

KEY



1

DARLINGTON TRAIN STATION
The first train to pass on the main line was in 1829. The station is well served, since it is an important stop for main line services.

2

DARLINGTON HIPPODROME
Opened in 1907, this Grade II listed building received a £13.7 million restoration in 2016/17.



3

HEAD OF STEAM
A railway museum located on the 1825 route of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, the world's first steam-powered passenger railway.



4

SOUTH PARK
The first Victorian Park in the North East of England and was opened to the public in 1853 as Belassess Park.



5

CINEMA / RESTAURANT COMPLEX
Home to a variety of restaurants, a Premier Inn hotel and a Vue Cinema. Located next to the Town Hall in Darlington.



6

HOUSE OF FRASER
The town's largest department store which has recently been refurbished has been located in Darlington since 1922.



7

MARKET SQUARE
Darlington's Market Square is home to a wide range of events and is surrounded by a number of bars and the leisure centre.



8

DARLINGTON'S YARDS
Hidden discretely through an access no wider than a doorway on High Row is a labyrinth of yards where small, specialist shops prosper.



DARLINGTON

TOWN CENTRE TOURIST GUIDE



P PARKING
T TAXI RANK
C COACH STOP

Map Illustration: © Brian Lee.
This illustration is not a scale map.

KEY

9

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
Dates from 1180 and lies at the centre of the town next to the Market Square. Open for Sunday service and selected times during the week.



10

JOSEPH PEASE STATUE
A supporter of the earliest public railway system in the world and the first Quaker permitted to take his seat in Parliament.



11

DARLINGTON LIBRARY
Opened in October 1885, the Grade II listed building was gifted to the town by Edward Pease, a leading Darlington Quaker. The Centre for Local Studies is also based here.



12

SKERNE BRIDGE
Opened in 1825, this is the world's oldest continuously operated railway bridge and the only bridge to feature on a £5 note.



13

QUAKER MEETING HOUSE
The Darlington Quakers have been based at their current site on Skinnergate since 1678 and the burial ground is located behind this building.



14

DARLINGTON MARKET & CLOCK TOWER
The Victorian indoor/covered market opened in 1864 and the clock tower was a gift to the town from Joseph Pease.



15

THE DOLPHIN CENTRE
Leisure centre with swimming pools, diving boards & water slides, an 8-court sports hall, gym, squash courts, soft play and bar/bistro.



ENJOY DARLINGTON
www.enjoydarlington.com



TOWN CENTRE TOURIST GUIDE

DARLINGTON

ENJOY DARLINGTON

FREE



Thank you for picking up the first Darlington Town Centre Tourist Guide, created by Darlington Borough Council.

We love where we live. We love the vibrant buzz in the town centre, its history, culture architecture and leisure. The town centre offers a diverse and lively range of independent shops, bars, cafes and things to see and do. We have arts, green spaces, sports and community celebrations and events throughout the year.

You can also download this map from: <https://www.enjoydarlington.com>

There's a lot to discover. Grab your guide and go!

The information contained in this guide is accurate at the time of going to print. Darlington Borough Council will not accept responsibility for any errors in this publication.

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DARLINGTON



Welcome to Darlington – this is your guide to leisure, dining, shopping, transport links, parking and things to do in Darlington!

There is a real buzz in the town where vibrant street theatre sits hand in hand with the attractive Quaker architecture. It's a contemporary market town where people can discover what makes the town special.

With more independent shops than any others of a similar size, it is a smart choice for shoppers where you are guaranteed to find something different. Browse a range of designer and independent shops and explore the historic yards. Visit the *Victorian Covered Market*, take a stroll down to the fantastic *library* then relax in one of our many cafés, bars and restaurants.

Try out the pools and slides or enjoy a game of badminton or tennis in the *Dolphin Centre*, our town centre leisure centre, then relax with lunch and a coffee.



Stroll around the beautiful South Park and Riverside Park then walk along *High Row* and dip your toe in the *water cascade*. Shop till you drop at the *Imperial Quarter*, *Queen Street* or the *Cornmill Shopping Centres* and visit the town's largest department store and the many different shops we have in the town centre.

We are justifiably proud of the town's world famous rail heritage so no trip would be complete without a visit to the *Head of Steam* to see Stephenson's '*Locomotion*' and enjoy some fun family events.

When the lights go down, catch a show at the wonderful *Darlington Hippodrome* or *The Majestic Theatre*, or watch a gig at *The Forum*. See the latest film at *Vue* or the *Odeon Cinema* and there's also plenty of amazing restaurants, bars and clubs in the town. Try one of our award-winning cocktail or real ale bars in which you'll find that great north eastern welcome.

There's also plenty of accommodation to choose from to suit a range of tastes and budgets. From 5-star golf resorts and spas to cosy bed and breakfasts.



HISTORY

Darlington began as an Anglo-Saxon settlement and the town owes much of its development to the influence of local Quaker families in the Georgian and Victorian era. It is often referred to as 'Darlo'.

Darlington is an historic market town and built in 1183, St Cuthbert's Church, is one of the most important early English churches in the north of England but the oldest church in the town is St Andrew's Church built around 1125.

In 1825 the world's first steam-powered passenger train journey began in Darlington thus the Stockton and Darlington Railway is the world's first public railway.

Famous bridges have also been built in Darlington by the town's Cleveland Bridge including the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

On High Row, one building of note is the former Backhouse Bank (now Barclays), founded by Jonathan Backhouse, a prominent Darlington banker and Quaker.

Darlington's most famous landmark, the clock tower, was a gift to the town by the industrialist Joseph Pease in 1864. The tower bells are the sister bells to those which are inside Big Ben in London.

The Darlington Mechanics Institute was opened in 1854 by Elizabeth Pease Nichol. Institutes like this provided leisure activities such as day trips for local workers and their families. They also provided opportunities for workers to improve their education providing libraries and talks.

Alfred Waterhouse, responsible for London's Natural History Museum designed the Grade II listed Victorian Market Hall in 1860 and the Library was built with funding from Edward Pease, and opened in 1885.

DINING

Whether you're looking for a restaurant with a romantic setting for two, a get-together for a feast with friends or one of Darlington's many bars or pubs to relax in.

Bars

Proud to be the home of one of the award-winning '*World's Best Bars*', an abundance of cocktail bars, a gin specialist bar, a wine bar and pubs serving local craft ale with the stamp of approval from CAMRA.

Cafés and Coffee Shops

From afternoon tea to a tasty lunch-time snack, you'll find a variety of cosy cafés and quaint tearooms in Darlington just waiting to tempt your tastebuds.

Indian Restaurants

Spice things up and dine at Darlington's very best Indian restaurants. These chefs are a cut above the norm, with plenty of tricks up their sleeves which is why *many are in the Top 10 on TripAdvisor*. We're proud to be home to so many award-winning Indian restaurants.

Chinese and Thai Restaurants

There's an array of choice which includes a buffet style restaurant as well as many independent restaurants which have served the town for a number of years. Well worth a try.

Mediterranean Cuisine

It's safe to say the town's Italian restaurants are popular, offering their own authentic twist on familiar pizza, pasta and chicken dishes. Many of the Italian restaurants offer a fantastic, two-course happy hour special. In addition, we have a number of Spanish and Greek restaurants so if you're after anything from meze to tapas, these are the places to go.

Pub Grub

If you're looking for a hearty meal, there are many pubs located around the town centre serving up classic dishes, all often made with locally sourced ingredients. One of the local dishes you must try is the renowned Chicken Parmesan, or 'Parmo' as we know it!

The Raby Hunt

Set in the rural hamlet of Summerhouse, only 7 miles from Darlington, The Raby Hunt is North East England's first and only two Michelin star restaurant.

Everything else!

We have a vast arrange of eateries and new restaurants, bars and cafes are opening all the time. You may want to try Brazilian or Mexican food and we have those too in Darlington. Whatever you choose we'll guarantee you'll have an amazing feast!

THINGS TO SEE & DO

There's a wealth of things to do in the town no matter what your interest is. Whether you're looking to explore Darlington's market town heritage or get out and about in the great outdoors, there's plenty to see and do across the town.



Archers Jersey Dairy Ice Cream

Set on a farm, this year round ice cream parlour with terrace offers renowned Jersey ice cream on the outskirts of Darlington.

Darlington's Brick Train

Modelled on the 1938 record setting, 126mph steam locomotive '*Mallard*', the '*Brick Train*' celebrates Darlington's railway heritage. The sculpture, designed by Scottish artist David Mach, stands next to the outskirts of the A66 and consists of a whopping 185,000 bricks!

Darlington Clock Tower

Situated in the heart of Darlington town centre and a popular meeting destination, the Clock Tower was a gift to the town by the industrialist Joseph Pease in 1864. The bells inside are in fact the sister bells to those inside Big Ben in London.

Darlington Library

Opened in 1885, the Crown Street Library is bursting with books and modern digital facilities. The site is regularly greeted with authors hosting events discussing their literature. The Centre for Local Studies is based at Crown Street Library and contains records, maps and local newspapers to help you trace your local and family history.

Head of Steam

Located on the 1825 route of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, the museum celebrates north eastern railway history through exhibitions and family events.

Rockliffe Hall, Hotel, Golf & Spa

With a choice of rooms or suites, three bespoke restaurants, an award-winning spa and one of the longest golf courses in Europe, the resort offers the perfect escape for all.

LEISURE

Whether you're a sports enthusiast, theatre lover, film fanatic or a live music addict, there are plenty of activities for the whole family to discover.

Darlington Cricket and Athletic Club

Established in 1827, the Darlington Cricket Club has played in the top division for 122 years. Home to regular cricket matches, sporting and entertainment events.

Darlington Mowden Park R.F.C. / Northern Echo Arena

Darlington Mowden Park R.F.C. is a professional rugby union club, located at the Northern Echo Arena, a 25,000 all-seater stadium in Darlington which also hosts concerts.

Darlington Hippodrome

Darlington's jewel in the crown, this stunning 1,000-seat Edwardian auditorium shares the limelight with the Hippo Lounge café bar as well as three galleries and a range of spaces available for hire.

The Dolphin Centre

A sports centre with Olympic swimming pool facilities, a soft play area, a bar and bistro and a timetable of fitness activities suitable for a variety of ages.

The Forum Music Centre

Venue for new bands, a music education centre and recording facilities, plus comedy and film clubs.

Cinema/ Restaurant Complex

An entertainment complex boasting a variety of tempting new and familiar restaurants, a Vue cinema and a Premier Inn Hotel.

Theatre Hullabaloo

The only theatre outside London dedicated to children, offering performances created specifically for 0-16 year olds.

The Majestic Theatre

An arts and events centre with a 1920s themed theatre hosting regular performances of touring and local comedians, tribute acts, musicals, dance classes and stage school workshops.

Darlington Rugby & Football Club

Home to the Darlington Rugby Union Club and the town's Darlington FC known as *The Quakers* which is in the National League North.

South Park

A Grade II listed historic park with *Green Flag Award* status since 2006. Enjoy a toddler & junior play park, talk to the parrots in the aviary, visit the on-site café or play a sport in the multi-use games area.

THINGS TO SEE & DO



The Joseph Pease Statue

A landmark recognising Joseph Pease and his prominent support of the earliest public railway system in the world to use steam locomotives, the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

Market Cascade

Designed by artist Michael Pinky, the elegant water feature located on West Row was joint winner of the *Fountain Society's 2009 'Best New Fountain and Water Feature'* in the UK.

Market Cross

A stone sculpture that offers a glimpse into the market town's heritage.

Piercebridge Roman Fort

An English Heritage site located on the outskirts of Darlington in the village of Piercebridge. Travel back in time and experience the remains of a large bridge that once carried a Roman road across the River Tees.

Tees Cottage Pumping Station

A Heritage site featuring a Victorian Water Pumping Station built in 1849, sited next to the River Tees and Broken Scar Picnic Area. Themed open weekends throughout the year showcasing a rare 1914 two-cylinder gas internal-combustion engine, the largest such engine surviving in Europe.

Broken Scar

The 5 mile Broken Scar walk takes in a section of the River Tees before passing the Tees Cottage Pumping Station and continuing through the West End of Darlington. There is a car park and a children's playground and picnic site.

Walworth Castle Hotel

The castle dates back to 1150 located 5 miles from Darlington. The hotel provides a venue for weddings, banquets, meetings and special occasions. It also holds regular events throughout the year.

SHOPPING

You'll be able to shop until you drop! The town centre has many recognisable national stores and hundreds of bespoke, independent shops offering unique products you won't be able to find anywhere else. All town centre public facilities are currently wheel chair accessible.

Binns - House of Fraser

A shopping landmark located on High Row. The department store has a wide variety of familiar designer brands, concession stores and beauty counters waiting to be explored.

Cornmill Shopping Centre

Located in the heart of the town centre, here you'll find 40 fabulous stores, many of which are high street favourites. The perfect indoor shopping haven to discover the latest trends and gadgets.

High Row

A bustling street of familiar shops featuring some of the town's most recognisable landmarks, the Clock Tower, Joseph Pease Statue and the Market Cascade.

Imperial Quarter

Jam-packed with bespoke independent shops, cafés and restaurants. The Imperial Quarter is the perfect place to find one of a kind gifts, to relax and rejuvenate.

Queen Street Shopping Centre

An indoor shopping centre offering a variety of recognisable brands and an independent café.

Darlington Market

A traditional indoor market which opened in 1864; the Market is home to traders of local produce, confectionery and the famous 'Darlington Savoury'. The Grade II listed Victorian Hall boasts historical features, while offering a 21st century retail experience.

The Yards

Find the Yards of Skinnergate or High Row and you'll be treated to independent businesses offering freshly ground coffee, artisan cheeses and traditional afternoon tea. There are three Yards to explore; Buckton's, Clark's and Mechanic's!

LOCATION



Darlington is a town with a population of 106,437 people and it is situated in the North East of England, approximately 15 miles west of Middlesbrough and 20 miles south of Durham City.

The town lies next to the A1(M), which connects London, Leeds, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne and Edinburgh. It is also on a mainline rail route between London and Edinburgh and has a nearby airport.

ABERDEEN
STONEHAVEN
MONTROSE
ARBROATH
DUNDEE
LEUCHARS
KIRKCALDY
EDINBURGH
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED
ALNMOUTH
NEWCASTLE
DURHAM
DARLINGTON
NORTHALLERTON
YORK
DONCASTER
RETFORD
GRANTHAM
PETERBOROUGH
STEVENAGE
LONDON KINGS CROSS