

Something for Everyone

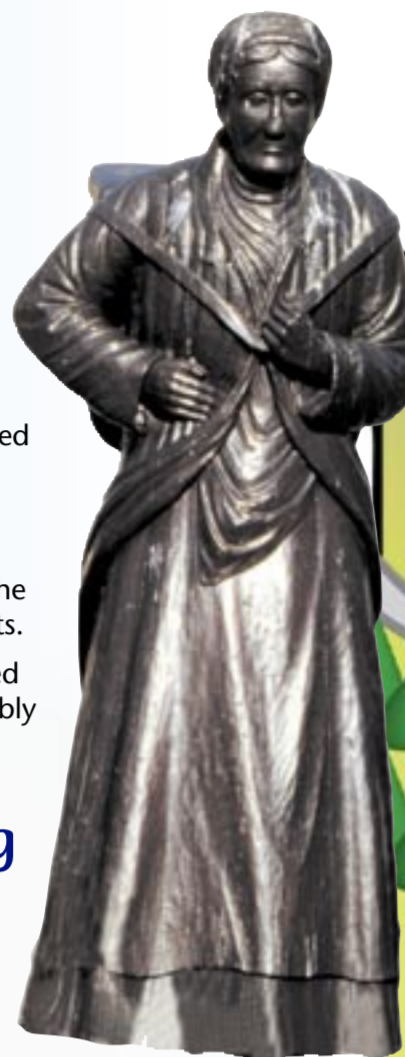
A brief history of North Shields

North Shields stands at the mouth of the river Tyne and Takes its name from the 'shielings' or 'shields' (fishermen's huts) on the river bank.

The early monastic settlement at Tynemouth gave the monks a chance to bake, brew and supply fish (especially salmon) to ships on the Quays, which annoyed the town's burghesses.

North Shields grew with the salt trade and coal-mining industry but whilst in the year 1720 the haven could hold 1000 ships, rubbish was mounting up and the strange step was taken of not allowing pigs in the streets.

In the 18th and nineteenth centuries, the town extended away from the river as far as Albion Road, and remarkably fine buildings were erected to reflect the town's power.



Steeped in fishing heritage

A lively working Fish Quay where visitors can buy the freshest fish at wholesale prices. Some great fish and chip shops (as you'd expect!)

Stunning views over the mouth of the Tyne. Site of the annual Fish Quay Family Festival held over the late May bank holiday weekend every year.

A modern, vibrant town

Today the town would be scarcely recognisable to its Georgian founders with the exception of Northumberland Square which still reflects former glories. Elsewhere and particularly along the river front major new developments have transformed the bank sides which now provide modern housing for a new generation. North Shields continues to provide the borough's main commercial centre with many professions choosing to occupy offices in and around Northumberland Square. The Metro system offers fast and efficient transport to many parts of Tyne & Wear from the heart of the town.

Fish Quay Family Festival

First established in the 1980's this family event is held over the late May Bank Holiday. The emphasis remains firmly on live music and entertainment for all the family, all against the magnificent backdrop of the River Tyne.

Stretch out at the Sports Centre



Contours Exercise Studio at the Parks is equipped with the latest in exercise machines to work all muscles as well as keeping your heart healthy.

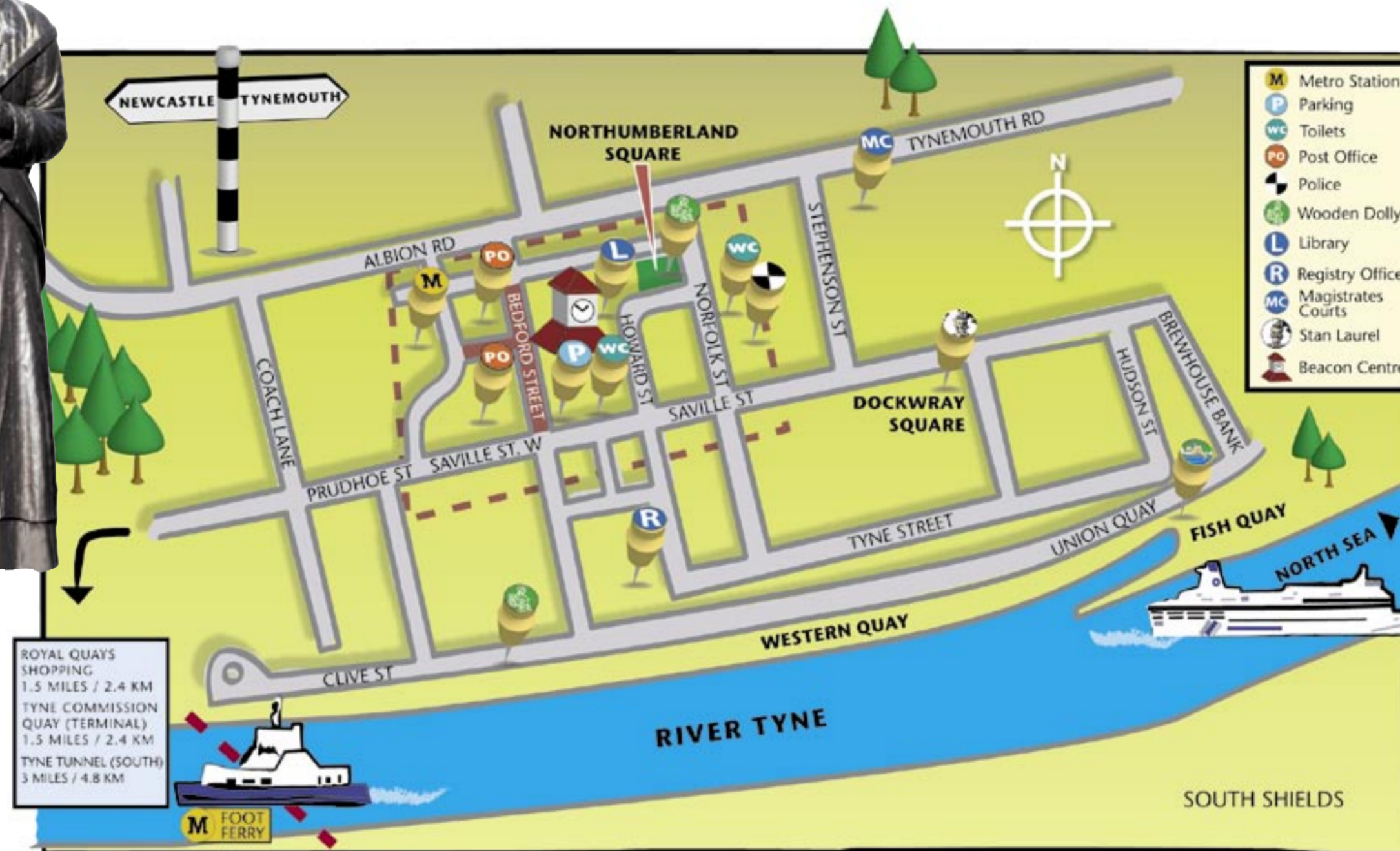
The equipment is accessible to all no matter what your ability and we have experienced instructors who can give you advice on personal programmes and lifestyle. The studio is fully air conditioned with sky television for your entertainment.



Wet'n'Wild the UK's largest indoor water park provides fun aimed more at the younger generation with its range of flume rides. www.tynetown.co.uk provides links to websites featuring all these attractions

WELCOME TO

North Shields



ROYAL QUAYS SHOPPING
1.5 MILES / 2.4 KM
TYNE COMMISSION QUAY (TERMINAL)
1.5 MILES / 2.4 KM
TYNE TUNNEL (SOUTH)
3 MILES / 4.8 KM

NORTH SHIELDS - RICH IN HERITAGE

Exercise Classes

Exercise classes are a fun and inspiring way to work out and we have over 25 per week on the programme. Choose from circuit training, steps, bums and tums, boxercise, kick aerobics, body toning, line dancing, and posture. Call into The Parks for a programme.

Lots to see and do at the Royal Quays

Situated just over a mile from the centre of North Shields, the Royal Quays have been developed on former dock and industrial land. As well as the Royal Quays outlet centre featured elsewhere in this guide, Royal Quays is the location for the international ferry terminal. Daily passenger and freight services leave on the short sea crossings to Scandinavia. The former Albert Edward dock has now been redeveloped into a large marina which even boasts its own floating restaurant, the Earl of Zetland.

To find out what's happening and all the latest information on North Shields visit the town centres' web site...

www.tynetown.co.uk

Shopping - Indoor and Outdoor



North Shields boast a fine range of shopping to suit all tastes. Leading high street names can be found at the Beacon indoor Shopping Centre, whilst the town centre also has a wide range of individually owned outlets offering something for everyone.

The pedestrianised town centre allows for stress free shopping whilst the excellent bus and Metro links into the heart of the town mean that the shops are easy for all to reach. Travellers from south of the river often use the frequent foot ferry from South Shields to visit both the Fish Quay and the town centre. Just out of the town centres there's also the Royal Quays Outlet Centre with even more famous brand names. Rather than try and list all the shops in this guide we recommend you visit the town centres web site at www.tynetown.co.uk, where you can find full details of over three hundred businesses in the town centre and use interactive maps to see exactly where they are located. Each business has its own page giving full details of opening hours etc.

Real Ale Pubs

North Shields is a mecca for the beer connoisseur with a host of real ale pubs, many of which offer fine food and often live music, and feature in the town's Real Ale Trail leaflet or online at www.real-ale-trail.com.



Stan Laurel



Dockwray Square today hosts a statue commemorating its most famous former resident, the great silent movie comedy actor Stan Laurel. Later to be immortalised as one half of the Laurel and Hardy duet, Stanley and his family lived for a while in the Square as he was growing up whilst his father Arthur Jefferson managed a number of local theatres, including the Theatre Royal in Prudhoe Street. Now long demolished the theatre's site is now shown on local maps as Theatre Court.

The family later moved to Glasgow as Arthur's own career developed but Stan Laurel never forgot his North Shields connections and returned to the town on at least one occasion as part of a UK tour in the 1930's when photographs show him making a public appearance at the Tynemouth Plaza, which itself was destroyed in a huge fire one night in 1996.

North Shields Victorian Christmas Market



Now established as the premier event of its kind in the North of England. The market held in December of each year sees Northumberland Square transformed into a magical spectacle of christmas lights and Victorian garbed stallholders evoking images of a bygone age. Traditional music can be heard from the bandstand and a traditional fairground and other entertainment add to the festive atmosphere.

For the latest information on this year's market visit the web site at www.victorianmarket.co.uk

