

# Seaham Harbour Marina



## Visiting Boats Information



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*Front cover picture courtesy of Paul Levitt*

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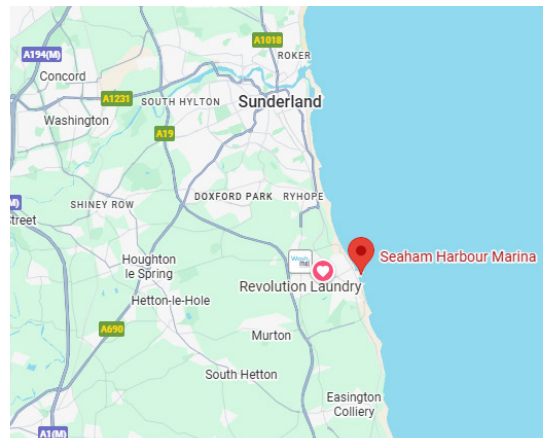
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# General Information



## Location

- On the east coast, the only marina in County Durham
- 5 miles south of Sunderland and 11 miles north of Hartlepool
- Harbour entrance: 54° 50' 13.00" N / 01° 19' 17.00" W
- Marina entrance: 54° 50' 15.00" N / 01° 19' 36.00" W

## Navigation marks

- Harbour entrance black & white circle lighthouse to starboard & 2 vertical red lights to port
- Marina entrance 3 inline red lights or 3 inline green lights to entrance of gateway – do not enter gateway/marina during 3 red lights

## Hazards

- Give way to commercial shipping, do not anchor moor or drift through shipping lane
- Two historic mooring posts within marina basin marked during dark with yellow flashing light to top (4 seconds, single flash)
- Careful on entry within 50 metres of marina entrance during spring low tides, depths can shallow out to 1 metre

## Approach

- Marina entrance is 276° west 350 metres from centre of harbour entrance between pier heads
- 5 knots speed limit throughout inner harbour and marina
- 3 green lights to marina entrance indicates safe to navigate gateway, 3 red lights do not approach gateway

## Dock gate and sill

- A single leaf gate operates automatically to retain the depths at each low tide
- 3 red lights indicate gate closed, closing or opening and an audible alarm sounds during the closing or opening phase which takes 15 minutes
- The dock gate is open approximately 3 hours either side of high tides

## Depths retained within the marina

- The sill is at Chart Datum height and the gate closes at +3m CD to retain the depths within the marina
- The shallowest depth within the marina when the gate is closed is 1 metre and the maximum depth is 1.8 metres at the visitor berths

## Pontoons

- There are a total of 96 pontoon berths, this includes visitor berths
- Maximum LOA 10 metres and draft restriction 1.5 metres (standard pontoon berths)
- Pontoon services include electric & water located on the walkways (not each finger), cables & hoses are available upon request. Speak to Marina staff if you need assistance.
- Access to & from the pontoons is via an electronic fob security system

## Safety and security

- The pontoons have the necessary lighting, rescue equipment and safety ladders
- Rescue equipment located throughout the site
- CCTV with 24-hour monitoring
- A defibrillator is installed to the outside of the Castleside

## On-site facilities

- The slipway is located 20 metres from the pontoon access gate
- The Waterside is located within 50 metres of the pontoon access which has toilets & showers
- A lifting out boat crane
- On-site parking. Parking charges may apply.

## Tariffs

Please contact the Marina Office for details of fees.

## Contact

- Marina Office, Unit 10, Waterside, Seaham, County Durham SR7 7EE
- Telephone marina office 0191 581 8998
- VHF current contact through channel 16 then will be requested to switch to channel 8. Call sign “Seaham Marina”



## Surrounding Area

- The marina is at the centre of the award winning Durham Heritage Coast coastal walk
- Seaham Hall hotel is within 1 mile, the place where the famous poet, Lord Byron, married in 1815
- St Mary the Virgin Church is located within 1 mile, this Grade 1 listed Anglo Saxon church is only one of six like it in the country.
- The “Byron Place” shopping centre is within walking distance, 200 metres, of the marina entrance; stores include Asda, Home Bargains, Subway, B&M, The Banking Hub, Dominos Pizzas etc
- The sea front & Church Street shopping centre is within 100 metres of the marina entrance, offering The Hat and Feathers (Wetherspoons), B&Bs, restaurants, cafes, modern bars etc. Please speak to the Marina staff for recommendations.
- Dalton Park shopping centre is within 3 miles. Outlets include M&S Outlet, Next, Adidas and Mountain Warehouse stores.
- Speak to our friendly staff for more information on where to visit when in Seaham. We are more than happy to help.

## Background

After the demise of the pits in the early 1990s the North Dock fell into a semi derelict state. The redevelopment of the Dock was one of the key objectives of the Seaham Regeneration Strategy undertaken in 1994. The aim being to boost local enterprise, jobs and income, increase visitor numbers to the town and wider area, and transform the North Dock (now known as Seaham Harbour Marina) into a new modern marina with facilities and amenities to rival any across the North East.

In 2006 the restoration of the limekilns, viewing areas and secondary sea defense work were completed.

By 2012, the flagship building ‘The Waterside’ (comprising 12 commercial units) had been created and now offer first class businesses such as cafes, ice cream parlour, gift shop and a travel agent. The construction of a marina using floating pontoons to accommodate up to 96 leisure craft was also completed, along with the reinstatement of the dock gates (located to the original position of the abandoned dock gates) and improvements to the public access, boat storage facility, slipway and launch facilities.

In partnership with East Durham Heritage Group, we have developed the former lifeboat house into a visitor attraction which is now home to the restored George Elmy lifeboat.

2017 saw the completion of ‘The Castleside building, home to a café, fitness studio, beach school and outdoor activity centre.

Red Acre Point was the site of the port's first lighthouse and later became a defensive gun emplacement during the Second World War. In 2022/23 the steps leading up to the viewing platform were replaced through the National Lottery Heritage fund programme, enabling access to a viewing platform where visitors can enjoy the breath taking views of the coastline.

# Seaham Harbour Marina Amenities

Seaham Harbour Marina offers a fantastic range of amenities for both berth holders and visitors. Enjoy a wonderful selection of dog-friendly shops, cafes, and restaurants right on the waterfront, plus recreational and community facilities such as a nursery, gym, and water sports centre, as well as toilets and a stunning sandy beach. Perfect for family days out.



## The Waterside

Discover The Waterside, a lively hub of 12 units offering something for everyone. Enjoy a variety of cafés, dessert parlours, and a sweet shop, or grab a casual meal at the gourmet burger café. Browse unique gifts, plan your travels with the local travel agents, get financial advice from the mortgage broker, or visit the marina office for information and services.



## The Castleside

Visit The Castleside, featuring a fully equipped gym, a nursery, and a water sports and outdoor activity centre. You can also enjoy stunning coastal views from the Red Acre Point lookout, making it perfect for fitness, family activities, and seaside adventure.



Discover the history of Seaham and its maritime heritage at the East Durham Heritage and Lifeboat Centre, home to the restored George Elmy Lifeboat.



Enjoy stunning coastal views and a relaxing seaside experience at Slope Beach, perfect for dog walks, wildlife spotting, and open swimming.

## History

After the pits closed in the early 1990s, North Dock became semi-derelict. Redevelopment was a key part of the 1994 Seaham Regeneration Strategy, aiming to boost local enterprise, jobs, tourism, and transform North Dock—now Seaham Harbour Marina—into a modern marina with top-class facilities.

By 2006, the limekilns, viewing areas, and secondary sea defenses were restored. By 2012, the flagship building The Waterside with 12 commercial units opened, housing cafes, an ice cream parlour, a gift shop, and a travel agent. The marina, with floating pontoons for 96 leisure craft, dock gates, public access, boat storage, slipway, and launch facilities were also completed.

In partnership with East Durham Heritage Group, the former lifeboat house became a visitor attraction housing the restored George Elmy lifeboat. In 2017, The Castleside building opened, featuring a café, fitness studio, beach school, and outdoor activity centre.

Red Acre Point, site of the port's first lighthouse and a WWII gun emplacement, saw its viewing platform steps replaced in 2022/23 through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, offering visitors breathtaking coastal views.



# Pontoon layout

