

EASY DAYS OUT ON AD122

It's just an easy bus ride away from Tyneside, Hexham or Carlisle to some of the most dramatically beautiful countryside in all England - Hadrian's Wall Country and Northumberland National Park.

Heritage and History

When the Romans built their spectacular Wall to defend the northern boundary of their great empire, they left a mighty monument - a 73 mile long Wall, and series of great earthworks, Milecastles, Turrets and Forts that housed the soldiers. This is now a World Heritage Site as important as Venice or the Taj Mahal.

Come and find out about the Romans who came from all over the world to Northumberland and Cumbria to protect the Empire. Many of the Roman buildings now have fascinating displays to tell you just what it was like to be a soldier on the front line.

The Great Outdoors

Even if you are not particularly interested in history, there's also stunning countryside which is easy to explore thanks to the new Hadrian's Wall National Trail - a superb, waymarked footpath which takes you alongside the Wall and through the heart of Hadrian's Wall Country.

Every Sunday - and daily from Spring Bank Holiday

Every Sunday and Bank Holiday until the end of October 2004, and daily from last Sunday in May until last Sunday in September, there's a special easy access bus, AD 122 - which takes you each morning from Wallsend Metro Interchange (0915), outside Newcastle Central Station (0940), Hexham Railway Station (0910, 1040) and Carlisle English Street (0740, 0925, 1150) to the Wall. The bus runs close to the Wall and to the National Trail as far as Bowness on Solway, and returns late afternoon. Additional buses run every couple of hours or so between Hexham, Housesteads, Vindolanda, Birdoswald and Carlisle.

So you don't have to walk far before picking up the next AD122 bus from the next convenient bus stop and using it to access a new attraction, or if the weather's a bit cool or damp, to travel into Hexham with its fascinating shops, Abbey and Border Country Museum, before your return bus to Tyneside or Carlisle.

The award-winning Hadrian's Wall, AD122 bus from Wallsend to the Wall is a special low floor, easy-access bus, which can carry buggies, and wheelchairs.

There's no need to book - unless you or a friend are bringing a wheelchair in which case a quick call to the Hadrian's Wall Information Line on 01434 322002 (www.hadrians-wall.org) the day before you plan to travel will ensure a space is reserved for you.



HADRIAN'S WALL COUNTRY

How can I plan my a day out?

This brochure contains suggestions for several Easy Days Out using the AD122 bus. Each Easy Day Out sheet is planned to look at a different part of the Wall, and suggests things to do and see, including facilities such as visitor centres, cafes, toilets, and whether there is an entrance charge. There's information there too for people with special needs such as wheelchair users or parents with young children.

What do I need to bring with me?

If you plan to go for a walk make sure you have warm clothes, rainwear, and strong trainers or boots. A rucksack will leave your hands free and is more comfortable than a shoulder bag. Bring either a picnic lunch or at least some emergency food such as fruit or chocolate. There are a lot's of places for refreshment such as cafes and pubs close to the Wall, but always have some supplies with you just in case.

What does it cost?

A one day Rover ticket on the AD122, valid over the whole route from Wallsend to Bowness, costs just £6 for a full day, £4 per child or £12 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children (children under 5 travel free) - there are also 3-day rover tickets available. If you are doing a shorter, one way journey cheaper single fares are available.

How about using the train?

Another time and cost-saving way of getting to the Wall is to get a Hadrian's Wall Rover ticket. Catch any Tyne Valley Line train from any railway station from Carlisle, Newcastle or Sunderland to Hexham, Haltwhistle or Carlisle Stations and then enjoy unlimited travel on the AD122. Tickets are valid for two days out of three and cost £12.50 per adult, £6.25 per child, but railcard holders - senior citizens, young persons and disabled - get a further 34% reduction. The ticket is only valid after 0900 on weekdays but all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank holidays. You can also get a joint train and bus ticket to any place on the Wall.

Take an Explorer to save even more !

Here's the real bargain for Hadrian Wall buffs. Buy an Explorer bus ticket either in advance at any Travel Office or on the day from the driver of the bus of the main bus companies in Tyne and Wear. For just £6 per adult, £5 for Senior Citizen or child (under 14) or £12 per family you can travel on your local bus or the Tyne & Wear Metro into Newcastle and then use your Explorer all day on the AD122. Ticket are valid all day, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays, and daily in June, July and August - but during other months only after 0900. Another hot tip - you can also use your Explorer ticket on the regular 685 service bus between Carlisle, Brampton, Gilsland, Haltwhistle, Hexham and Newcastle should you want to travel back earlier - or later. Check local timetables.

