

Key points of interest

A) Red Naval Mine

This type of mine was used during the Second World War for coastal defence. It is now used as a collection box by the Shipwrecked Mariners Society.

B) Bede's Cross

Erected in 1904, Bede's Cross stands as a memorial to one of Sunderland's most famous sons – the monk and scholar, the Venerable Bede. 1300 years ago Bede lived and worked at the nearby church of St Peter's.

C) Cliff Park and the First World War

On the eve of the First World War the local authorities secured Sunderland's coastline from a potential German attack. A series of defensive trenches were dug along the coast from Cliff Park towards South Bents. Soldiers patrolled the coast for signs of invasion and gun detachments were set up close to Bede's Cross to defend against hostile forces.

D) Lighthouse

Originally built in 1856 on Sunderland's South Pier, the lighthouse was dismantled and re-erected here in 1983 to allow for harbour improvements.

E) The Lowry Connection

LS Lowry (1887 – 1976) is one of the country's best known artists, famous for his distinctive paintings of industrial scenes. From the 1960s he regularly visited Sunderland, always staying in room 104 at the Seaburn Hotel (now the Marriot). Some of his work can be seen at the Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens.

F) St Andrew's Church

Built in 1907, St Andrew's is recognised as one of Britain's finest early 20th century churches. It was known as the "Cathedral of the Arts and Crafts movement" because of its decorative interior by Eric Gill, Ernest Gimson and A.H. Payne.

G) Roker Park

Roker Park opened on 23 June 1880 as a recreational space for the expanding suburb of Roker. The northern end of the park is dissected by Roker Ravine. In the 17th and 18th centuries the ravine was notorious as a site frequented by smugglers. One of the caves in the ravine was home to "Spottie", an 18th century sailor whose ship was wrecked off the North Sea coast.

H) Roker Pier

Roker Pier and lighthouse were built between 1883 and 1903, and developed into a popular tourist attraction. A tunnel runs along the length of the pier, to aid access to the lighthouse in bad weather. To the north east of the pier lies the wreckage of a German U Boat, which sank in February 1917 after accidentally mining itself. The U Boat was part of the German campaign of "unrestricted warfare" which aimed to starve Britain into submission during the First World War.

Facilities & Accessibility:

Toilets: Cliff Park, Seaburn Centre

Catering: various cafes, restaurants and bars on the sea front

Parking: Bungalow Café, Block Yard

Accessibility: suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs

Heritage Trails North Area

Walk



Roker Seafront Circular

Walk Distance & Time:

1.9 miles or 3km

40 mins (approx)

Start and Finish Point:

Bungalow Café

Pier View

Roker

