

LANGUAGE LEVEL: A2-PRE-INTERMEDIATE

DURHAM

PRIDE OF THE NORTH

En el norte de Inglaterra, dominada por un castillo imponente y una hermosa catedral, está Durham. Esta ciudad medieval es patrimonio de la Unesco.

Durham, in north-east England, is one of Britain's most beautiful and popular cities. It recently won 'Best British City' in the Condé Nast Traveller Awards.

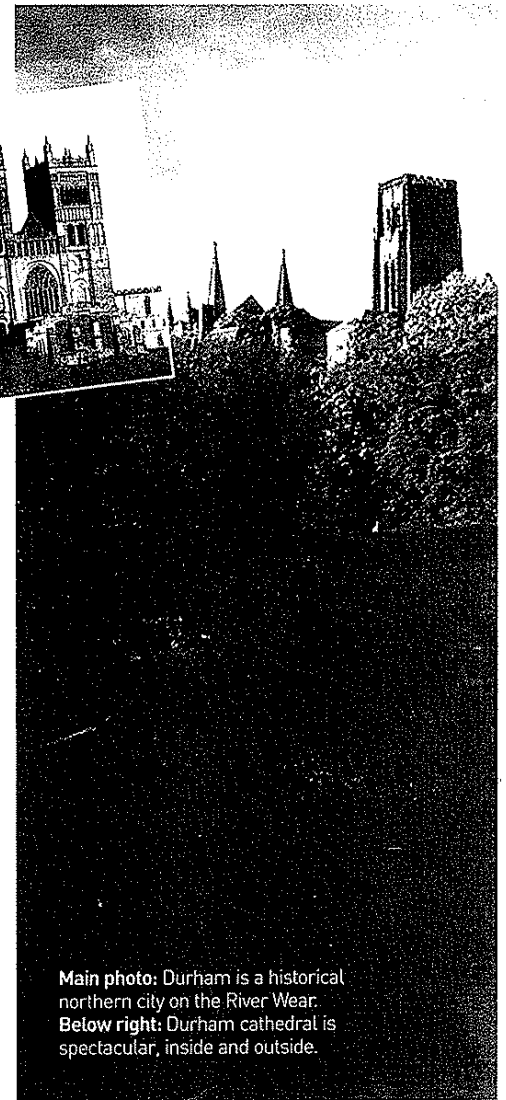
A SPECIAL PLACE

What makes Durham special? The entire city centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Durham Cathedral and Castle are magnificent. They dominate the city from their position high above the River

Wear, with its tree-lined¹ banks². Durham's medieval cobbled streets³, its splendid courtyards⁴ and ancient bridges have enchanted⁵ people for hundreds of years. The travel writer Bill Bryson fell in love with the city, and described Durham Cathedral as "the best cathedral on planet Earth."

LEGENDS

The legend of the Dun Cow and the milkmaid tells us of the origins of the city: a milkmaid⁶ guided a



Main photo: Durham is a historical northern city on the River Wear.
Below right: Durham cathedral is spectacular, inside and outside.

group of monks⁷ to the site where they built a shrine⁸ for the body of St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne in 995 AD⁹. Pilgrims have visited the shrine for over a thousand years; today visitors to the Cathedral can still see the relics of St. Cuthbert.

The city, built on several hills, is protected by the River Wear, which curves around the city centre. The name Durham comes from the old English 'dun,' which means hill¹⁰, and the Old Norse 'holme,' which means island. William the Conqueror built Durham Castle here in the 11th century, to defend England against the Scots. It's the only castle that has never been defeated¹¹ in battle. Today it is University College, part of Durham University. Visitors can take a guided tour of the castle, explore its chapels and see the legendary Great Hall and 15th century kitchen – still in use today!

Travel Info

According to the 12th century historian Symeon of Durham, the city was founded when some monks were carrying the body of St. Cuthbert from the island of Lindisfarne. St. Cuthbert's spirit appeared to one of the monks and told him they must go to 'Dun holm.' A milkmaid, who was looking for her lost cow, took the monks there. In the 21st century, Durham is easy to visit by air, train and road.

It is on the main road and rail routes between London and Edinburgh. Durham is on the A1(M) (Motorway), while frequent trains take less than three hours from London. The nearest airports are the Newcastle & Teesside Airports – about 30 minutes by car from Durham. Durham Tourist Information Centre
2 Millennium Place,
Durham, DH1 1WA
Tel: (0191) 384 3720
Email: touristinfo@durhamcity.gov.uk

