

# A Traveller's Guide to the Northumberland Coast



**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
AN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT

Welcome to the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There is no better way to experience our extensive flora, fauna and wildlife than getting out of your car and exploring on foot. Plus, spending just one day without your car can help to look after this unique area.

This traveller's guide is designed to help you leave the confines of your car behind and really get out in our stunning countryside. So, find your independent spirit and let the journey become part of your adventure.

## Top Tips, Accommodation and Tourist Information!

The website [www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org](http://www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org) is a wealth of information about the local area and things to see and do.

## 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.

## Nexus

Visit [www.Nexus.org.uk](http://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.

## Travel Information on the Go

Nexus Travel is a great source of information whilst you are out and about.  
Website: [www.nexus.org.uk](http://www.nexus.org.uk)  
Tel: 0191 20 20 747  
For information on places to stay visit Northumberland Tourism's website at [www.visitnorthumberland.com](http://www.visitnorthumberland.com)

Free maps and guide inside!

Discover days out and walks by bus

## Buses to and through

Timetables valid until October 2018. Services are subject to change so always check before you travel. You can find the most up to date times at Nexus Travel.

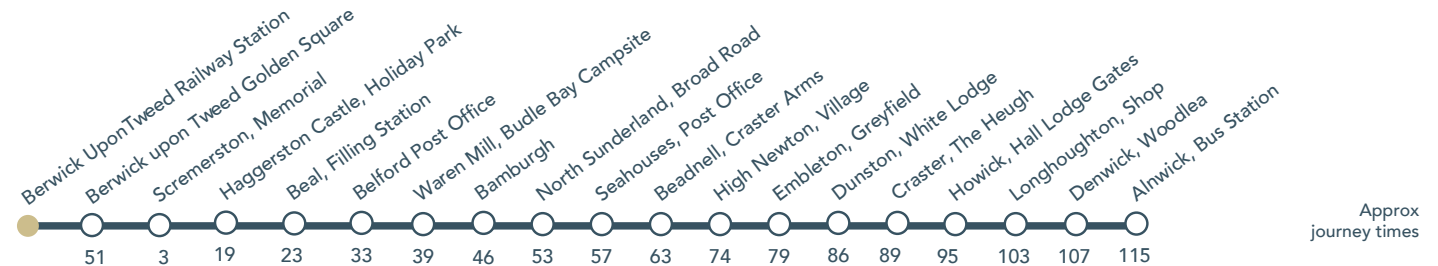
### X18 Berwick - Seahouses - Alnwick - Newcastle

Arriva  
Runs Daily



### 418 Berwick upon Tweed - Alnwick

Travelsure: 01668 219 291



### X20 Alnwick - Amble - Ellington - Ashington - North Seaton - Newcastle

Arriva  
Runs Mon - Sat



### T01 Alnwick - Shilbottle - Amble

Travelsure: 01668 219 291  
Runs Mon - Sat



## Tickets and Passes

### Discover North Northumberland Tickets

These tickets offer unlimited travel on all Arriva, Travelsure, PCL Travel and Boarder Buses services north of Amble. You can buy them from the driver on the day.

One-Day Ticket £6.60

Three-Day Ticket £14.70

Seven-Day Ticket £22.80

Arriva Family Day Ticket\* £13.50

Travelsure Family Day Ticket\* £12.00

\*These tickets are only valid on the services run by the company mentioned and not on all services in the area. They are valid for two adults and up to three children.

Present your valid Arriva, Travelsure, PCL Travel or Border, Borders Buses bus ticket at the following attractions for 20% off full price admission.

- Berwick Barracks
- Lindisfarne Priory (only with 477 journeys)
- Lindisfarne Castle (only with 477 journeys)
- Farne Islands (landing fee only, not boat trip)
- Bamburgh Castle
- Dunstanburgh Castle
- Warkworth Castle
- Alnwick Castle
- Bailiffgate Museum (Alnwick)

Terms and conditions apply, please check with the attraction for details. Not valid with any other offer. Ticket prices and content correct at time of going to print but please check before you travel.



**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council

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**NORTHUMBERLAND COAST**  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

## In this guide



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Look out for our Traveller's Guides for other areas or download them at <http://tinyurl.com/y7g4wpqy>





# DAY OUT ONE

## Terns, Treats and Trails

Visit the historic harbour town of Amble (also known as Warkworth Harbour). Take a boat trip around the RSPB reserve of Coquet Island to see some of the 35,000 breeding seabirds, including the rare roseate tern and thousands of puffins. Treat yourself to some local art or gifts from the quirky Amble Harbour Village. Sample some of the local seafood from the Northumberland Seafood Centre and Hatchery or one of the many local restaurants. Discover one of the Telegraphs top 20 beaches and take a stroll along the estuary to the historic village of Warkworth.



### Terns Boat trip: approx. 1-2 hours

This trip is best done between April and August when the breeding birds are on the island, with mid June to mid July being the peak period of activity, but you can take a cruise to see the grey seals until October.

Coquet Island is an RSPB reserve about one mile off Amble. On the island several thousand nesting Sandwich, Arctic and common terns accompany the roseate tern, one of our rarest nesting seabirds. It's also a great chance to see the thousands of Puffins who inhabit this bird paradise.

Arriving in Amble, head for the dock steps at the harbour to board your boat for the Coquet Island Cruise. Puffin Cruises offer boat trips around the island aboard their two passenger vessels, one of which is a restored RNLI Lifeboat. Pre-booking by phone is recommended (www.puffincruises.co.uk, Tel: 07752 861914 or 01665 711975). You will be able to view the breeding birds at their nesting sites and possibly spot the Grey Seal colony on the east side of the island. When you return to the harbour, look out for the eider ducks, there should be ducklings by June.

If your feeling peckish after your trip then why not try fish and chips from one of the many fish and chips shops around the harbour?



Distance: 3 miles  
Time: 1.5 Hours  
OS map: OS Explorer Map 332 or OS Landranger Map 81

### Trails

Head towards the town square and Queen Street, Amble's main shopping street. Turn left off Queen Street to follow a path over the braid, past the marina and boatyards out onto the estuary.

The estuary is tidal, providing rich mud for wading birds and habitat for wildfowl in winter. In spring the estuary is a stopping off point for migrant waders heading back to the arctic and tundra to breed, herons frequent the weir and occasionally little egrets might be seen, a species which are becoming more common on the Northumberland Coast.

Arriving into Warkworth, follow the main road into the village square, this is where you can catch your bus home. The services are regular so why not enjoy afternoon tea in one of the cafés or a well earned pint of local beer? If you have time, you can visit the 13th Century Warkworth Castle where you can get 20% off admission when you show your bus ticket.

#### WARKWORTH TO AMBLE BY BUS

SERVICE	JOURNEY TIME	FREQUENCY	PROVIDER
X18 X20 T01	7	2 PER HOUR	arriva TRAVELSURE



### Treats

Head down to the Harbour and you will find Amble Harbour Village, a quirky collection of "pods" selling a variety of art, crafts, jewellery and local food and drink. If you are a fan of seafood then the Northumberland Seafood Centre and Hatchery is a must (open Thursday-Saturday). The hatchery isn't just an interactive and informative tourist attraction, it is also an important project to help ensure future stocks of shellfish for the local fishing industry.

www.visitnorthumberland.com/  
gift-shop/amble-harbour-village

Maps are for illustrative purposes only. Always take an OS map.



# DAY OUT TWO

## Rocky Reefs & Sandy Havens

### A walk from Alnmouth to Craster

Discover this beautiful section of the Northumberland Coast Path. From the ancient port of Alnmouth, head north to Boulmer, a former smugglers haven. The rocky shore beyond has hidden sandy havens, ideal for a picnic and a paddle. The route then passes Cullernose Point, a seabird colony in summer, before reaching Craster, home of the famous Kipper.

From Alnmouth, follow the small road to the north of the golf course. At the small car park, bear left uphill and follow the path to the next golf course (beware of flying golf balls). Please follow the way mark arrows across the golf course, around the clubhouse and onto the road.

Turn right and head to the beach. The path is on the beach here and there is no inland alternative. Take care when the tide is high.

Leave the beach via the concrete steps, turning immediately right to follow the path between the huts. Follow this path, past the farm, then on to Boulmer. Continue through Boulmer heading north along the coastal track.

The route takes you past Howdiemont and Sugar Sands, ideal places for picnic and a paddle. Cross the footbridge over the Howick Burn, before bearing right and following the coastal path, past the Bathing House and Cullernose Point, to Craster.

#### CRASTER TO ALNMOUTH BY BUS

SERVICE	JOURNEY TIME	FREQUENCY	PROVIDER
X18	7	HOURLY	arriva



Distance: 8.7 miles  
Time: Approx. 4.5 hours  
OS map: OS Explorer Map 332



# DAY OUT THREE

## A stroll amongst the dunes from Seahouses to Bamburgh

The fishing village of Seahouses has had a harbour since at least 1318, although it is now home to more touring boats than fishing boats, as it is a great starting point for a boat trip to the Farne Islands. There is a good range of shops, pubs and cafés to visit (not to mention the famous fish and chip shops) and the RNLI lifeboat station is often open to the public. After exploring a while follow the road North out of Seahouses. At the end of the village, take the path through St Aiden's Dunes and follow the beach north to Bamburgh. (At high tide the beach may be not be accessible, please check the tide times before you set off)

Bamburgh was founded in 547 by King Ida and was once the capital of the ancient kingdom of Northumbria. Perched on a rocky outcrop is the imposing Bamburgh Castle. The castle remains the home of the Armstrong family and is open to day visitors from April to October. Get 20% off entry when you show a valid bus ticket.

Another place worth a visit is the Grace Darling Museum, dedicated to the plucky 22-year-old who risked her life in an open boat, to help the survivors of the wrecked SS Forfarshire in 1837.

#### BAMBURGH TO SEAHOUSES BY BUS

SERVICE	JOURNEY TIME	FREQUENCY	PROVIDER
X18 418	11	HOURLY	arriva TRAVELSURE



Distance: 3.9 miles  
Time: Approx. 2 hours  
OS map: OS Explorer Map 340 or OS Landranger Map 75