

Moonlight Apartment



Durham Oasis Apartment



Restaurant, Shopping, Culture & Amusement Guide
Please refer to the accompanying coloured map

Shopping

11 is the Prince Bishop's centre, containing Boots, British Home Stores, etc

At **12** you'll find the Market Place: the Indoor Market is well worth wandering round, and Marks & Spencers and Tesco are down Silver Street.

D is the Gates centre, nothing terribly interesting in here... since Waitrose left!

There are no real department stores in Durham – the best solution is to take the train to Newcastle. It's great. Alternatively, there's the enormous Metro Centre at Gateshead, which is more easily reached by car – but avoid Christmas unless you like traffic queues. Durham does however have some very interesting little shops, mostly around Silver Street and its adjunct on the riverside, Fowlers Yard, at **14**.

Restaurants

A close inspection of Durham will reveal a few more than we have listed; we have left out most of the 'chain' restaurants. Those listed are the ones we tend to visit regularly, after 20 years of diligent research. It's wise to book for Friday and Saturday nights in most of them.

If you're vegetarian, or vegan, a recent survey highlighted Cellar Door, Shaheens, Zen, Emilios and Capital as particularly V-friendly, but most of the list below will be helpful.

British, or shall we say Cosmopolitan

C Slug and Lettuce, Millennium Place, this is definitely the best (and largest) Slug we have seen – outside seating is pleasant, weather permitting. Very busy (and therefore noisy) Friday and Saturday nights.

0845 126 2900

£ Oldfields, Claypath, award-winning 'proper' restaurant, using locally-sourced food. The downstairs is modern and informal, compared with the upstairs dining room which used to be the rather grandiose Gas Board offices.

<http://www.oldfieldsrealfood.co.uk>

0191 370 9595

10% discount (sometimes even more) for Moonlight / Oasis guests

£ Hide, Saddler Street, good range of bistro-style food, plus posher grills, we like the Chicken Tortilla Wrap.

<http://www.hidebar.com>

0191 384 1999

R Duke of Wellington, A167, it's a pub, but if you want pub food with chips this is the best place for it. They say you *can* book, but we've never tried.
0191 383 6961

S Pump House, A177, well worth the excursion – a beautifully converted water pumping station with a decent menu, unfailingly good service, cheese and puddings.
<http://www.thepumphouserestaurant.co.uk>
0191 386 9189

S Seven Stars Inn, Shincliffe (A177), traditional pub with restaurant which goes well beyond pub food. Excellent service, hard to resist eating too much from an imaginative menu.
<http://www.sevenstarsinn.co.uk>
0191 384 8454

Free bottle of house wine with 3-course meal for 2, for Moonlight / Oasis guests

U Bistro 21, Aykley Heads, in an attractively converted 17th century farmhouse, well organised with a sensible chef, pleasant staff and something for everyone.
<http://www.bistrotwentyone.co.uk>
0191 384 4354

V Gourmet Spot, The Avenue, lives up to its name with dishes which aim for excitement and surprise. Small but stylish and interesting. Heavily booked for Saturdays.
<http://www.gourmet-spot.co.uk>
0191 384 6655

Free glass of champagne for Moonlight / Oasis guests

W The Fallen Angel, Old Elvet, normally we'd steer clear of hotel restaurants, but this one is decent with an imaginative menu, and pleasant views from a comfortable bistro-style conservatory.
<http://www.fallenangelhotel.com>
0191 384 1037

A Finbarrs, Kingslodge, Waddington St, Flass Vale, thoroughly professional food and service in an excellent atmosphere: the restaurant is not really part of the adjoining hotel, and preserves its own welcoming ambience thanks to Barry.
<http://finbarrsrestaurant.co.uk>
0191 370 9999

K Cellar Door, Saddler Street, is the basement underneath the 'Jack Wills' shop, so you'll need to spot the entrance. Good food at prices designed to attract students, and a pleasant view of the river from the back terrace. Very accommodating for those with particular dietary needs, and a firm favourite with us.
<http://www.cellardoordurham.com>
0191 383 1856

Italian

🍴 Bistro Italiano, Claypath, intimate and friendly, they don't take their reservations system too seriously. Good fish and meat dishes. Staffed by real Italians (or they do a very good impersonation), and even Spag Bog done *properly*.

<http://bistroitaliano.co.uk>

0191 383 0374

🍴 San Marco, North Bailey, small, good value and student-ish.

0191 384 6777

🍴 Pizza Express, Saddler Street, in an impressive high-ceilinged room which distinguishes it from others in this chain.

0191 383 2661

🍴 Melanzana, Elvet Bridge, efficient, and interesting specials, we like the smell of the house white here.

<http://www.melanzanadurham.co.uk>

0191 386 1310

🍴 De Medici, Elvet Bridge, upstairs - reserve the seat in the window if possible for a view of Durham life below. Always friendly.

<http://www.ristorantedemedici.co.uk>

0191 386 1310

10% discount for Moonlight / Oasis guests

🍴 Romeo, Elvet Bridge, upstairs. Tend to turn late arrivals away if they're not busy...

0191 384 2416

🍴 Michelangelo, Neville's Cross, bit further out but reliable food and reasonable prices for the less exotic items on the menu, in pleasant surroundings.

<http://www.michelangelodurham.co.uk>

0191 370 9922

10% discount for Moonlight / Oasis guests

7 Spagghetata, Market Square, upstairs, very good value: note free garlic bread with bottle of house wine. Only disadvantage is you won't then manage your pizza! There's no booking system, so be prepared for a bit of queuing at busy times.

0191 383 9290

7 Capriccio, Saddler Street, get the table in the window for a panoramic view as it's all upstairs. Always good food, and a wide range of traditional dishes.

<http://www.capriccioristoranteitaliano.co.uk>

0191 370 9550

Indian

🍴 Shaheens, North Bailey, in what used to be the Post Office. Inexpensive house wine by the flagon; attracts students.

0191 386 0960

7 Spice Lounge, Market Place (alley to left of Church), small yet comfortable and stylish.

<http://www.spicelounge-india.co.uk>

0191 383 0927

10% discount for Moonlight / Oasis guests

Shares its menu (and probably its staff) with:

F Capital, Claypath, particularly interesting Duck dishes. Always fairly busy, but welcoming – they've never turned us away when we land without a reservation.

<http://capitalindian.co.uk>

0191 386 8803

10% discount for Moonlight / Oasis guests

Thai, or thereabouts

T Zen, Court Lane, modern and welcoming, very relaxing atmosphere, useful lunch menu. Outside patio area is heated and therefore good for open-air eating and drinking. Easy to stay longer than you intended, but puddings a bit undersized for our tastes!

<http://www.zendurham.co.uk>

0191 384 9588

C Fat Buddha, Millennium Place, very comfortable couches in the bar area downstairs make any wait for your table a pleasure, extensive range of far eastern dishes. Can get a bit noisy during serious drinking hours. Crispy shredded things are what we like best.

<http://www.fatbuddharestaurant.com>

0191 383 1390

Japanese

H Sakura, Crossgate, features egg-juggling chef and that sort of thing.

0191 383 2323

Mexican

C Chiquitos, Millennium Place, the usual welcoming smell of sizzling hotplates and chilli.

0191 370 6470

Spanish

X La Tasca, Saddler Street, pleasant atmosphere and bigger than it looks from the outside; gets busy. A good range of well-cooked dishes.

<http://www.latasca.co.uk/durham>

0845 126 2958

Free glass of Sangria for Moonlight / Oasis guests

P El Coto, Hallgarth Street, extensive Tapas menu, good portions mean that 6 dishes between 2 of you is probably enough even by our standards. Cleverly named themselves after a wine so they appear to have their own label!

<http://www.elcoto.co.uk>

0191 384 4077

Culture and Amusement – the Other Things on the map

You'll find brochures and programmes for these in the Apartment. Here's the summary by location:

- 1 Durham Cathedral. Big.
- 2 Durham Castle. Guided tours only, wander up and peer at the signs for details.
- 3 Museum of Archaeology – next to the river.
- 4 Durham Light Infantry Museum. Some interesting war memorabilia.
- 5 Oriental Museum. Good value if you're feeling oriental.
- 6 Heritage Centre. Housed in historic church, includes brass rubbing if you want.
- 8 Botanic Gardens. Good for a picnic in the summer, or just take a bottle of wine...
- 9 Houghall Gardens. Gardeners only admitted.
- 10 Crook Hall. Haunted medieval hall & gardens. Check opening times, 0191 384 8028
- 11 Boats. Row yourselves, or let the Prince Bishop's diesel engine do the work
- 13 Gala Theatre and (small) Cinema