

Number Nine – Owner recommendations

Number Nine Hurbuck Cottages is nestled in the heart of the Vale of Durham near the picturesque hamlet of Knitsley, only three miles from the popular village of Lanchester and 12 miles from the beautiful medieval city of Durham. This cottage is perfect for ramblers, cyclists or those looking to get away from it all in cosy, luxurious surroundings with stunning views of the countryside, and a network of public footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways to explore.

How to get to Number Nine

We are easily reached by car from the A68 and the A1 at Durham. The nearest railway station is at Durham and there are airports in Newcastle and Darlington.

The local area

Lanchester is the nearest village to Number Nine just 20 minutes' walk away. It has a wide selection of amenities including cafes, restaurants, shops and a post office.

Durham City is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site popular with visitors from all over the world with its stunning Cathedral and Norman Castle. Here you will find a fantastic array of shops, restaurants and things to do for all the family.

Number Nine is also a perfect base to explore the unspoilt beauty of the Durham Dales, the scenic and rugged Northumberland coastline with its beautiful white sandy beaches and quaint villages, Hadrian's Wall and the Lake District National Park, also a World Heritage site, only a 90-minute drive away.

Places to eat

County Durham has an abundance of fine cafes, bars and restaurants. Here are just a few suggestions in the local area and beyond:

The award-winning [Knitsley Farm Shop and Granary café](#) is only a picturesque 15-minute stroll along the **Lanchester Valley Walk** towards Knitsley. Here you will find a superb café along with a butchery, bakery, shop and deli. This comes highly recommended with excellent quality ingredients to enjoy either in the café or buy your own supplies to take back to the cottage. Sunday lunches are also available; however, it is advisable to book in advance.

Further down the hill from the farm shop is [The Old Mill Country Restaurant and Bar](#) with a spacious beer garden and a traditional feel, providing locally sourced meals.

[The Pavilion Cantonese Restaurant](#) is a few miles away at Ivesley and is a long established and popular Chinese restaurant with a cheaper lunchtime option.

Just over a mile away at Delves Lane, Consett, the **Golden Fish Inn** is locally renowned for its delicious takeaway fish and chips.

In **Lanchester** itself there is the popular [Ravello's](#) Italian restaurant, several pubs such as the [Kings Head](#) and the traditional **Black Bull**, as well as **Crinnions** bar and restaurant and [Yannis's Souvlaki](#)

[Gyros and Pizzeria](#). On the outskirts, [Lanchester Garden Centre](#) boasts a large café and restaurant as well as a gift shop and aquarium, along with entertainment for all the family at Potters World zoo with its tropical village, bird of prey centre and play tunnel.

Durham City has a wide range of fantastic cafés, bistros and restaurants. Recommended cafés include [Tealicious](#), [Flat White Café](#) and [Vennels](#). A selection of restaurants to suit varied tastes include [Finbarr's Restaurant](#), [Ebony Champagne Bar](#), [The Cellar Door](#), [Aksaru Turkish Restaurant](#), [Bells Fish and Chip Restaurant](#), [Zen Durham](#) serving Thai and Asian cuisine, Shanghai inspired supper club [The Rabbit Hole](#) and [Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar and Grill](#).

There are also a number of stylish and unique bars such as the [Rotunda Bar](#) in [Hotel Indigo](#), set in the stunning Shire Hall alongside Marco Pierre White's restaurant, [The Butterfly Room](#), [Whisky River](#) overlooking the riverside, the eclectic [Old Toms Gin Bar](#), and [Ebony Champagne Bar \(mentioned above\)](#). For more traditional, long standing pubs there is the iconic [Shakespeare](#), the [Market Tavern](#), [The City Hotel](#), the [Kingslodge Inn](#), [Ye Olde Elm Tree](#), [The Court Inn](#), and the beautifully preserved and traditional [The Victoria Inn](#).

Other nearby notable places to mention are the [Black Horse](#) at Beamish, [The Feathers Inn](#) at Hedley on the Hill near Stocksfield, [The Quebec Tearoom](#), [Belle and Blossom](#) tea room and gift shop in the gatehouse at Brancepeth Castle, and [Bayberry Hollow](#) in Tanfield. A little further afield, but well worth a 40-minute drive is the notable [The Raby Hunt](#), a two Michelin star restaurant led by Chef Patron James Close as featured on MasterChef.

Things to do

Walking and cycling

From the rolling landscape in the north and west to the rich agricultural lands in the south, the **Vale of Durham** is a diverse destination with bustling towns, exciting activities and enthralling attractions. It's a perfect location for walkers and cyclists with miles of breathtaking countryside, pathways and old railway lines to explore. The **Lanchester Valley Walk** is just outside the garden path, there's the **Waskerley Way** which follows the route of the old Stanhope and Tyne railway line, and the **Consett to Sunderland** cycle path. A walk across **Blanchland Moors** offers a unique and stark scenic contrast, from the lush picturesque landscape around Blanchland to harsh rugged heather clad moorland giving you a real sense of isolation.

For information on walks in the area see [here](#).

Durham

Durham City offers a whole host of activities including a theatre, two cinemas, Freemans Quay Leisure Centre, the Botanic Gardens, Oriental Museum, and the popular Wharton Park with breathtaking views across the City. Wharton has a heritage centre and cafe, play area for all ages, an amphitheatre and miniature car track, multi-use games area, outdoor gym and putting green.

There are also many historic attractions, including Durham Castle, Durham Cathedral and the city walls. The River Wear runs through the city and guests can enjoy a pleasurable boat trip or relaxation by the riverside. The city is thriving at night and there is often street entertainment and festivals to enjoy. There is a good park and ride scheme if you don't want to brave the city car parks.

Newcastle

A 25-minute drive will get you to **Newcastle**, a vibrant city with a multitude of things to do. Georgian, Victorian and Medieval architecture are showcased from the city centre down to the famous quayside where you will see the best of modern architecture displayed in the Millennium Bridge and The Sage concert venue. The restored Baltic Mill, now the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, is an interesting and sometimes controversial art gallery. Take the lift to the top floor for some wonderful views of the river and its bridges.

Just off the A1 as you drive into Newcastle is the popular [Metro Centre](#) with a vast array of shops, eateries and entertainment. It is just a 14-mile drive away from Number Nine and can be reached via local transport.

Northumberland

The dramatic Northumberland coast and countryside are worth a day trip. There is a host of castles, gardens and wonderful beaches to please all tastes. Bamburgh Castle dominates miles of unspoilt beaches and Alnwick Castle stands proudly further inland.

Consett

Nearby **Consett** has a new leisure centre with children's pool and slide, as well as a theatre and shops.

Sporting events

The Vale of Durham is renowned for its sporting prowess; see world-class cricket at the [Emirates Riverside Cricket Ground](#) in Chester-Le-Street, or enjoy a day at the races at [Newcastle](#) or [Sedgefield Racecourses](#).

Local art and crafts

The [Glass and Art Gallery](#) on Medomsley Road, Consett is our closest gallery and sells a wide range of local art and craftwork.

On a much larger scale the [National Glass Centre](#), by the River Wear in Sunderland (about 20 miles away). With exhibitions, demonstrations and some world class art on sale it is worth a visit for those interested in the use of glass in art.

Newcastle has several private and public galleries, such as the [Laing Art Gallery](#), the afore mentioned [Baltic](#), and the [Biscuit Factory](#) in Ouseburn. For a more informal feel the Sunday market on the Quayside has artists' stalls of and a bustling atmosphere to enjoy.

The new [Mining Art Gallery](#) at Bishop Auckland is also worth a visit.

Top attractions

[Kynren, an Epic Tale of England](#) is an incredible outdoor show telling the 2,000 year tale of the history of England performed on a seven-and-a-half-acre stage with a cast and crew of 1,000. Modelled on the Puy de Fou in Paris, this is named as TripAdvisor's top five performances to see in the UK and really must be seen to be believed.

The world famous [Beamish the Living Museum of the North](#) open-air museum is only nine miles away and provides a fantastic immersive day out, telling the history of north east England in the 1820s, 1900s and 1940s and 50s. Enjoy train and tram rides, a trip down the mine and visit traditional shops in the 1900s town.

Closer to Number Nine, just a nine-minute drive away, is the award-winning [Hall Hill Farm](#) which offers a family day out with animal feeding and handling, indoor and outdoor play, donkey rides, crazy golf and tractor rides.

Other attractions include:

[Adventure Valley](#) - adventure playgrounds, tractor rides, petting zoo, birds of prey, go karts and indoor soft play.

Angel of the North - iconic Anthony Gormley Sculpture at Gateshead.

[Auckland Castle](#) - deer park, visitor centre and galleries at the seat of the Prince Bishops.

[Bowlees Visitors Centre](#) for the North Pennine's AONB activities and events.

[Beamish Wild](#) – treetop high ropes adventure course, archery and geocaching.

[Broom House Farm](#) - adventure trail, café, farm shop and play field.

[Bowes Museum](#) and [Barnard Castle](#) in the market town of Barnard Castle.

Derwent Reservoir and **Waterside Park Fishery**.

[Diggerland](#) - a digger inspired theme park with 20 different rides and drives for adults and children alike.

[Durham Cathedral](#)

[Durham Castle](#)

[Durham University Botanic Garden](#)

[Finchale Priory](#) - an English heritage site featuring the remains of the Priory, an outpost of Durham Cathedral.

[Gibside](#) - a Georgian landscape garden owned by the National Trust.

[Hamsterley Forest](#) – walking, cycling, outdoor play, café and picnics.

[Hardwick Park](#) – picturesque country park with free admission including visitor centre, playground, café and picnic/barbeque area, trails, a lake and events.

[High Force/Low Force](#) – spectacular waterfalls and walks set in the Teesdale countryside.

[Infinite Air](#) - an extreme trampoline park for thrill seekers!

[Kielder Observatory](#) - stargazing under the finest dark skies in England.

[Kielder Water and Forest Park](#) - cycling, mountain biking, water activities and horse riding. The brand-new Kielder Zipcoaster, Europe's 1st AvatarOne is now at Calvert Kielder, an adventure school within the park.

[Killhope](#) – a 19th Century lead mining museum.

[Krazy Kingdom](#) - a children's indoor soft play and adventure park.

[Locomotion](#) – trains and railway history at this outpost of the National Railway Museum in Shildon.

[Oriental Museum](#) - art and archaeology of the great cultures of Northern Africa and Asia.

[Raby Castle](#) - one of England's finest medieval castles with a woodland trail, café, walled garden and tours.

Seaham seaside and **Seaham Harbour Marina Activity Centre** – hunt for Seaham glass, and try your hand at paddleboarding or canoeing.

[Stanhope Outdoor Pool](#)

[Tanfield Railway](#) - experience a steam train ride on the world's oldest railway.

For more information on things to do in County Durham visit www.thisisdurham.com

Annual events

February - Fire and Ice Festival, Durham City

April - Bishop Auckland Food Festival

May - Tour series cycle race, Durham City

May – Locomotion Festival of Steam

June – Durham Regatta

July - Durham Miners Gala, or Durham Big Meeting, a traditional Trade Union march that is now an iconic celebration of the area's rich mining and trade union history. A parade of colliery bands and banners march through the city and gather at the racecourse with guest speeches, exhibitions, stalls and rides.

- Durham City Run Festival
- Durham Brass Festival
- Lanchester Agricultural Show
- Sunderland Airshow

September – Wolsingham Show, England's oldest and Durham's largest open-air agricultural show

- The Great North Run, the largest half marathon in the world, a great spectator event even if you're not participating.

October – Durham Book Festival

November - Lumiere, bi-annual light festival throughout Durham City over four nights.

December – Durham Christmas Festival

For more information on events including dates please visit www.thisisdurham.com/whats-on