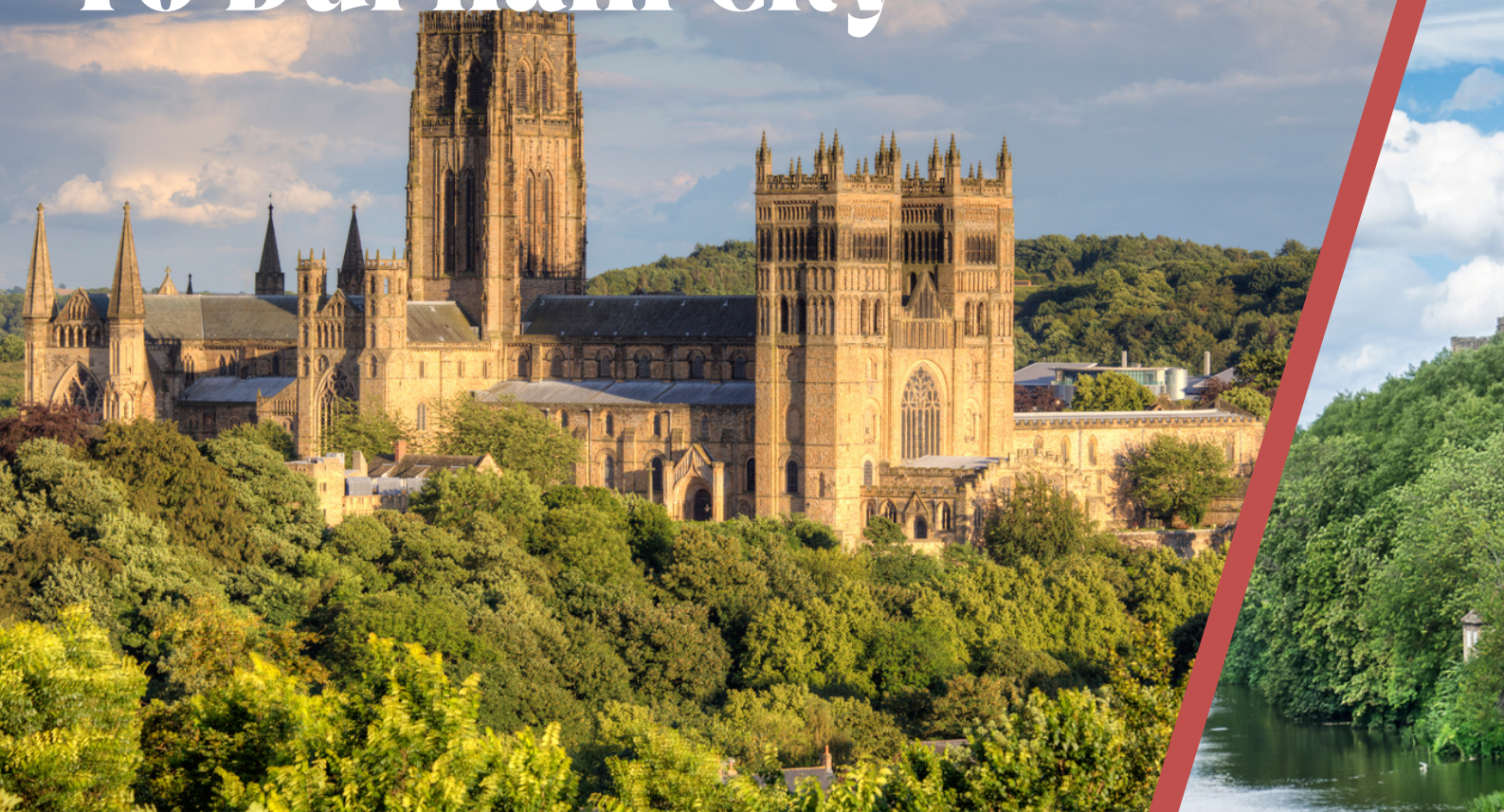


TGV Guide To Durham City



Explore Durham

Nestled in the northeast of England, Durham City boasts a captivating blend of medieval architecture, cobbled streets, and a rich cultural heritage. Renowned for its UNESCO World Heritage-listed cathedral and castle, the city exudes an atmosphere of timeless elegance along the banks of the River Wear.



About Durham

As you step into this charming city, you're greeted by a captivating blend of medieval architecture that whispers tales of centuries gone by. The cobbled streets, worn smooth by the passage of time, lead you through a labyrinth of historic wonders.

The city's crown jewels are undoubtedly the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Durham Cathedral and Castle, both standing proudly on a peninsula formed by a meander of the River Wear. The Durham Cathedral, a masterpiece of Norman architecture, commands attention with its imposing structure and intricate detailing. Its grandeur is heightened by the fact that it houses the Shrine of St Cuthbert and the resting place of the Venerable Bede, adding layers of spiritual significance.

Adjacent to the cathedral, Durham Castle stands as a testament to the city's medieval roots. Originally built as a Norman fortress, it later transformed into the residential quarters for the Prince-Bishops of Durham. The castle's Norman Chapel, Great Hall, and stunning views from its vantage point further contribute to Durham's allure.



Wandering through the city, you'll find yourself enchanted by the timeless elegance that permeates every corner. The riverside setting along the banks of the River Wear adds a poetic touch to the cityscape. The river, with its gentle flow, becomes a companion to your exploration, reflecting the historical grandeur of Durham.

As the sunlight dances on the cobblestones, Durham City unfolds as a living canvas of history and tradition. Beyond the cathedral and castle, the city reveals numerous other historical treasures, including the well-preserved medieval streets of the Elvet area and the bustling Durham Market Place.

Durham's cultural heritage isn't confined to the past; it's a vibrant part of everyday life. The city's prestigious university, founded in 1832, contributes to the academic and cultural tapestry, ensuring that Durham remains a dynamic hub of learning and innovation.

In every aspect, Durham City invites visitors to immerse themselves in a living museum of medieval charm, offering an unforgettable journey through time and an appreciation for the enduring elegance that defines this enchanting destination along the River Wear.

How To Get Around

Walking: Durham City is compact and pedestrian-friendly, allowing visitors to explore the historic core, including the cathedral and castle, on foot.

Public Transportation: Durham has an efficient bus network connecting key areas within the city and nearby attractions. The Durham railway station also facilitates travel to surrounding areas.

Car Hire: For exploring the wider region, renting a car provides flexibility. Durham has several car rental agencies for those wanting to venture into the picturesque countryside.

Taxi Services: Taxis are readily available for convenient and comfortable transportation within the city and its outskirts.

Durham's charm lies in its blend of history, culture, and natural beauty, offering visitors a memorable experience in this enchanting English city.



Top Things To Do

Durham Cathedral and Castle:

Marvel at the grandeur of Durham Cathedral, a masterpiece of Norman architecture, and explore the adjoining Durham Castle, both perched high above the river and collectively forming a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

(TGV Must Visit)

Oriental Museum:

Immerse yourself in the fascinating collections at the Oriental Museum, which showcases art and archaeology from Asia and the Middle East. Explore ancient civilizations and diverse cultures through a captivating array of artifacts.

National Trust Crook Hall Gardens:

Discover the enchanting Crook Hall Gardens, a hidden gem with stunning gardens, maze, and historical buildings. Wander through the beautifully landscaped grounds and savour the tranquillity of this National Trust property.

Durham University Museum of Archaeology:

Uncover the secrets of the past at Durham University's Archaeology Museum, showcasing artifacts from diverse eras. Engage in hands-on learning, explore local archaeological history, and enjoy dynamic exhibitions for a captivating glimpse into human heritage.

Browns Rowing Boats:

Experience the serene beauty of the River Wear with Durham Rowing Boat Hire. Glide along the picturesque river at your own pace, enjoying the stunning views of Durham's historic architecture, lush greenery, and the iconic Cathedral and Castle. Whether you're a novice or an experienced rower, renting a boat provides a unique and tranquil way to explore the city's waters, creating memorable moments along the way.

Durham University Botanic Garden:

Stroll through the scenic Durham University Botanic Garden, a peaceful oasis with diverse plant collections, including woodlands, alpine, and exotic plants, providing a serene escape from the bustling city. **(TGV Favourite)**

Durham Riverside Walk:

Embark on the picturesque Riverside Walk along the River Wear, offering stunning views of the cathedral and castle. The tree-lined path is perfect for a leisurely stroll, providing glimpses of the city's landmarks.



Entertainment

Lane 7 Durham

Enjoy a unique leisure experience at Lane 7 Durham, a boutique bowling alley, and entertainment venue where retro vibes meet modern entertainment.

Escape Rooms Durham

Challenge your wits at Escape Rooms Durham, an immersive experience where teams work together to solve puzzles and unlock mysteries within a set time frame.

The Magic Corner

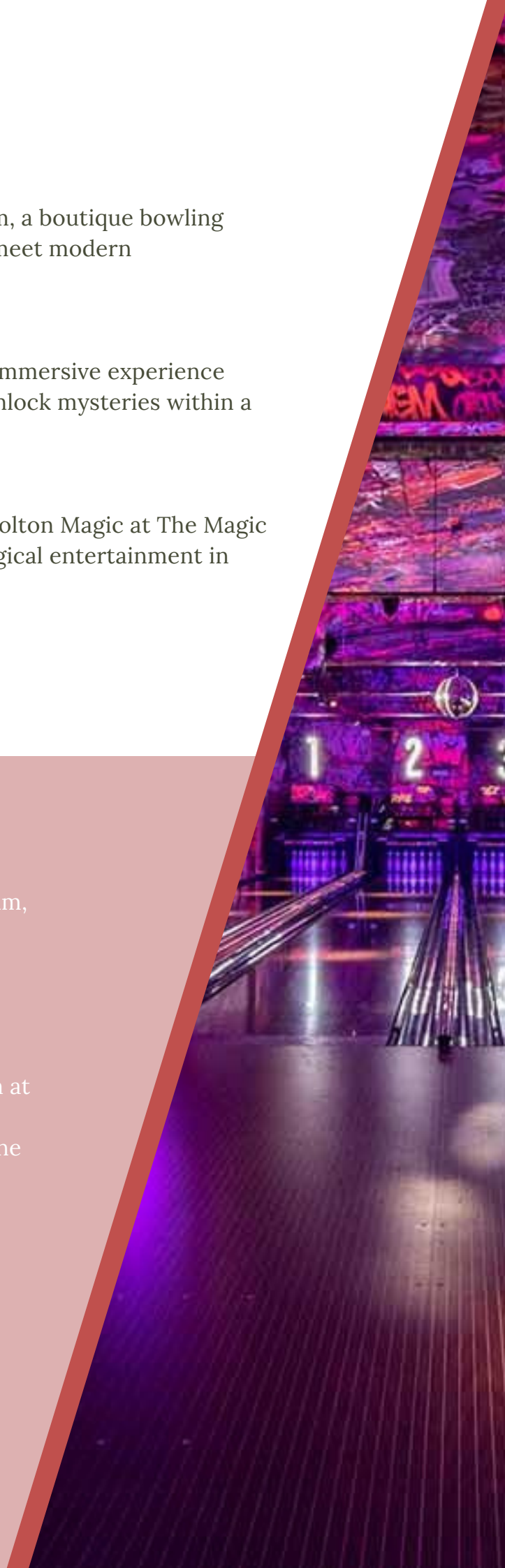
Explore the captivating world of magic with Tom Bolton Magic at The Magic Corner, offering enchanting performances and magical entertainment in Durham.

Gala Theatre Durham

Immerse yourself in the arts at Gala Theatre Durham, a cultural hub offering live performances, cinema screenings, and art exhibitions, contributing to Durham's vibrant cultural scene.

Odeon Cinema Durham

Catch the latest blockbusters or enjoy a classic film at Odeon Cinema Durham, providing a modern and comfortable cinematic experience in the heart of the city.



Nearby Must See Attractions

Kynren:

Step into the enchanting world of Kynren, an outdoor live action show that unfolds the epic tale of England's history through dazzling performances and immersive storytelling. Featuring a cast of hundreds, including horses, Kynren is a spectacular event that transports visitors through time, celebrating the nation's rich heritage in a breathtaking open-air amphitheater.

Raby Castle & Deer Park:

Discover the grandeur of Raby Castle and its picturesque Deer Park. This historic fortress, dating back to the 14th century, invites visitors to explore its opulent interiors, beautiful gardens, and the vast parkland where deer roam freely. The castle's rich history and stunning surroundings make it a must-visit destination for those seeking a glimpse into Durham's aristocratic past.

Finchale Priory:

Uncover the serenity of Finchale Priory, nestled along the banks of the River Wear. This medieval monastic site offers a peaceful retreat, allowing visitors to explore the well-preserved ruins, picturesque gardens, and the tranquil surroundings that echo centuries of history. Finchale Priory provides a contemplative escape, showcasing the enduring beauty of Durham's religious heritage.

Beamish, The Living Museum of the North:

Immerse yourself in history at Beamish, an open-air museum showcasing life in the North of England during various historical periods. Explore authentic buildings, engage with costumed characters, and ride vintage trams. **(TGV Must Visit)**

High Force Waterfall:

Witness the breath-taking High Force Waterfall, one of England's most impressive natural wonders. Surrounded by lush landscapes, this powerful waterfall is a must-visit for nature enthusiasts.



Drinks & Brunch Spots

Turtle Bay

Experience the vibrant Caribbean vibes at Turtle Bay. Known for its exotic cocktails and lively atmosphere, it's a great spot to enjoy both delicious drinks and a flavorful brunch.

Curious Mr Fox

Discover the charm of Curious Mr Fox, a venue combining cocktails, brunch, and a quirky atmosphere. The menu boasts creative cocktails and delectable brunch choices in an eclectic setting.

Old Toms Gin Bar

Gin enthusiasts will appreciate Old Toms Gin Bar, where an extensive selection of gins awaits. Pair your favourite gin with a delightful brunch menu in this quirky and intimate setting.

El Pincho

Enjoy a unique blend of Spanish tapas and creative cocktails at El Pincho. With a lively atmosphere and a menu designed for sharing, it's a social spot perfect for drinks and bites.

Breakfast & Brunch

Flat White Kitchen

Indulge in Durham's favorite brunch at Flat White Kitchen, where the must-have is their artisanal coffee paired with innovative dishes, creating a delightful morning experience.

(TGV Favourite)

Treats Cafe & Tea Room

Delight in a cozy Durham brunch at Treats Cafe & Tea Room, where the must-have is their freshly baked goods paired with hearty options, creating a perfect spot for a leisurely morning meal.

Chapters of Durham

Elevate your brunch at Chapters of Durham, where sophistication meets a diverse menu, making the must-have their stylish brunch classics, perfect for an enjoyable morning in the city.



Where to Eat

Tango

Indulge in a burger lover's paradise at Tango, where the menu is dedicated to crafting gourmet burgers with a flair. Choose from a variety of expertly prepared patties, creative toppings, and flavorful sauces, all served in a relaxed and inviting ambiance. Tango is the ideal spot for those craving a delicious and satisfying burger experience in Durham.

Cosy Club

Experience the eclectic ambiance of Cosy Club, offering a diverse menu and relaxed atmosphere. This spot is a favorite for those seeking comfort and variety in their dining experience in Durham.

Zizzi

Dive into Italian delights at Zizzi, where a menu of classic and contemporary dishes, including flavorful pizzas and pastas, is served in a stylish setting, making it a top choice for Italian cuisine enthusiasts in Durham.

Akarsu

Savor the rich flavors of Turkish cuisine at Akarsu. Known for its warm hospitality and a menu filled with traditional dishes, this restaurant offers a delightful experience for food enthusiasts.

Estabulo Rodizio

Embark on a Brazilian culinary adventure at Estabulo Rodizio, where the concept of endless meats carved tableside meets the vibrant atmosphere of Durham. Indulge in a variety of succulent cuts, expertly grilled and served in the traditional rodizio style, offering a carnivorous delight for food enthusiasts in the heart of the city.

TGV Favourite Eats

Tapas Factory

Indulge in the vibrant atmosphere of Tapas Factory, where authentic Spanish flavors come to life. From traditional tapas to paellas, this restaurant offers a taste of Spain in the heart of Durham.

Zen

Zen provides an elegant setting for Asian cuisine enthusiasts. With a menu featuring sushi, sashimi, and other Japanese delights, it's a destination for those craving a taste of the East.

Pancake Cafe

Indulge your sweet tooth at the Pancake Cafe, a charming spot dedicated to serving delicious pancakes with an array of toppings. From classic to creative combinations, it's a haven for pancake lovers.



Where To Stay

Durham Castle Accommodation (University Rooms)

Immerse yourself in the historical ambiance of Durham by staying at Durham Castle Accommodation, available through University Rooms. Offering a unique opportunity to reside within a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site, this accommodation allows guests to experience the charm of Durham Castle. Enjoy a blend of modern comfort and medieval surroundings for an unforgettable stay in this iconic university setting.

The Kingslodge Inn

Discover the warmth of The Kingslodge Inn, a charming inn with a blend of historic character and modern comforts. Located in a convenient location, it provides a relaxed and inviting environment for guests.

Hotel Indigo Durham

Hotel Indigo Durham offers a blend of modern luxury and historical charm. With stylish design elements and stunning views of Durham Cathedral and the medieval castle, this boutique hotel provides a unique and comfortable retreat in the heart of the city.

The Funky Monk

Experience Durham with a touch of contemporary flair at The Funky Monk. These stylish serviced apartments are celebrated for their unique design and vibrant ambiance, providing a distinctive and modern accommodation option for those seeking a memorable stay in the city.

TGV Favourites

40 Winks Guest House:

Experience the charm of 40 Winks Guest House, a cozy and welcoming accommodation. Nestled in a tranquil setting, this guest house offers personalized service and a comfortable stay for those seeking a homely atmosphere.

OYO Townhouse

OYO The Townhouse is set in a Grade II-Listed Georgian town house, offering individually themed rooms in Durham's charming Old Elvet area

These Accommodation options offer distinct experiences, ensuring you have a wonderful and tailored stay according to your preferences.



40 Winks Durham



Shopping

Durham City offers a diverse range of shopping options, blending historic charm with modern retail experiences. Here are some notable shopping areas and highlights.

Prince Bishops Shopping Centre: Located in the heart of Durham, the Prince Bishops Shopping Centre is a modern retail destination with a mix of high street brands, fashion stores, and cafes. It provides a convenient and central location for a shopping spree.

Boutique Stores along Saddler Street and Elvet Bridge: Wander through the historic streets of Saddler Street and Elvet Bridge, where you'll find charming boutique stores offering unique fashion, accessories, books and gifts. The cobbled streets add to the picturesque shopping experience.

Durham Indoor Market: Tucked away in the city centre, Durham Indoor Market is a hidden gem offering a variety of stalls selling everything from fresh produce to clothing and accessories. It's an excellent place to discover local goods and engage with friendly vendors.

Durham Market Place: The historic market square is not only a cultural hub but also a shopping haven. Explore a variety of stalls and shops offering local produce, artisan crafts, antiques, and unique finds. The market is a treasure trove for those seeking distinctive items.

Craft and Gift Shops: Durham is home to several craft and gift shops where you can discover handmade items, artwork, and artisan crafts. These shops often showcase the talent of local artists and makers.



Cultural Aspects

Historic Architecture:

- Durham City is a treasure trove of historic architecture, with its crowning jewels being the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Durham Cathedral and Castle. These structures not only serve as symbols of the city's medieval past but also host cultural events and exhibitions, contributing to Durham's vibrant cultural landscape.

University Heritage:

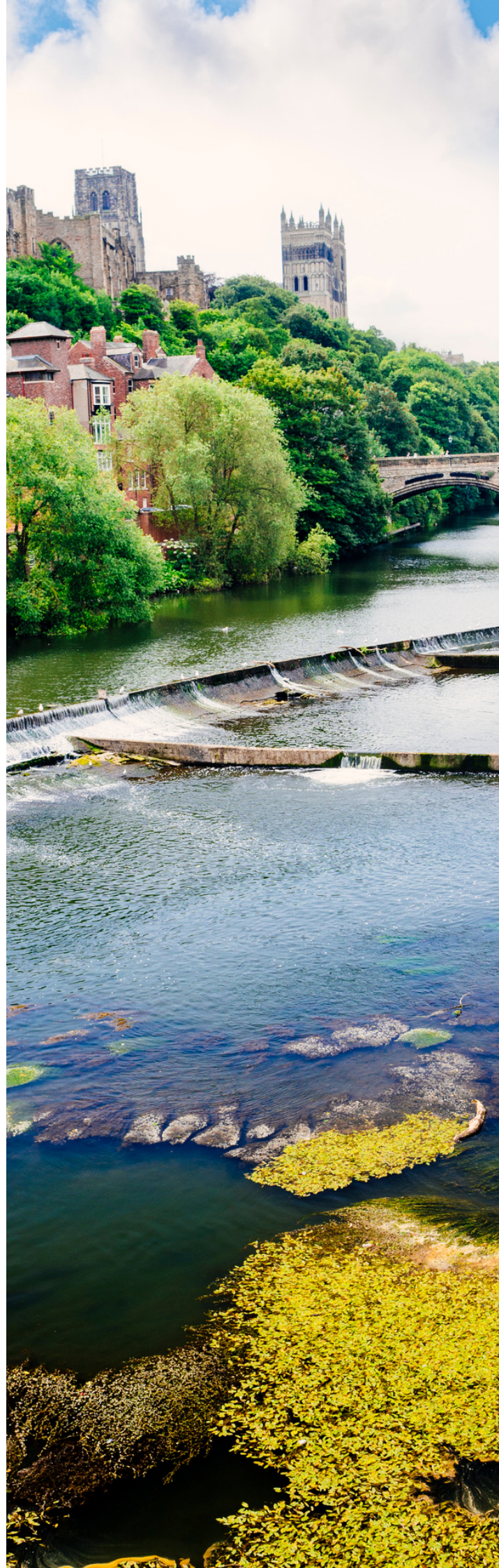
- The prestigious Durham University, founded in 1832, plays a pivotal role in shaping the city's cultural identity. The university brings a dynamic and intellectual atmosphere, hosting lectures, performances, and exhibitions that enrich the cultural fabric of Durham.

Literary Heritage:

- Durham has strong literary ties, with the city being a recurring setting in the works of renowned author Bill Bryson. The landscapes and architecture often serve as inspiration for writers and poets, adding a literary dimension to Durham's cultural heritage.

Museums and Galleries:

- The city is home to various museums and galleries, including the Durham University Oriental Museum and the Palace Green Library. These cultural institutions showcase diverse collections, from ancient artifacts to contemporary art, fostering an appreciation for global cultures and histories.



Events

Lumiere Festival:

- Lumiere, the UK's largest light festival, transforms Durham City into a dazzling spectacle of light and art. This biennial event attracts artists and visitors from around the world, turning historical landmarks into illuminated masterpieces and creating a magical atmosphere.

- **November Biennial**

Durham Fringe Festival:

- Durham Fringe Festival has something for everyone, with music, comedy, dance, theatre and more, in a collection of cosy alternative venues across the city.

- **July**

Durham Book Festival:

- The Durham Book Festival is a celebration of literature, bringing together acclaimed authors, poets, and thinkers. This literary event offers book readings, discussions, and workshops, fostering a love for literature and ideas within the community.

- **October**

Durham Brass Festival:

- The Durham Brass Festival is a vibrant celebration of brass music, showcasing local and international talent. From street performances to grand concerts, this festival contributes to Durham's musical heritage and draws enthusiasts from far and wide.

- **July**



- Lumiere

Durham Miners' Gala:

- The Durham Miners' Gala, also known as "The Big Meeting," is a historic event that honors the region's coal mining heritage. This annual gathering includes parades, speeches, and a sense of community spirit, providing a window into Durham's industrial past.

July

The Fire & Ice Festival:

- Join in the festivities at the Fire & Ice Festival, an annual event that ignites Durham's streets with dazzling displays and performances. This celebration, blending fire-themed spectacles and icy enchantment, adds a modern and dynamic layer to Durham's cultural calendar, attracting locals and visitors alike.

February

Durham Christmas Festival:

- Experience the magic of the season at the Durham Christmas Festival. Against the backdrop of the city's historic charm, this festive celebration brings joy with market stalls, seasonal entertainment, and the twinkling lights of the Christmas market, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for all to enjoy.

December

These cultural aspects and events collectively contribute to Durham City's identity as a dynamic and culturally rich destination, inviting both residents and visitors to engage with its heritage and celebrate the diverse expressions of creativity throughout the year.



Enjoy Your Visit

Durham stands as a captivating blend of medieval charm, vibrant culture, and natural beauty, making it an exceptional destination for all types of travellers. The UNESCO World Heritage-listed landmarks, the lively market square, and the enchanting River Wear create an atmosphere that seamlessly combines history and modernity.

Personally, my favorite time to explore Durham is during the summer months. The city comes alive with colorful blooms, outdoor events, and the opportunity to enjoy the scenic landscapes along the riverbanks. Whether you're drawn to historic architecture, cultural experiences, or simply wish to bask in the warmth of a summer day, Durham promises a truly memorable visit for every discerning traveler.



Thank You

I hope this guide can help you make the most of your time in Durham and enjoy the diverse experiences the city has to offer.

This Girl Visits