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## TOURS THROUGH TIME

A RANGE OF FULLY GUIDED HISTORICAL TOURS

# Historic Durham

**21/24 October 2010**  
**from the Marriott Durham Royal County Hotel \*\*\*\***



Led by **Julian Humphrys**, historian and author, this tour will explore the ancient city of Durham. Encircled by The River Wear, the city is full of architectural treasures such as the Norman cathedral and the castle, which have secured its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Also, we are delighted to include a tour of **Ushaw College**, one of the

County Durham's hidden gems. This 18<sup>th</sup> century building boasts the striking Grand College Refectory, the finely crafted Cloisters, the awe inspiring St Cuthbert's Chapel and the "Cat Ring". Another highlight is a tour of **Brancepeth Castle** and **St Brandon's Church**. The castle is privately owned and the history and architecture is of particular interest.

We also tour **Durham Town Hall**, the **Oriental Museum** and we travel further afield to the fascinating **Bowes Museum** and to the tiny 7<sup>th</sup> century **Escomb Church**, one of the finest Saxon churches in England.

### Itinerary at a glance

Day 1 Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Day 2 Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Day 3 Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Day 4 Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> October
Independent travel and check-in to the hotel from 14.00 hrs.	Breakfast.	Breakfast.	Breakfast.
19.00hrs: Welcome Reception and introduction to the tour.	Depart by executive coach for Brancepeth for a private tour of Brancepeth Castle.	Join your guide for a tour of the city to include the Oriental Museum and the Town Hall, followed by the Palace Green and Durham Cathedral.	Check-out of rooms with secure storage available for luggage.
19.30hrs: Dinner.	Continue to Ushaw College and Chapel. On arrival lunch will be served in the Refectory. Private tour of the Roman Catholic seminary.	Free time for lunch and independent sightseeing.	Depart by executive coach for a visit to Bowes Museum. An introductory tour followed by free time to explore the collections.
	Return to the hotel.	Later, there will be a visit to Durham Castle.	Lunch will be served in the Music Room.
	19.30hrs: Dinner.	Return to the hotel.	Return to Durham via Escomb Church.
		19.30hrs: Dinner.	Depart at leisure.

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### Full Itinerary

**Day 1** Check in to the hotel from 1400 and during the evening meet Julian and fellow tour members for an official welcome drink followed by dinner.

**Day 2** After breakfast, we depart for Brancepeth and **Brancepeth Castle**, which is privately owned. The castle was originally founded many centuries ago by the chief of the Anglo Saxon Bulmer family. Our private tour will concentrate on the architecture and the history and refreshments are included afterwards. Of particular interest in Brancepeth is the **12th century Church of St Brandon**. The surroundings of Brancepeth are quite pleasant and the ivy covered cottages which lead up to the castle are particularly attractive. The Brancepeth area caught the attention of both William Wordsworth who visited the place and featured Brancepeth in a poem and Albert Lord Tennyson who wrote "**Come into the Garden Maud**" at Brancepeth.

We then continue to **Ushaw College and Chapel** where lunch (included) will be served in the Refectory. After lunch there will be a private tour of the famous Roman Catholic seminary which is the main centre in the north of England for the training of Roman Catholic priests. Its establishment dates back to the foundation of the great seminary of Douai in France, founded in 1568. After the French revolution, the college of Douai was seized and the occupants fled to England. The present college was founded in 1808 and it is the home of a number of important possessions, including the finger ring of St Cuthbert which may be worn by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle on special occasions. Within a beautiful setting, the stunning Ushaw College has many secrets and surprises and the 18<sup>th</sup> century building boasts a striking Refectory, finely crafted cloisters and St Cuthbert's Chapel.

At the end of the day, we return to the hotel for a leisurely evening with dinner included.

**Day 3** After breakfast our first visit is to **The Oriental Museum**. This museum is the Asian art, antiquities, and material culture museum of Durham University. It was opened in 1960, to house and display a remarkable collection, of world renown, covering the entire range of human history and prehistory from the civilisations and cultures of Asia, Egypt, Islamic North Africa, the Near, and Mid-East. We then continue to visit the **Town Hall**. The Main Hall has a majestic hammer beam roof, beautiful stained glassed windows and painted panels. This tour will reveal the fascinating history and architectural features of this historic building with a glimpse behind the scenes.

We then explore Durham City, the **Palace Green, Castle and Cathedral**. After a guided tour of Durham Cathedral, the greatest Norman cathedral in England, there is an opportunity to view **The Treasures of St Cuthbert Exhibition** and have free time to lunch at leisure and explore independently.

Later, there will be a visit to **Durham Castle**. Originally the seat of the Prince Bishops of Durham, Durham Castle became the home to Durham University in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The ruined keep was rebuilt as student residences and as you tour the castle you will see how the old has blended with the new, from the medieval courtyard and Norman hall to the Great Hall and original medieval kitchen.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Day 4** After breakfast, we check out of our rooms and the hotel will store any luggage safely until we return from touring.

Cont/...

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### Day 4 / Cont...

We then travel through the Teesdale countryside for a visit to the **Bowes Museum**. Starting with an introductory tour, there will be some free time to explore the collections of your choice. Objects up to 6,000 years old are displayed in The Streatlam Galleries, including a Bronze Age hoard, cup and ring marked stones and graffiti from Binchester Roman Fort. A soup and sandwich lunch (included) will be served in The Music Room. This fascinating museum opened to the public for the first time in spring of 1892 and represents the love story of John and Josephine Bowes and their shared passion for art, collecting and design. This is most definitely a museum on a grand scale that displays excellent exhibitions from time to time. With a reorganisation and renovation programme in place, it is set to become the North East's "Jewell in the Crown".

After a soup and sandwich lunch (included) we return to Durham via **Escomb Church**. Archaeological evidence suggests a date of construction between 670 and 690 AD. As to why it was built where it is and by whom is still uncertain – there are many Irish Celtic influences and fascinating discoveries to be made here. Some of the stonework is thought to be from nearby Binchester Roman Fort. Later we return to the hotel via the railway station and depart at leisure.

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### Tour Cost

Cost per person:	£425
Single Supplement:	£75 (single occupancy of double room)
Non-Refundable Deposit:	£100 per person

### What's Included

- Three night's accommodation with dinner each evening and full English breakfast each morning
- Welcome reception and introduction to the tour on the first evening
- All visits as described in the brief itinerary, guided tours and private tours of Ushaw College and Brancepeth Castle
- Two course lunch at Ushaw College
- Refreshments (tea/coffee and biscuits) at Brancepeth Castle
- An introductory tour of the Bowes Museum and soup and sandwich lunch
- Executive style coaching throughout
- The professional services of Julian Humphrys, historian, author and guide

### Not Included

- Lunch on Saturday and refreshments unless otherwise indicated
- Travel insurance (highly recommended) – details available on request

**Parking:** Complimentary on-site parking with limited spaces

*Brookland Travel reserves the right to alter the itinerary should it be necessary due to conditions beyond their control. Every effort will be made to maintain the spirit of the theme.*

**How to Book** You can visit the website and the "Contact Us" page to make a provisional booking. Alternatively, please ring the office between 9.00am-5.00pm (Monday-Friday). A non-refundable deposit of £100 is required at the time of booking, unless you are booking less than 8 weeks before departure. In this case, full payment of the tour is required.

### Further Information

If you have any questions about the tour, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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### Your Accommodation



#### The Marriott Durham Royal Country Hotel \*\*\*\*

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Durham  
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Tel: +44 (0)1913866821  
Fax: +44 (0)1913860704

[www.marriott.co.uk/hotels](http://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels)

Set on the banks of the River Wear, the Durham Marriott is right at the heart of the historic Cathedral city. Part of the well-known and trusted Marriott chain with views across the river and to the city's dramatic skyline. Relax after a long day in The Durham Bar or enjoy the hotel's indoor swimming pool and gym.

The Marriott Hotel has 150 bedrooms over three floors with lift access to all rooms. All bedrooms are en-suite and have tea and coffee making facilities, iron and ironing board, trouser press, hair dryer, colour TV and mini bar plus high speed internet access. Power shower, cotton duvet, ironing centre and in-room safe to name a few extras; all designed for your comfort and convenience. All rooms are recently refurbished and kept in superb condition and range from standard to executive rooms, should you wish to upgrade. There are also feature rooms and suites.

Two dinners will be served in The Country Restaurant with a reduced table d'hôte menu and one dinner will be served in The Cruz Restaurant with a brasserie/carvery style dinner (three courses).

**Extra nights** may be available, on request. Please enquire at the time of booking, as we may be able to secure a competitive rate for you.

### Travel Directions

**From North/South:** Turn off A1(M) onto A690 to Durham. Continue for 2 miles until the first roundabout - go straight over. At second roundabout (450 yards on) turn left over the bridge and up to the traffic lights. Turn left and the hotel is immediately on the left. Turn left into the tunnel and there are 75 complimentary parking spaces.

**From the East:** Follow the A690 to Durham and follow directions as from North/South.

**From the West:** From Consett follow signs to Durham. Go through Lanchester and Witton Gilbert until you reach a large roundabout. Take third exit to Durham. Go straight over next roundabout (University Hospital on your left). At next roundabout turn right and follow signs to city centre going under the viaduct. Turn left at traffic lights and get in right hand lane. Turn right at next roundabout over the bridge down to the traffic lights. Turn left and the hotel is immediately on your left.

**Rail / Bus Stations** are located 1.6 km from the hotel.