



THE  
AUCKLAND  
PROJECT

# DISCOVER BISHOP AUCKLAND FOR GROUPS

One historic town,  
eight amazing attractions,  
two thousand years of history

[aucklandproject.org/groups](http://aucklandproject.org/groups)





# WELCOME TO THE AUCKLAND PROJECT

**Welcome to The Auckland Project, a unique collection of heritage attractions, galleries, gardens and parkland in the historic town of Bishop Auckland, County Durham.**

Together our attractions offer groups the ideal blend of art, history and nature, centred around the magnificent Auckland Castle, one of the best-preserved bishop's palaces in Europe.

Embark on an extraordinary journey with your group as you discover a remarkable story of faith, art and power, from the Prince Bishops of Durham to Bishop Auckland's surprising connection with the Golden Age of Spanish art.



# WHY VISIT THE AUCKLAND PROJECT?

## One historic town...

With a rich history spanning over 2,000 years and eight amazing attractions, Bishop Auckland is the perfect destination for groups.

Whether you are looking for a full day-out or an exciting new addition to your existing group itinerary, you'll find plenty of inspiration in our historic town.

## Eight amazing attractions...

Our eight attractions offer the perfect combination of art, history, faith and nature, giving you the flexibility to design an itinerary based on the interests of your group. The attractions are conveniently located within walking distance of each other, making it easy to explore everything Bishop Auckland has to offer and create an unforgettable day out.

### 1. Auckland Castle

Discover one of the best-preserved bishop's palaces in Europe



### 5. Spanish Gallery

Visit the UK's only gallery dedicated to the art, history and culture of Spain



### 2. Gardens

Enjoy 10 acres of beautiful gardens surrounding Auckland Castle



### 6. Mining Art Gallery

Immerse yourself in this awe-inspiring collection of mining art



### 3. Deer Park

Explore 150 acres of historic parkland



### 7. Faith Museum

The UK's first museum to explore the history of faith in Britain



### 4. Auckland Tower

Climb the tower for birds-eye views of the town



### 8. Weardale Railway

Enjoy a journey from Bishop Auckland to Stanhope through beautiful Weardale.



# STAY A LITTLE LONGER...

**With so much to see and do, you might want to consider extending your visit over two consecutive days.**

## **Groups can enjoy...**

**Park Head Hotel and Restaurant**, also part of The Auckland Project, offers 38 comfortable en-suite rooms, including singles, twins and doubles. Groups can enjoy an award-winning breakfast at Park Head, with B&B and half-board options available.

Located on the outskirts of Bishop Auckland, Park Head is the perfect base for groups who are looking to spend one, two or three nights in County Durham, and discounts are available on group bookings.

## **More to explore...**

The Auckland Project's collection of attractions extends far beyond Bishop Auckland.

From 2025 you can also add **Binchester Roman Fort** to your group itinerary, once one of the largest fortifications in Roman Britain.

**Kynren**, the spectacular outdoor live action show, is located less than 2 miles from Auckland Castle, with evening performances every summer.

You could also combine your visit to The Auckland Project with a trip to the Bowes Museum (15 miles away), Raby Castle (9 miles away) or Durham Cathedral (12 miles away).



# GROUP PACKAGES

We understand that each group has unique needs and preferences. Our specially tailored group packages will make your visit to The Auckland Project truly memorable.

## Bronze

Life Underground	Mining Art Gallery	£4.75pp
Prince Bishops	Auckland Castle, Gardens, Faith Museum	£9.50pp
A Taste of Spain	Spanish Gallery	£9.50pp
Weardale Explorer	Weardale Railway**	from £5.50pp

## Silver\*

Power and People	Auckland Castle, Gardens, Faith Museum, Mining Art Gallery	£13.50pp
Faith in Art	Auckland Castle, Gardens, Faith Museum, Spanish Gallery	£18.00pp

## Gold\*

The Auckland Project Untapped	All Venues (excluding Weardale Railway)	£21.50pp
Unlimited Auckland	Upgrade to an annual pass	£25.00pp

## Diamond

Bishop Auckland and Beyond	All Venues (including Weardale Railway)	Price on request
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*\*Add Weardale Railway for an additional £5.50pp*

*\*\*To check availability and to request a bespoke price for Weardale Railway please contact [weardalerailway@aucklandproject.org](mailto:weardalerailway@aucklandproject.org)*

Visit [aucklandproject.org/groups](https://aucklandproject.org/groups) for full details of our Group Packages

- Make the most of your visit and extend your trip over two consecutive days at no additional admission cost, with accommodation available at Park Head Hotel.
- Optional extras, including refreshments and guided tours, can be added to your itinerary to make your visit even more special.

## Group Benefits

- All of our group packages offer exclusive group savings for groups of 10 people or more, with savings of up to 15%
- Experience our exceptional offer first-hand with a complimentary familiarisation trip for your group organiser, in advance of your group visit
- Added convenience with a complimentary driver ticket per coach or minibus
- Dedicated support from our Group Visits team, including seamless planning and a warm Meet and Greet service upon arrival

# PLAN YOUR VISIT

## Opening Times and Ticket Prices

Our attractions are open from 10.30am – 4pm Wednesday to Sunday.

Tickets for The Auckland Project's attractions range from £5 to £25 per person, with discounts available for groups of 10 or more.

## Getting Here

The Auckland Project is located in Bishop Auckland, County Durham, in the North East of England, just 11 miles from the city of Durham. Easily accessible by road or rail, with free coach parking available at North Bondgate Car Park and Park Head Hotel.

Coach parking must be reserved in advance.

## Accessibility

- All attractions are fully accessible, with the exception of the Walled Garden
- Personal assistants and carer's tickets are offered free of charge
- Park Head Hotel also offers fully accessible hotel rooms



## Contact Us

When you are ready to book your group visit, please email [groups@aucklandproject.org](mailto:groups@aucklandproject.org) or call **01388 743750** and our Group Visits team will be happy to help you plan your visit.

Please visit our website for full terms & conditions.

[aucklandproject.org](http://aucklandproject.org)



# FAITH MUSEUM

Opening Saturday 7 October

**Be one of the first to visit this unique museum and discover stories of faith in Britain spanning 6,000 years.**

Leading visitors on a journey through British history, the Faith Museum comprises four dynamic gallery spaces with an active programme of changing displays and temporary exhibitions.

The Faith Museum showcases over 250 objects from 50 lenders across England, Scotland and Wales, including rarely seen objects, national treasures, personal mementos and contemporary commissions.

Group bookings are now open for the Faith Museum, which will be included within the Auckland Castle and Gardens ticket from 7 October.

The Faith Museum is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Jerusalem Trust.

*Faith Museum Interior*  
© Picture Plane



*Binchester Ring*  
© Durham University



*Faith Museum courtesy*  
*of Níall McLaughlin Architects*





# AGLOW

at Auckland Castle

An illuminated Christmas light trail

22 NOVEMBER - 31 DECEMBER



Prepare for an evening to remember as AGLOW lights up the skies of Bishop Auckland this Christmas. Embark on a dazzling 1.5-mile journey through Auckland Castle's gardens and grounds,

with seventeen mesmerising illuminations including the largest Christmas tree in the North of England and the longest light tunnel in the country.

Book now: [aucklandaglow.org](http://aucklandaglow.org)

**Group rates available. AGLOW can be booked in addition to our Bronze, Silver, Gold and Diamond group packages.**