



Step back in time

A stroll through Saltburn's Victorian roots

Saltburn by the Sea was once an important Victorian bathing resort. Originally a hamlet located where the Ship Inn stands, the town was founded in 1861 by Quaker entrepreneur Henry Pease. It's home to the North East's only pleasure pier and the oldest working water-balanced inclined tramway in Britain.

Saltburn's origins are said to have come from a prophetic vision. Henry Pease saw a town rising from the clifftop and a quiet, sheltered glen turned into beautiful gardens. Valley Gardens, set in a deep, wooded gorge, was born out of this dream. It's extensive - 10 hectares including lawns, a miniature railway, bandstand, remains of two summer houses, a memorial to Prince Albert and old Assembly Hall.

Make your way to Valley Gardens from Cat Nab car park, over the bridge and turn left immediately. Follow the path running alongside the beck into the gardens. Look out for Italianate planting and roses while you meander along. Mature trees and lawns add to the beauty. While wandering, you might see the miniature railway rattling along on the other side of the stream. This can be accessed via a bridge and footpath to the right of the gardens. When ready, head to the tearooms for coffee and cake. Exit by tracing the route shown on the map and onto the Cleveland Way.

Walk to the corner of Windsor Road and Station Street. On your right is the former Queen's Hotel. Built in 1875, it was constructed using 'Pease' brick. Buildings of this time bore the name Pease in each hulk of stone, after the founding family. They were influential, monied and visionary. Responsible for developing Middlesbrough as an industrial centre, the Pease family founded the Stockton & Darlington Railway, extending it to Saltburn in 1861.



Turn right into Station Road and head towards the station complex. Now home to artisan cafés and shops, it had four platforms to handle many excursion trains that once ran here. One siding extended into the rear of the Zetland Hotel to allow first class passengers to disembark in comfort. One of the world's earliest purpose-built railway hotels, it also featured hot and cold sea and fresh water baths to attract the burgeoning health market of that time. Alcohol was forbidden on the terraces and residents could be fined for drinking outside. The town's founders were teetotal Quakers so pubs were a later addition to Saltburn.



The stable blocks on Milton Road were included in The Zetland Hotel's grounds. Both the hotel and stables can still be seen today on Saltburn Road and Milton Road, as illustrated on the map. Although now converted into private residences, they showcase ornate architectural detail from this bygone era.

To your right are the 'Jewel' Streets, each named after precious stones. Designed using a gridiron street layout, this was one of the first housing estates in Britain. Henry Pease insisted each house had sea views. Find Diamond Street and walk down to the bottom towards Marine Parade.

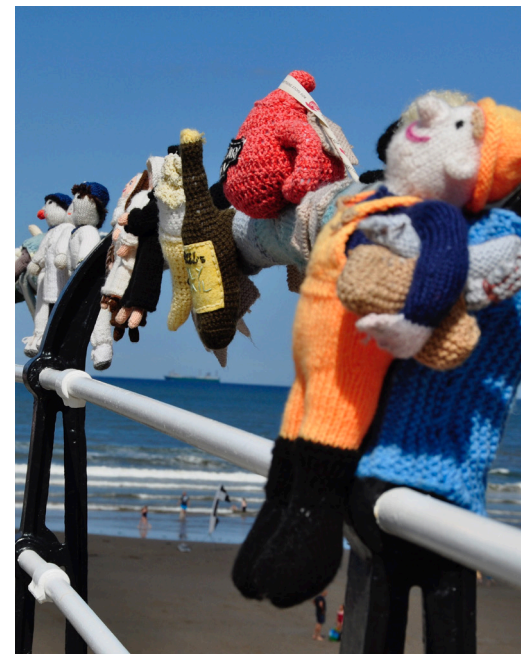
At the bottom, turn right and follow Marine Parade along to the Cliff Tramway top station. Dating from the 1870s, it was designed to transport visitors from the town to the pier and beach, and back. There are two cars, each fitted with a 1,000 gallon water tank. Using gravity to move, one descends as the other ascends. If open, take the tram down to the promenade. If not, follow the road down the hill and head to the pier.

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Saltburn's Victorian pleasure pier dates from 1869 and was the first to be built on the North East coast. At over 450 metres long, it attracted over 50,000 visitors in its heyday. Now shortened to 206 metres after storm damage, it's the most northerly surviving structure of its kind. From May onwards look out for the yarn bombing along the pier. Previous years designs have been an attraction in themselves!

Enjoy a stroll along the prom, perhaps finishing with fresh fish and chips or a drink at one of the cafes looking out to sea.



Essentials

This circular amble is just under 2 miles long.

Useful information

Saltburn Cliff Tramway – open daily from April to October

Miniature Railway – open weekends from Easter Sunday until last weekend in September

Saltburn Valley Tea Gardens – check the website www.thevalleygardenstearooms.co.uk

There are lots of places to stay, eat and drink in Saltburn

How to get here from Middlesbrough and Whitby

Bus and trains

Buses X3, X4 and 708 services

Trains run from major centres

See www.connectteesvalley.com for timetables and route information

Cycle

Saltburn is on National Cycle Network Route 1
– www.sustrans.org.uk

Car

Take the A174 and A66 from Middlesbrough

From Whitby, follow the A174

Cat Nab is a pay and display car park



Cleveland Way

NATIONAL TRAIL

