

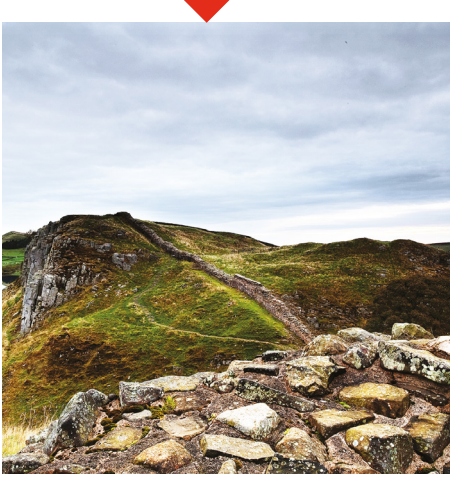
Top 10 experiences in the North East

There is no shortage of unique and exciting experiences on offer in the North East. We've collated some of the top experiences and places for you to visit for your next conference. If you are looking for any more unique North East experiences take a look at newadventures.org.uk

1. Hadrian's Wall

Stretching 73 miles from coast to coast, this UNESCO World Heritage Site offers stunning views and an awe-inspiring link to our ancient Roman past. With a variety of tours, walks and cycle trails, museums and visitor centres along its length, there's a holiday worth of experiences here for lovers of history, the great outdoors, and landscape photography alike.

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2. Alnwick Castle and Garden

Delve into the enchanting world of this popular filming location, perhaps best known for its role as Hogwarts in the first two Harry Potter movies and also as Downton Abbey's Brancaster Castle. Explore its grand state rooms and 950-year history before practising a spot of archery – or broomstick riding!

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Next door, The Alnwick Garden is a plant-lover's paradise and more. As soon as you enter, you'll be mesmerised by the sparkling Grand Cascade. Hear tales of dastardly deeds on a tour of the Poison Garden, and lose yourself in the Labyrinth until tea in the café beckons.

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3. Durham Cathedral and Castle

Explore two UNESCO World Heritage Sites in one stop! Built to house relics of St Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede, the Cathedral's stunning Romanesque architecture and picturesque setting above the River Wear make it a captivating place in which to soak up a thousand years of history – or simply the majestic atmosphere. The Castle now houses University College students in place of medieval Prince Bishops, but welcomes visitors for guided tours and special events.

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4. Beamish, The Living Museum of The North

Spread over 300 acres, this open-air museum meticulously recreates the sights, sounds and ambiance of bygone eras, from the 1820s to the 1950s. Travel by tram and steam train to the Town, Pockerley Manor and Home Farm. Sample the delicious wares of the Jubilee sweet shop, and spot locations from the Downton Abbey film and 2015 Christmas special.

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5. NewcastleGateshead Quayside

Spanned by no fewer than seven bridges including the iconic Tyne and Millennium Bridges, the vibrant NewcastleGateshead Quayside is the perfect backdrop for a stroll or run, or for leisurely eats and drinks in one of its many character-packed cafés, bars and restaurants. It's famous for its historic architecture and cultural attractions too: don't miss Baltic, Centre for Contemporary Art, and The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, and if you happen to visit on a Sunday, browse the Quayside Market for quirky souvenirs from independent sellers.

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6. Victoria Tunnel Tours

Descend below the bustling streets of Newcastle right back to the 19th century, when this amazingly preserved tunnel served as a vital artery transporting coal from the region's many mines to the river. Later repurposed as an air-raid shelter during World War II, it still resonates with the fascinating stories of the people who worked and sheltered here.

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7. Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

Immerse yourself in art, history, and natural beauty as you discover the multi-faceted story of Sunderland through its shipbuilding, coal mining, glassmaking and pottery collections, as well as a significant collection of artworks by LS Lowry, who enjoyed time in the city, and the only known fossil of a gliding reptile to be found in Britain. The Winter Gardens are a blissful tropical retreat, home to over 2,000 exotic plants and a resident population of koi carp.

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8. North Tyneside Coast

Wander long, golden, sandy beaches, indulge in local seafood at Riley's Fish Shack on King Edward's Bay, and explore the ruins of Tynemouth Priory. Explore the independent shops and cafés of Whitley Bay and Cullercoats, book a surfing lesson with Tynemouth Surf Co. or try kayaking with CBK Adventures. And if you're visiting on a weekend, don't miss Tynemouth Market, which turns Tynemouth Metro Station into a treasure-trove of craft, food and vintage stalls.



9. Bamburgh Castle



10. Angel of the North

A landmark vantage point on the Northumberland coastline for over 1,400 years, Bamburgh Castle more recently featured in the latest Indiana Jones film as well as Netflix's The Last Kingdom. Step inside and discover its incredible history before heading down to the award-winning Bamburgh beach or nearby Seahouses for fish and chips or ice cream.

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10. Angel of the North

Standing proud at 20 metres tall, Antony Gormley's iconic sculpture is a symbol of artistic excellence and a must-see landmark for visitors to the North East. The Angel celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2023 and, although you can't see it from a mile away, seeing it up close is an experience not to be missed.

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