

## The East Coast

The east coast of the Borders, and the north Northumberland coast, has some fantastic scenery, expansive sandy beaches, and great walks; there are plenty of cafes and pubs, and some excellent fish and chip shops, for when you've worked up your appetite after your walk! Here are some of our favourite places to visit.



Our favourite scenery in the Scottish Borders is around **St Abbs Head National Nature Reserve**. There is spectacular cliff-top (but not too close to the edge) 5 mile walk. Start the walk from St Abbs National Trust car park, where there are toilets, a small café, exhibition of work by local artists for sale and a small information display.

Walk from the carpark, past the café downhill along the road, turn left along a single track. The views are stunning. In early summer, the bird population on and around the cliffs is overwhelming. Keep your eyes open for dolphins, minke whales and grey seals.

If your group includes someone who has difficulty walking on rough ground, drive past the entrance to the car park and follow the single track road through fields for about 3 miles via Petico Wick to a small parking area near to the old lighthouse. The views from inside the car are memorable.

There is another carpark at the harbour in St Abbs village. You can walk from the car park along the breakwater past the harbour entrance. St Abbs is famous for SCUBA diving and more recently after featuring as Thor's town, New Asgard, in the Avengers: Endgame!



There is also a cliff walk to **Coldingham beach**, our favourite local beach, with sand and rockpools, as well as a cafe. The cliff path can be followed on to Eyemouth and beyond. Border buses run a service along the east coast if you prefer not to walk both ways.



We also enjoy going to **Bamburgh beach**. As the quaint village of Bamburgh with its majestic castle can be quite busy we tend to park in a small car park with toilets (only open in the summer) part way along the coastal road to Seahouses. It is then a short walk across the dunes to the 2.5 km expanse of golden sand. There are also some rocky outcrops with rockpools. Sometimes there is enough surf for body boarding or surfing. There are several pubs and cafes in Bamburgh village, including one dog friendly one. A treat is fish & chips from Seahouses on the way home.

**Holy Island** of Lindisfarne is also well worth a visit. A tidal causeway connects it to the Northumberland coast, and it's vital to check the tide times to make sure you can get across safely.

**Cocklawburn beach** is a very quiet beach south of Berwick upon Tweed. It's great for windswept walks and golden sand. There is a small free car park, but no facilities except an occasional ice cream van.

**Eyemouth** is a small town with a fishing harbour and a sandy beach. There is a small museum in town. Gunsgreen House overlooks the harbour, built in 1752 as a smugglers house. Well worth a visit for all ages. Giacomazzi's sells delicious fish and chips and homemade ice cream.

We hope you enjoy exploring our beautiful local coastline.