



Daily Itinerary

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4 July Hadrian's Wall & Northumberland

Head off from Durham towards Hadrian's wall. We suggest you start with Cawfields, just north of Haltwhistle ([see daily directions](#)) which is a particularly high and rugged part of the wall, and follow the road that runs parallel (B6318) stopping at Vinlando, where there are interesting ruins of several forts, and Housesteads, which was a roman village.

Carry on into the Northumberland National Park. You are going to end up at Rothbury for the night, but you might like to take a circuitous route to explore some of the area. See your [Northumberland Touring Map](#). Kielder Water is the largest man made lake in Europe. A great drive would be up to Kielder along the lake side, through the forest toll road and on to Rothbury via the B6341. This would add about 25 miles, plus a good hour, to your journey but is worth it if you have time. ('Danger area' denotes military activity. The roads are safe but you wouldn't want to walk across the open country.)

For directions to your first accommodation, [see daily directions](#)

Rothbury has several pubs and restaurants. You might try the Anglers Arms in Weldon Bridge.

5 July Northumberland

As your priority is Lindisfarne, you might like to head straight there first. It is accessible between 10 and 5 today so there is plenty of time to visit and then explore further afterwards. St Aidan first built a monastery on Lindisfarne, or Holy island, in 635. There is no sign of this left but you can visit the ruins of the 11th century priory and the castle, which was restored by Lutyens, the famous architect.

Northumberland is littered with castles, due to the constant battling that went on between the Scots and the English. The most famous is Bamburgh, situated conveniently south on the coast close to Lindisfarne. This was a very important castle once as it was a royal palace to the Northumbrian kings. You can go into Bamburgh castle, but at the very least go and look at it because it is in a wonderful setting. There is a nice pub in Bamburgh high street called the Lord Crewe.

Another wonderful castle is Alnwick which is the seat to the Duke of Northumberland. This would be my choice to actually go inside as it has some wonderful paintings by Canaletto, Titian and Van Dyke. Alnwick is also a pretty town. You will pass through it on the way to Lindisfarne so if you start early enough you could visit on the way.

If you still have some time, Berwick-Upon-Tweed is a pleasant walled town that is worth a stroll around.

Head for your next stop for the night. [see daily directions](#) .

6 July Edinburgh

Start early for Edinburgh to give yourselves a full day here.

Start with the Castle. If you visit no other on your trip, see this one. It is layered in history, from the 12th to 20th century. A guided tour is, in our experience, the most informative and entertaining way to tour around. www.edinburghcastle.biz/

Follow the Royal Mile from the castle to the Palace of Holyrood house. The Royal Mile was the main thoroughfare of medieval Edinburgh. It is packed on either side by interesting old buildings. It helps if you know what you are seeing so take a look at www.aboutscotland.co.uk/edin/royal.html#A. If you prefer you can book a half day tour with a guide.

Unfortunately Holyrood house is shut on 6 July as the Queen will be in residence. (Maybe pop in for tea?)

If there is time (and your feet allow) track back up past the castle to New Town. 'New' is a relative term; this area was built during the 18th century and has many examples of fine Georgian architecture. There is a house, called Georgian House, which is set up exactly as it would have been.

Edinburgh is a cosmopolitan city and there are literally hundreds of pubs and restaurants of every type to choose from. I am sure your host and hostess will have their own favourites. You may like to take pot luck but here are a



few suggestions close to the castle and the Royal Mile:

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Edinburgh is famous for its music venues. You may want to visit The Jazz bar www.thejazzbar.co.uk or Eighty Queen Street www.eighty-queen-street.com. Unfortunately there do not seem to be any special events or festivals going on while you are there.

7 July Fyfe Coast and Highland Games

Head out of Edinburgh on the A90 over the Forth Road Bridge across the Firth of Forth. Take the A92 past Kirkcaldy (pronounced Kirkody) taking the A915 and A917 to Elie (where there is a nice old pub called The Ship on the harbour). The most picturesque part of this East Neuk coast is the next 10 miles. Take the morning to meander up this coast and then head back for the 152nd Thornton Highland Gathering in the early afternoon. Thornton is a mile north of Kirkcaldy towards Glenrothes. Just to set expectations, this is not a major games, but will give you a taste of this long standing tradition.

For your next stop [see daily directions..](#)

8 July St Andrews and Trossochs

Into St Andrew's, if you didn't manage to visit yesterday. The University of St. Andrews is the oldest university in Scotland and the third oldest university in Britain. As you will be there at a weekend the guided walks around the University will not be running. However, you can plan your own route in advance by following this link. www.saint-andrews.co.uk

St Andrews is of course also the home of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club who are the traditional bastions of the rules of golf.

For your next stop [see daily directions](#). There is a good pub in the village and also a couple of others not too far away. Try:

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9/10 July Explore Loch Lomond and the Trossochs

This area of central Scotland is the land of Rob Roy – outlaw, cattle thief, murderer or Scottish hero depending on your point of view. A real person who was much embellished by Sir Walter Scott.

We have included a book of short walks as this is the best way to really appreciate the beauty of this area. Some must see places are:

1)The Lake of Monteith [p.75 G8](#)

No-one really knows why this is a lake and not a loch, but the ferryman will happily give you options as they take you over to Inchmahome island to visit the ruins of the priory which once acted as a sanctuary to Mary Queen of Scots. Wonderful evocative place that is at its best early in the day before other visitors arrive. The ferry is called, by the way, by turning a board round so the white side can be seen in the island.

2) Loch Voile [p.75 E8](#)

Take the road off the A84 to Balquidder. The churchyard has Rob Roy's grave but even better it is the start of a short walk that will show you fantastic scenery. (See walk 2 in the walking book). Drive all along to the end of the road and back just for the views. There is a highly rated restaurant at the Monachyle Mohr hotel if you want to splash out for lunch.

3) Loch Lomond

The Western shore is the most visited of this famous loch. The eastern side is much more isolated and the better for it. You might consider walk 8. Balloch, at the foot of the loch, isn't much in itself but you can get a boat trip around the loch from there.

For something different, take a trip on the Victorian steamship SS Sir Walter Scott along Loch Katrine, the loch of the Lady of the Lake. This is quite a tourist spot but pleasant all the same.



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There is plenty more to find. Just explore!

If it's really wet, take a trip into Stirling and have a guided tour round the castle.

11 July Durham

Head back to Durham. [see daily directions](#)

12 July Whitby and the North Yorkshire

Set off for Whitby, the home of fish and chips! If it's a nice day buy some to take away and sit and eat them on the pier out of the paper – really British! Beware a fish and chip portion is rather large so you may want to share, if you want some appetite for your dinner tonight at Spital House. Wander through the old town on the other side of the river Esk estuary, where you will find shops selling jewellery made out of the local jet stone, and up the steps to the St Mary's church (worth a peak inside) and the ruins of the 13th century Abbey on the hill above.

Depending on time you could stop off next at Robin's Hood bay, so named because legend has it that the man himself kept his boats there in case he needed a quick get away. Probably fanciful, but it certainly was a smuggling village. Cars are not allowed down the steep cobbled main street so you must walk down, and back up again!

Do leave yourselves time to explore the moors. Thirsk, your next stop, is only just over an hour away by direct route but we have included a touring map so you can meander across the moors. The North Yorkshire moors are a dramatic mixture of bleak moorland and lush green valleys. The village of Goathland was the setting for the television programme Heartbeat.

Some of the roads are very steep and windy. The closer the arrows on the map, the steeper they are, however these usually denote the prettiest valleys. It's up to you how adventurous you feel!

There are many abbeys in the area. Our favourite is Rievaulx. It is in the most beautiful setting and the remains are extensive. The Abbey shuts at 6pm.

For your final stop of the trip [see daily directions](#). Dinner here should be a different and pleasant experience.

13 July Bolton

Back to Bolton and home [see daily directions](#).

If you want to see some of the Yorkshire Dales, instead of following the fast route, follow the A 61 to Ripon and then turn off on the B6265 to Grassington (nice place for a stop). Then head south on the B6265 picking up the main road again before Skipton. Pick up the M65, joining the M61 at junction 9 and back on the direct route.