

# Williamston Barns

## A trip to Barnard Castle via High Force

This particular day trip takes you South across the Pennines into County Durham, visiting some spectacular scenery as well as some great stops for food and drink.

From Alston take the B6277 across the Pennine moors towards Middleton in Teesdale. After 17 miles (approximately half an hour) you will come to High Force, one of the most spectacular waterfalls in England. Parking is available on the left, and you can then cross the road to take a gentle and pretty woodland walk down to the base of the falls. Here the River Tees drops nearly 70 feet into a plunge pool below.

If you are in need of some sustenance we suggest you avoid the High Force Hotel and make your way instead to Eggleston Hall Gardens (closed in January) for elevenses or for a light lunch in the Coach House. It is also worth visiting the walled gardens, which specialise in rare and unusual plants.

From Eggleston Hall, it is a short drive – just over 6 miles - to Barnard Castle along the B6278. This market town sits alongside a ruined Norman castle (of the same name) and is positioned high up on a rock above the town. The town, with its old cobbled streets, is a great place to wander particularly if you are interested in antique shops, or visit the castle, run by English Heritage.

Just outside the town, Bowes Museum is also worth a visit. This museum has the best collection of European fine and decorative arts in the North of England, housed in a "magnificent" 19th-century French-style chateau, and hosts regular exhibitions. Alternatively, you can head to Raby Castle, a wonderfully preserved castle dating back to medieval times set in a 200 acre deer park.

Before you head back to Williamston you might want to have an early supper. One of our favourite spots for dinner is The Rose and Crown in Romaldkirk (contact on 01833 650213).

