

BFI FAN CON
GUIDE TO NEWCASTLE

by Emily Duff



Hey! I'm Emily, the Marketing Coordinator at the Independent Cinema Office. Born and raised in Newcastle, I'm a proud Geordie and have explored quite a lot of what the city has to offer. Although new places are always opening, these are some of my favourite spots you can check out while you're here for BFI FAN CON...

A GUIDE TO NEWCASTLE

In this guide, you can find: Most suggestions are independent companies -

- Where to eat
- Where to drink
- Areas to explore
- Local landmarks
- Activities
- Filming locations

there are lots of great small businesses to support in the city!

All recommended food spots offer either a fully plant-based menu or delicious vegetarian/vegan options.



WHERE TO EAT

Square (2m walk*)

1 Market St, NE1 6JE

Detroit-style deep dish pizza.
Lunch deal includes a slice, fries,
dip, and drink for £9.95.



DoughDaze (6m walk*)

27 Ridley Pl, NE1 8JN

New York inspired thin crust
pizzas at affordable prices
- I recommend the G.O.A.T.



Sushi Me Rollin' (5m walk*)

25 Grey St, NE1 6EE

Hand-rolled sushi spot with lots of
great options, from single dishes to
platters, and tasty drinks.

Zapatista (6m walk*)

28 Ridley Pl, NE1 8JW

9 Grainger St, NE1 5DQ (by the
station)

Mexican-style burrito bar also
serving nachos, tacos and more.
Meal deals from £7.50, including a
burrito, fries, and drink.

Meat:Stack (6m walk*)

41-43 Groat Market, NE1 1UG

Best burgers in a city full of
incredible independent burger
joints. Great milkshakes too!

***Approx. time it takes to get
to from Tyneside Cinema.**



Cilantro (10m walk*)

15 Side, NE1 3JE

“Indo-Latino Tapas” - full of flavour and small dish style serving so you can try more!

Kafeneon (6m walk*)

8 Bigg Market, NE1 1UW

Classic Greek dishes, with a happy hour of two courses for £17.95 until 7pm - I recommend the Feta Saganaki Bites.

Dakwala Bombay Canteen (7m walk*)

42-44 Grainger St, NE1 5JG

Indian street food with small plates to mix and match, or avoid the decisions with sharing plates from £23.95.

Nadon Thai (7m walk*)

32-34 Mosley Street, NE1 1DF

Classic tasty Thai food with a great happy hour from 5:30 to 6:30, offering a starter and main for £17.

Portofino (6m walk*)

12A Mosley St, NE1 1DE

An affordable Italian that never fails - and is set inside a gorgeous Grade II-listed Victorian building with incredible interiors.

Pho 179 (<1m walk*)

14 Pilgrim St, NE1 6QG

Quick, filling Vietnamese food with a huge selection of traditional Pho, a comforting noodle soup.



GRAINGER MARKET

Grainger St, NE1 5QQ (5m walk)

King Baby Bagels

Alley 1, stalls 5-6

American-style bagels with loads of schmears, including a Wasabi and green onion flavour combo - I recommend their breakfast bagel.



Soju and Gogi Express

Alley 1, stalls 16-18

Known for their build-your-own Korean corn dogs, with choices from mozzarella to beef sausage fillings and coatings like potato, noodles, and nachos. I recommend adding sugar - it's not as weird as it sounds!

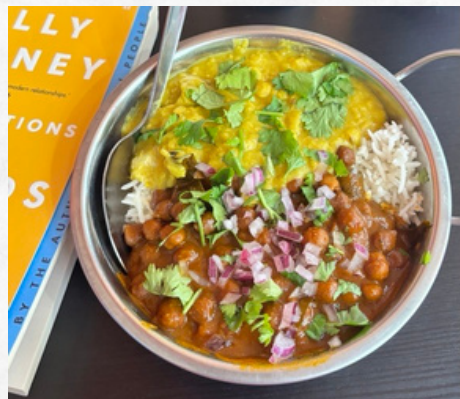


SnackWallah

Alley 1, stalls 31-33

Flavourful Indian street food - I recommend the Pani Puri (£4) and Mumbai Sandwich (£6).

Plus plenty more choices like Acropolis (Greek), Redheads (Mac 'n' Cheese), and Cubanitos (Cuban street food).



WHERE TO DRINK



Mother Mercy (6m walk*)

44 Old George Yard, NE1 1EE

Cafe Mercy (5m walk*)

30-32 Grey St, NE1 6AE

Cocktail spots: the former is their first location, a basement venue for intimate specials, and the latter is a casual space for spritzes and Negroni on Tap. Both serve my recommendation: Lychee Picante.



WC (6m walk*)

14 Bigg Market, NE1 1UW

An intimate cocktail bar in a former water closet, offering 2 cocktails for £15 until 7pm! I recommend the Cherry Mai Tai.

The Telegraph (12m walk*)

Orchard St, NE1 3NY

Cosy pub tucked behind Central Station, serving delicious pints, cocktails and everything in between! With a roof terrace, it's a great spot for when the sun comes out.



Vampire Rabbit (9m walk*)

29 Collingwood St, NE1 1JE

A creative cocktail bar with a huge menu of original drinks. It's also named after a mysterious grotesque you can find above the ornate rear door of the historic Cathedral Buildings nearby.





Areas to explore:

OUSEBURN

~ 15 to 20m walk from Tyneside Cinema

One of my favourite neighbourhoods in the city, there's plenty to do day and night - from enjoying tasty food and friendly pubs to vintage shopping and even exploring a farm!

Ernest

1 Boyd St, NE2 1AP

A super chill cafe bar with great deals from Marg Mondays to 2-for-£15 spritz and a regular happy hour.

Billy Bootleggers

Arch 2 Stepney Bank, NE1 2NP

A dive bar serving up moonshine and picklebacks, with regular free live music, and home to Patty Melts - a great Burger joint serving patties on local milk loaf.

Flaura Rose

53 Lime St, NE1 2PQ

A collective of female-owned small businesses where you'll find everything from clothes to homeware.

Donzoko Brewery & Taproom

Stepney Bank, NE1 2PW

An extensive beer offering with rotating taps, an in-venue copper brewhouse, and as close as you'll get to being in the Black Lodge in Newcastle.

Deep North

Arch 6 Stepney Bank, NE1 2NP

Incredible artisan doughnuts with regular specials (past flavours being Sticky Toffee) and classics like their infamous Homer - doh!

Dreamworld Cakes Patisserie

Arch 3 Stepney Bank, NE1 2NP

A family-run cafe with extensive filled croissants, homemade bagels, and incredible seasonal pastries - I highly recommend their apple crumble choux if they have it!

The Find

59 Lime St, NE1 2PQ

A treasure trove of local goodies, from artist prints and stickers to vintage homeware.

The Tanners Arms

1 Byker Bridge, NE1 2NS

A relaxed local pub with cheap pints, pool tables, and delicious food - I recommend the halloumi fries, a tasty classic.



Deep North



Gingerino's Kitchen

8 Stepney Bank, NE1 2PW

Homemade thin and crispy stonebaked pizzas.

Bibelot Nook

2, 1 Stepney Rd, NE1 2PZ

Vintage furniture, fashion and other findings. Opposite Ouseburn Yard, with stalls like records from Spinning Superiority, homemade candles (including a Tyneside Cinema popcorn scent!) from Hot Wax, vintage fashion from MALARKEY and more.



Ouseburn Farm

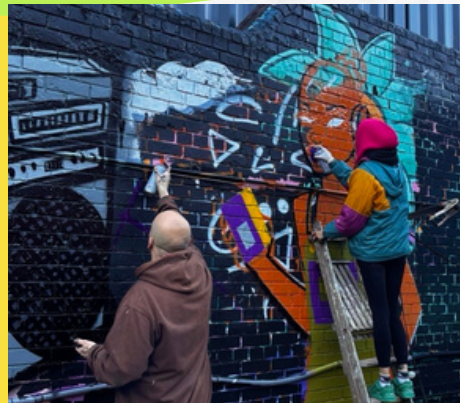
Ouseburn Rd, NE1 2PA

A free city farm with animals including pigs, goats, guinea pigs, and tortoises - plus there are fields and a sensory trail to explore.

Ouseburn Garden

53 Lime St, NE1 2PQ

An open-air bar with plenty of fire pits to stay warm, delicious Greek food from Acropolis, and regular events like movie nights.





Areas to explore:

JESMOND

~ 25 to 30m walk from Tyneside Cinema
(Metro and Bus connections available too)

This student neighbourhood is home to lots of tasty food spots as well as a space to escape city life.

Scream for Pizza

21-25 Starbeck Ave, Sandyford Rd, NE2 1RJ

Wood-fired pizza with a huuuuuge selection of toppings.

Cafe Filto

83-89 Goldspink Ln, Sandyford Rd, NE2 1NQ

Classic brunch spot with Açai Bowls and Open Flatbreads, but they're best known for having an extensive drinks menu - I recommend the Banana Bread Matcha.

Little Lobo

31-35 Starbeck Ave, NE2 1RJ

A chilled Mexican spot with incredible margaritas.

Jesmond Dene

NE7 7DZ

Escape city life with a wander around Jesmond Dene. Here you'll find a boating lake, footbridges, and a waterfall.

Head to Pets' Corner to see alpacas, pigs, goats, sheep, rabbits, and more - but you'll also spot animals like squirrels and small woodland birds as you walk.



Jesmond Dene

LOCAL LANDMARKS

Grey's Monument

150 Grainger St, NE1 5AF

Right behind Tyneside Cinema, it's hard to miss. Built to commemorate Earl Grey, the Prime Minister from 1830 to 1834 and the namesake of our traditional British tea strain.

Central Arcade

NE1 6EG

Just opposite the Monument, this small shopping centre is a beautiful architectural structure with intricate interiors you can walk through to cut away from the crowds.



Newcastle Castle

The Black Gate, Castle
Garth, NE1 1RQ

Where the city gained its name many centuries ago. Though not much of the castle remains, you can still explore the site, see great views, and go into The Keep, a Grade I listed building and scheduled monument that is said to be haunted...

Angel of the North

Durham Road, NE9 7TY

A huge sculpture by Antony Gormley, the Angel was installed in 1998 after almost four years of production. Local legend is that it serves as a protective guardian for the area. On the Gateshead side of the Tyne, by the main A1 road, an estimated 33 million people see it each year.

More to consider:

- **Parts of the remaining Hadrian's Wall** (head out to Northumberland National Park if you want to see more)
- **Chinese Arch** (which forms the entry to the city's Chinatown - one of only five official Chinatowns in England)
- **Newcastle Cathedral** (a beautiful medieval building opposite Central Station)



ACTIVITIES

Great North Museum

Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4PT

After entering under a unique taxidermy animal arch, explore exhibitions on natural history and world culture.

Laing Art Gallery

New Bridge St W, NE1 8AG

A Baroque and Art Nouveau style Grade II listed building with a collection spanning from the 18th century to the present day.

The Lit & Phil

23 Westgate Rd, NE1 1SE

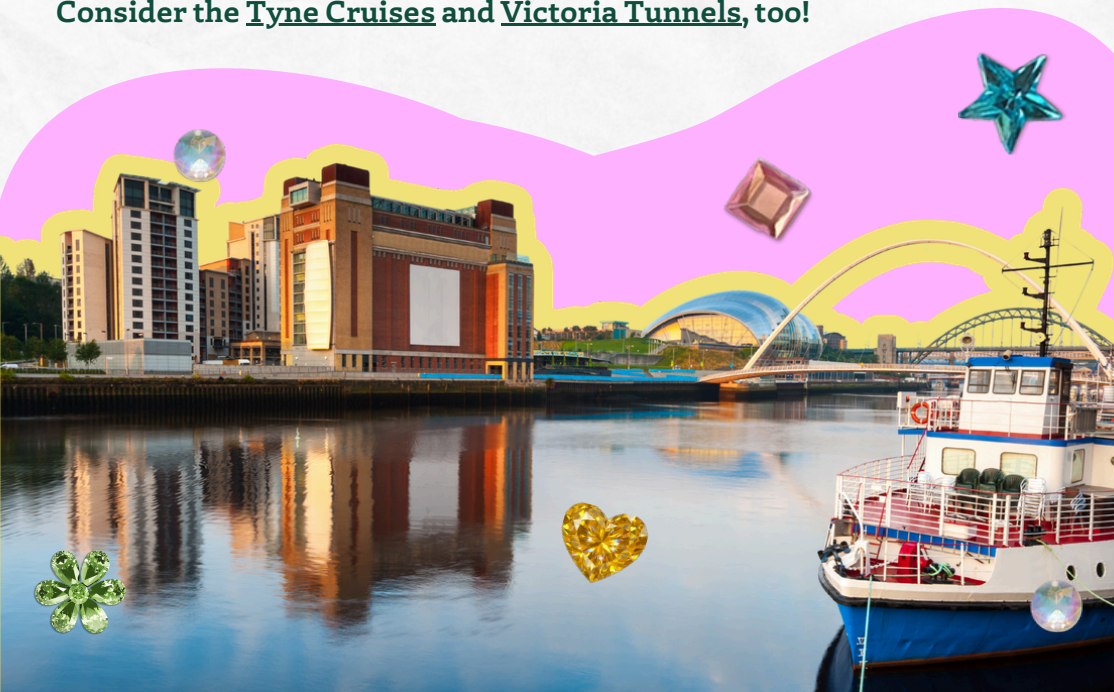
Right beside Central Station since 1825, this library is not only a beautiful Grade II listed building but also contains a massive selection of historic and modern books to explore.

City Library

33 New Bridge St W, NE1 8AX

The views of the city from the top floor are unbeatable - and it has a lovely cafe called Book Club.

Consider the Tyne Cruises and Victoria Tunnels, too!





**There are loads of
independent vintage
shops in the city centre:**

Friday Vintage
The Yesterday Society
Retro
MALARKEY
Waceland

**If you extend your stay in
Newcastle, check the
listings at:**

Dance City
The Stand Comedy Club
Northern Stage
Live Theatre
The Cluny

**Want a break from
the city?**

Leazes Park and
Exhibition Park are
lovely green spaces in
the city centre
- I recommend stopping
off at Wylam Brewery if
you head to the latter.



FILMED IN NEWCASTLE

While lots of movies are set and/or filmed in the North East, like *28 Years Later* (2025), *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* (2023), *Blue Jean* (2022), *Billy Elliot* (2000), and *Cul-de-sac* (1966); these are some of the locations you're likely to walk past during your time at BFI FAN CON...

Get Carter (1971)

Michael Caine (Jack) and Geraldine Moffat (Glenda) walk around the Quayside past the Long Stairs, High Level Bridge, and Swing Bridge.

You can also go to the pub Caine visits when arriving in Newcastle, the Half Moon - now The Victoria Comet- on Neville Street.

Stormy Monday (1988)

High Level Bridge is featured prominently, and the Royal Station Hotel on Neville Street is used for high-stakes meetings, their arrival, and as a hideout.

Purely Belter (2000) + Goal! (2005)

Both football films are mainly set across St James Park and Strawberry Place - the street right outside the stadium where many fans stop for a pint.

Purely Belter also has scenes on the Bigg Market (one of the city's main party streets) and in the Grainger Market.

I, Daniel Blake (2016)

The job centre Dave Johns (Daniel) visits is on John Dobson Street, the food bank is in Benwell Grove, and his flat is on Grenville Terrace near the Quayside.



See you soon

I'll be at BFI FAN CON for the full three days, so please do say hi - and feel free to ask for tips in person!

(This is me, so you know who to look out for.) →

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