

NURTURE EDEN DOORSTEP GUIDE TO GARRIGILL



SPONSORED BY ISAAC'S BYRE ECO-FRIENDLY COTTAGE

Welcome to Isaac's Byre in Garrigill, based in the North Pennines and Alston Moor. You're in a unique part of the country that held strong importance to Romans and Miners, and which is now the meeting point between the iconic Pennine Trail and the cycling Coast to Coast ride, as well as the Rivers South Tyne, Wear and Tees.

As well as all this, just north of Isaac's Byre is Alston, England's highest market town, reaching heady heights of around 1000ft above sea level (London is on average about 79ft).

There's plenty to see and do on your doorstep so read on about some of the local gems to discover and give your car a break too.

Isaac's Byre is at Loaning Head, pronounced 'Lonnin' Head' in Cumbrian dialect.



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ST JOHN'S POOL

Unwind and enjoy this little indoor oasis in the middle of Garrigill village. The pool is available for private hire, and comes complete with Jacuzzi, steam room, sauna and hydrojets – prices vary between £25 per hour during holidays and weekends to £15 during off-peak times. Open 9am-9pm, 7 days a week. Call 01434 382537 or email bookings@stjohnspool.co.uk to book your slot.

ALSTON MOOR GOLF COURSE

Don't worry if you've forgotten your clubs; go for a walk or a picnic on the highest golf course in England, possibly the UK. It's just outside Garrigill, along the B6277 towards Alston and offers a pleasant and quiet course with phenomenal views.

If you did remember your clubs, there is an honesty box for visitors' course fees (£15), so bring the correct change - any donations from other users are appreciated. The 17th century clubhouse is open on weekends from around 11am to 3pm for light refreshments.



ROSE COTTAGE STUDIO AND GALLERY

Local artist Lionel Playford runs painting workshops from his custom-made studio in the heart of Garrigill. Lionel's passion for the local landscape is evident in the way he captures the essence of it so beautifully in his own paintings, on show in the adjacent gallery, and you can spend a day or half day with him helping you to create your own stunning North Pennine landscapes. Call Lionel on 01434 381092 to discuss availability.

PENNINE PERENNIALS

Pennine Perennials is a plant nursery where you can get some very hardy plants thanks to having been planted and grown at 1200ft above sea level! Found just beyond the chapel on the Pennine Way, just south of Garrigill Village.

GEORGE AND DRAGON PUB

The excellent George and Dragon pub is a welcoming hub to the community and visitors alike, so why not show your support and get a few pints in during your stay. The pub celebrates Cumbria's microbreweries and often has local guest ales on tap as well as the usuals. Traditional pub food is served in the evenings, and at lunchtime during the summer months as well as a scrumptious roast Sunday Lunch with options for vegetarians. Find it opposite the Post Office in the heart of Garrigill.



ADVENTURING

No doubt you've noticed that one of the best things to do during your stay in the area is to make the most of the fantastic scenery. Whether it's kayaking, canoeing, walking, mountaineering, rock climbing... you name it, there's a wealth of opportunity to get active and explore the outdoors here, whatever your level of fitness and ability. Alston Training and Adventure Centre is based just near Isaac's Byre and can provide a qualified guide and equipment for all these activities at reasonable rates, tailored to your group's needs. Call 01434 381886 for availability.

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THE WATERFALL WANDER - WALK TO ASHGILL FORCE

There are plenty of fantastic local walks, check the folder in Isaac's Byre for more ideas. This circular walk is a gem that lets you experience the variety and beauty of the landscape on Alston Moor right from your doorstep. You'll see moorland, waterfalls, woodland, and some fantastic views.

The walk is reversible, but do it this way round and you finish with a well-deserved stop at the George and Dragon pub in Garrigill on the way back to Isaac's Byre. Although not a hugely strenuous walk, there are some high stiles and muddy areas to navigate. Approx 4.5 miles/7.2 km, walking time 3 Hours. Take OS map OL31.

The 20th century poet WH Auden had many links with North Pennines and wrote often about Alston Moor, seeing it as the source of his inspiration;

"I could draw its map by heart,
Showing its contours,
Strata and vegetation
Name every height
Small burn and lonely sheiling..."



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THE WATERFALL WANDER - WALK TO ASHGILL FORCE

1. Standing outside Isaac's Byre, walk to the end of the row of houses on your right and cross the road to join the footpath that will lead you over fields towards Ashgill Force. Ignore footpath signs to Windy Hall, and you'll soon cross the pretty 'Snapper Gill' stream and a small B road, skirting around some houses before re-joining the footpath on the other side.
2. Navigate around the collection of cottages called Ashgillside and follow the footpath signs that take you steeply down-hill.
3. At the four-way post near Ash Gill footbridge, turn left to follow the path over stile and kissing gate, into a magnificent series of waterfalls, the finale of which is bridge-framed Ashgill Force. (As you approach Ashgill Force, you'll see the entrance to Ashgill Horse Level. This tunnel ran to a vein of precious mineral ore mined in the early 1800s, through which mine ponies would cart tonnes of useful galena ore back to the surface.)
4. You can go all the way behind the waterfall – be careful and watch your step, it gets slippery. Once you've soaked up the atmosphere, retrace your steps until reaching the four-way post, and continue straight on, following the Pennine Trail. The Ash Gill joins the River South Tyne and the path turns to the right, becoming a luscious woodside path. At Windshaw Bridge, follow the Pennine Trail left over the bridge and down a track, and then turn right onto the main road at Crossgill Farm.
5. This road will lead you straight into Garrigill village. When you get back into the village, you'll see a footpath off to the right with a C2C cycle route sign. Follow the path to the ford and look around you for evidence of the fascinating 'prehistoric stones'. Turn back to re-join the main road back towards the centre of the village.
6. You'll find the George and Dragon pub on your right, across the green. Turn up the road between the post office and the George and Dragon which will cross back over the River South Tyne, and lead you back to Loaning Head and Isaac's Byre.

Keep an eye out for Cumbrian Red Squirrels.



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SPEND A DAY IN ALSTON

Wander its cobbled streets and explore the nooks and crannies and interesting shops in Alston. The excellent TIC is found at the Town Hall, Front Street.

- Hub Heritage and Transport Museum – A small and quirky community-run museum with artefacts and vintage transport. Found opposite the Railway station and a must-see in Alston.
- Toil and bubble glass fusing or pottery workshops – great for a wet-weather option and can be tailored to your interests. Beginners welcome. Unit 5, Station Yard Workshops, CA9 3HN. Phone: 01434 381722 to check availability, opposite the Railway and Hub Museum.
- Alston Artspace (restricted opening times in winter) – Market Place, near the distinctive Market Cross in the middle of the town. This is a gallery featuring the work of a collective of local artists in a variety of media. Nice to browse for fun, and to buy a beautiful reminder of your time in the North Pennines. Also see Gallery 1611, also on the Market Place for ceramics.
- South Tynedale Railway & tearooms – Check timetables for availability and enjoy the shop and café. Well signposted in the town. Why not take a short ride on the beautiful steam trains to Kirkhaugh and take a stroll back along the railway back to Alston. Alternatively, it's a short uphill walk on the Pennine Way from Kirkhaugh to Whitely Castle. At 330m (1050ft) above sea level, Epiacum (Whitley Castle) is the highest stone-built Roman fort in Britain. It housed a garrison of about 500 men, and was probably built to control mining for lead and silver. Get a full brochure from Alston TIC.
- Cumbrian Pantry, Cumberland hotel, Blueberry's Bistro, Alston House, Hadrian's Takeaway are all recommended for different food and drink options. Try some handmade fudge at Haldon's Confectionary, an old-style sweet shop found on Market Place, and the Moody Baker's (on Front Street) pasties and homemade pies – the Wolf pie made with locally brewed Wolf Ale is especially tasty. The Angel Inn is a popular pub for food, especially its locally caught fish.



ABOUT NURTURE EDEN

Nurture Eden aims to help Eden become a leading destination for sustainable tourism, growing local tourism businesses while protecting the environment at the same time. You can also access great ideas for days out and travel information at www.nurtureeden.org and on our mobile apps 'Explore More Eden' and 'Cycle More Eden.' Have fun exploring!

The routes shown are for guidance only. Please ensure you use an up-to-date map. It's a good idea to plan your route in more detail before you set off and check the weather forecast. Equip yourself for any day out with warm clothes, waterproofs, sturdy footwear, food and water. In a genuine emergency call 999. In mountainous areas ask for the Mountain Rescue Service.

All information is correct at time of print. Nurture Eden cannot be held responsible in the unlikely event of injury or accident whilst undertaking any of these activities.

