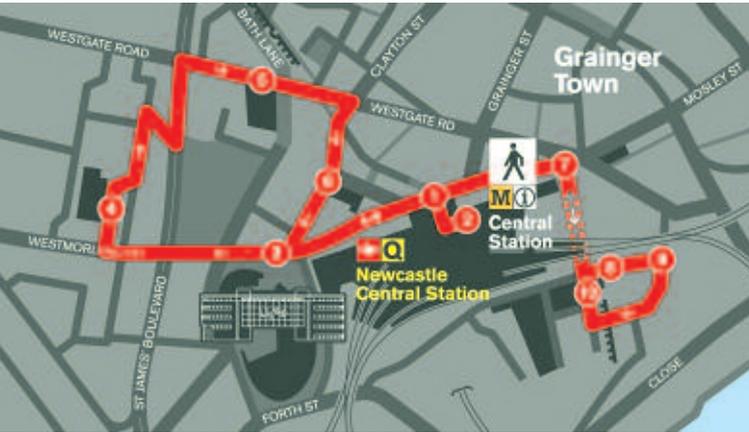


NEWCASTLE CENTRAL STATION



The world's fastest sea-faring vessel, a Cardinal, the development of the railways and a "Vulcan".

Starting point: Central Station Metro, Neville Street

Length of walk: 1-1.5 hours

North East England has a strong connection with railways and it's appropriate that this walk begins at one of the city's most striking buildings,

1. Newcastle Central Station.

From the entrance to the Metro station on Neville Street walk towards the huge arches of the station. Designed by John Dobson, it is regarded as one of the most important train sheds in the country, and it dominates this area of town.

You'll find the entrance beneath the arched area, over the traffic lights opposite O'Neills pub. It's well worth having a look inside the station to witness first hand the magnificence of this Grade I listed building. Turning left at the entrance which led into the station, you'll notice a bar/bistro,

2. The Centurion. This place was originally where first class passengers used to rest their bustles and the bar

area exudes elegance. In

1893 the railway company decorated the room with specially commissioned, hand-made Burmantoft



Discovery Museum

tiles, which were very expensive and not usually used in public buildings. However - in a move which would have had those elegant Victorians spluttering into their Earl Grey - this wonderful décor disappeared from view when the British Transport Police moved into the building and painted over the tiles with a garish shade of red. The room is now restored to its original splendour, and has a beautiful interior.

Pass through Centurion onto Neville Street and turn left, past the entrance to Newcastle Central Station, and walk straight ahead until you reach

3. Centre for Life, which opens out into Times Square. The Centre for Life is actually the UK's first biotechnology village and is well worth paying a visit, if you're interested to discover just how truly amazing life is! Here you can meet

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your 4 billion year old family, find out what makes you unique, test your brainpower and enjoy the thrill of the motion simulator ride. Also worthy of attention in the Square itself, is a single stone building which was once the market manager's office (this area used to house a bustling market).

Turn left out of the Square (from the way you came in) and in the distance you'll spot a large red brick building, topped with some green domes. This is the **4. Discovery Museum** and well worth a visit. Its pride and joy is surely Turbinia, a boat constructed by Sir Charles Parsons, which, in 1897, became the fastest vessel on the seas.

After your visit, turn left down St. James' Boulevard and then turn right onto Westgate Road, down past the **5. Journal Tyne Theatre**, and at the junction with Clayton Street West, turn right towards **6. St. Mary's Cathedral.** Six different architects worked on the church including, between 1842-44, Augustus Welby Pugin who also worked on the design for the Houses of Parliament in London. Around the other side of the building you'll see the statue of Cardinal George "Basil" Hume, former leader of the English Roman Catholic community, and devoted Newcastle United fan! Cardinal Hume is shown wearing his Benedictine monk's habit.

Walk down past Newcastle Central Station once again, and you'll come to another sculpture of one of the region's favourite sons, the railway pioneer, George Stephenson (1781-1848). The design improvements and engineering skills which he introduced proved that steam locomotives could transport both goods and passengers economically and efficiently. On the other side of the street you'll see the **7. Literary and Philosophical Society.** Opened in 1822, one of its claims to fame is that it housed the first public room in the world to be lit by the electric light when Sir Joseph Swan demonstrated his new incandescent light bulb. Next to it is Neville Hall which was built as the offices and library for the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers.



City Walls

Around the corner from Neville Hall, follow Orchard Street under the tunnel, to emerge opposite the Telegraph pub. Close by is a section of the **8. Medieval town wall**, built between 1311-1333. For the best view, walk along the path at the foot of the wall and go back to the Telegraph. Continue down the street to get to Clavering Place. **9. Clavering House** was built in the 1780s, and hints at what was once a very fashionable corner of Newcastle, before the railways arrived. Follow the street as it curves around into Hanover Square and Hanover Street. This streetscape (as it continues down the bank) hasn't altered much since the mid-19th century, when the bonded warehouses were built. Check out the "stone tramway" built into the cobbles which once provided a smooth surface for horse drawn carts.

Near the top of this bank, a short flight of steps leads to Whitefriars Place. You'll see on your left the award-winning office developments of Central Square South and **10. Central Square.** Head for the narrow space between them to see "Reaching For The Stars" a striking piece of art by Kenneth Armitage. Down the end of this lane is South Street and opposite is the brick building which once housed the world's first locomotive factory (established by Robert Stephenson, son of George). At the bottom of South Street turn right and you can't miss the massive sculpture, "Vulcan", by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, a reminder of Tyneside's industrial past and a symbol of the region's strength of spirit. Turning through the tunnel and turning left, will bring you back to the start of your walk.