) have been transformed into a single cultural and cosmopolitan visitor destination: NewcastleGateshead (think Buda Pest).

The two places are closely linked - by 7 bridges across the river – and visitor attractions and events can be found on both sides. Visitors to the area are drawn to sample attractions, galleries, live performances, sporting events, museums, restaurants, hotels and much more in both Newcastle and Gateshead - with easy pedestrian access from one to the other in a matter of minutes via the Gateshead Millennium Bridge.

Three of the area's most high profile contemporary attractions (BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, international music centre The Sage Gateshead and world famous public art the Angel of the North) are all in Gateshead, whilst Newcastle brings a wealth of history and heritage (along with its world-class contemporary developments), plus an incredible choice of cosmopolitan nightlife, to the successful partnership: **NewcastleGateshead**.