



Your Guide to Fishing in Northumberland

Northumberland has fine Fishing opportunities in its well stocked rivers, seas and lakes. The River Coquet is famous for its runs of Salmon and Sea Trout and parts of the river are considered a fishery of National importance. There are also many lakes and reservoirs that offer excellent opportunities for a relaxing day's fishing as well as boat trips out to sea. Why not fish one of Northumberland's famous wrecks near the Farne Islands on a day trip?

Sea Fishing

Seahouses is home to many an angler and there are a number of sea fishing trips on offer from the harbour. Alan Dawson and his family have over 40 years experience fishing the North Sea and run fishing trips in their MFV 'Guide Me'. He is fully qualified to carry up to twelve passengers on his boat and offers trips from 3 hours to 6 hours and is also available for private charter. You will be fishing the seabed for species such as Cod, Ling, Pollock and Mackerel. For more information visit their website [Unity Fishing Trips](#) can also cater for all your fishing trip needs from 3 hours for novices and families up to 8 hour wreck fishing trips at some of Northumberland's most famous wrecks. Contact skipper [Matty Stephenson](#) via his [website](#) for more information.

Sea fishing is allowed without a license from Alnmouth beach and also downstream of the Duchess Bridge (on the road into Alnmouth). At the end of Summer both Sea Trout and Salmon can be caught. Upstream of the Duchess Bridge until the River Aln reaches Lesbury belongs to Alnwick Anglers and this tends to be the best stretch for catches. Daily, weekly and annual passes for this stretch of the River are available from the Alnwick Anglers in the Hardy Fishing Tackle Showroom in Alnwick (01665 602 771). You will also need a Rivers Authority License to fish the River, which can be bought from the Post Office.

Fishing from Amble can be highly rewarding and the Amble Angling Centre (on Newburgh Street) is a good place to start. Owners Tony and Norma Urwin have an incredible knowledge of fishing and have won many competitions themselves. Their stock caters for both seawater and saltwater fishermen and they are the first calling point for many local angling clubs. The most common fish caught from Amble and the surrounding area, including the Coquet Island, in the season is cod. Fishing Boats can be chartered from the harbour, including the Warlord, Natalie Kristen and Amble Boat Charter. Mackerel Trips are

very popular during the Mackerel season from June to September, which are run in the evenings by Jeff on the Warlord. Boats can also be chartered from Amble for many other reasons including diving, sightseeing and wildlife cruises. The company Amble Boat Charter can be used for any of these reasons as well as fishing.

Reservoir and Lake Fishing

Just a few miles West of Rothbury is Caiston Trout Fishery, a beautiful 50 acre fishing lake, spring fed and stocked with Rainbow, Blue and Wild Brown Trout. They welcome everybody to the lake, whether a seasoned fisherman or a novice, the lake offers the opportunity to catch Trout from 2 to 15 pounds! Amenities here include a 40 acre fly fishing lake, an 8 acre worm fishing lake, boat and tackle hire, tuition and Salmon fishing on a two mile stretch of the River Coquet. Rainbow Trout fishing is available here all year round (subject to weather in winter) and the Brown Trout season is 22nd March to 30th September annually. For more information and tuition prices visit the Caiston Trout Fishery Website. Postcode for your SatNav: NE65 7LG

Fontburn Fishery at Fontburn Reservoir has become one of the most popular fisheries in the Country thanks to it's excellent reputation for large numbers of Trout. Any method of fishing is available here from bait to fly fishing and they also have a well-stocked shop that sells a range of different flies and bait. The Visitors Centre also has toilet facilities, a picnic area and disabled access. Fontburn is open to fishing from the 12th March to the 30th November from 8am until 9pm or sunset, whichever is sooner. Prices start from as little as £16 (after 2.30pm) with a 4 catch limit and go up to £799 for an explorer season permit. Visit Fontburn Fishery's website for more information and pricing. Postcode for your SatNav: NE61 4PL

Felton Fence Fishery is conveniently located near the A1 mid-way through the County, about 9 miles North of Morpeth. There are four well stocked lakes here in a peaceful and beautiful location. Badger Lake is about half an acre in size and is packed with carp for pleasure and match anglers. Fence Lake, Mallard Lake and Fox Lake are all mixed coarse. They also provide luxury accommodation and offer day and night fishing, a tackle and bait shop and toilet facilities. Postcode for your SatNav: NE65 9HY.

River Fishing

ROTHBURY deal for fishing. First of all there is the River Coquet that runs through the Village itself and the surrounding areas, with parts of the Coquet being considered a fishery of National importance. With runs of Salmon and Sea Trout the Coquet is a very popular, and beautiful, place to fish. The season for Salmon is the 1st February to the 31st October each year but a 'catch and release' bylaw means that you must release any Salmon caught before the 16th June. Fishing licenses can be bought in Rothbury from the Red Grouse Gallery (15 Bridge Street, Rothbury) and rod licenses from the Post Office.

The River Coquet also runs through the Villages of Felton and West Thurston, with its runs of Salmon and Sea Trout it is a very popular, and relaxing, place to fish. The season for Salmon is the same as Rothbury (and indeed anywhere on the Coquet) and the same 'catch

and release bylaw applies. The fishing rights for the River downstream from the old bridge are owned by the Northumberland Anglers' Federation who you should contact for a permit should you wish to fish the River. The Northumberland Anglers' Federation own the fishing rights to much of the River Coquet from here downstream to Warkworth and on to the Estuary at Amble. This stretch of River is extremely picturesque and tranquil. The River upstream of the Old Bridge in Felton is owned by a private club and should not be fished.

Fishing the River Tweed

Scotland is renowned for Salmon Fishing and the River Tweed is recognised as one of the truly great Atlantic salmon rivers. The tradition of salmon fishing on the River Tweed extends back for centuries and many of the practices, styles and flies used, when fly fishing for salmon, originate on this most lovely of rivers.

The salmon fly fishing season on the River Tweed starts on the 1st February and extends to the 30th November, giving anglers the opportunity to fish for salmon in most seasons. The early part of the season can see 'springer' salmon coming into the River Tweed, whilst the latter part of the season, from September to November, is usually the most prolific.

The cost for salmon fishing on the River Tweed, as in other Scottish rivers, varies according to the time of year.

Brown Trout fly fishing on the River Tweed in Scotland is excellent and every season specimen fish are caught. Fish rise readily to the fly and the quality of trout fishing is high throughout the River Tweed system. Dry fly and wet fly methods are both successful and nymphing can be particularly successful.

The trout fishing season on the River Tweed in Scotland extends from mid-March to early October and there is no closed season for grayling fishing, but the grayling fishing is at its best from December to February, cold but exhilarating.

Fishing the River Tyne and in the Northumberland National Park

Northumberland's sparkling rivers are home to some superb game and coarse fishing. Salmon and sea trout are found in many of our rivers.

The River Tyne is England's premier salmon river. Sea trout is found in the Tyne, Coquet and Tweed. There are brown trout everywhere, with some rainbow trout around too. The lower reaches of most rivers have good coarse fishing. Dace, roach, chubb and pike are found in the Tyne.

Types of fishing available in the Northumberland National Park

Salmon Fishing:

The River Tweed and the Till

The long history of fine fishing means permits can be expensive here. Fishing is usually from a hired boat which will probably include the services of a gillie (or boatman) who can provide expert advice and tuition.

There is no statutory "catch and release" on the Tweed and Till but a voluntary code requires the return of every other spring salmon caught by rod and line. Anglers catch the largest salmon in the autumn.

The River Coquet, River Aln, and River Tyne

Fishing permit prices are more reasonable. On the whole, the Tyne has the largest average weights for salmon.

Coarse fishing:

Coarse fish can not be eaten and so are returned to the river, except for grayling, which is really a game fish. Here coarse fishing is largely limited to the river Tyne. However, The Tweed, The Till and the Blyth are noted for their grayling fishing.

The common varieties of coarse fish in Northumberland are grayling, perch, pike, roach, dace, gudgeon and eels. The season for coarse fishing on Northumberland rivers is 16 June to 14 March. Clubs and owners of still waters may not have a close season.

Trout fishing:

The two main non-migratory trout in Northumberland are:

- brown trout are usually wild and found in rivers, lakes and reservoirs
- rainbow trout are usually stocked and found only in lakes and reservoirs

The season for brown trout fishing is from 22 March to 30 September in England and 15 March to 6 October in Scotland. Local Scottish byelaws there often impose a restricted season from 1 April to 30 September. Fishing on Sundays is not permitted on the Scottish rivers of the Tweed and Till. Typically, the average brown trout will weigh one third of a pound but top weights can reach up to four pounds.

Brown Trout fishing in Kielder Forest

The main streams for brown trout fishing in Kielder Forest in Northumberland are:

- Kielder Burn
- Lewisburn
- Plashetts Burn
- Belling Burn
- Chirdon Burn
- Tarsset Burn
- Warksburn
- The River Rede

Access into the forest is on foot only. Please park in the car parks. All legal methods of brown trout fishing are permitted until 31 July. Fly fishing is allowed during August and September. There is no bag limit.

Daily/Weekly fishing permits for Kielder Forest are available from:

Tyne Rivers Trust Daily/Weekly or seasonal permits available from the Blackcock Inn at Falstone

Still-water fishing:

Apart from brown and rainbow trout, species include rudd, bream, tench and carp. Eels are present in most waters. Numerous large and small still-waters are available for fishing. Many of these provide both bank and boat fishing.

Fishing at Kielder Water

Kielder Water is Northumbrian Water's boat fishery and with over 2,000 acres of water to explore, you can try a different spot every time you fish. With a fleet of 15 fully equipped motor boats, the huge lake offers exhilarating fishing for both enthusiast and competition anglers alike.

If you're new to fishing:

- Head to Tower Knowe or Kielder Waterside visitor centres where you can pick up your required permits or purchase your permit online at

www.bookwhen.com/watersideparksnorth Our lodges also offer tackle, bait and starter kits.

- Go to <https://www.watersideparksuk.com/fishing/> or search for Northumbrian Water Waterside Parks on Facebook for all the information you'll need and also for weekly fishing reports.

- A Tyne Angling Passport is required to fish on the burns (including Kielder Burn, Lewisburn, River Rede at Cottonshopeburn) or the North Tyne. This can be booked via <https://www.tyneriverstrust.org/online-shop/beats/> or telephone 01434 636900

Keen anglers:

Boat anglers should head for the Belling Inlet and Plashett's Bay at any part of the season.

Bank anglers try Whickhope Inlet and downstream from Tower Knowe Visitor Centre. Small dark fly patterns are a must, fished as dropper flies with bright attractors on the point of the cast.

When it comes to multi-bait, the Beeches Walk at Kielder Waterside, Tower Knowe Visitor Centre and upstream of Hawkhope car park are good locations. The stream mouths at Matthew's Linn and Whickhope are worth a try during the spring.

The Tyne Angling Passport gives you the chance to fish for brown trout in some of Kielder's wildest spots; Kielder burn and Lewis burn. It costs £8 per day and is purchased through the charity, Tyne Rivers Trust see

<https://www.tyneriverstrust.org/shop/beats/kielder-burn/> The full fee goes towards improving river habitat.

Pick up a 'Go Fishing' detailed guide or purchase a fishing starter pack from one of the visitor centres.

Permits and fishing boats must be booked in advance. To book please visit:

www.bookwhen.com/watersideparksnorth

We respectfully ask that visitors follow the countryside code to protect our wildlife and the natural environment. Please do not leave litter.

For boat fishing at Kielder, two adults must be in a boat at all times and no children aged under eight years of age are allowed in boats.

Tackle Shops

Amble Angling Centre, *Newburgh Street, Amble. Tel: 01665 711200*

Jobson's of Alnwick *Tower Showroom, Alnwick. Tel: 01665 60213*

Game Fair Direct, *12 Marygate, Berwick Upon Tweed, TD15 1BN. Tel: 01289 305 119*

Licences

All fresh water fishing in England requires both a permit from the owner or manager of the water in question and an Environment Agency National Rod Licence.

Licences are available from Post Offices, tackle shops or **from the gov.uk website.**

Licences are available for 1 day, 8 days or 1 year (April – March) and have two main categories: “All Fish (including Salmon and Sea Trout)” and “Non-migratory Trout and Coarse Fish only”.

The Tweed and its tributaries (including the Till) are classed as Scottish rivers, for which a National Rod licence is not required.

Fishing is not permitted on Sundays on Scottish rivers.

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