

Things to do on a rainy day in Northumbria and the North East

Rain is common in the North East of England, and there is no shortage of activity to keep families busy.

The Sage Gateshead is a popular music centre for education, performance, and conferences. Workshops, daily instruction, and community music courses are offered. Live music occurs in 3 different venues, and there is also a library with cd's, books, magazines, computers with internet access, music subscription services, and music software.

For Art, there are many options. The Dorman Museum in Middlesbrough has 8 galleries and 3 exhibition spaces. The Biscuit Factory in Newcastle upon Tyne is a large commercial art space featuring a wide range of artists in a comfortable atmosphere. The BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art has a constantly changing programme of events and exhibitions, and is a world leader in the presentation of contemporary visual art. The Shipley Art Gallery houses one of the largest collections of contemporary craft in North East England. The Laing Art Gallery is home to many important 18th and 19th century paintings, as well as exhibitions of contemporary art. The Bowes Museum has an outstanding collection of European fine and decorative art.

Fancy a bit of history? Alnwick Castle has a full daily events programme, great architecture, art treasures and activities for kids. The Discovery Museum in Newcastle upon Tyne has a variety of experiences for families. The Bamburgh Castle has a large collection of china, porcelain, furniture, paintings, arms, and armour. Lindisfarne Castle is a 16th century Tudor castle renovated in the early 1900's, located on Holy Island. Auckland Castle is the Prince Bishops' country residence, home to the Bishop of Durham. There is a deer park, state rooms, and St. Peter's Chapel to see. Raby Castle has walled gardens, a carriage collection, adventure playground, shop and tea room, and a 200 acre deer park. Durham Castle, a UNESCO heritage site, and part of University College, Durham, has the distinction of being in continuous use for over 900 years.

The North Sea and a tropical coral reef come alive at Blue Reef Aquarium, in Tynemouth. Tees Valley has Butterfly World, Ltd. which features an indoor tropical garden home to many exotic butterflies and insects. Also in Tees Valley is RSPB Saltholme, a world class nature reserve. Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon is a premier railway museum with 60 train vehicles housed in an eco-friendly building. Need some exercise? The Sunderland Aquatic Center in Sunderland has a 50M pool which opened in April of 2008. Dance City in Newcastle upon Tyne welcomes dancers for classes and performances of all styles and levels. The kids can get their exercise at Ruff and Tumble Adventure World in Newton Aycliffe, or at The Playshack in Shildon, or at the Lion'S Den in Alnwick. For a day of arts and crafts, try Pot a Doodle Do in Scremerston.

About the Author

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

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