

A Traveller's Guide to The North Pennines AONB

The North Pennines is not only dotted with heather moors and peatlands, tumbling upland rivers and dappled woodland; it is also home to welcoming communities, Great food and drink, intriguing imprints of a mining and industrial past and a wealth of distinctive birds, animals and plants. Because of this the area has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

This traveller's guide is designed to help you leave the confines of your car behind and lose yourself amongst the wildlife, heritage and the great food and drink. So, find your independent spirit and let the journey become part of your adventure.

Top Tips, Accommodation and Tourist Information!

The website www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk is a wealth of information about the local area and things to see and do.

Tourist Information Centre
Allendale Post Office

Weather

It is important to be warm, comfortable and dry when out exploring so make sure you have the appropriate kit and plenty of layers.

Travel Information on the Go

Traveline is a great source of information whilst you are out and about. **txt 84268** www.traveline.info **0871 200 22 33**

Accommodation

For information on places to stay visit Northumberland Tourism's website at www.visitnorthumberland.com

Nexus Live Travel Map

Visit www.Nexus.org.uk for timetables, ticket information and everything you need to know about bus travel in the North East. You can even use the live travel map to see which buses run from your nearest bus stop and to plan your journey.

Free maps and guide inside!

Discover days out and walks by bus



Buses to and through

688 Hexham, Aldi - Allenheads, opp Heritage Centre www.gonortheast.co.uk
Runs Monday-Saturday



X81 Hexham, Aldi - Allenheads, opp Heritage Centre www.gonortheast.co.uk
Runs Monday-Saturday

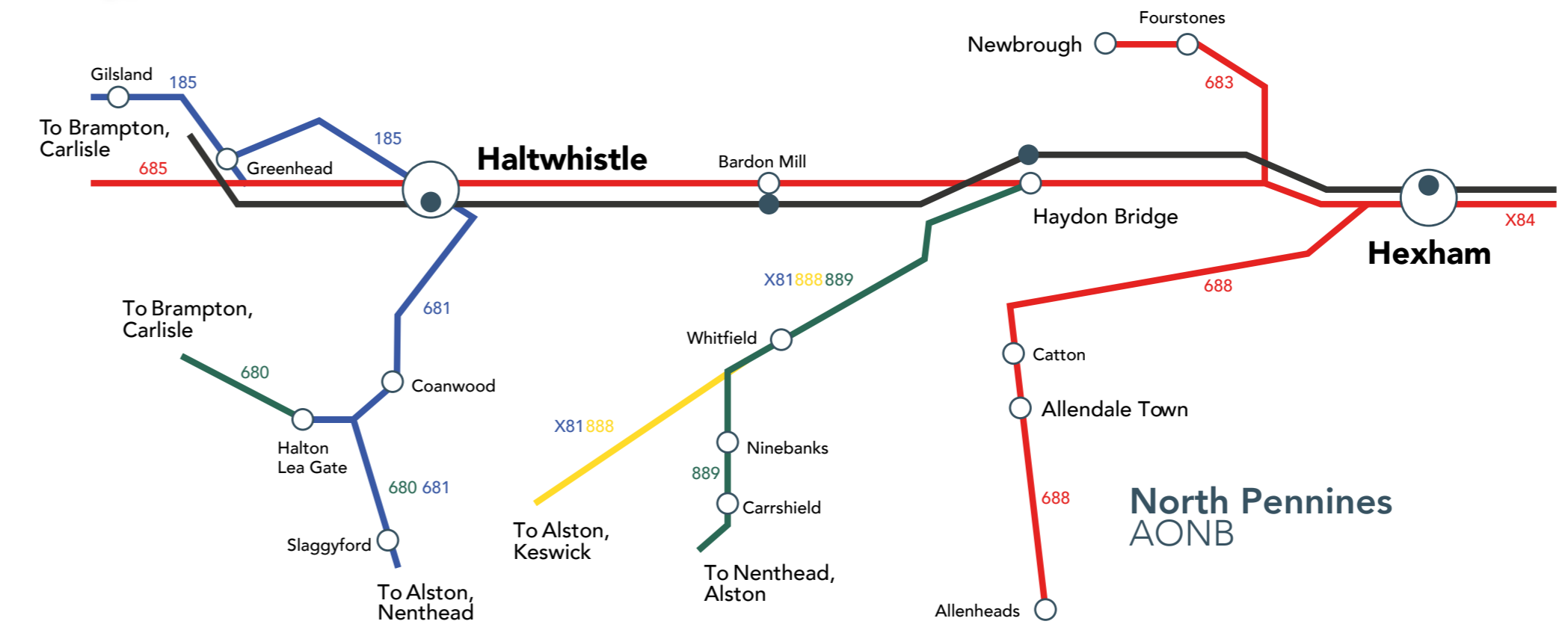


Services are subject to change so always check before you travel. You can find the most up to date timetables at www.Nexus.org.uk.

West Northumberland Principal bus and train routes

- Buses run 5 days a week, with 5 journeys or more
- Buses run 5 days a week, with 4 journeys or fewer
- Buses run 4 days or less a week
- Buses run only in summer
- Railway and station

This plan shows principal routes only and is not to scale



North Pennines AONB



In this guide

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Just visit us at <http://tinyurl.com/y7g4wpyq> and let us know what you thought about our Traveller's Guide for your chance to win. For full terms and conditions visit <http://tinyurl.com/y7g4wpyq>

Look out for our Traveller's Guides for other areas or download them at <http://tinyurl.com/y7g4wpyq>

Tickets and Passes

The Network One Explorer North East Ticket gives you the freedom of unlimited travel on the 688 and the X81 services.

Adult	Child (15 or under) – One Day*	Family (1 or 2 Adults & up to 3 Children) – One Day*
£10.00	£7.00	£20.00

* Only valid for parties including both adults and children. Adults and children using a family ticket must travel together at all times.
**Explorer North East ticket only



These maps are for guidance only. Please ensure you take the correct OS map and a compass, and know how to use them.

DAY OUT ONE East Allen Valley Wildflower Walk

Distance: 3 miles
Time: Approx. 1.5 hours
OS map: OL31 North Pennines

This short linear walk from the village of Allenheads follows the River East Allen, a fast-flowing river bounded by trees and wildflowers. In spring and summer, the sweeping green fields that surround it come to life with the calls and displays of birds like redshank and lapwing. The route will introduce you to some of the special plants of the North Pennines and the creatures that depend on them.

Along the way you'll discover plants that are adapted to the harsh conditions of the area and get a bee's-eye view of finding food.

1. Start at Allenheads parking area. From the car park, take the track with Allenheads Inn on your right and go through the gate ahead. Follow the footpath sign to the left off the track and onto a small path. You may notice the bright faces of mountain pansies growing amid the grass along the riverside path throughout the summer. These lovely flowers vary considerably from pale yellow to deep purple and pink. Many of the soils here contain high levels of lead and other heavy metals – a result of mining in the past. Though toxic to most plants, the mountain pansy is able to thrive in these lead-rich soils.

2. Go straight ahead towards a gate leading up to a cottage and just before the gate, cross a bridge and turn right onto a path between trees and a wall. Continue in the same direction as this path joins a track, heading uphill past buildings on the right. Look out for a large Rugosa rose bush next to a cottage. If you pause to enjoy its sweet scent, you may notice a bumblebee frenetically buzzing as it turns around and around inside the flower. By vigorously vibrating its body, the bee causes the flower to release its pollen. This provides the bee with a nourishing source of food and when it transfers some to adjacent flowers, pollination is ensured.

3. Take the right-hand fork in the track by the large house, following it downhill to a cottage. Take the small path to the right of the cottage, leading downhill and over the river to join the road.

4. Turn left along the road and continue out of the village; cross the bridge on the left.

5. Take the first footpath on the right and continue ahead with the river on the right.

6. After passing a bridge and ford the track bends to the left. Go straight ahead over a stile and continue along the bank with the river on the right.

7. Pass the churchyard on the left and join the road.

8. Turn left and keep following the road past buildings. When you reach the crossroads head over the bridge towards the B6295 and the Village of Spartylea.

9. From Spartylea you can catch the 688 bus back to Allenheads and your start point. The 688 bus runs approximately every 2 hours, Monday to Saturday so make sure you plan your walk with plenty of time to get the next bus. Alternatively you can re-trace your steps back to Spartylea.

Spartylea to Allenheads by Bus

SERVICE	JOURNEY TIME	FREQUENCY	PROVIDER
688	7	2 HOURLY	North East

DAY OUT TWO

A Brew with a View Sinderhope to Allendale following Isaac's Tea Trail

Distance: 4 miles
Time: Approx 2 1/2 - 3 hours
OS map: Explorer OL43 Hadrian's Wall, Haltwhistle & Hexham

A short linear walk mostly following a section of Isaac's Tea Trail through the picturesque valley of the River East Allen. The walk passes through woods, meadows and along the riverbank, with moorland views. The walk takes you along Isaac's Tea Trail; a picturesque route named after a well-known local philanthropist Isaac Holden. Isaac was forced to find another livelihood when the local lead mine closed, so he became a door-to-door tea seller. He could often be seen crossing the moors selling his wares.

Before you set off home be sure to pay a visit to the Allendale Brewery. Set up in 2006 in the former lead mill, this family run brewery offers a wide range of award-winning craft Ales. You can buy a few bottles to take home with you or enjoy the local brew in one of the pubs around the village square.

1. Start at High Forest Community Centre, Sinderhope. Leave the car park via a small gate in the garden wall behind the building and walk straight ahead down a field. Cross three stiles to reach a lane, and turn left.

2. (There is an optional detour here to see a waterfall and the remains of a lead mine: cross the lane and follow the path into the woods and alongside the river. Then retrace your steps to the lane, where you turn right to rejoin the main route).

3. Walk downhill to the bridge and continue along the lane. At Pry Hill Farm leave the road and turn right into a field at the footpath sign to Peckriding.

4. Follow the yellow waymarker arrows on stiles and posts to descend steps and cross a stream. After the footbridge go right and walk diagonally up the slope to a series of stiles. At the four-way signpost you go straight on, in the direction of Park.

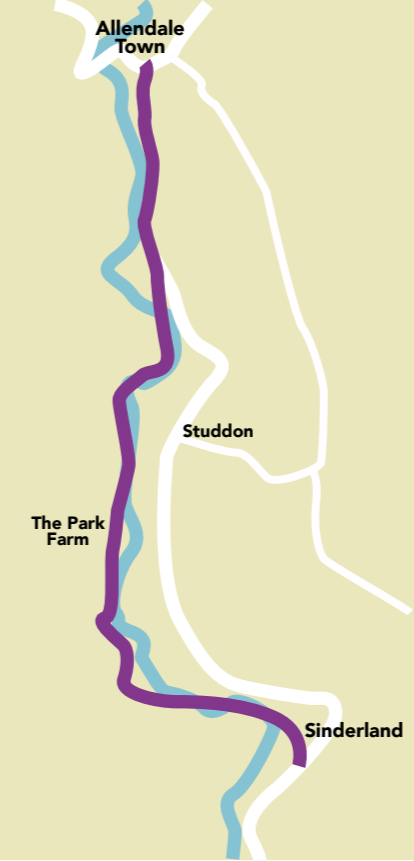
5. Cross a stream via steps and a bridge, following the waymarkers (continue straight ahead at the post with two waymarker arrows) to cross another footbridge.

6. Go through the farmyard, keeping to the right and exiting through a wooden kissing gate beside a metal gate. Continue straight on to a bridge beside a ford, then cross several fields via waymarked gates and stiles.

7. Keeping the river on your right, you eventually reach a small footbridge and the path bears left to steep steps leading up to a cottage. After passing the cottage go through a gate and bear to the right, up the grassy slope. At the hedgeline turn right and go straight on over a field.

8. Yellow waymarkers will guide you across fields, travelling gradually to the right, until you reach a narrow path on an escarpment high above the river, with Allendale visible ahead.

9. Cross two fields to reach a small white gate in front of a house. Go straight ahead along the lane to the road then turn right to walk over the bridge and up the hill into Allendale. From here you can retrace your steps or catch the 688 bus service back to Sinderhope. The bus runs approximately every two hours Monday to Friday, so ensure you plan your route with plenty of time to get the bus back.



Sinderhope to Allendale By Bus

SERVICE	JOURNEY TIME	FREQUENCY	PROVIDER
688	5	2 HOURLY	North East

DAY OUT THREE

Picture Perfect Haydon Bridge Spring Woods & Langley Castle

Distance: 4 miles
Time: Approx 2 1/2 - 3 hours
OS map: Explorer OL43 Hadrian's Wall, Haltwhistle & Hexham

Born in 1789 in Haydon Bridge, John Martin became one of the most popular romantic artists of his day. Many of his paintings are set in dramatic landscapes. This short, linear walk gives you the opportunity to explore some of the picture perfect local landscapes which probably influenced his work.

1. Leaving the Bridge turn left along Church Street and then left again at the T-junction, to cross the road bridge. At the bus stop on the far side cross the road via the traffic island and head up Whittis Road to the left of the brick terraced houses.

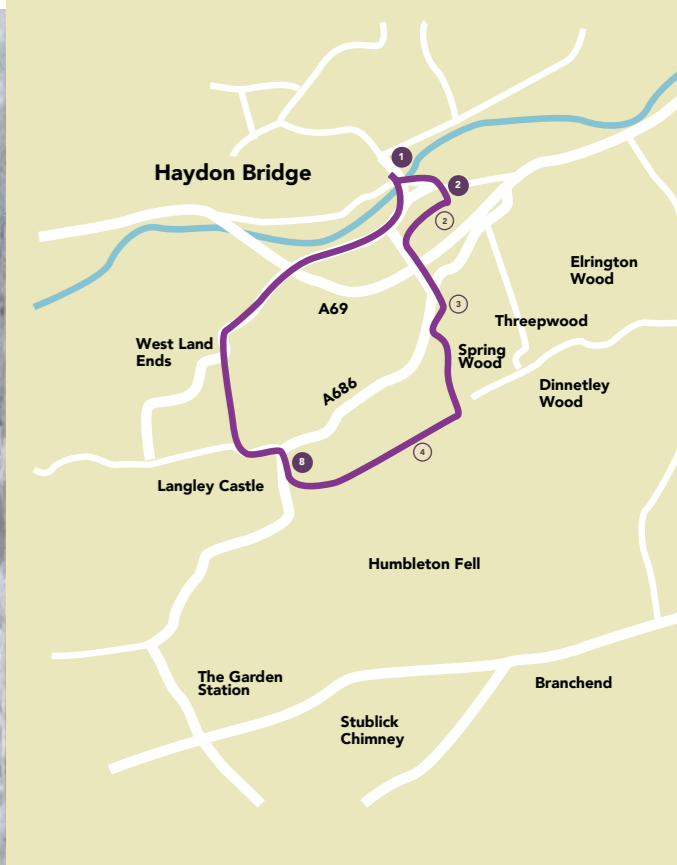
2. At the top of the hill turn right along the lane. On reaching the school car park at the end, turn left up the steps to a playing field. Head right to the far corner of the field, through the wicket gate and continue left up the road. At the junction cross the road towards a seat where you turn right for approx.. 50m. Then turn left at the signpost for Threepwood and Branchend.

3. Follow this path down and over a footbridge, then right and up through the woods, crossing a field on the way. After emerging from the thick conifer wood go diagonally right up to a stile and continue up the field, bearing right to follow the wall to a stone squeeze-stile in the top right corner. Cross the stile and turn right along the lane to a gate at the end.

4. Go through the gate and follow the track as it bears right to another gate. Go through this gate, turn left and keep to the track across the top of this field. Go through another gate and keep straight on with the wall on your right. After a third gate the track descends to the right, through another gate and into a wood. Follow the track downhill, eventually meeting the road near Langley Castle. Langley Castle is an impressive H shaped tower-house which was built by Thomas de Lucy around 1365. It was destroyed by Henry IV in 1405 and stood as a ruin until it was restored by Cadwallader Bates in the 1890s. In its lifetime it as served as a family home, army barracks and a girl's school, but it currently serves as an award-winning hotel.

5. From here, if you have planned your walk well, you can catch the X81 bus services for the short hop back to Haydon Bridge. Alternatively, you can use the step below to carefully follow the road back to Haydon Bridge. The X81 runs once a day from Langley to Haydon Bridge.

6. At the road turn right and proceed with care to the bend. Cross the road to the grassed area and left along the minor road, signposted West Deanrow. Follow this road as it turns right, passing a farm, and then when the road turns left take the track straight ahead. Follow downhill until it meets a road. Turn right, to keep heading downhill on the road and keep to the road as it turns right at the foot of the hill. From here walk for about a mile along the road to return to the village.



Langley to Haydon Bridge by Bus

SERVICE	JOURNEY TIME	FREQUENCY	PROVIDER
X81	7	DAILY	North East

