



Tour Information



Land of the Prince Bishops





The tour starts and finishes at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Durham

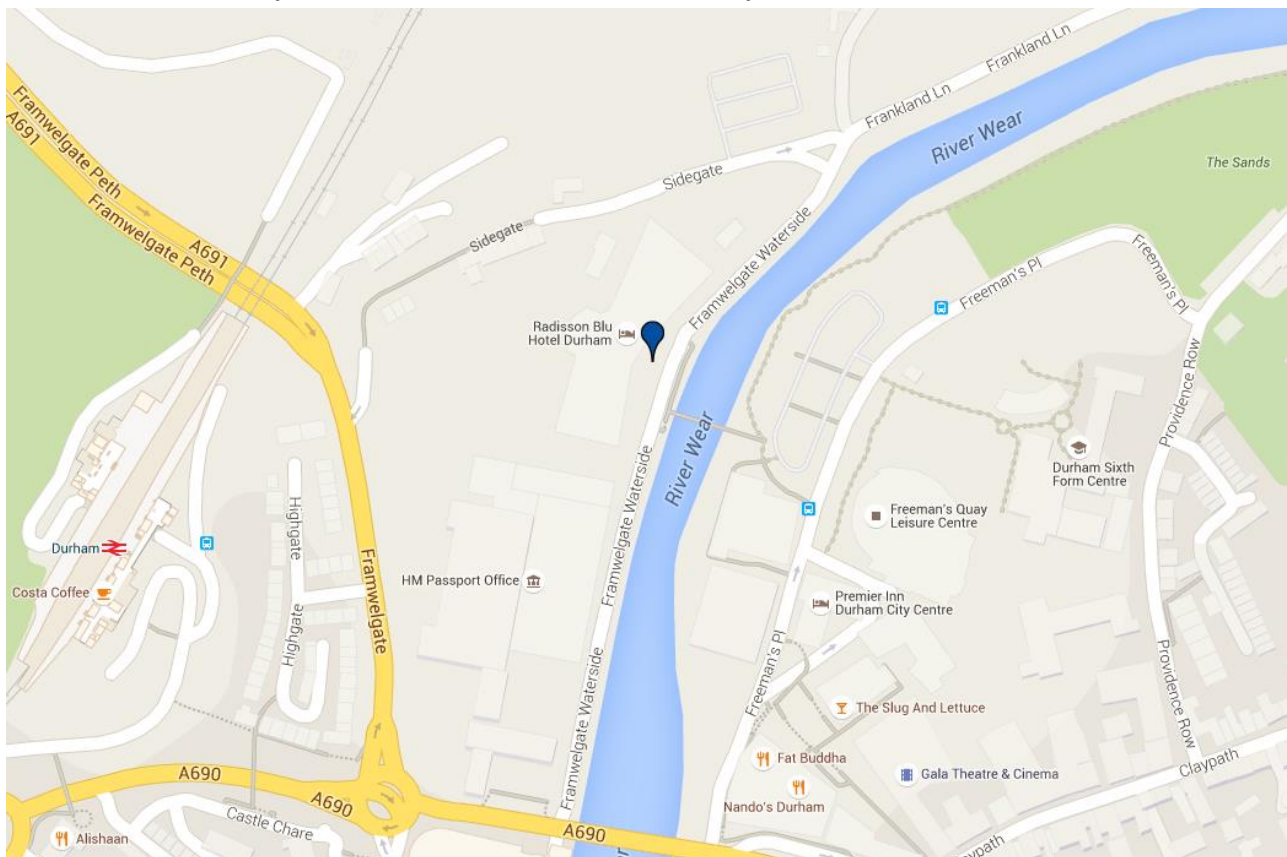
Frankland Lane

Durham, DH1 5TA

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)191 372 7200

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.



Transport

Driving directions to the hotel:

Take Junction 62 off the A1(M) and follow the signs to Durham city centre along A690. After crossing the River Wear, stay in the left hand lane and turn left at the traffic lights. Take the first immediate left to Framwellgate Waterside. The hotel is on the left.

Parking is available at the hotel at a cost of £14 per vehicle per 24 hours, payable directly to the hotel.

If you are travelling by **train**: Durham railway station is the closest to the hotel. It is a 5 minute taxi journey away, which costs approximately £5-6.



Accommodation

Radisson Blu, Durham

The Radisson Blu Hotel Durham enjoys sweeping views of the River Wear and is ideally located in the city centre with close proximity to both the A1 and Durham station. The hotel has a bar, health club and spa for guests to relax after a busy day sightseeing. Rooms are modern and all have Wi-Fi, TV, individual climate control, tea and coffee-making facilities, safe and minibar.

Additional details can be found via the hotel website:

<https://www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-durham>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

Special Requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Dining

On the first night of your stay, a private three course dinner with wine is provided. On your second evening, dinner will be served at the hotel restaurant. Lunch on day 3 is also included. Breakfast on both days of your stay is included in the price but meals other than these stated are not included.

Places Visited

Durham Cathedral

Durham Cathedral is one of Europe's greatest buildings, set grandly on a rocky promontory next to the Castle with the medieval city huddled below. One of the nation's best loved buildings it's a renowned piece of Norman architecture and was begun in 1093 to house the shrine of St. Cuthbert. The castle and cathedral have dominated the Durham skyline for over 900 years and it is a World Heritage Site. Whilst there you will have a guided tour and see the Treasures of St. Cuthbert and visit the monk's dormitory.

<https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/>

Bishop Auckland Castle

Positioned high above the meandering River Wear, Auckland Castle was once home to the Prince Bishops of Durham, and was the place where they entertained, hunted and worshipped. These were incredibly powerful men. They were given exceptional powers by the Norman kings of England, as well as the Church, and governed vast swathes of North East England. Auckland Castle was built to host lavish medieval celebrations and hunting parties, to entertain royalty and impress visitors with the bishops' power and wealth. From Bishop Auckland, the Prince Bishops ventured forth to broker royal marriages, lead armies into battle and advise kings. Over the centuries, the Prince Bishops became increasingly wealthy. They used this money to transform the castle into a palace that showed off their high status. St Peter's Chapel is the perfect example: Bishop Cosin turned the medieval Great Hall into the largest private chapel in Europe, a beautiful space to inspire people to feel the glory of God.

<https://www.historichouses.org/house/auckland-castle/visit/>

Richmond Castle

Magnificent, Norman Richmond Castle, still dominates the eponymous market town to this day. The building of the castle as a military stronghold commenced in 1071 on land gifted to Alan the Red of Brittany by his kinsman William the Conqueror as reward for his part in the victory over King Harold and his subsequent support of William as one of his most trusted advisers. Only two stone built castles in England are equal in age to Richmond Castle at Colchester and Durham. The best preserved part of the castle is the 12th century Keep, with 11-foot deep walls, which towers over 100 feet above the town.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/richmond-castle/>

Bowes Museum

A free flow visit and lunch is included in the Jubilee Room at Bowes Museum, a jewel in the heart of Teesdale, housed in a magnificent French-style chateau, purpose built in the 19th century, which has diverse collections of paintings and wonderful ceramics, furniture and a solid silver swan automaton which moves to music and appears to catch a fish.

<https://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/>

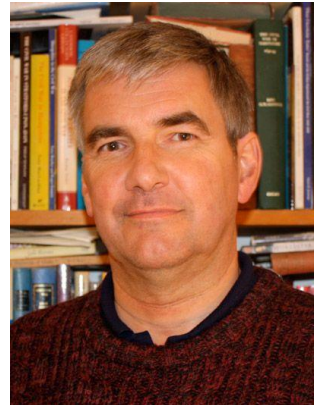
Barnard Castle

Barnard Castle was founded by the Normans shortly after the conquest and enjoyed its heyday under Barnard Bailleul in the latter half of the 12th century and later passed into the hands of King Richard III who inherited it through his wife, Anne Neville.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/barnard-castle/>

Your Guide

Julian Humphrys will be your guide/lecturer throughout the tour. After reading history at the University of Cambridge, Julian has had a long and impressive career relating to the themes and issues explored throughout this trip. He is now a trustee of the Battlefields Trust and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, an experienced battlefields guide, an author of a number of books on English battles and a regular contributor to BBC History Magazine. Julian's input aims to enhance and develop your understanding of this fascinating subject and exciting period of history



1st night – A Talk by Julian Humphrys

An introduction to the Land of the Prince Bishops

Practical Information

Tour manager – Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

Grading – This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.

Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.

Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900 - 1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07831 133079

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.



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