Holy Island Today

A warm welcome to Holy Island where there is a thriving island community of 150 people. The Island has a post office, general store and a first school. Local fishermen still fish from the small harbour.

The Holy Island Community Development Trust, established in 1996, is run by volunteers and has led several exciting projects for the benefit of the islanders and visitors. Please come and see us in the Lindisfarne Centre (details opposite). Other Trust projects include the creation of the Gospel Garden (picture below), responsibility for the inner harbour area, and building affordable houses for local people.

Place of Pilgrimage and Prayer

As 'a cradle' of English Christianity Holy Island attracts many visitors each year who come as pilgrims or for a retreat, seeking spiritual renewal and refreshment, following in the footsteps of the Northern Saints, especially Aidan and Cuthbert.

There are three churches on the island: St Aidan's Roman Catholic Church, St Cuthbert's United Reformed Church and St Mary's Church of England Parish Church; each of these offer regular worship and are open for visitors every day. There are also two retreat centres: Marygate House and the Open Gate.

www.lindisfarne.org.uk/religion

Visiting Holy Island

Located 60 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne and 60 miles south of Edinburgh.

By Car: 5 miles off the A1, follow signs from Beal.

By Train/Bus/Taxi: 5 miles south of Berwick-upon-Tweed mainline station. Summer bus service only.

Holy Island Causeway

Holy Island is linked to the mainland by a causeway which is covered by the sea twice each day. The island is inaccessible to vehicles and pedestrians for approximately 5 hours each day. Safe crossing times are posted at each end of the causeway and can be obtained from www.lindisfarne.org.uk. Please respect the tides, do not chance your luck and drive straight into the North Sea.

For further information please telephone:
Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust – 01289 389004 or Berwick Tourist Information Centre – 01289 301780.

Northumberland Coast

The Northumberland Coast is widely recognised for its varied and spectacular landscape. The quality of this landscape has been judged amongst the finest in England and Wales and as such has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and covers 39 miles of coast from Berwick to the Coquet estuary. Websites: www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org, www.ourcoastoursea.org.uk

Email: coastaonb@northumberland.gov.uk

Project developed by the Holy Island Partnership and jointly funded by the National Trust, English Heritage, Natural England, Northumberland AONB.

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural development: Europe investing in rural areas

Front cover artwork by John Steele. Photographs courtesy of project partners unless stated. Leaflet printed Feb 2012. All information correct at time of going to press.
The Lindisfarne Centre

The Lindisfarne Centre is run by the Holy Island Community Development Trust and is a good place to start your visit. The centre is staffed by local people with knowledge of the island and is packed with information and activities for adults and children. We stock leaflets, books and a selection of gifts. All funds raised from the shop and exhibitions are reinvested in community projects based on the island.

Come and see a copy of the Lindisfarne Gospels and turn the pages on the touch-screen displays.

The first Viking raids in Britain were on Holy Island in AD 793. Come and see the Viking 793 film and other exhibitions from these exciting times.

Hear stories and see pictures of what it was like living on the island in times past in the Island Life exhibition.

The Lindisfarne Centre is packed with information and activities for adults and children.

The Lindisfarne Centre
www.lindisfarne.org.uk
Tel: 01289 389004
Email: lindisfarne-centre@uk2.net

Lindisfarne Castle

Location has always been the main attraction for the owners and occupiers of Lindisfarne Castle on Holy Island.

Whether it be the original Tudor builders looking for a strong position to protect the island harbour, or the wealthy Edwardian bachelor seeking a quiet retreat from London, the situation of the Castle has intrigued and inspired for centuries.

Lutyns’ renovation both hides and emphasises the old fort, all the while overlooking Gertrude Jekyll’s enchanting walled garden, the traditional upturned boat sheds, and the often-missed grandeur of the Lime Kilns, magnificent evidence of Lindisfarne’s industrial past.

Access: Property on a very steep slope, with steps, trip and slip hazards and low doorways. Assistance dogs only.

Opening Times 2013-14
29Mar-30Sep
10am–5pm
1 Oct-31 Oct
10am–4pm
1 Nov-31 Mar (2014)
(Phone for timings)
Closed: 24, 25, 26 Dec and also 1, 2 Jan (2014)
(Last entry 30 minutes before centre closes)

Admission Costs
Adults: £3.00
Ages 5-15: £1.00
Family Ticket (2 adults and 3+ children): £8.00
Shop: Free admission

Lindisfarne Priory

Lindisfarne Priory was and still is Hilda one of the most important centres of British Christianity. Today, it offers the perfect island escape – a place of peace and spirituality.

The priory, founded in AD 635, is famed as the home and original burial ground of St Cuthbert, who lived on Lindisfarne until his death in AD 687. His remains were exhumed 11 years later and found to be undecayed – a sure sign of sanctity. The tranquility was disturbed when Viking raiders invaded the island in AD 793.

Hear all about the enthralling story of the monks and Vikings in the fascinating visitor centre and gift shop. Take in spectacular views of the coast, stroll around the atmospheric ruins of this tranquil setting and see the stunning rainbow arch. Be thrilled by live action and living history events in the priory grounds every spring and summer.

Lindisfarne Priory
www.english-heritage.org.uk/lindisfarne
Tel: 01289 389200
Email: lindisfarnepriory@english-heritage.org.uk

Access: Property on a very steep slope, with steps, trip and slip hazards and low doorways. Assistance dogs only.

Opening Times 2013-14
29 Mar – 30 Sept
10:00 am – 6 pm (daily)
1 Oct – 3 Nov
10:00 am – 4 pm (daily)
4 Nov – 14 Feb (2014)
10:00 am – 4 pm (Sat/Sun only)
15 Feb – 23 Feb (2014)
10:00 am – 4 pm (daily)
24 Feb – 31 Mar (2014)
10:00 am – 4 pm (Sat/Sun only)
Closed: 24, 25, 26 Dec and also 1 Jan (2014)
(Lastentry 30 minutes before closing)

Admission Costs
Adult: £5.20
Concession: £4.70
Child: £3.10
Shop: Free admission

Under 5s and English Heritage Members go free. Additional entry charges may apply on event days.

Opening Times 2013-14
29 Mar – 30 Sept
10:00 am – 6 pm (daily)
1 Oct – 3 Nov
10:00 am – 4 pm (daily)
4 Nov – 14 Feb (2014)
10:00 am – 4 pm (Sat/Sun only)
15 Feb – 23 Feb (2014)
10:00 am – 4 pm (daily)
24 Feb – 31 Mar (2014)
10:00 am – 4 pm (Sat/Sun only)
Closed: 24, 25, 26 Dec and also 1 Jan (2014)

Admission Costs
Adult: £6.50
Child: £3.25
Family: £16.25
National Trust members go free

National Trust shop in village.
Free admission. Open 10am–5pm (last entry 30 minutes before closing)
Weddings by arrangement

Opening Times 2013-14
16th Feb – 4th Nov (Tues–Sun)
Open Bank Holidays and some Mondays, see website
Opening times dependent on weather
10am–3pm or 12pm–5pm
(Last entry 30 minutes before closing)

Admission Costs
Giftaid adult: £7.20
Giftaid child: £3.60
Giftaid family: £18.00

Adult Standard: £6.50
Child Standard: £3.25
Family Standard: £16.25
Under 5’s and National Trust members go free

National Trust shop in village.
Free admission. Open 10am–5pm (last entry dependent)

Access: Property on a very steep slope, with steps, trip and slip hazards and low doorways. Assistance dogs only.

Mondays, see website

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Closed: 24, 25, 26 Dec and also 1 Jan (2014)
(Last entry 30 minutes before closing)

Admission Costs
Adult: £3.00
Ages 5-15: £1.00
Family: £8.00

National Trust shop in village.
Free admission. Open 10am–5pm (last entry dependent)

Weddings by arrangement

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Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve

On the edge of Britain, land and sea meet. Shifting sands and tides combine to create the dunes, saltmarsh and mudflats of the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve, home to a fascinating array of wildlife. The reserve is managed by Natural England to protect habitats and wildlife for your enjoyment.

Please help us conserve this special place by keeping to paths and avoiding disturbance to wildlife. For more information about the reserve please contact the reserve office on 01694 301470.

The nature reserve can be enjoyed all year round, with beautiful orchids in the summer months and migrant birds in the spring and autumn. Wintering birds include short-eared owls and the rare little-bellied brent goose which migrates from Spitsbergen within the Arctic Circle.

The dune grassland is grazed with cattle and sheep and has heather and wildflower meadows, which are particularly good from July to October. Please ensure that the heather is not trampled in order to view the flowers. The sea eagle, golden eagle and short-eared owl are present here. All are on the RSPB's Red Data Book of Birds.

Wintering waders can be seen along the shoreline, gulls, redshank, bar-tailed godwit and the much smaller dunlin can be seen from autumn onwards. The Snook Point bird hide is a non-native reedbed, is found along side the dunes and is a particular problem from July to October. Please ensure that the reedbed is not trampled in order to view the flowers. This lough bird hide is a good place to look out for passerine, sparrowhawk and short-eared owls in winter.

Holy Island is on the route of both St Cuthbert's Way and the Old English Way. See the websites and leaflets for their long-distance paths.

At the castle you should encounter the resident fulmars. Look out to sea and you may see eider duck or red-throated divers in winter. You could catch sight of a grey seal in the winter, or to scan may bring passing puffins and guillemots.

Holy Island Timeline

- 875 Further Viking raids and monastery abandoned. Monks leave to return to Durham.
- 1122 Parish Church of St Mary's built.
- 1396 After dissolution of Monastery, the small community of monks leave to return to Durham.
- 1344 First building on castle site.
- 1590 Coal pits in operation.
- 1791 Enclosure Act encourages agricultural land on the island. Permission granted to install first windmill.
- 1860s-1900 Limestone extraction and lime burning at castle point.
- 1902 Edward Hudson, founder of Country Life Magazine, acquires the castle.
- 1903 Edward Lutyens restores the castle.
- 1911 Getreide (wheat) field garden begun.
- 1944 Castle handed over to the National Trust.
- 1954 First section of tarmac causeway built.
- 1956 Mains electricity and Artesian well water supplies completed.
- 1958 HR Queen Elizabeth visits island.
- 1981 Sewage system installed.
- 1986 Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust founded.
- 1998 Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust founded.
- 2000 School re-opened.
- 2001 Prince Edward visits island.
- 2008 Viking Exhibition installed in Lindisfarne Centre.
- 2010 Second affordable housing project completed.

Right: Viking Raider stone from Lindisfarne Priory

Car parks:
- Open all year

Toilets in village:
- Open Easter – October

Coach and disabled car park and toilets:
- Open all year
  - Bus Stop: Mini Bus Service.
  - Car shuttle runs from Easter to end of October according to tides and castle opening times.

Main car park

Holy Island Village
- The Lindisfarne Hotel
- St Aidan’s R.C. Church
- The Island Oast Café
- Lindisfarne Sciptorium
- The Ship Inn (pub & accommodation)
- The National Trust Shop
- The Links
- Sally’s of Lindisfarne
- Pilgrim’s Café
- The Open Gate Retreat House
- The Stables Café
- Lindisfarne Centre (Gospels, Vikings & Island Exhibitions)
- Marygate Retreat House
- The Gospel Garden
- Post Office (café & accommodation)
- St Cuthbert’s Centre (Visitor Centre)
- St Aidan’s Winery
- The Bean Goose Restaurant
- Lindisfarne Priory & Museum
- St Mary’s U.C. E. Church
- The Manor House Hotel
- The Crown & Anchor (pub & accommodation)
- The Island Store
- Holy Island Bike Hire
- Holy Island Walks

Bed & Breakfasts
- The Bungalow
- Bramble View
- Bellmont
- Rose Villa
- High Rigg
- Holy Island Bed & Breakfast

For more information:
- www.lindisfarne.org.uk
- Tel 01694 301378
- info@lindisfarne.naturalengland.org.uk

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