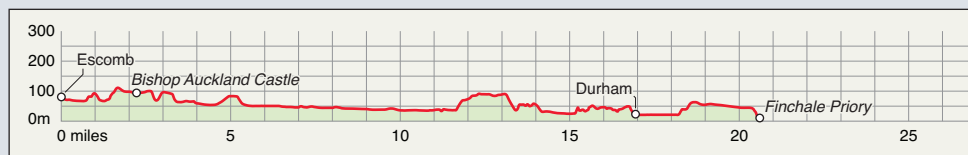


PRACTICAL INFORMATION



- **Terrain** Almost all well-maintained riverbank paths, short stretches on city streets
- **Difficulty** Easy
- **Directions & GPS*** 016.pdf, 016.gpx, 016.kml at <https://trailblazer-guides.com/press>

* See p10-11 for more information on downloads

ROUTE OVERVIEW

20.7 miles (33.3km)

Wonderfully peaceful riverside walking with a real sense of history along the route, and the added bonus of lovely views when the path climbs away from the river. Allow plenty of time to explore Durham Cathedral.

Escomb to Durham

16.7 miles (26.9km)

- **Time** 6 hours actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 480m/1575ft
- **Map** OS Explorer 305 *Bishop Auckland*; 308 *Durham & Sunderland*

From Escomb church the route picks up the Weardale Way which is followed right to the final destination of Finchale. The walk runs alongside the River Wear, with a moderate climb, descent and a second climb, to reach Bishop Auckland in **2.2 miles**. It then crosses to the opposite bank for **9.2 miles** to Sunderland Bridge, before leaving the river to ascend via Croxdale Hall (**0.5 miles**). You descend through woodland back to the river, arriving at the outskirts of Durham in **3.9 miles** and Durham Cathedral in a further **0.9 miles**.

Durham to Finchale Priory

4 miles (6.4km)

- **Time** 1hr 40 mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 120m/395ft
- **Map** OS Explorer 308 *Durham & Sunderland*

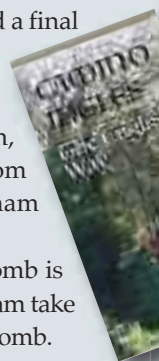
The route leaves the city centre alongside the River Wear, before a gentle climb along lanes and tarmacked paths and a final short, steep descent to Finchale Priory (**4 miles**).

Day walk options

If you only have one day, end the walk at Durham, or for simpler access by public transport, start from Bishop Auckland. Alternatively start from Durham then walk to Finchale and back.

● **By public transport** The nearest station to Escomb is Bishop Auckland, a short taxi ride away. From Durham take a bus to Bishop Auckland or a longer taxi ride to Escomb.

● **Taxi** PTL Taxis (☎ 0191-3729961, ptltaxis.co.uk)

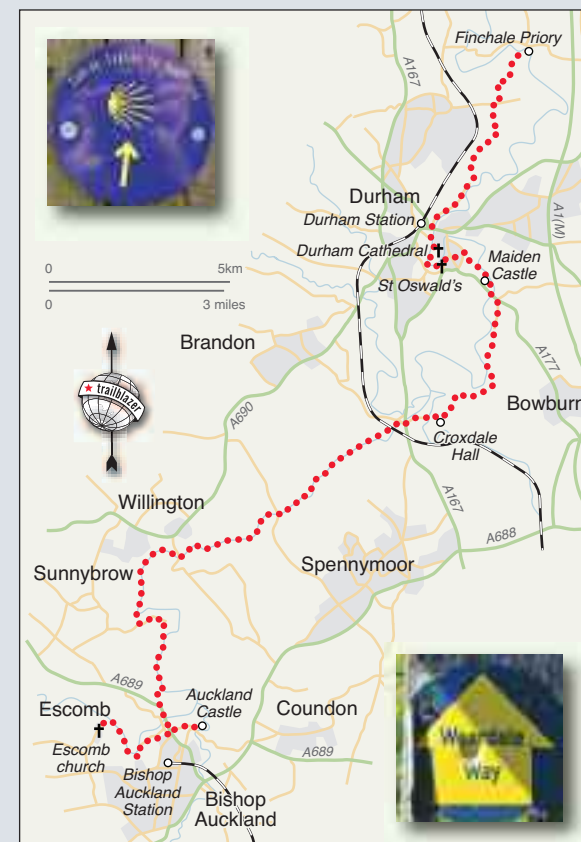


PILGRIM PASSPORTS
Available from the Finchale Friends of the Camino, via their Facebook page, (Finchale Camino) or from the official Camino website (santiagodecompostela.me)

Where to eat or stay

● **Bishop Auckland** Eat lunch at *Breaking Bread Kitchen & Bakehouse* (formerly the Castlegate Café; ☎ 01388-608770; [facebook.com/castlegatecafe](https://www.facebook.com/castlegatecafe), Mon-Sat 9am-4pm, 8 Market Place) for hearty walkers' food.

● **Durham** Stay in an apartment at *52 Old Elvet* (☎ 07504 954599; 52oldelvet.com), a Grade II listed mansion just across the river from the cathedral. Eat dinner at *Shaheens* (☎ 0191-3860960; shaheensdurham.co.uk, 48 N Bailey), a cosy, family-run Indian curry house with the friendliest of staff; or splash out at *Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar and Grill* (☎ 0191-3293535; mpwrestaurants.co.uk, 9 Old Elvet). Next morning enjoy veggie/vegan brunch at *Bean Social* (☎ 0191-3843378; [facebook.com/BeanSocialDurham](https://www.facebook.com/BeanSocialDurham), 24-28 N Rd).



PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit truly ancient places of worship: **Escomb Church** (escombsaxonchurch.co.uk, summer 9am-8pm, winter to 4pm; collect key at 28 Saxon Green, Escomb if locked) and **St Oswald's church** (oswalds.org.uk, 9am-5pm, Church St, Durham) with nearby **St Oswald's Well**.
- Explore **Auckland Castle**, the seat of many powerful bishops of Durham with **St Peter's chapel** (aucklandproject.org/st-peters-chapel).
- Attend Evensong at **Durham Cathedral** (durhamcathedral.co.uk; Evensong Tue-Sat 5.15pm Sun 3.30pm).
- Stroll along the riverbank to the atmospheric ruins of **Finchale Priory** (english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/finchale-priory, open Apr-Oct 10am-5pm, Nov-March 10am-4pm, Framwellgate Moor), once home to the hermit St Godric, the first known English pilgrim to walk the Camino to Santiago.

Saints' days: St Cuthbert 20 March, St Godric 21 May, St Oswald 5 August

| | | | Walk 16 English Camino, Escomb to Durham and Finchale |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Distance from start | Distance from last direction | OS Refs | Direction |
| 0km | 0km | NZ 18916 30102 | From Escomb church , turn left onto Saxon Green. |
| 120yds/110m | 120yds/110m | NZ 18976 30159 | Turn right off Saxon Green onto Dunelm Chare. |
| 175yds/160m | 55yds/50m | NZ 19051 30242 | Just after the last house on the left, turn right and follow path through field towards River Wear, bearing right after barns. |
| 450yds/410m | 275yds/250m | NZ 19252 30207 | Turn right along bank of River Wear, picking up the Wearside Way which follows the river as it winds south and then north again, until you reach a small car park. |
| 1.4miles/2.2km | 1.1miles/1.8km | NZ 19955 29609 NZ 20208 29806 | From the car park bear right on a track running uphill past allotments, then right again just after Bishop Auckland Rugby club. When the path reaches Hexham St continue to the junction. |
| 1.7miles/2.7km | 220yds/200m | NZ 20683 29905 | Turn left into West Rd and continue to the next junction. |
| 1.7miles/2.8km | 110yds/100m | NZ 20694 29990 | Turn right onto High Bondgate and continue straight ahead at roundabout, following signs to Auckland Castle which will take you along Finkle St and Market Place. |
| 2.2miles/3.5km | 770yds/700m | NZ 21399 30155 NZ 21225 30116 | Retrace your steps as far as Market Place, then bear right into North Bondgate and follow it round to the left, back to the mini-roundabout. Continue on along High Bondgate to the next roundabout. |
| 2.6miles/4.2km | 770yds/700m | NZ 20743 30021 | Turn right at roundabout onto A689 and continue over the Newton Cap Viaduct. |
| 3miles/4.8km | 660yds/600m | NZ 20494 30557 | At other side of viaduct, turn right onto the Brandon – Bishop Auckland railway footpath, then bear left and continue straight ahead through trees until you reach a footpath junction. |

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|
| 3.2miles/5.2km | 440yds/400m | NZ 20369 30982 | Turn right on footpath leading down to River Wear. |
| 3.3miles/5.4km | 220yds/200m | NZ 20512 30950 | Turn left at river and join Weardale Way. |
| 3.9miles/6.3km | 990yds/900m | NZ 20330 31833 | Where paths divide, take right-hand option and continue along riverbank initially, then follow farmtrack to Farnley Farm where it turns left. Continue along as the track bears left and merges into a lane, looking out for the Weardale Way signed off to the right. |
| 5miles/8.1km | 1.1miles/1.8km | NZ 19886 32681 | Turn right along path through field and through woods to riverbank. |
| 6.7miles/10.8km | 1.7miles/2.7km | NZ 20895 34408 | Cross Cobey's Carr Lane alongside the New Jubilee Bridge and continue along riverbank. |
| 8.6miles/13.9km | 1.9miles/3.1km | NZ 23402 35493 | Cross Whitworth Ln alongside Page Bank Bridge and continue along riverbank. |
| 11miles/17.7km | 2.4miles/3.8km | NZ 25906 37447 | Bear left away from the river as the path joins a track between fields and passes beneath Croxdale Viaduct. Continue along to Sunderland Bridge. |
| 11.2miles/18km | 330yds/300m | NZ 26479 37797 | Turn right onto Sunderland Bridge to cross River Wear. |
| 11.2miles/18.1km | 110yds/100m | NZ 26567 37727 | On the far side of the bridge turn immediately left to follow the other bank of the River Wear, passing under the A167 and over Croxdale Beck. |
| 11.7miles/18.9km | 880yds/800m | NZ 27325 38017 | At Croxdale Hall, leave the main track and take stepped path to your right. |
| 11.8miles/19km | 110yds/100m | NZ 27411 37878 | Follow path as it joins track and turns sharp left and arrive at Croxdale Hall's disused chapel. |
| 11.9miles/19.1km | 110yds/100m | NZ 27430 37891 | Continue along track as it swings left through farmyard. |
| 12miles/19.3km | 220yds/200m | NZ 27439 37918 | Follow path as it bears right through farmyard, then left and enters wood. Continue along as the path swings to the right past Croxdale Wood House and runs along the edge of woodland. |

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|------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|
| 13miles/21km | 1mile/1.7km | NZ 28853 38774 | At High Butterby farm, follow path as it bears right through farmyard, and look out for path leaving track to the left immediately after passing buildings and entering wood. Continue on this path as it winds through Shincliffe Wood until it becomes Hall Ln and reaches Shincliffe. |
| | | NZ 28902 40668 | Turn left onto Low Road and continue to the end. Turn left onto the A177 towards Shincliffe Bridge. |
| 14.6miles/23.5km | 1.6miles/2.5km | NZ 28711 41074 | At Shincliffe Bridge, cross river, then turn right onto footpath on the bank, with the river now on your right. |
| 15miles/24.3km | 880yds/800m | NZ 28445 41631 | Just after a footbridge, at the foot of Maiden Castle, turn right off the main path and continue along riverbank with woodland on your left. |
| 15.2miles/24.5km | 220yds/200m | NZ 28365 41786 | Where the path divides turn left away from river and follow tarmacked path along edge of woods. |
| 15.4miles/24.9km | 440yds/400m | NZ 28145 42040 | Turn left to climb stepped path between buildings and reach Whinney Hill, opposite HMP Durham. |
| 15.5miles/25km | 110yds/100m | NZ 28010 42053 | Cross over and turn left onto Whinney Hill for 100m. |
| 15.6miles/25.1km | 110yds/100m | | Take the next turning on the right and continue to the end. |
| 15.7miles/25.3km | 220yds/200m | NZ 27774 41945 | Turn right onto Hallgarth St. |
| 15.8miles/25.4km | 110yds/100m | NZ 27740 41979 | Turn left into alley just before the Victoria pub. |
| 15.9miles/25.6km | 220yds/200m | NZ 27577 41925 | At end of alley, turn left onto Church St and cross over. Bear left and arrive at St Oswald's Church. To continue, walk on through the churchyard, moving diagonally right towards the River Wear and pick up a path running steeply down riverbank. |
| 16miles/25.8km | 220yds/200m | NZ 27519 41884 | Arrive at St Oswald's Well. |

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|------------------|----------------|--|--|
| | | | Continue down path to river, keeping the river on your right, and along to Prebend's Bridge. |
| 16.3miles/26.3km | 660yds/600m | NZ 27118 41846 NZ 27215 41878 | Turn right to cross River Wear via Prebend's Bridge. Turn left on other side of bridge. |
| 16.6miles/26.7km | 440yds/400m | NZ 27289 42238 | Turn right off riverside path. |
| 16.7miles/26.9km | 220yds/200m | NZ 27317 42174 | Arrive at Durham Cathedral. Suggested overnight stop in Durham To continue, retrace your steps to the riverside path and turn right. |
| 16.8miles/27.1km | 220yds/200m | NZ 27273 42425 | Turn left to cross river Wear via Framwelgate Bridge. On opposite bank, take steps down to riverside and continue along Framwelgate Waterside with the river on your right, as it merges into Frankland Lane. |
| 17.4miles/28km | 0.6mile/1km | NZ 27683 43160 | Stay on Frankland Lane as it leaves river and passes between farms, then bends left and continues towards HMP Frankland. |
| 19.4miles/31.3km | 2miles/3.3km | NZ 28798 45831 | After passing through the carpark beside Frankland Prison, turn right onto Finchale Ave. |
| 19.6miles/31.5km | 220yds/200m | NZ 28921 45859 NZ 28875 46347 | Take next left onto lane signposted Finchale Priory and continue along as the lane <i>bends right</i> just after Priory Cottage. |
| 20.7miles/33.3km | 1.1miles/1.8km | NZ 29578 47140 | Arrive at Finchale Priory. |
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