



Tour Information



Northumberland – Castles, Coast & Country Houses





The tour commences and concludes at the **Macdonald Linden Hall Hotel**.

Longhorsley

Morpeth

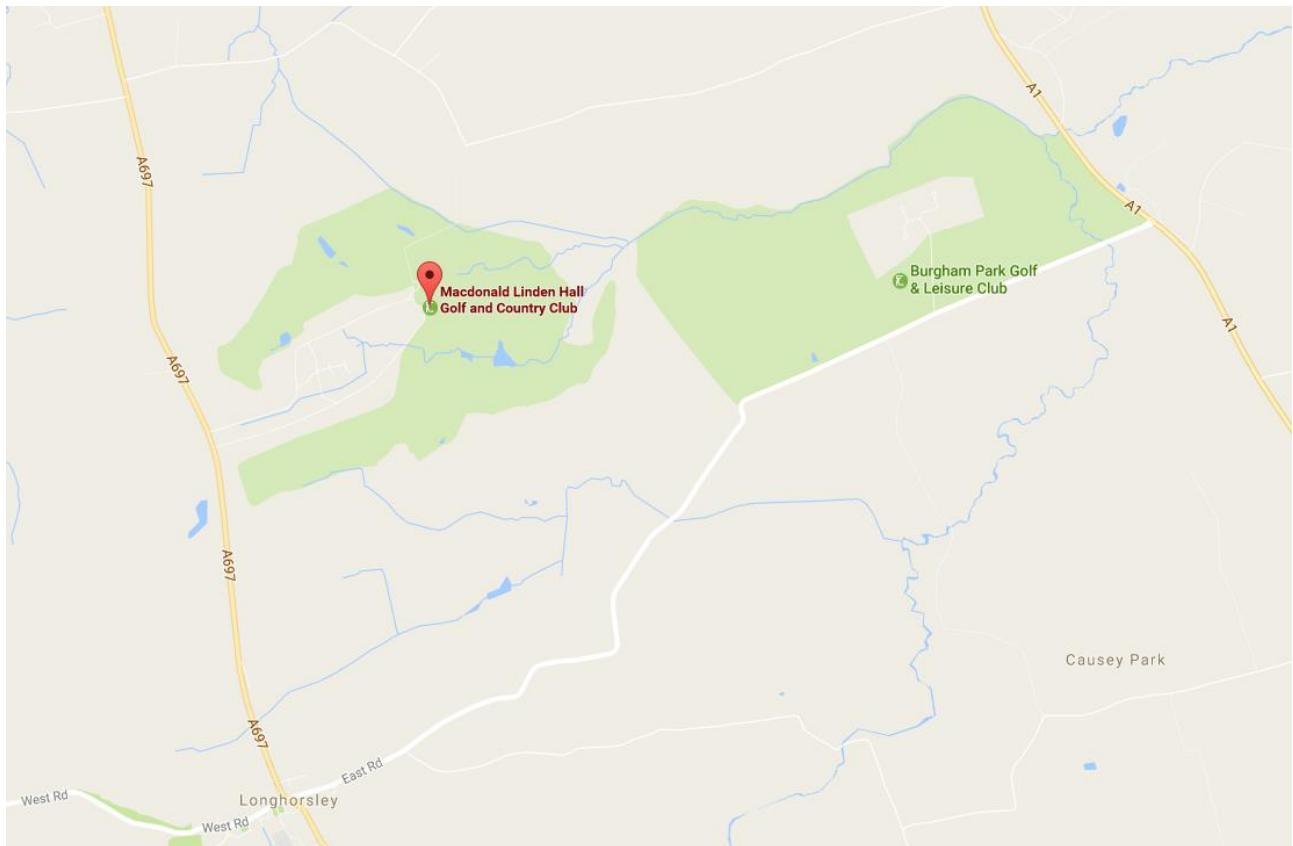
Northumberland

NE65 8XF

Tel: +44 344 879 9084

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.

Transport



If you are travelling by car:

From the South: The hotel is located down a long driveway directly off the A697, between the villages of Longhorsley and Longframlington, 7.5 miles north of the junction of the A697 and the A1.

From the north: turn right just after Eshott Airfield and the Bockenfield Holiday Park, past Burgham Park Golf Club which connects the A1 and the A697. Turn right on to the A697 and hotel is on the right.

If you are travelling by train: the nearest station is Morpeth about 11 miles away. A taxi will cost approximately £18-25

Please note that there are no taxis at Morpeth train station.

We recommend you pre-book your taxi with the following local companies:

Just Taxis - 07957 495503 /Phoenix - 01670 503039 /SA Taxis - 01670 513513 /Castle Taxis - 01670 519898

It is often very difficult to get a taxi if not pre-booked.



Accommodation

Macdonald Linden Hall Hotel

The impressive Macdonald Linden Hall Golf and Country Club was built by merchant and banker Charles William Bigge in 1812. Today, it nestles in 450 acres of private grounds: the perfect country house hotel. Boasting several versatile function rooms and an 18-hole golf course, it's the perfect venue to explore the surrounding area. The stunning Northumberland countryside location and award-winning food and drink make it an ideal hotel for a relaxing break in the country with extensive health club and spa facilities, not to mention luxurious accommodation. Rooms include luxury en-suite bathrooms, TV, hairdryer, wi-fi, desk and comfortable armchair, tea and coffee making facilities.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

<http://www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk/our-hotels/macdonald-linden-hall-golf-country-club/>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day, the tour will finish at approximately 18.00 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on dinner, bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

Dining

On the first evening, private dining with wine is included, on the remaining nights, dinner is provided at the hotel and included in the price of the tour. Breakfast on all days of your stay is included in the price but meals other than these stated are not included.

Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Places Visited

Lindisfarne Priory

Founded by St Aidan in AD635, the site owes its fame to St Cuthbert, the greatest of Northumbrian holy men, who lived and died there. Stroll around the Monastic buildings which formed the living quarters of the monks, the remote setting adds to the unique atmosphere of the Priory. With lively interpretation discover the enthralling story of the monks who lived on Holy Island, the grisly Viking invasions and the part which Henry VIII played in the history of the Priory. Lindisfarne Priory, the original home to the Lindisfarne Gospels, was one of the most important centres of early Christianity in Anglo-Saxon England.

<https://www.lindisfarne.org.uk/>

Etal Castle

Etal Castle is a ruined medieval fortification, set in the charming village of Etal by a ford over the River Till, in Northumberland. The castle was built by Robert Manners as a defence against Scots raiders in the mid-14th century, it fell to James IV's invading Scots army in 1513, immediately before their catastrophic defeat at nearby Flodden.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/etal-castle/>

Lady Waterford Hall

This inspiring building was commissioned in 1860 by Louisa Anne, Marchioness of Waterford, and owner of Ford Estate. It was the village school until 1957 and in its heyday had as many as 134 local children on the register. Now used as the village hall it is much more besides and really is a 'must see' on a visit to North Northumberland.

Lady Waterford was a keen English artist associated with John Ruskin and the Pre-Raphaelite movement and spent 21 years decorating the interior of the Hall with stunning Biblical scenes as a teaching aid for pupils. Many of the children and other villagers were used as models and can be clearly seen on the walls. Louisa Waterford is now recognised as one of the most interesting and gifted artists of her time and many of her original smaller artworks are displayed in the Hall, as well as a display from her sketchbooks. Discover Louisa's masterpiece for yourself at the Lady Waterford Hall.

<http://www.ford-and-etal.co.uk/lady-waterford-hall>

Battle of Flodden

The Battle of Flodden or Flodden Field, or occasionally Battle of Branxton (Brainston Moor), was part of a conflict between the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of Scotland. The battle was fought in Branxton in the county of Northumberland in northern England on 9 September 1513, between an invading Scots army under King James IV and an English army commanded by the Earl of Surrey. It was a decisive English victory. In terms of troop numbers, it was the largest battle fought between the two Kingdoms. James IV was killed in the battle, becoming the last monarch from the island of Britain to suffer such a death.

Alnwick Castle

Alnwick Castle is one of the largest inhabited castles in the country; it has been home to the Duke of Northumberland's family, the Percys, for over 700 years. Combining magnificent medieval architecture with sumptuous Italianate State Rooms, Alnwick Castle is one of the UK's most significant heritage destinations. Alnwick Castle features as the magnificent Brancaster Castle in Downton Abbey, after extensive filming in the State Rooms and grounds. The castle previously featured as Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the Harry Potter films.

<https://www.alnwickcastle.com/>

Cragside

Enter the world of Lord Armstrong - Victorian inventor, innovator and landscape genius. Cragside house was truly a wonder of its age.

Discover the first house in the world to be lit by hydroelectricity. It is crammed full of ingenious gadgets – most of them still working. The gardens are incredible. One of the largest rock gardens in Europe leads down to the Iron Bridge, which in turn leads to the formal garden. Children will love our adventure play area and exploring Nelly's Labyrinth, a network of paths and tunnels cut out of a vast area of rhododendron forest.

Awarded the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence and voted third runner up in Period Ideas Magazine Heritage Property of the Year Awards 2016, experience the wonder of Cragside for yourself.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cragside>

Bamburgh Castle

Once the royal seat of the Kings of Northumbria, Bamburgh Castle has stood guard over this beautiful coastline for over 1,400 years. Spanning nine acres of land on its rocky plateau, Bamburgh Castle is one of the largest inhabited castles in the country.

Explore Bamburgh Castle and discover everything this iconic building has to offer. The castle enjoys more than its fair share of legends and myths. With dragons and ghosts it's also believed to be the site of Sir Lancelot's fictitious castle, Joyous Garde.

Mystery awaits as the past comes to life with dark tales of royal rebellion, bloody battles and spell-binding legends. The adventure starts here – what will you uncover?

Discover the legacy of the Armstrong empire as you take a trip back through time. With 14 rooms and over 3,000 items on display, ranging from arms and armour to fine porcelain, china, artworks and furniture, there is plenty to discover.

Defending itself from its position 150 feet above the sea, Bamburgh Castle dominates the Northumberland countryside and coastline. It sits on a natural throne of volcanic dolerite, known locally as whinstone for the sound it makes when hit by a stonemason's hammer.

Natural beauty like this is a rare treat. The magnificent castle stands proudly on the coast with breathtaking views out to The Farne Islands and Lindisfarne. It's little surprise it has been designated an area of outstanding natural beauty.

<http://www.bamburghcastle.com/>

Warkworth Castle

The magnificent cross-shaped keep of Warkworth, crowning a hilltop rising steeply above the River Coquet, dominates one of the largest, strongest and most impressive fortresses in Northumberland.

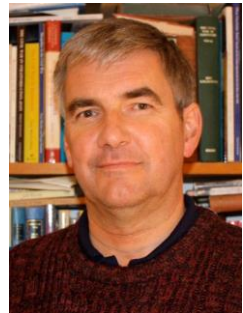
The castle's most famous owners were the Percy family, whose lion badge can be seen carved on many parts of their stronghold. Wielding almost kingly power in the north, their influence reached its apogee under the first Earl of Northumberland and his son 'Harry Hotspur', hero of many Border ballads as the bane of Scots raiders and a dominant character in Shakespeare's 'Henry IV'.

Having helped to depose Richard II, these turbulent 'kingmakers' both fell victim to Henry IV: the next three Percy Earls likewise died violent deaths. Still roofed and almost complete, the uniquely-planned keep dates mainly from the end of the 14th century. It presides over the extensive remains of a great hall, chapel, fine gatehouse and a virtually intact circuit of towered walls

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/warkworth-castle-and-hermitage/>

Your Guide

Julian Humphrys will be your guide during the tour. Julian is a historian, author and broadcaster. Julian read history at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, has worked at historical sites both in Britain and overseas and is now a trustee of the Battlefields Trust and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has a very infectious enthusiasm for history and has published numerous books on castles and battles. He currently leads more than a dozen tours for Travel Editions and imparts his extraordinary historical knowledge with wit and panache, making a tour led by him both an educational and entertaining experience.



Julian will give the following talks during the tour:

'Reivers and Raiders: Life and death on the borders'.

'Sieges and castles'.

Practical Information






Tour Manager - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

Walking Content – This tour has been graded a 4 out of 5 for walking difficulty.

Walking difficulty: 

Please see the key below for an explanation of the footprint symbols:

Very little walking involved	
Relaxed easy pace, mainly walking from coach to site	
Some walking between sites, good, flat walking surfaces	
Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewings	
On your feet all day, uneven terrain (cobblestones etc)	

Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday, please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason, you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.

Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

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