

Chapter 1 : Stay | Visit Hadrian's Wall

Hadrian's Wall (Latin: Vallum Aelium), also called the Roman Wall, Picts' Wall, or Vallum Hadriani in Latin, was a defensive fortification in the Roman province of Britannia, begun in AD in the reign of the emperor Hadrian.

You can collect your passport from the local Tourist Information Centres. It suggests tips on how visitors can help us to look after the Wall for them and future generations: Start and finish your walk along the Wall at different places, or follow a circular route. This way there will be half as much wear on the path next to the Wall. You can support the people living and working in the World Heritage Site by staying nearby whenever you can and using shops, restaurants and pubs in the area. Take any litter away with you and never light fires. During the wet winter months the ground is waterlogged and this is when the risk of damage to the monument is greatest. Instead you could walk one of the alternative circular walks close by. Close all gates behind you unless it is clear that the farmer needs the gate to be left open. Stick to the path signed from the road with coloured arrows. Help to take pressure off the Wall itself by visiting a Roman fort as part of the journey. They all have visitor facilities and will tell you all about the Roman life and times. Always keep your dog under close control. If a farm animal chases you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead. When walking on parts of the Trail which have a grass surface, if possible walk side by side rather than single file. This helps to keep the grass surface intact this is the layer which protects any buried archaeology. When the Trail was being designed, the basic rule of thumb was to avoid as many of the lumps and bumps as possible because they could be buried archaeology. So, please avoid walking on the lumps, bumps and grassy ridges. The legal right of way is on the ground alongside the Wall and there is the added risk of injury from tripping on the uneven surface. Please do your bit to help conserve the Wall for future generations by admiring it from alongside.

Chapter 2 : Walking Routes | Visit Hadrian's Wall

Hiking the Hadrian's Wall Path. The Hadrian's Wall Path, one of England's greatest long-distance hikes, runs along and over the original wall from Wallsend in the east to Bowness-on-Solway in the west.

Turf wall[edit] From Milecastle 49 to the western terminus of the wall at Bowness-on-Solway, the curtain wall was originally constructed from turf, possibly due to the absence of limestone for the manufacture of mortar. The line of the new stone wall follows the line of the turf wall, apart from the stretch between Milecastle 49 and Milecastle 51 , where the line of the stone wall is slightly further to the north. Where the width of the curtain wall is stated, it is in reference to the width above the offset. Two standards of offset have been identified: Standard A, where the offset occurs above the first footing course, and Standard B, where the offset occurs after the third or sometimes fourth footing course. The wall provided the soldiers with an elevated platform from which they could safely observe movement of the local population. It had "heavy provision of cavalry" which could sally out from any of the milestone gates though as mentioned earlier, the garrison was neither expected nor trained to the level necessary to defend a city wall. Overall the fortifications appear to have required additional strengthening after the initial design and were stronger than their equivalent in Germany, probably reflecting local resentment. Frere believes that the milecastles, which would have needed "men, were held by a patrolling garrison of Numeri , though he concedes that there are no inscriptions referring to Numeri in Britain at the time. Command headquarters was at Uxelodunum nowadays called Stanwix near Carlisle, where the Ala Gallorum Petriana was based. A signalling system allowed communication in minutes between Stanwix and York. This turf wall ran 40 Roman miles, or about In " , the Emperor Septimius Severus again tried to conquer Caledonia and temporarily reoccupied the Antonine Wall. Bede , following Gildas , wrote in [AD]: Many centuries would pass before just who built what became apparent. By , the estimated End of Roman rule in Britain , the Roman administration and its legions were gone and Britain was left to look to its own defences and government. Archaeologists have revealed that some parts of the wall remained occupied well into the 5th century. It has been suggested that some forts continued to be garrisoned by local Britons under the control of a Coel Hen figure and former dux. He described it as "the Picts Wall" or "Pictes"; he uses both spellings. The maps for Cumberland and Northumberland not only show the wall as a major feature, but are ornamented with drawings of Roman finds, together with, in the case of the Cumberland map, a cartouche in which he sets out a description of the wall itself. Preservation by John Clayton[edit] Much of the wall has now disappeared. Long sections of it were used for roadbuilding in the 18th century, [25] especially by General Wade to build a military road most of which lies beneath the present day B " Military Road " to move troops to crush the Jacobite insurrection. The preservation of much of what remains can be credited to John Clayton. He trained as a lawyer and became town clerk of Newcastle in the s. He became enthusiastic about preserving the wall after a visit to Chesters. To prevent farmers taking stones from the wall, he began buying some of the land on which the wall stood. In , he started purchasing property around Steel Rigg near Crag Lough. Eventually, he controlled land from Brunton to Cawfields. This stretch included the sites of Chesters, Carrawburgh , Housesteads , and Vindolanda. Clayton carried out excavation at the fort at Cilurnum and at Housesteads, and he excavated some milecastles. Clayton managed the farms he had acquired and succeeded in improving both the land and the livestock. His successful management produced a cash-flow, which could be invested in future restoration work. Workmen were employed to restore sections of the wall, generally up to a height of seven courses. The best example of the Clayton Wall is at Housesteads. Eventually, the National Trust began acquiring the land on which the wall stands. At Wallington Hall , near Morpeth, there is a painting by William Bell Scott , which shows a centurion supervising the building of the wall. The centurion has been given the face of John Clayton. On 31 August and 2 September , there was a second illumination of the wall as a digital art installation called "Connecting Light", which was part of the London Festival.

Chapter 3 : Roman Forts | Visit Northumberland

Hadrian's Wall Path. Walk 84 miles from coast to coast following the World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall, past Roman settlements and forts. There's history every step of the way, and cosy pubs, bustling market towns and great views too.

Most of the Wall runs through remote countryside but there are sections that pass through the cities and suburbs of Newcastle and Carlisle. The path is well signposted. For most of the walk there are many signs of human activity, and many other walkers in summer. Though there are villages and farms near to the path, there are not many places to buy food and drink, especially in the middle sections. The section between Chollerford and Walton is the highest and wildest part of the path; it is also where the Wall is most visible, and includes several important Roman forts. The path starts by the Swan Hunter shipyard. Before starting the walk some walkers choose to visit the nearby site of the Roman fort of Segedunum as it offers historical context for the wall. Most of this section runs through urban areas, including through the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne, and along the banks of the Tyne. Only the last part, leading to Heddon-on-the-Wall, is in open countryside. There are occasional glimpses of the Wall. Heddon-on-the-Wall to Chollerford – This section is almost entirely through open countryside. The Wall is occasionally visible and the Vallum earthwork is frequently visible on the south side. The path starts to rise now and the countryside becomes moorland, rather than farmland. Much more of the Wall is visible and parts of it run along the edge of crags, giving superb views over the open countryside to the north. The path passes the Roman fort at Vercovicium Housesteads, which has been extensively restored and contains much of interest. The Pennine Way long-distance path branches off north just after this. Steel Rigg to Walton - This is another section across open countryside with the Wall occasionally visible. The Roman fort at Birdoswald has a museum. As the path approaches Walton, Lanercost Priory is a short walk to the south. Much of the Priory was built with stones taken from the Wall. In this section the path returns to farmland and crosses the M6 motorway. Part of the path is alongside the River Eden, passing through a pleasant park and over a large footbridge. Carlisle to Bowness-on-Solway – The first part of this section is rather bare but the walking improves once the path gets beyond the outskirts of Carlisle. Most of the path runs alongside either the River Eden or the Solway Firth. There is nothing of the Wall to be seen but the walking is open and pleasant. The path ends in the village of Bowness-on-Solway. The start of the walk at Wallsend can be easily reached by taking a local train from Newcastle to the Wallsend Metro Station, and then walking a short distance. For most of its length, the line is not within easy walking distance of the Wall. The Wall can also be easily accessed by car, bus or taxi. The service runs daily from Easter until September.

Chapter 4 : Where to Stay - Heart of Hadrian's Wall

Why go walking on Hadrian's Wall Path? Move into the past with every step you take on this km long National Trail that follows the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall, the best preserved Roman frontier in the world.

Much of the defensive surround of this classic, lozenge-shaped fort remains, but only the foundations of the former granaries are currently exposed. The museum is fairly rudimentary, but the location of the site is spectacular. It backs on to a steep drop to a wooded meander in the River Irthing, while on the high ground to either side of the fort are some of the best-preserved stretches of the stone wall, the turf wall and the vallum defensive ditch. Open daily until October 31, 10am There are no excavations to see, but, like Vindolanda, it has some excellent finds housed in a rather homespun environment. Most important of all, this is where the Vindolanda Tablets – scraps of wood used to write messages and letters – were found preserved in boggy ground. This is the only extant female handwriting from Roman times, and probably the earliest surviving example in the world. The tablets are far too fragile to display, but there is an excellent video describing their discovery and preservation. It has two main selling points. First, it is next to one of the best-preserved sections of wall, with wonderful views over the Wark Forest and the moorlands to the north. Second, thanks to the extent of the excavations, large areas of the ground plan of the fort have been exposed. Best conserved are the latrines, complete with cistern and a flushing gully to take away the waste. There is also a tiny museum on site. It was owned in the 19th century by John Clayton, an antiquarian who did much to conserve the walls and its forts. Best preserved is the bath house down on the river bank, but the small museum, little changed since it was opened in and crammed with finds from the site, is in itself a fascinating relic of its time. If Hadrian did visit the north in AD, it is almost certain that he would have come here as well as to Vindolanda. Substantial ruins of the public and military buildings and part of the paved road remain. The audio tour offers a good introduction to the site and to Roman military life. There is also one of the better small museums. The site, however, is less scenic than those on or nearer the wall. Exhibits include rare ring-mail armour and the only surviving stone lavatory seat in Britain. The museum is sited at the fort, which probably housed both cavalry and infantry and once guarded the eastern end of the wall, on the banks of the Tyne immediately by the old Swan Hunter shipyard. From the viewing tower you get a good overview of the excavated layout, but it is a sparse site, with only the barest traces of the buildings remaining and a short stretch of wall nearby. To compensate there is a full-size, operational reconstruction of the Chesters bath house.

Chapter 5 : Hadrian's Wall Walking Routes | Visit Northumberland

Hadrian's Wall: Housesteads Fort Foundations of buildings at Housesteads Fort, an exceptionally well-preserved ruin of a Roman outpost along Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland, England. © Gail Johnson/Fotolia Hadrian's Wall was built mainly by soldiers of the three legions of Britain, but it was.

It was built in 6 years ending AD. The Hadrian Wall is the largest remaining artefact of the Roman Empire and there have been many important archaeological finds along it. In 1987, it was recognized as a World Heritage site. Know more about this historic wall through these 10 interesting facts. In his early days on the throne, the province of Britannica witnessed a major rebellion from 68 to 71 AD. This prompted Hadrian to visit the province in 122 AD to take a toll of the situation. During this visit he is said to have ordered the construction of the Wall which would mark the boundaries of the Roman Empire, deter attacks on Roman territory and control cross border trade and immigration. Hadrian left Britannica the same year and he would never witness the wall he had ordered to be raised. Bust of Hadrian 2 It was a garrison wall with many small and larger fortlets along its length The Hadrian wall was guarded with the help of garrisoned soldiers all along its length. Small forts called Milecastles were built at every Roman mile yards. These structures were of a standard pattern with 2 large gates. The interior structure varied and could house a maximum of 64 soldiers. The Milecastles were probably large gatehouses used originally to control movement through the wall and to levy taxes. Between the milecastles were two smaller fortifications called turrets. These were equidistant from each other and the milecastles. They were about 20 feet square and recessed into the wall. They were built-up above the height of the wall and were managed by the soldiers stationed at their nearest milecastles. This original plan perhaps proved inadequate, which later led to the formation of several auxiliary forts along its length. The Wall was placed slightly north of the existing line of military installations between the River Tyne and the Solway Firth. Construction was broadly divided into sections of 5 Roman miles with the Milecastles and Turrets being constructed first which was followed by the wall construction. The wall was completed with an estimated effort of close to 15,000 legionaries after a period of six years, in AD. The wall measured 80 Roman miles in length or close to 120 kilometres in the metric system. The height and width of the wall varied depending on the construction material available nearby. The construction may be broadly divided into 2 sections. Wall east of River Irthing "Made from squared stone, approx. 10 feet high. The foundation of this 10 feet wall runs for 23 Roman miles eastward from Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The wall is then reduced to 6 to 8 feet. Wall west of the River Irthing "Made from turf possibly due to the absence of limestone for the manufacture of mortar, the turf wall was approx. 10 feet high. However, most agree that the wall marked the northern boundary of the Roman Empire in Britain. More detailed studies of the wall over the years suggest that it was also a well thought of military barrier which, in its final form, comprised of the following elements: The Vallum, 6 metres 20 ft wide and 3 metres 10 ft deep, with a flat bottom, ran almost parallel and south of the wall for its entire length. There is no definitive historical evidence as to why the Roman army built this unusual barrier. This has intrigued many scholars. Most think that it was kind of a southern boundary of the military zone, but the scale of its constructions raises questions. Whatever function the Vallum served appears to have been only temporary as it is thought to have been used for only about a decade. The two mounds were then slighted and thrown into the central trench at regular intervals, spaced every 45 yards or so along its entire length. Spread across what is now the central belt of Scotland, between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde, the wall measured 39 miles with an approximate height and width of 10 feet and 16 feet respectively. The wall had a stone base, with turf blocks, a wooden battlement on top, and a broad ditch on the north side. It had 19 forts and lacked the ditch to the south called the vallum. It is believed that it was the pressure from Caledonians or the indigenous people in the north that may have prompted Antonius Pius to move his troops further north, and build the wall. Built by the same 2nd, 6th and 20th legions that had toiled on the Hadrian Wall; the Antonine Wall took 12 years to complete. Part of the Antonine wall 8 At one time John Clayton and his family owned 20 miles of the wall, including 5 forts For many centuries after the fall of the Roman Empire, the wall became a quarry for mining stone and was used for various building projects; the most noted one being a military road constructed by

General Wade in the 18th century to move his troops to crush a Jacobite insurrection. Efforts for conservation of the wall started only in the mid 19th century by individuals like John Hodgson, John Collingwood and most notably John Clayton. Clayton, a town clerk at Newcastle became enthusiastic about preserving the wall. To prevent people from raiding the wall, he began buying land around the wall and started his excavations. He eventually controlled land from Brunton to Cawfields and, in the early 20th century, his family owned almost 20 miles of the wall, which they mostly lost in gambling. The best example of the Clayton Wall is at Housesteads. The wall is still largely private owned although several well-known sections of it are owned by organisations like English Heritage and the National Trust. Among the most famous is the Collection of John Clayton housed at the museum in Chesters. Other discoveries of note include a corn measure; flushing toilets; roman segmented armour; swords; and various beautiful religious sculptures and carving of Roman deities. The site however is largely unguarded leading to visitors climbing and standing on the wall. Another major cause of concern has been the illegal metal detecting perhaps by raiders in search of ancient valuables. This activity is a punishable offence near the wall and its surrounding archaeology.

Chapter 6 : 10 Interesting Facts About Hadrian's Wall | Learnodo Newtonic

Here at Roman Wall Walks we know that when you book a walking holiday on Hadrian's Wall it should be about enjoying the walking and spectacular views that the Hadrian's Wall trail has to offer.

Chapter 7 : Hadrian's Wall Walking Holidays from Mickledore

Hadrian's Wall was built, beginning in AD 122, to keep Roman Britain safe from hostile attacks from the Picts. It was the northernmost boundary of the Roman empire until early in the fifth century (see the Antonine Wall).

Chapter 8 : What is Hadrian's Wall? - HISTORY

The Hadrian's Wall Path is a long distance footpath in the north of England, which became the 15th National Trail in 1953. It runs for 84 mi (135 km), from Wallsend on the east coast of England to Bowness-on-Solway on the west coast.

Chapter 9 : Walking holidays around Hadrian's Wall - Baggage Transfer Plus

Hadrian's Wall Walk. Immerse yourself in history with a walking tour on the Hadrian's Wall Path, a fascinating and rewarding walk from England's coast to coast east to west alongside one of Britain's iconic landmarks.