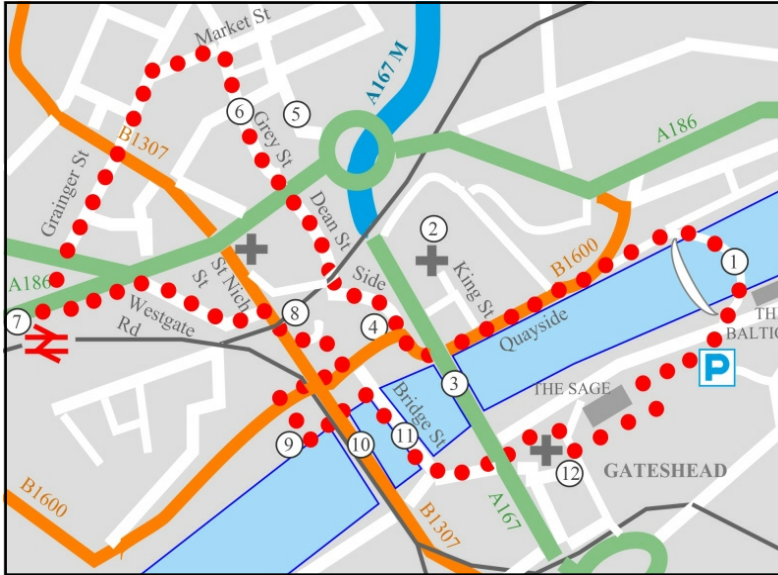


Walk 4

NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD



Newcastle is not the only British city to have graceful Georgian streets, an impressive Victorian station and an inventive modern bridge. However it is unique in having them all squashed into a small area and then folded up in a steep sided valley so all these wonderful structures can be viewed from above. Add to this an old castle, timber framed houses, an elliptical church, important 19th century bridges, the Sage and Baltic centre and you have the most fascinating city to walk around in the country.



Newcastle should be near the top of any city break list and this walk takes in some of the highlights of this mighty city from its Medieval past, through its industrial glory years to its modern reinvention.

Distance: 2 miles approx (some steps to go down in places)

Parking: I used Mill Road Car Park next to The Sage (approx £4.50 - £6).

From Mill Road Car Park go down the metal steps towards the Millennium Bridge and take time to admire the Baltic Arts Centre in the old Joseph Rank Mill before crossing over the Tyne.



Gateshead Millennium Bridge

① *Gateshead Millennium Bridge and Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, NE8 3BA.*

The elegant and clever tilting Millennium Bridge was designed by Wilkinson Eyre and opened in 2001. Three hydraulic rams each side tilt the structure which was lifted into place as a single piece. The Baltic flour mill next to it was designed for Joseph Rank in the 1930s but was not completed until 1950. Hundreds were employed here until it closed in the early 1980s, but it was saved and reopened as a centre for contemporary arts in 2002.



Baltic Centre

Once across the Millenium Bridge turn left and walk along Quayside. Just before you get to Tyne Bridge look right up King Street to see All Saints Church.

② **All Saints Church, NE1 2ES**

This impressive elliptical shaped church with its distinctive tower and steeple (right) was opened in 1796 but was deconsecrated in 1961 and is currently on the buildings at risk register.



③ **Tyne Bridge, NE8 2BH.**

The Tyne Bridge is such an iconic landmark for the region not just because of its mighty form but unlike its contemporary the Sydney Harbour Bridge (designed by the same company who built this) it is right in the centre of the city. This means you can walk beneath the point where the huge arches which support the road deck meet the ground on massive hinged points (to allow for expansion) at the foot of the towers which were built with warehouses and lifts inside (not in use). Notice also the Art Deco style of the masonry and ironwork (below) reflecting the period when the bridge opened in 1928.



Pass under Tyne Bridge then follow the road away from the river and take your first right up Side. Go under the railway bridge and then fork right up Dean Street which leads into Grey Street.



④ *Bessie Surtees House, NE1 3JF*

Two late 16th and early 17th century timber framed houses built for local merchants who displayed their wealth with masses of what at the time were expensive glass windows. It was from here in 1772 that Bessie Surtees a local girl eloped to Scotland with a coal merchant's son, John Scott, who later became Lord Chancellor of England. 33 Sandhills to the right is of similar age.



The walk up Side goes under this impressive railway bridge (above left) and then right up Dean Street where there are these highly decorative Edwardian buildings on your left (above right).

⑤ *Alderman Fenwick Hs, NE1 6SG*

If you get the time for a short diversion then at the top of Dean Street turn right along Mosley Street, then left and you will find this rare late 17th century house on your left side. Much of old Newcastle was swept aside in the 1960s to make way for buildings like the former Swan House in the roundabout opposite.



⑥ **Grainger Town, NE1 6EE.**

Richard Grainger, a local builder, helped transform the centre of Newcastle from a old coal town into a graceful Classical city. The gently curving Grey Street leading to the Theatre Royal and Grey Memorial is its centre piece .



Grey Street

The elegant sweep of Classical facades was laid out along the line of Lort Burn (a stream which now flows under the street) in the 1830s. Grainger employed a number of architects to design its buildings including John Dobson and had the street named after Lord Grey, the prime Minister, who came from the region. Grey Street has long been admired by architectural commentators and was recently voted Britain's best street by Radio 4 listeners.

Walk up Grey Street then turn left along Market Street, then left again down Grainger Street which leads you in a straight line to the Railway Station.



Collingwood Street



Newcastle Station



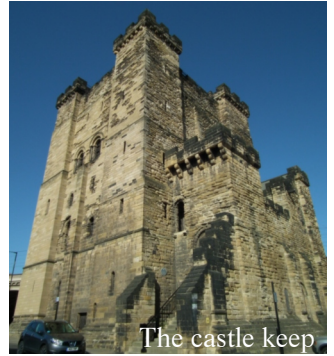
porte-cochère

⑦ **Newcastle Railway Station, NE1 5DF.**

This major central railway station with its curved train sheds (left) and imposing Classical facade was designed by John Dobson to compliment Grainger Town and opened in 1850. Due to money shortages the design was cut back so the immense porte-cochère (porch to shelter carriages) designed by Thomas Prosser was not added until 1863.



From the front of the Railway station turn right (west) and head along Neville Street, then follow Westgate Street which veers off to the right. At the bottom cross over and go through the Black Gate (below left) and follow the path to the old castle keep (below right).



⑧ *The Castle, NE1 1RQ.*

The stone keep was built in the 1170s to replace the earlier timber 'New Castle upon the Tyne' which had been established in 1080 by William the Conqueror's son (the Black Gate was added in around 1250). Despite having a railway built through the middle the gate and keep survive to be explored today. You can also visit the top of Stephenson's High Level Bridge next to the keep.

Opposite the keep there are a set of steps to walk down towards the river. At the bottom turn right along Sandhills, under the High Level Bridge, then cross over the road and explore Quayside.



⑨ *The Close and Quayside, NE1 3RN.*

This area was originally where the wealthy merchants lived and had their quays and warehousing. The Cooperage (above centre) is a 16th century timber framed house built in the ruins of an earlier stone structure with the massive red brick Turnbull Warehouse behind dating from 1890's.



High Level Bridge



ENGINEERS.
ROBERT STEPHENSON & CO.
THOMAS & HARRISON.
CONTRACTORS FOR IRON WORKS.
JAMES CLAPHAM & SONS.
1850

⑩ High Level Bridge, NE1 3RN.

This important engineering marvel was designed by Robert Stephenson and is probably the first road and rail combined bridge in the world. Although each span has an iron arch it does not work like the Tyne Bridge. Instead the ends of each arch are tied back underneath so making a rigid girder (a tied arch or bow string girder) with the railway above supported by vertical cast iron columns and the road beneath hung off wrought iron rods. You can still walk across it from the entrance next to the castle.

From Quayside walk under the High Level Bridge and then cross over the Tyne on the Swing Bridge. Walk up Bridge Street and then at the top turn left and explore St Marys Church on the left and the Sage on its right. The car park where you started from is at the rear of the Sage.



Swing Bridge



⑪ Swing Bridge, NE1 3RQ.

Positioned between the Tyne and High Level Bridges is Swing Bridge which when opened in 1876 was the world's longest of its type. It was built on the site of the original Roman Bridge dating from 120 A.D. and its later medieval replacement. This obstructed large ships getting further upstream, a problem for Sir William Armstrong who designed and constructed the swing bridge so ships could reach his factory. It still uses the machinery he originally installed in the 1870s.

⑫ *St Mary's Church and The Sage, NE8 2JR.*

St Mary's is 13th century in origin but this religious site may be much older. This fine building displays numerous styles as it has been rebuilt over the centuries and was the only church you could get married in Gateshead up until 1825. It was gutted by fire in 1979 before being restored and reopened as a heritage centre. The Sage is a distinctive steel and glass music venue designed by Foster and Partners and opened in 2004. It was sponsored to the tune of £6 million by the software company Sage after who the hall is named and is open throughout the day for the public to explore.



If you want to find out more details about the city's architecture then look out for the Buildings of England series, originally written by Nicholas Pevsner (Northumberland edition or the separate city guide to Newcastle and Gateshead)).

If you would like to discover more about the bridges in Newcastle or its Tudor and Georgian houses then look out for my books pictured below. They are packed with photos and drawings explaining in an easy to understand manner how they were built, what the different styles were and where you can find some outstanding examples. They are available from Amazon, my publisher's website www.countrysidebooks.co.uk and your local bookshop and most are under £10 each. Go to my website www.trevoryorke.co.uk for more details and to take a look inside.

