

# THE COASTAL CRUISER

North Tyneside • South Tyneside

 7 MILES FERRY  
13 MILES TUNNEL

 MOSTLY FLAT

 METRO

 7 MILES

 BUS STOP

 BIKE PARK

**2**  
Gorgeous green space overlooking a stunning beach, The Links is the perfect place to stop and take in the views and enjoy a sand-free picnic, or to let the kids test their skills in the skate park.

**4**  
Head to Cullercoats beach, a beautiful stretch of semi-circular sandy coastline, with cliffs and six caves. The area is well-known for paddle boarding and sea-swimming.


**6**  
Dip down into North Shields Fish Quay, which dates back to the 13th Century and boasts a number of historic buildings, notably Clifford's Fort, built in 1672. The boyhood home of Hollywood legend Stan Laurel, it now has a vibrant social scene, with a range of places to eat and relax.

Flagging or feeling fresh? There are two options to end your journey "south of the water".

**Sail away...** The Shields Ferry offers a short hop to South Shields for a small fee. Ferries have crossed the Tyne since the 14th century and this is the only service that remains. It makes just under 25,000 journeys, carrying nearly 400,000 passengers each year.

**Going underground...** Head a few miles upriver along the A187 to the Tyne Cyclist and Pedestrian Tunnels - Britain's first purpose-built cycling tunnel opened in 1951. It runs under the Tyne between Howdon and Jarrow and its wooden escalators remain the longest in the world!

**1**  
Begin the Coastal Cruiser at the Nature Reserve, near St Mary's Lighthouse. Built in 1898, it is linked to the mainland by a causeway that is submerged at high tide. It was once an 11th-century chapel, whose monks maintained a lantern to warn ships away from rocks.


 Before venturing out to St Mary's, make sure you check the tide tables ...you don't want to get stranded!

**3**  
Opened in 1910, Spanish City boasted a concert hall, restaurant, roof garden and tearoom, adding a ballroom and funfair. Known for its distinctive dome, Spanish City was restored to its original glory in 2018.

**?**  
The Tynemouth coat of arms includes three crowns commemorating the three kings.

**5**  
Located on rocky headland, Pen Bal Crag, Tynemouth Priory is a Benedictine priory where early kings of Northumbria were laid to rest. Oswin, Osred II, and Malcolm III - famously in Shakespeare's Macbeth - are buried here.

**8**  
The cultural hub of South Tyneside, the Customs House offers arts and entertainment for all, with a programme of live performance, cinema, visual arts and projects for children and young people.

 Pop over the road and visit The Word - National Centre for the Written Word.

Starting in North Tyneside and ending in South Tyneside, the Coastal Cruiser is a lengthy trail, but well worth it.

Taking in beautiful beaches, historic landmarks and two options for crossing the Tyne (which depend on how adventurous you are!), it has something for everyone.

The Coastal Cruiser is an impressive route that transports you back in time one minute before bringing you hurtling back to the present the next.

## THE ROUTE

1. Light up your life
2. You're not missing The Links
3. Ola, amigos!
4. In living Culler
5. Priory pilgrimage
6. Something fishy
7. Sail away or going underground
8. Customs check

## HOW TO GET TO THE START

Visit [livemap.nexus.org.uk](http://livemap.nexus.org.uk) and enter the postcode NE26 4RS.

## SUITABILITY



Full route



Full route



Partial route



Partial route

Suitable for wheeled pedestrians

**GoSmarter  
GoActive**

[www.gosmartergoactive.co.uk](http://www.gosmartergoactive.co.uk)