

# ART & HISTORY IN NORTHUMBRIA

Friends of National Museum Wales  
6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

£665.00 per person\*



Durham



Newcastle



Durham Cathedral



The Silver Swan, Bowes Museum

## OUR TOUR 5 DAYS - 4 NIGHTS

### What's included

- Executive touring coach
- 4 nights half board accommodation
- Guided tour at Hepworth Wakefield
- Visit to the BALTIC Centre of Contemporary Art
- Admission to the Life Science Centre
- Guided tour of Durham Cathedral
- Guided tour of Durham Castle
- Durham River Cruise
- Gratuities for driver & guide

### Extras

- Single supplement - £120 per person (double/twin for sole occupancy)
- Travel insurance - £25 per person

A warm welcome, scenic countryside and amazing heritage awaits us in Northumbria. Thanks to its long and proud history, the unique value of the region's most beautiful and captivating historic sites have been recognised around the world. Our tour will encompass a selection of the area's highlights: the historic city of Durham, the vibrant city of Newcastle and the Roman archeological site of Vindolanda.

### Our Hotel

The **Redworth Hall Hotel** in Newton Aycliffe dates back to 1693 and retains many of its original features, all set within 26 acres of landscaped grounds. Each of the 143 modern bedrooms come equipped with a hairdryer, TV and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel features a restaurant and bar with several lounges in which guests can relax, as well as an indoor swimming pool and leisure facilities.



\*Based on two sharing in a twin/double room with a minimum of 35 members travelling. Should fewer members travel the price will increase.



Angel of the North

## OUR ITINERARY

**Day 1** – We depart from our local area for our journey northwards to our first destination, the Hepworth Wakefield. Housed in a unique building designed by David Chipperfield Architects, The Hepworth is home to a collection of over 5,000 pieces of modern British art, including works by Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. There will be a guided tour here and time to explore and obtain lunch (not included). After our visit we continue on the journey to our hotel for check in and dinner this evening.

**Day 2** – Today we will explore the thriving, cosmopolitan city of Newcastle. Accompanied by a local guide we will visit both the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and the Life Science Centre. BALTIC, situated on the Gateshead bank of the River Tyne, is the largest institution in the UK dedicated to contemporary art, and strives to present powerful, experimental and inspirational works. Newcastle's Life Science Centre is part of a unique science village in the heart of the city, and our visit here will be an interactive and immersive experience. For anyone wishing to do so, there will also be an opportunity to explore the Victoria Tunnel, a fully preserved coal waggonway from the 19<sup>th</sup> century which was also used as an air raid shelter

during WW2. Alternatively, there will be some time at leisure in the city before returning to our hotel.

**Day 3** – This morning we head to Durham where we will be met by our local guide. Here we will visit the beautiful Durham Cathedral for a guided tour followed by a guided tour at Durham Castle. This iconic World Heritage Site is set on a rocky promontory above the city, presenting an imposing profile, and was one of the first sites to be designated this status. The stunning 11<sup>th</sup> century cathedral displays Romanesque architecture, whilst the castle is a Norman fortification currently utilised by Durham University. Later we take a one hour river cruise, to relax and enjoy the monumental views of the city from a different perspective. Any free time today will be at leisure to explore Durham at our own pace.

**Day 4** – Our destination today is Vindolanda, one of Europe's most important Roman archeological sites. Soldiers from all over the Roman Empire, including Belgium, Germany and France, were garrisoned here. The visible stone fort dates back to the third century and the impressive remains include the fort walls, the headquarters building, the Commanding Officer's house, granaries and barracks. We will also

visit the museum, where there is a magnificent display of the many stunning objects found during the excavations. These include remarkable and unique collections of wooden artefacts, leather shoes, military equipment, tools, jewellery, pottery, carved stone and religious artefacts.

**Day 5** – After we check out of our hotel, we begin our homeward journey. En route, a visit will be made to the Bowes Museum. Home to internationally significant collections of fine and decorative arts, the Museum was purpose built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by wealthy businessman John Bowes and his wife Josephine, a French actress. The diverse collections are constantly being added to and currently span three floors of this magnificent French-style chateau. Whether it is paintings by Van Dyck, Canaletto or Goya, delicate porcelain produced at Sevres, or fashion from the 16-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, it can all be found at The Bowes Museum, which has received 'Designated' status from the Government in recognition of the quality of its outstanding collections. Lunch can be taken here (not included) before we continue the homeward journey, with a stop en route for light refreshments (included).

*The exact order of excursions is subject to change.*



### How to Book

Please send completed booking form and deposit payment to:

Len Metcalfe, 21 Bryn Rhosyn, Radyr, Cardiff, CF15 8RN

Tel: 02920 843 256

Email: leonard\_441@yahoo.co.uk

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