



Jesmond Dene House Hotel

A mansion, a holy well, a banqueting hall and some peacocks.

Starting point:

Jesmond Metro station

Length of walk: 1.5 - 2 hours

Jesmond is just a short Metro journey out of NewcastleGateshead and this beautiful, leafy suburb has a whole host of interesting sights to view and also provides one of the most pleasurable and relaxing walks you're likely to find anywhere.

You're never far from a work of art in NewcastleGateshead and this continues in Jesmond. After alighting from the Metro, ascend the stairs and you'll notice an intriguing sculpture behind some glass panels. This is by Raf Fulcher and entitled "**Garden Front**" and was developed using the language of 17th and 18th century garden design. A panel on a nearby wall will give you more information about it.

Bear left out of the station onto Jesmond Road and turn left again up Osborne Road. A little way along, cross over onto Fernwood Road. You'll pass Fernwood House on your left, before you see the grandiose looking **Mansion House**.

Jesmond Dene



This is where the Lord Mayor of Newcastle entertains sundry royals and other dignitaries when they visit the region. Continue down Fernwood



Armstrong Bridge

Road and turn right into Akenside Terrace. Follow the street down and cross over (taking extreme care, it's a busy one), to the imposing looking gateway to the **Jesmond Old Cemetery**. The man responsible for designing the arch entrance is John Dobson, who had such a hand in the reshaping of Newcastle during the mid-19th century. The cemetery was constructed to accept all religious denominations with one half of the ground consecrated and the other half reserved as unconsecrated for non-conformists and it provides the final resting place for many of Newcastle's famous residents of the 19th century including engineers, artists, industrialists and inventors. Fittingly John Dobson himself is buried here, in the south west corner. Exit the cemetery by the way you came in and turn right, walk along to the lights and cross over. If you keep

following the road along you'll pass the **Punch Bowl** pub. It was built in the 1870s in the Scottish Baronial style, which was very popular in the 19th century. Continue down this way (heading for the church spire in front of you), passing the Cradlewell pub and several shops and restaurants. Turning right, just past the church, and head past the stone pillars leading onto

Armstrong Bridge.

Sir William George Armstrong was born in Newcastle in 1810 and attained magnificent achievements in the world of hydraulics, armaments and in the development of electricity (see University Quarter walk for more on him). The bridge (designed by the man himself, naturally, and completed in 1876) affords magnificent views of **Jesmond Dene** which was another of the great man's lasting legacies. He had many exotic trees and shrubs planted here, and laid out in some of the footpaths you can enjoy today. Stroll over the bridge (there's a delightful arts and crafts market held here each Sunday morning) and at the other side there's a turning to the left leading down into the Dean itself. Continue down the hill and take some time to explore the area.

Millfield House offers refreshments, toilets and an information centre and make sure you check out **Pets Corner** which houses exotic birds amongst its range of different animals. Following the road past the assorted peacocks and pot-bellied pigs, walk along with the river on your left until you see the aptly named **Ivy Bridge**. Climb up the stairs and cross over then follow the path to the left. You'll pass **Jesmond Dene House Hotel** (a great place for afternoon tea) as you continue upwards, then take the stairs on the left, which lead up to Lord Armstrong's **Banqueting Hall**, built by John Dobson in 1860.

Turn left out of the grounds of the hall and continue along until you see the street sign for The Grove on the right. Just up this road, and hidden in the trees to the right, you'll discover the ruins of **St. Mary's Chapel** (it can be reached through a wooden gate). A place of worship for at least 700 years, this little chapel was also a place of pilgrimage with a reputation for healing the sick who visited the holy well nearby. The well can be reached by heading up



Jesmond Dene

the small track straight up from The Grove and is marked by a blue plaque and small gate. Return to the main road, turn right, and look for the turning into Grosvenor Road. Head up here, turning left into Manor House Road and then a short stroll down leads to Fern Avenue on your right. Along this street you'll notice the antiques centre on your right, just the spot for a good browse. Continue along to the end of the street and turn right onto Osborne Road. You'll see the spire of **St. George's church** ahead, which was built by Lord Armstrong's business partner, Charles Mitchell, for £30,000 - an absolute fortune in the late 19th century. There's plenty of bars along this street and just the place to stop for a drink, especially if the weather is favourable as most have outdoor seating. Go on, you've earned it! Further along this street, turn into Acorn Road, which leads off to the left. At the end of it, follow the sign to the nearest Metro station which is West Jesmond.