

Key points of interest

A) Sunderland Marina

Built on the site of the old North Dock, which opened in 1837 and was designed by the great Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

B) Port of Sunderland

Sunderland's growth in the late 18th and early 19th centuries saw it emerge as a hugely significant industrial town with one of the busiest ports in the world. Today the Port of Sunderland is the UK's second largest municipally owned port.

C) National Glass Centre

One of the region's premier cultural attractions, this iconic building is a centre of national excellence, encouraging an enjoyment and understanding of contemporary glass making. It also tells the story of Sunderland's long history of glass making, dating back to Anglo-Saxon times.

D) Sunderland shipyards

Ships have been built on the Wear since at least 1346, when Thomas Menvil had a yard at Hendon. By the mid nineteenth century the local paper, the Sunderland Herald proclaimed the town to be "the greatest ship building port in the world". This stretch of the river was home to J.L. Thompson's shipyard.

E) Wearmouth Bridge

The first Wearmouth Bridge opened on 9 August 1796. Prior to its construction, the river could only be crossed by ferry or at the nearest bridge at Chester-le-Street. The current bridge was built in 1927 to accommodate the huge increase in road traffic and it is a Grade II listed building.

F) Stadium of Light

The Stadium of Light has been home to Sunderland AFC since 1997. It occupies the former site of Wearmouth Colliery.

Wearmouth Colliery was the largest mine in the area. It was sunk between 1826 and 1834. The first shipments were made in 1835 by which time the pit was the deepest in the world. The coal industry, along with shipbuilding, was the driving force behind Sunderland's rise to prominence as a major industrial centre.

G) Monkwearmouth Station Museum

This building was first opened as a museum in 1973 by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. It was built in 1848 serving as the Sunderland terminus for the Brandling Junction Railway.

H) St Peter's Church

St Peter's Church was founded in 674 AD by local man Benedict Biscop under the patronage of King Ecgfrith of Northumbria. As part of the twin monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow it became the foremost centre of learning in the north and home to the greatest scholar of the day, the Venerable Bede.

Facilities & Accessibility:

Toilets: Public toilets close to Bungalow Café

Catering: National Glass Centre, Bede's Bakehouse at St Peter's Church, various cafes and bars.

Parking: Sunderland Marina

Accessibility: unsuitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs

Heritage Trails North Area

Walk 8

Sunderland Marina River Wear Circular

Walk Distance & Time:

3.1 miles or 5km

1 hour (approx)

Start and Finish Point:

Sunderland Marina
Roker

