

Visit the North East coast in 2021 and explore the extraordinary outdoors



L-R: Crimdon Dene, Hartlepool; 'Timelapse' sculpture at the Kielder Water and Forest Park, Northumberland; Lumiere Light Festival

January 2021

For travel inspiration around the North East, visit [Englishcoast.com/en](https://www.englishcoast.com/en), the browse-and-book tool that guides you along the coast and everything it has to offer, from walking routes and heritage sites to places to stay and family attractions. You can plan a trip, build an itinerary and book directly with hundreds of restaurants, cafes, pubs and accommodation including hotels, B&Bs and campsites.

“With its dramatic views across the North Sea, inspiring historical and geographical features, this lesser-known stretch of coastline is ideal for escaping the crowds,” says Samantha Richardson, Director National Coastal Tourism Academy which delivers the Discover England-funded England’s Coast project.

“Star-gaze under its dark skies, explore the small harbour town of Seaham with its stunning cliff-top views or feast on Pacific oysters and world-famous Craster kippers, this coastline is one of our hidden gems.”

Whether the wonderful North East coast is on your doorstep, or you’re planning a trip later in 2021, here are some highlights coming to the region this year, and ways to plan your trip with [Englishcoast.com/en](https://www.englishcoast.com/en).

Lumiere Light Festival returns to Durham

Proudly made in Durham, the UK’s largest light festival, Lumiere, is set to illuminate the city once again for four nights from 18 - 21 November 2021. Each Lumiere festival invites local and international artists to design illuminations which will transform the city’s urban spaces and familiar public buildings. This year, anyone over 18 in the UK can apply and suggest their dazzling idea for a light-based piece of artwork to be displayed at this magical exhibition. Find all the details [here](#)

Book with England’s Coast: Stay at nearby five-star Seaham Hall on the Durham Heritage Coast and rest your head in one of the spacious suites, relax in the award-winning spa and dine on the finest local ingredients in The Dining Room. Suites from £175 per night

<https://www.englishcoast.com/listing/seaham-hall-and-serenity-spa>

A new coastal hub and café for Crimdon Dene, Hartlepool

An exciting boost for the English coast in 2021, a new community hub and café at Crimdon Dene is set to open in the summer. With much-needed funding from the Government’s Coastal Communities Fund and Durham County Council, locals and visitors from further afield will soon be able to enjoy the wide sandy beach and scenic views towards Hartlepool and the Cleveland Hills, along with the colony of little terns which migrate from West Africa to breed each summer. It will offer space for volunteers and community groups, the hub will also feature an area for schoolchildren, who will come to learn all about Crimdon’s unique coastal wildlife.

Book with England’s Coast: Stay at the Crimdon Dene Holiday Park, featuring a great range of family facilities, including a heated indoor pool, outdoor play park and all-weather sports court. From £56 per night -

<https://www.englishcoast.com/en/listing/crimdon-dene-holiday-park>

Get outdoors at Kielder Water and Forest Park, Northumberland

Clear your mind and enjoy the fresh outdoor experience of the Kielder Water and Forest Park in Northumberland, home to northern Europe's largest man-made lake and England's largest forest. Ideal for nature lovers, water sports enthusiasts, explorers, walkers, cyclists and families, you can stargaze under the darkest night skies in England, visit the Water Birds of Prey centre, take a ferry around the Kielder Water stretching for 27 miles or experience the new sculpture, Timelapse, created by artist David Rickard, designed to reflect the passage of time. Kielder Water & Forest Park is also an ideal base for exploring the rest of Northumberland, Cumbria, Hadrian's Wall Country and the Scottish Borders.

Plan an itinerary in the region with England's Coast -

<https://www.englishcoast.com/en/create-itinerary?region=2&categories=1%2C2>

Epic live production Kynren returns to Bishop Auckland

The UK's biggest live action show returns this year and promises a host of attractions and immersive experiences for visitors to enjoy. Kynren – an Epic Tale of England - was postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic, but the event is set to return every Saturday from 7 August to 11 September 2021 at a huge site in Bishop Auckland, against the backdrop of Auckland Castle. This year, Kynren will reveal a special new addition, The Park, which will feature a maze; a horse stunt show with chariot races, jousting and even dragons (!); a mini explorers' adventure playground, live music on the lake and extra dining experiences. Learn more [here](#).

Book with England's Coast: Stay at nearby Hardwicke Hall Manor Hotel, an ivy-covered Grade II listed country house set in walled grounds with lawns and woodlands, less than a mile away from the East Durham Heritage coast. Rooms from £70 per night -

<https://www.englishcoast.com/en/listing/hardwicke-hall-manor-hotel>

The North East seafood trail

From traditionally smoked kippers to oyster beds dating back to 1381, Northumberland's seafood specialties are a must-try. At the north of the county lies Ross, part of the Lindisfarne Nature Reserve, and where the Sutherland family today farm their 'Lindisfarne' Pacific Oysters. This secluded part of the coast has been home to oyster beds since the late 1300s. The world-famous Craster kipper is smoked in Northumberland at *L Robson and Sons* smokehouse in Craster, and further up the coast in Seahouses, is Swallowfish – another excellent smokehouse which has been in business since 1843. They use the same methods of smoking their cod, haddock, kippers and salmon as they did back then, and the shop itself is a real delight to visit with old photos and a smorgasbord of fish and shellfish.

Plan a trip to the seafood coast with England's Coast - <https://www.englishcoast.com/en/seafood-coast>

England's Coast advises visitors to adhere to the national lockdown and plan their travels for post-lockdown when it is safe to do so. Details can be found on the Gov UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Press: For further information, high-res images or to **discuss a commissioned press trip**, please contact Lizzie Cooper or Jackie Franklin at [Travel PR](mailto:TravelPR) on 020 8891 4440 or l.cooper@travelpr.co.uk / j.franklin@travelpr.co.uk.

For more information on England's Coast visit www.englishcoast.com/en or contact Sheron Crossman, National Coastal Tourism Academy Marketing & Communications Manager: Sheron.crossman@coastaltourismacademy.co.uk.

Notes to editors: The England's Coast project is delivered by the National Coastal Tourism Academy, whose partners include: The Yorkshire Coast, Visit Scarborough, The North York Moors National Park Authority, Visit East Yorkshire, Visit Lancashire, Visit Cumbria, This is Durham, Visit Northumberland, Visit Essex, Visit Thanet, Dover/White Cliffs Country, Creative Coast Kent, Visit Brighton, Experience West Sussex, Visit Portsmouth, Discover Gosport, Visit Isle of Wight, Coast with the Most -Bournemouth/Christchurch/Poole, Somerset and Exmoor National Park – The Hinkley Tourism Action Partnership, P&O Ferries, Hornblower City Cruises Poole.

About the Discover England Fund:

- In November 2015, the Government announced a £40 million Discover England Fund; an unprecedented opportunity for English tourism. The Fund aims to deliver world-class bookable tourism products joined up across geographies and/or themes, including integrated transport solutions to provide an end-to-end customer experience.
- The Fund supports the growth of one of England's most successful export industries, inbound tourism. Tourism is an industry that delivers jobs and economic growth across the English regions – contributing some £106bn each year to the economy and supporting 2.6 million jobs.
- The Fund supported a number of pilot projects in year one (2016/17) that tested product development approaches.

In years two and three, 2017-19, the fund supported:

- o A number of large-scale collaborative projects to be delivered over the two-year period 2017-2019 that will create a step-change in bookable English tourism product for international consumers,

- o A smaller funding pot for new one-year pilot projects (in year two), and
- o Continuation funding for existing year one projects that demonstrated early learnings (in year two).

In Year four (2019/20) an extended period was granted for delivery of the large-scale projects to ensure delivery and/or amplification. In year five (2020/21) additional funding allocated by HM Treasury includes grant funding to existing projects, marketing and distribution activity led by VisitBritain/VisitEngland and evaluation and research.