



Royal  
Geographical  
Society  
with IBG

## Building bridges

A free self-guided walk in Newcastle



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Walk the World is part of Discovering Places, the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad campaign to inspire the UK to discover their local environment. Walk the World is delivered in partnership by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) with Discovering Places (The Heritage Alliance) and is principally funded by the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor. The digital and print maps used for Walk the World are licensed to RGS-IBG from Ordnance Survey.



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# Building bridges

## Discover how industry and the arts made Newcastle a global city

Newcastle-upon-Tyne is one of the major cities of north east England. Newcastle came into its own in the nineteenth century. Fuelled by coal and oiled by the River Tyne, the city attracted trades, goods and people from around the world.

In later years however Newcastle's industries experienced severe decline. The city had to reinvent itself and it has since become a vibrant centre for the arts. This walk explores how Newcastle has constantly adapted since it was founded by the Romans.



Newcastle's medieval Tyne Bridge  
© Newcastle City Library



The Tyne Bridge, Newcastle  
© Rory Walsh

We will find out about some of the international industries and communities that have shaped Newcastle and visit some of the key sites in the city's history - including a castle, a friary, a Premier League football stadium, "Britain's finest street" and the city's world-famous riverside.

This walk in Newcastle was originally created for a series called Walk the World. These 20 walks explored Britain's links with the 206 participating nations in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Along the routes we discovered many countries have been part of the UK's history for many centuries and shaped our towns and cities

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## Practical information

<b>Location</b>	Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northeast England
<b>Getting there</b>	<p><b>Train</b> - Newcastle is very well served by the national rail network. Direct services include the East Coast Main Line (London Kings's Cross - Edinburgh), CrossCountry services to Yorkshire, the Midlands and South West, TransPennine services to Manchester and Liverpool.</p> <p><b>Bus</b> - Served by a variety of local bus routes and long distance coaches. There are two bus stations, Haymarket and Eldon Square. The latter is closest to the walk route.</p> <p><b>Car</b> - Major roads include A1 to Edinburgh and London and the A19 to Sunderland and Middlebrough. Some city centre parking though charges apply.</p>
<b>Start &amp; finish point</b>	Newcastle Central railway station, NE1 5DL
<b>Distance</b>	2 ½ miles
<b>Level</b>	Moderate - a busy city centre walk with a few slopes and one steep flight of steps.
<b>Suitable for</b>	<p><b>Families</b> - plenty of sights to entertain children</p> <p><b>Dogs</b> - must be kept on a lead</p>
<b>Terrain</b>	The route is along urban pavements and paved footpaths. There are steep steps leading to the Castle Keep, so alternate step-free directions are provided.

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**Conditions**

Take care when crossing busy roads and at the riverside edge. The section by the River Tyne can be breezy.

**Refreshments**

There are numerous cafés, pubs and restaurants along the route. Eldon Square (Stop 11) is ideal to stop for a packed lunch.

**Toilets**

Public toilets are available in the city centre and inside the museums.

**Other info**

Newcastle city centre can be very busy at weekends. The area around St James' Park (Stop 10) can be very busy on match days.

**Family-friendly activities**

**The BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art** is open daily from 10am to 6pm, except Tuesdays open at 10.30am. Free entry. Email: [info@balticmill.com](mailto:info@balticmill.com) Tel: 0191 478 1810

**The Castle Keep** is open 10am to 5pm Mondays to Saturdays, from 12 midday on Sundays. Small entrance charge. Tel: 0191 232 7938

**The Life Science Centre** is open from 10am Mondays to Saturdays, 11am on Sundays. Closing times vary. Charges apply. Tel: 0191 243 8210 Email: [info@life.org.uk](mailto:info@life.org.uk)

Tours are available of **St James' Park**. Charges apply. Booking essential. Email: [stadium.tours@nufc.co.uk](mailto:stadium.tours@nufc.co.uk) Tel: 0844 3721892

**Tourist information**

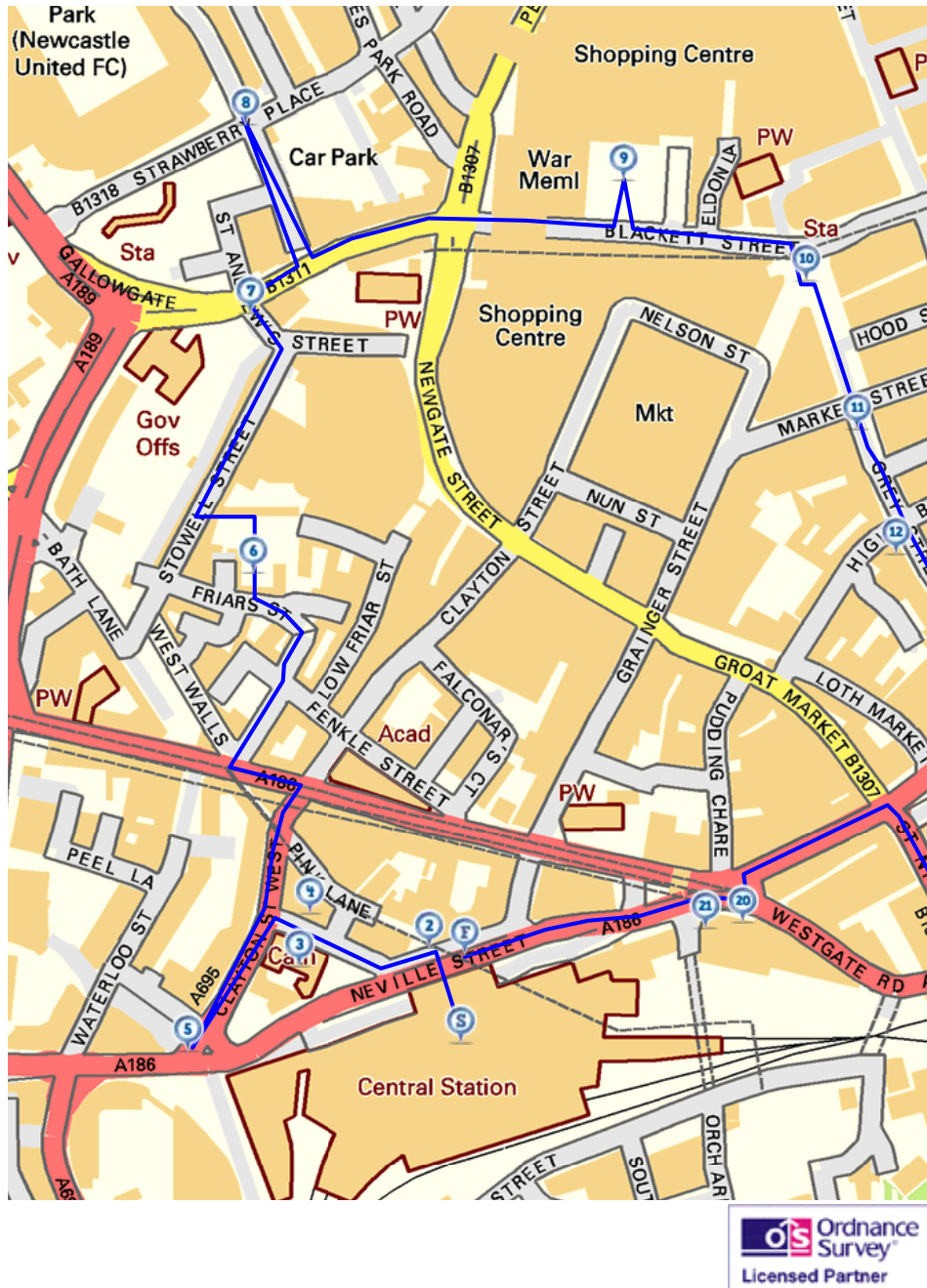
**Newcastle-upon-Tyne Visitor Information Centre** is located at 8-9 Central Arcade, which is just off Market Street (near Stops 13-15) Tel: 0191 2778000



## Route overview



## Detail of the first part of the route



### Stopping points

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>S &amp; F.</b> Newcastle Central Station  | <b>6.</b> Blackfriars                            |
| <b>2.</b> Newcastle Central Station          | <b>7.</b> Chinese Arch and Tyneside Irish Centre |
| <b>3.</b> St Mary's Cathedral                | <b>8.</b> St James' Park                         |
| <b>4.</b> Newcastle Chinese Christian Church | <b>9.</b> Eldon Square                           |
| <b>5.</b> International Centre For Life      | <b>10.</b> Grey's Monument                       |



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## Stopping points

- 11.** Grey Street
- 12.** 53 Grey Street
- 13.** View of the Tyne Bridge
- 14.** High Level Bridge and Swing Bridge
- 15.** Gateshead Millennium Bridge and BALTIC Centre For Contemporary Art
- 16.** Tyne-Tees Shipping Company boards
- 17.** Castle Keep and the Black Gate
- 18.** St Nicholas Buildings
- 19.** St Nicholas Cathedral
- 20.** The Literary and Philosophical Society
- 21.** The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers



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## Directions

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These directions are for use with the Newcastle walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

### 1. Welcome to Newcastle

#### Newcastle Central Station, Neville Street

##### Directions 1

Make your way to Newcastle Central railway station. Stop outside the station entrance on Neville Street. The best view is probably on the opposite side of the road. When you are ready listen to Track 2.

### 2. A station fit for a queen

#### Newcastle Central Station, Neville Street

##### Directions 2

Continue along the right hand side of Neville Street. Head toward the junction of Bewick Street then stop outside the church with a tall spire. Stop beside the statue outside of Cardinal Basil Hume. Stop here and listen to Track 3.

### 3. The Irish Brigade

#### St Mary's Cathedral, Neville Street

##### Directions 3

From the statue bear right through the Cathedral courtyard. Stop opposite the Chinese Christian Church across the road. Listen to Track 4.

### 4. Chinese Christians

#### Newcastle Chinese Christian Church, Bewick Street

##### Directions 4

Facing the Chinese church, turn left. With the cathedral on your left continue up to the traffic lights. Turn left into Clayton Street. At the end of the road use the first set of traffic lights and stop in the central reservation opposite the Centre For Life building. Listen to Track 5.

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## 5. Life sciences

### International Centre For Life

#### Directions 5

With the Centre For Life behind you cross back over the road. Turn left and retrace your steps past St Mary's Cathedral. Continue to the end of the road then use the traffic light crossings to turn left into Westgate Road. Take the first right into Cross Street. At the end bear left into the narrow cobbled Friars Street. Follow the street round to the left and you will reach an old stone building. Go through the entrance arch and into the courtyard. Listen here to Track 6.

## 6. Friars' retreat

### Blackfriars, Friars Street

#### Directions 6

When you are ready, leave the friary courtyard through a gate opposite the arch you came in. Turn left and follow the path onto Stowell Street, lined with lanterns and Chinese shops. Turn right then continue to the end. Then turn left onto St Andrew's Street. Stop in front of the ornate Chinese arch to listen to Track 7.

## 7. The North East Far East

### Chinese arch and Tyneside Irish Centre

#### Directions 7

Pass through the arch and cross over the road. Stop here and look back for for a good view of Newcastle's medieval town walls. Then continue into Strawberry Lane. At the end of this road, stop at a safe place in front of the sports stadium. Listen to Track 8.

## 8. Goal!

### St James' Park, Strawberry Lane

#### Directions 8

Retrace your steps down Strawberry Lane and turn left into Gallowgate. At the end of Gallowgate, cross over the busy junction at a safe place and continue under the shopping centre arch. A square lined with benches will appear on your left. Stop in the square with a good view of the statue in the middle. Listen to Track 9.

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## **9. Battles fought on foreign fields**

### **Eldon Square**

#### **Directions 9**

When you are ready leave Eldon Square and turn left onto Blackett Street. Continue until you reach a column with a statue on the top. Stop facing the statue and listen to Track 10.

## **10. Tea, Prime Minister?**

### **Grey's Monument**

#### **Directions 10**

With your back to Grey's Monument continue down the right hand side of Grey Street (the pedestrianised road the statue is looking along). Cross over Market Street and immediately stop with the Theatre Royal across the road on your left. Look down the length of Grey Street as it curves downhill. Stop here to listen to Track 11.

## **11. Britain's finest street**

### **Grey Street**

#### **Directions 11 -**

Continue along the right hand side of Grey Street, taking your time to look at the spectacular buildings. Stop when you find number 53 with a round plaque on the wall. Listen here to Track 12.

## **12. Lisbon letters**

### **53 Grey Street**

#### **Directions 12**

Continue all the way to the bottom of Grey Street and into Dean Street. Continue under the high bridge and turn left at the mini roundabout onto the pedestrianised road called the Side. Follow it downhill and take the right fork. The arched Tyne Bridge will appear on your left. Cross over the road at the traffic lights underneath the bridge. Listen to Track 13.



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## **13. Icon of Newcastle**

### **Tyne Bridge**

#### **Directions 13**

Turn to the right to look at the two bridges downstream. Listen to Track 14.

## **14. Roman and rail crossings**

### **High Level Bridge and Swing Bridge**

#### **Directions 14**

Turn left and pass underneath the Tyne Bridge. Keep the river on your right and follow the riverside path. Take your time and enjoy the views. Pass the curved silver building (the Sage) and follow the riverside path up to the white hooped bridge. Stop when you have a good view of it or are halfway across it. Listen to Track 15.

## **15. Artistry from Industry**

### **Gateshead Millennium Bridge & the BALTIC Centre**

#### **Directions 15**

From the Millennium Bridge retrace your steps and follow the path with the river on your left. When you reach the Sage cross over the road at the traffic lights. Turn left and continue towards the Tyne Bridge. At the corner of King Street, stop and look behind you for a sign on the wall for the Tyne-Tees Steam Shipping Company. Listen to Track 16.

## **16. Sign of the past**

### **Tyne-Tees Shipping Company boards, King Street**

#### **Directions 16**

Continue underneath the Tyne Bridge. Follow the pavement as it turns right then left past some timber fronted buildings. Before you reach the High Level Bridge look for a set of steps on the right called the Castle Stairs. Follow the stairs up to the Castle Keep - do take your time. When you reach the top stop outside the castle.

**For a step-free route:** Turn right into King Street then turn left into Queen Street. Pass under the Tyne Bridge and bear right onto the Side. Continue uphill to the top of the Side - again take your time - and turn left at the mini roundabout under the High Level Bridge. When you reach the top of the road you will arrive to the right of the Black Gate. The Castle is past the Black Gate on the left hand side.

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## **17. Oldcastle**

### **Castle Keep and The Black Gate**

#### **Directions 17**

With the Castle Keep on your right, cross under the bridge. Continue up to the Black Gate. Stop with your back to the Black Gate and look at the building across the road. Listen to Track 18.

## **18. Brothers in arms**

### **St Nicholas Buildings, Westgate Road**

#### **Directions 18**

Continue along the right hand side of Westgate Road. Head towards the church with a spire. When you reach it, turn right at the junction and stop by the statue outside. Listen to Track 19.

## **19. Soldiers, sailors and Santa**

### **St Nicholas Cathedral, St Nicholas' Street**

#### **Directions 19**

When you are ready, leave the Cathedral. Use the traffic islands at the end of St Nicholas' Street to turn left into the left hand side of Collingwood Street. At the junction use the traffic island to the left to cross over to The Literary and Philosophical Society building at the end of Westgate Road. Listen to Track 20.

## **20. An enlightening society**

### **The Literary and Philosophical Society**

#### **Directions 20**

Next door to the Literary and Philosophical Society is a building with metal railings outside. Stop in front of it and listen to Track 21.

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## 21. Coals to Newcastle

### The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers

#### Directions 21

Continue along the road as it joins Neville Street. Pass the statue of Robert Stephenson on the island on the right then stop outside Newcastle Central Station where we began. Listen to Track 22.

## 22. Building Bridges

### Newcastle Central Station

#### Directions 22

We hope that you have enjoyed the walk! We are now back at Newcastle Central Station where the route began. From here you may like to explore to the city centre shops or visit nearby attractions such as the Centre For Life, BALTIC Centre, the Sage or the Castle Keep.

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## Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Walk the World walk:

- **Nick Stanworth** for creating and researching the walk and providing photographs
- **Rory Walsh** for additional research, editing the walk materials and providing photographs
- **Caroline Millar** for providing the commentary and editing the audio files
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## **Further information**

### **BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art**

[www.balticmill.com](http://www.balticmill.com)

### **Bridges on the Tyne**

[www.bridgesonthetyne.co.uk](http://www.bridgesonthetyne.co.uk)

### **Castle Keep**

[www.castlekeep-newcastle.org.uk](http://www.castlekeep-newcastle.org.uk)

### **Centre for Life**

[www.life.org.uk](http://www.life.org.uk)

### **The Danish Church in Newcastle**

[www.danskekirke-newcastle.co.uk](http://www.danskekirke-newcastle.co.uk)

### **The Literary and Philosophical Society**

[www.litandphil.org.uk](http://www.litandphil.org.uk)

### **Newcastle Chinese Christian Fellowship**

[www.nccf.org.uk](http://www.nccf.org.uk)

### **Newcastle Quayside**

[www.newcastlequayside.co.uk](http://www.newcastlequayside.co.uk)

### **Newcastle United FC**

[www.nufc.co.uk](http://www.nufc.co.uk)

### **North of England Institute and Mechanical Engineers**

[www.mininginstitute.org.uk](http://www.mininginstitute.org.uk)

### **St Mary's Cathedral**

[www.stmaryscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.uk)

### **St Nicholas Cathedral**

[www.stnicholascathedral.co.uk](http://www.stnicholascathedral.co.uk)



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we are a hub of worldwide connections.

Walk the World is an exciting series of free geographically-themed  
walks that aim to show how the UK is linked with the 206 countries  
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