

A US president, a pitman, the “Tyne God”, and “the most important work of modern British art”.

Starting point:

Haymarket Metro station

Length of walk: 1.5 - 2 hours

Newcastle is a two university city and this walk will lead you through their myriad of sights to see, with some other notable points of interest along the way.

From the entrance to **1. Haymarket Metro station**, face to walk down Northumberland Street, Newcastle's main shopping thoroughfare. Walk down it and turn left at BHS and onto Northumberland Road. If you follow BHS along this road you'll see a relief on the wall, **2. “Newcastle Through The Ages”**, which depicts many facets of the city's past: bridges, coalmining, steam locomotives, cranes, etc. Continue down this road and before crossing at the traffic lights, glance upwards, across the road, and you'll see a statue of a pitman. The building he stands proudly upon is **3. Burt Hall**. Cross over to it. It was once the headquarters of the Northumberland branch of the National Union of Miners and was named after Thomas Burt, who was MP for Morpeth in Northumberland for more than 40 years, from 1874, and was the first working miner to be elected to Parliament.

Further along Northumberland Road, you'll notice another delightful building on the corner, College House, which once housed Dame Allan's school. Continue down



Civic Centre

Northumberland Road until you spot the **4. pile of stone books** on your right and cross the road where you'll see a signpost pointing towards “Student Services and Learning Resources”. This will lead you directly into the centre of the University of Northumbria campus. Head for the **5. University Gallery**, opposite the Civic Centre, which uses imaginative programming to ensure that their exhibitions are always well worth checking out, and entry is free.

Upon leaving the gallery, cross Sandford Road, keeping the **6. Civic Centre** (enormous white building) on your right. Follow the Civic Centre round until you arrive at the public park and the entrance to the building. The Civic Centre itself was opened in 1968 and is where the city council operates from. Look out for the three golden castles on top of the

tower which form part of the city's coat of arms, while the seahorses recall Newcastle's maritime heritage. Just before the arches leading to the entrance, you'll notice on the wall the impressive sculpture, “Tyne God”. Beyond it (under the arches) is an equally arresting work, “The Swan”. The five bronze birds represent the five Scandinavian countries of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Iceland.

Return the way you came and follow the path towards the church. Beside the three flagpoles there is a carved stone commemorating the visit in 1977 of former US president, Jimmy Carter, who famously drawled in his southern accent to the cheering crowds, “Howay the lads”, a popular cry of the followers of Newcastle United.

Take time to investigate the church of **7. St. Thomas the Martyr**, before crossing at the lights (to where Blackwell's bookshop is) and turn right. Head along to the next road junction, and you'll spot a lifesize sculpture of **8. Sir William Armstrong**, one of Newcastle's most famous sons. Born here in 1810, he was an engineering giant and responsible for the Armstrong Breech loading gun and the Swing Bridge on the Quayside, amongst other things. Walk up Claremont Road and you'll see the **9. Hancock Museum** on your right, which is North East England's natural history museum, and just the place for all manner of wonders from the natural world and the odd Egyptian mummy or two! (Closed until 2009).

Across from the museum is King's Walk, leading directly into the University of Newcastle buildings. On your left you'll **10. Northern Stage** and to your right is an arched gateway leading to the Quadrangle area and some of the city's most interesting galleries and museums.

St James' Park



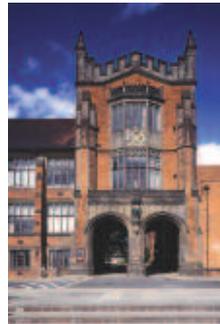
Go into the Quadrangle and on your right you'll see

11. The Hatton Gallery. There's an ever-changing programme here, but on permanent exhibit is the Ambleside Merzbarn by German born artist Kurt

Schwitters, described by art historian, Andrew Graham Dixon as “the most important work of modern British art.” Across from the Hatton Gallery is the Museum of Antiquities (which has a raft of information regarding the Roman world and particularly Hadrian's Wall) and at the top end of the Quadrangle, on the left, is the Shefton Museum of Greek Art and Archaeology (both of which are free).

After exploring these galleries, leave by the exit opposite to where you came in and onto Queen Victoria Road. Turn left and head along until you see the row of white terraces (opposite the Trent House pub), Leazes Crescent. Follow the road along up to **12. Leazes Terrace**, the elegant, early 19th century houses which were built by Richard Grainger (see the Grainger Town tours for more). This terrace overlooks the ornamental Leazes Park which has recently undergone a massive programme to restore it back to the splendour of its Victorian heyday. Behind Leazes Terrace is **13. St. James' Park**, home to Newcastle United, one of the overriding passions of the locals. Organised tours of the ground are available.

Heading to the **14. Trent House** pub is a good option for a refreshment stop, where you'll see the charming curved terrace of St. Thomas' Crescent. This pub also has a great free jukebox. Stroll down it and if you turn right at the bottom you'll see the Haymarket bus station and **15. Marks and Spencer**. Walk down here and turn left and you'll be back to the Haymarket Metro station once again.



King's Walk