

# TRIP PLANNER/FARNE ISLANDS & BASS ROCK




Farne Islands are located in the seas off Northumberland, in north-east England; Bass Rock is off the coast of Scotland. Six-month visas for the UK cost Rs4,900. For details, log on to [www.vfs-uk-in.com](http://www.vfs-uk-in.com)


Fly to Newcastle-upon-Tyne on British Airways from Bangalore and Mumbai for upwards of Rs40,000, from Delhi for upwards of Rs47,000.

Seahouses is 75km from Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The nearest railway station is Berwick-upon-Tweed; a limited public bus service takes you to Seahouses. North Berwick is an hour's drive from Seahouses along the coast. Both GNER and Virgin trains operate on this route. Check out bus services at [www.traveline.org.uk/index.htm](http://www.traveline.org.uk/index.htm)

 Stay  Eat  Do

 Both islands are best done as day trips from the major cities. But island trips need to be booked ahead. For Farne Islands trips, contact Billy Shiel at 4, Southfield Avenue, Seahouses, Northumberland; NE68 7YT; Tel. 0044-0-1665720308. For Bass Rock trips, contact Chris Marr or Pat Marr at The Harbour, North Berwick, Scotland; Tel. 0044-0-1620892838; or email [sula2@bosinternet.com](mailto:sula2@bosinternet.com)

 All along the coast, you get excellent family-owned restaurants and fish and chips is a constant. In Seahouses, don't forget to try Coxon's delicious ice cream, available at its flagship store or ice-cream vans.

 The England-Scotland border can be the site of a week-long holiday. If you want more than birds, do visit Holy Island, site of a ruined abbey and a 15th century castle known by its Celtic name of Lindisfarne, where Roman Polanski shot his film 'Cul-de-sac' (1966). Bamburgh Castle stands on a rocky outcrop, fortified since the fifth century. The magnificently dramatic setting of this castle has drawn many a film director; Polanski shot his 'Macbeth' (1971) here. The museum here is a treasure trove of local history, with collections of military artefacts, paintings, china and furniture. The empty and unspoiled beaches below the castle are perfect for long walks.