

Welcome to Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Royal Station Hotel and the Central Station.



The city of Newcastle upon Tyne developed around the Roman settlement Pons Aelius and was named after the castle built in 1080 by Robert Curthose, William the Conqueror's eldest son. The city grew as an important centre for the wool trade in the 14th century, and later became a major coal mining area. The port developed in the 16th century and, along with the shipyards lower down the River Tyne, was amongst the world's largest shipbuilding and ship-repairing centres. Among its icons are Newcastle United football club and the Tyne Bridge. It has also hosted the Great North Run, the world's biggest and most popular half marathon since it began in 1981. The run now attracts over 57,000 runners each year, and follows a route from Newcastle to nearby South Shields.



The status of city was granted to Newcastle on 3 June 1882. On 3 February 1879, Mosley Street was the first public road in the world to be lit up by the incandescent lightbulb. Newcastle was one of the first cities in the world to be lit up by electric lighting. Innovations in Newcastle and surrounding areas included the development of safety lamps, Stephenson's Rocket, Lord Armstrong's artillery, Be-Ro flour, Joseph Swan's electric light bulbs, and Charles Parsons'

invention of the steam turbine, which led to the revolution of marine propulsion and the production of cheap electricity.



In 1882, Newcastle became the seat of an Anglican diocese, with St. Nicholas' Church becoming its cathedral. The cathedral has a lantern tower finished in 1474.



The River Tyne today has several bridges that cross from Newcastle to Gateshead. These include Robert Stevenson's High Level Bridge built in 1849, The Swing



Bridge built in 1876, The Tyne Bridge built in 1928 and the very modern Millennium Bridge known locally as the Eye.

In large parts, Newcastle still retains a medieval street layout. Narrow alleys or 'chares', most of which can only be traversed by foot, still exist in abundance, particularly around the riverside. Stairs from the riverside to higher parts of the city centre and the extant Castle Keep, originally recorded in the 14th century, remain intact in places. Close, Sandhill and Quayside contain modern buildings as well as structures dating from the 15th–18th centuries, including Bessie Surtees House, the Cooperage and Lloyds Quayside Bars, Derwentwater House and House of Tides, a restaurant situated at a Grade I-listed 16th century merchant's house at 28–30 Close.

The history of Newcastle can be seen in its architecture. The Castle Keep, the oldest structure in the city, built in the 11th Century.



Greys Monument built to commemorate Prime Minister Earl Grey and his Reform Act in 1832



The 20th Century Civic Centre,

through to the modern Centre of Life building.

The city has two universities – Newcastle University and Northumbria University. Newcastle University has its origins in the School of Medicine and Surgery, established in 1834 and became independent from Durham University on 1 August 1963 to form the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.



The city was also in the top ten of the county's night spots with its pubs, bars and nightclubs situated around the Big Market and the Quayside.

The city also boasts shopping centres, museums, art galleries, theatres and libraries. The Theatre Royal was first opened in 1788 but was demolished and rebuilt in its present position in 1837. The Literary and Philosophical Society known as the “Lit and Phil”, is the largest independent library outside London. It houses more than 150,000 books and was built in 1825.



We hope that you all enjoy your visit to the City of Newcastle upon Tyne.