

## Roman Attractions in the North East

Roman occupation and settlement of Britain can be found throughout North East England.

Britain's largest free-standing structure, Hadrian's Wall, is the most popular tourist attraction in Northern England. English Heritage, a government organization that manages historic sites, calls it the most important monument built by the Romans in Britain. At 117 kilometers, construction began in 122 AD and extends from Newcastle upon Tyne to Carlisle, and then to the northern coast of Cumbria.

Along Hadrian's Wall are many sites which are points of interest. In South Shields, Tyne and Wear, the Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum outline the history of this maritime supply fort for the Romans. The Museum includes weapons and jewelry, and the fort's West Gate has been reconstructed, as well as barracks. Nearby Segedunum Roman Forts, Bath and Museum was the gateway to Hadrian's Wall, housing 600 soldiers. The excavated site walk allows you to see remains of the wall, and the museum features interactive exhibits, unearthed artifacts, reconstructions of a bath house, and a view of the site from the 35 metre tower.

Heddon on the Wall features 280 yards of wall with circular chambers and a medieval kiln. Corbridge Roman Town features 2 large granaries, a strong room, headquarters building, fountain house, aqueduct, 2 military compounds, Stanegate Road and a museum. The Temple of Mithras is a 3rd century temple near the Carrawburg Fort.

Vindolanda and Chesterholm Museum boast an impressive collection of excavated finds. Visitors are allowed to talk with the archaeologists 7 days a week between April and August. The Cavoran Roman Army Museum features audio visual effects, video and film to show the Roman Army Experience along Hadrian's Wall.

Milecastle 48, or Poltross Burn Milecastle, is one of the best preserved milecastles, or garrison/gatehouses, features gates on the north and south, enclosing walls, and barrack blocks. In a former vicarage in Gilsland, the Gilsland Vicarage Roman wall exists in a garden of a private house with 220 yards of remaining wall. Other locations to see include Winshields Roman Wall and Milecastle, Sewingshields Wall, Turrets and Milecastle, and the Willowford Bridge Abutment. And Chesters Bridge

Abutment.

Other locations not along Hadrian's Wall have much to offer as well. The Old Fulling Mill Museum of Architecture has an outstanding Roman Collection of artifacts. The Ankers House & St. Mary's Cathedral and shrine of St. Cuthbert have Roman artifacts on display. Remains of Henry II's Tower Keep of Bowes Castle still stand guarding the Stainforth Pass. Piercebridge Roman Fort along the River Tees was built around 260-270 AD, and ruins are open to visitors. Escomb Saxon Church, one the oldest Anglo-Saxon churches in England, is open to the public with free admission, and was built between 670-675 A.D. It contains a sundial, a Roman Arch, and stonework. Nearby Binchester Roman Fort dating to 70AD has an excellent Military Bath house.

Whether you visit Hadrian's Wall, a temple or fort, there is much to see in the way of Roman era England.

## About the Author

This article was written by Tom Sangers on behalf of Northumbrian Cottages who offer Accommodation for [Northumberland Holidays](#)

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