The Durham Café Collection

9 Altars

Be Tempted

Café Continental

Chapters

Ciao Ciao

Ciao Ciao, a deli-bakery offering Italian and Greek cuisine, is located next to the Gates Shopping centre entrance and has a premises in Gilesgate near the Sainsbury’s local. These Mediterranean products, which include Baklava, feta pie, Focaccia and special Italian coffee, are prepared at the Gilesgate branch, using Fairtrade ingredients. Excess food is collected by Foodbank, and Andreas and his team also support a range of charities including Cancer Research. Treat yourself to some ethical and exotic gastronomy!

It was incredibly cheap, the food was just amazing as well.

Claypath Deli

Coffee brothers

Costa

We all know Costa Coffee, and Durham's cosy brnach is located at 22 The High Street (in Prince Bishop's). Happily, Costa has its own foundation that supports 42 school projects around the world, they are committed to reducing their carbon footprint and 30% of their beans are sourced from Rainforest Alliance certified farms with Fairtrade. However, while ethically Costa rates higher than some of its competitors, large companies are able to dominate the market and force down the price of coffee (impacting workers detrimentally) so we would always recommend choosing a local independent coffee shop over a chain.

Dark Matter Café

Esquires

Flat white/kitchen

Flat White Coffee Shop can be found tucked away under the arch on Elvet Bridge. This busy, hipster café offers a variety of delicious fairly-traded products and locally-roasted coffee, while the company also commits to paying staff a fair wage and doesn’t evade tax. They’ve even been known to offer up excess bread at the end of the week for free!

Jumping Bean Café

We love ethical living, and we love drinking tea (and coffee... and eating cake...). We wanted to combine the passions and find the best places to drink ethical drinks and eat ethical cakes. Enter Jumping Bean Cafe- located just off North Road on Neville Street, this vegetarian café provides great-value cakes, sandwiches, tapas and more. They use fairly traded and free-range products, sourcing their vegetables from Robinsons across the road, and cook all their food on site with minimal waste. They also support initiatives like Foodcycle and Ideas Hive, and host a variety of different events, so we would thoroughly recommend Jumping Bean as a tasty and ethical option!

Leonard’s

Nero

Saddlers

Starbucks

Tealicious

On the corner of Elvet Bridge, Tealicious offers a cosy haven for any tea or cake lover. Alongside their vast choice of tea fusions, beautiful décor and delicious Fairtrade cakes, this family-run business also supports Heel & Toe Children’s Charity and organises an annual ‘Bake-Off’ for a local primary school.

Treats

Vennels

I wsa eyeing up their meringue

**Centre navbar**

**Carousel**

**Shared access**

**Café pages and thumbnails**

Welcome to The Durham Café Collection! It’s nice to have you here!

We are an independent group that have taken the time to test and trial the coffee shops of Durham to give you our verdict on the best places to sip a cup of tea or nibble on some cake. Throughout our research we have tried to be as fair and as unbiased as possible, so we hope you find that our reviews answer your questions and spur your passion to find the best café to meet your preferences. That said, we are driven by a desire to find friendly, cosy, yummy and ethical coffee shops that not only provide us with great food and drink, but also provide a great atmosphere to customers and local initiatives.

We don’t claim to be experts, but we hope that our thoughts can offer you some help in finding a refuge from the harsh Durham wind and rain to shelter for a well-deserved break, meet up with friends for a natter, or make your work-load feel a little lighter.

Thanks for stopping by!