

# Welcome to NewcastleGateshead

## Our story



PHOTO: Gateshead Council

**United by the iconic River Tyne in the heart of North East England, NewcastleGateshead is an exciting place to be. A cultural regeneration over the past 20 years has changed the area beyond recognition, creating a stunning cityscape and a special place that rewards people who choose to visit, live, work, study and invest here.**

This reinvention has helped to put us on the national and international map as a modern, compact and culturally vibrant European city with a strong identity. It's a place where businesses prosper and people enjoy a quality of life that's second to none.

NewcastleGateshead has everything: it's historic but chic, easy to get around and offers excellent shopping, restaurants, museums, galleries and cinemas which are complemented by a year-round programme of festivals and events to keep the whole family entertained. Connected seven breathtaking bridges with its neighbour Gateshead, together they form the ideal place to set up business and set up home.

PHOTO: supplied courtesy of Great Run  
by Peter Langdown



# Best of both worlds

NewcastleGateshead's location offers the best of both worlds. Referred to as 'the hipster capital of the North East' it's vibrant, energetic city centre is surrounded by stunning National Parks and beautiful sandy beaches – all accessible within a 30-minute travel time.

Situated on the north bank of the River Tyne, Newcastle is renowned for its stunning architecture and is home to Grey Street – voted the most beautiful street in the UK in a BBC Radio 4 Poll. Gateshead sits on the south bank and is famous for its contemporary culture and iconic structures such as the Angel of the North, Sage Gateshead and Gateshead Millennium Bridge.

Just a short journey north of the city takes you to Northumberland National Park where stunning countryside and the world heritage site, Hadrian's Wall, can be enjoyed alongside the most beautifully rugged coastline the UK has to offer. South of the city is County Durham where the ancient City of Durham is complemented by a heritage coastline and rural towns and villages. North Yorkshire and Cumbria are both easily accessible for a day or short break.

## Home sweet home

From carefully restored Victorian terraces to contemporary city-centre apartments, semirural locations to a seafront home, the region offers a wealth of choice in accommodation. The costs of housing are highly competitive with average house prices in Newcastle at £116,507 and Gateshead at £93,763. They remain some of the best in the country, meaning your money goes a lot further.



PHOTO: Alex Telfer



In many parts of Britain, owning your own home is simply out of reach for most young professionals. In NewcastleGateshead, that is not the case. First-time buyers will find a good choice of affordable properties, with apartments in many areas starting below the £100,000 mark. Innovative projects include the BoKlok homes in Gateshead, which have been created by Ikea and are both environmentally friendly and affordable. Another scheme in Walker, River's Gate, offers a taste of Quayside living to families.

In the Bensham and Saltwell area, near to Gateshead's award-winning Saltwell Park, period properties are being given a new lease of life. With new family homes to come, this will ensure this is an attractive area for families and couples alike.

For family homes, there is a vast range depending on your priorities and budget. A popular new build development has been Staithes South Bank, on Gateshead Riverside and in easy reach of the intu metrocentre and the A1. Designed by Wayne Hemingway and built by Wimpey Homes, these properties bring a distinctive style to the new build market.

If you prefer older properties, suburbs such as Jesmond, Gosforth and Low Fell, which combine proximity to the centre with leafy avenues and excellent amenities, are ever popular with some excellent 3-bedroom properties starting at around £200k.

Families seeking safe estates with plenty of outdoor space for young children could not go far wrong in Great Park, High Heaton, Benton and Kingston Park.

At the top end of the market and slightly further out of town, the areas of Darras Hall, Ponteland, Whickham and Rowlands Gill provide executive homes in semi-rural locations.

On the stunning coast, Tynemouth and Monkseaton are popular with families, and a range of coastal activities ensure a thriving year-round community. Hexham and its nearby rural villages to the west are also popular. To the north of the city, Morpeth is an attractive market town offering a more rural lifestyle but with an excellent range of local amenities. South of the river towards South Shields, the suburb of East Boldon offers attractive family homes with the city centre served by the nearby Metro route.

A range of properties available can be found at [www.rightmove.co.uk](http://www.rightmove.co.uk) including:



Kenton – 3 bedroom detached with front and rear gardens £320,000



Low Fell - 3 bedroom extended terrace on a pedestrianised street £179,950



Tynemouth - 5 bedroom period property in conservation village £397,950



Ouseburn – St Peter's Basin 2 bedroom apartment with marina views £129,500

# Strong hearts and minds



Our health provision has an international reputation. The Freeman Hospital has pioneering expertise in transplant surgery for both adults and children and is one of Europe's leading lung transplant centres. The National Health services, as well as being some of the best in the country, are also significant employers, including Royal Victoria Infirmary, the Freeman and Queen Elizabeth hospitals.

Education here also has a strong reputation, with a fantastic choice of excellent state and private schools. Founded in 1545, Newcastle's Royal Grammar School is steeped in tradition, while both Central High and Church High all-girls schools offer superb learning environments.

There's a plethora of state schools in the area all with excellent Ofsteds and offering great SAT levels, GCSE and A Level grades. Statistics show that the area consistently outperforms the national average for A Level performance and the region hosts a huge higher education student base.

Both Newcastle and Gateshead Colleges are continually developing. Gateshead College successfully moved to a state-of-the-art £37m site at Baltic Business Quarter, while Newcastle College has opened a new £40m Lifestyle Academy right in the heart of the city and a Renewable Energy training centre in Walker and was recently ranked as the best performing general FE college for 16 - 18 year olds in England.

And with five excellent universities within 25 miles of one another including: Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland, Teesside and Durham; all levels of education are well catered for.



# Getting here; getting around

Newcastle International Airport is just over 20 minutes' from the city centre by either car or the light rail Metro system, and offers direct flights to and from London (Heathrow and Gatwick), Dubai, Amsterdam, Brussels, Dublin, Paris and over 65 other destinations from across Europe, together with frequent flights to most major domestic hubs.

The all-weather deep sea, deep berth Port of Tyne was named Port Operator of the Year 2011 by Lloyds List, and is host to freight operations for a number of large companies such as Nissan, VW and Drax Power. The North Shields International Ferry Terminal, only seven miles east of the city centre provides regular passenger connections to continental Europe.

NewcastleGateshead's location on the East Coast train mainline means it is ideally placed to provide short travel times to many of the city hubs in the UK with high-speed rail links providing direct access to London in 2 ¼ hours, and Edinburgh in just over an hour. And the A1 (M) motorway links the area to London, Edinburgh and other major UK cities.

The urban core is extremely compact, getting around by foot or public transport is much easier than most urban centres. The modern, integrated transport system includes the Metro system, one of only three light railway systems throughout the UK. It offers massively shorter journey times than elsewhere in the country for commuters, businesses or visitors with a mere 20 minute connection time between the city and Newcastle International Airport - one of Europe's fastest airport links.

The Metro system connects the airport, city centre, coast and Sunderland. The service is reliable and good value and makes commuting extremely easy. The bus network in the region is also extensive and park & ride systems ensure getting around the destination is quick and efficient.



## The world is your oyster

**North East England is a richly varied region, with a stunning coastline (much of which is unspoilt) and vast stretches of countryside, including the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, named by David Bellamy as 'England's last wilderness'. We are situated 20 minutes (by car or Metro) from the most popular beaches, all blue flag, at Tynemouth and Whitley Bay.**

However, don't forget to try some more secluded spots such as the wonderfully safe beaches around Alnmouth and Bamburgh to the north, or surfing on the beaches at South Shields and Sunderland, a short drive to the south. Northumberland is a walker's paradise. Walking Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is fascinating from both an historical and rurally aesthetic point of view, as well as a great way to sample the typical warmth of the North Eastern people. If you'd prefer a slightly steeper challenge, the Cheviots to the north and Roseberry Topping to the south offer unprecedented views.

Cyclists are equally well catered for. The C2C cycle route, which starts in Whitehaven, Cumbria and ends in either Sunderland or Tynemouth, attracts visitors from across the country and offers a challenging journey for cyclists of most abilities.

If your idea of leisure involves less of the Lycra and more in the way of coffee shops and cobbled streets, look west to the

market town of Hexham and the nearby village of Corbridge and their wealth of quirky boutiques, bakeries, farm shops, and cafés.

Heading north, Alnwick is another fine market town with the added benefit of Alnwick Castle and The Alnwick Garden, both major attractions in their own right. Hexham and Alnwick were recently voted England's Favourite Market Town and The Best Place to Live in the UK, respectively, by Country Life magazine.

The city of Durham needs little introduction – its impossibly beautiful cathedral must be one of Britain's most recognised landmarks and is a UNESCO World Heritage site – but you may be surprised how close it is to NewcastleGateshead: a 12 minute train journey to be precise.

Finally, if you want to get even further away, don't forget how well-connected NewcastleGateshead is. Eight miles out of the city centre, Newcastle International Airport flies direct to nearly 100 destinations, including the Emirates long-haul route, which brings access to 85 worldwide destinations via Dubai. From the North Shields Ferry Terminal there are daily crossings to Holland.

**NewcastleGateshead is just the start of the journey and where it ends... who knows?**





# Life of leisure and culture

**You'll never be short of something to see or do in NewcastleGateshead.**

Culture seekers can choose from three major theatres, Northern Stage, Live Theatre and the Theatre Royal, a range of quality music venues including Sage Gateshead, Metro Radio Arena and The O2 Academy, and renowned art spaces such as BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Shipley Art Gallery and The Biscuit Factory.

Fantastic city-centre shopping provided by Eldon Square and Gateshead's intu Metrocentre - Europe's largest shopping and leisure complex - offers bags of choice in high-street and designer fashions. Even the most individual shopper will find something to suit them around Market Street, High Bridge and Hood Street in Newcastle city centre, and Grainger Market, a grade I listed

indoor market, is home to the Marks and Spencer original penny bazaar – the world's smallest M&S store. Further afield, the fashion-conscious suburb of Jesmond has many boutiques.

For knowledge and learning, you can head to the Discovery Museum, Great North Museum: Hancock and the Centre for Life. And if sport is your thing, you can join our 52,000 fanatical toon fans that fill Newcastle United's stadium every Saturday, take part in to the largest half marathon in the world, the Great North Run; watch England's top cricketers at Emirates' International Cricket Ground in Chester-le-Street near Durham or follow international athletics at Gateshead International Stadium.

What's more, a year-round programme of festivals and events can keep any to-do list topped up. And when you need to take a breather, the region offers some of the finest eating, drinking and socialising in the UK.

For more information on leisure, events and festivals visit our website [www.NewcastleGateshead.com](http://www.NewcastleGateshead.com)

# Professional service support to assist the move

There is a wealth professional services that can assist you in your move to NewcastleGateshead. We have a large variety of legal services, estate agents and professional relocation services to choose from.

Large nationally recognised companies such as Eversheds, Bond Dickinson and Ward Hadaway have a presence in our city centre and we also have smaller locally-run services that will provide you with invaluable knowledge and a dedicated service. But why go to the trouble of sourcing these yourself? Our team can help you source these services free of charge.



## Philip Browne, Brewin Dolphin

“Moving to Newcastle with my family and firm, Brewin Dolphin, from London, has really offered a better work life balance and provided a safe and happy environment for our children with excellent schools on our doorstep. The compactness of the city means we can get out to the coast in no time by Metro or car and explore the countryside. But with excellent transport hubs in the city centre I can be in the office in London for 10am, without having to get up in the middle of the night! My wife and I enjoy the cultural highlights, theatre, cinema and museums and galleries, many of which are just walking distance from where we live in Jesmond, where the houses are great too. Newcastle has a real buzz and character. There is something lively and upbeat about the place, not unlike my birthplace Dublin. The people have a great love of life; and when you see children, mums, dads and grans flocking to St James Park on a Saturday to watch the match, you know instantly this is a place for everyone to enjoy.”



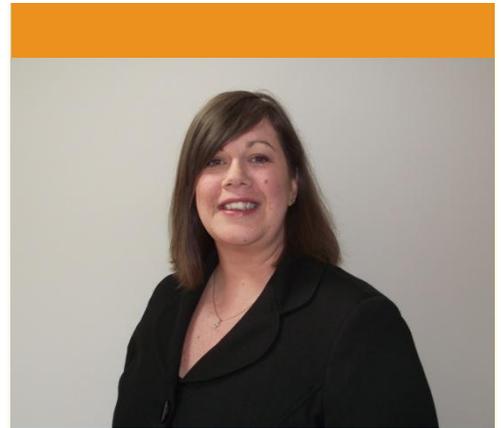
BREWIN DOLPHIN

# Meet the Team

Our team are at hand to provide you with any guidance and assistance when considering relocation to NewcastleGateshead, making your move trouble free.

We can help you with:

- Local knowledge.
- Sourcing contacts for legal services, estate agents and professional relocation services.
- Information on our schools and educational attainment.
- Demographical and statistical information.
- Tours of the local area.



“I moved to Newcastle around two years ago with my husband and young son when I joined NewcastleGateshead Initiative and I’m proud to be an honorary Geordie! As a family, our lifestyle has totally changed for the better – I never thought it would be possible to live on such a spectacular coastline yet work in the city as well as be a short drive from some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK.

I have a much better work-life balance and the area provides a safe and happy environment for our son to grow up and, importantly has excellent education provision with several good and outstanding schools right on our doorstep. Through the week I enjoy a short commute to the office and back – meaning I can leave my desk and be on the beach, making sandcastles and scrambling in rock pools with my son in around half an hour.

The thing that probably stands out the most is the people here – they have a great love of life and have been very welcoming, making the city a buzzing and vibrant place to be. Our family loved it so much during their visits that my sister and nephew also chose to relocate recently with them citing the outdoor lifestyle as their main reason for moving from rural Cheshire.”

**Catherine Walker joined NewcastleGateshead Initiative as Inward Investment Director in June 2012.**