

## Tyne tours and ferry hire

As well as standard crossings between South Shields and North Shields, the ferry also makes longer tours up and down the Tyne and is available for private hire.

Afternoon River Trips offer the chance to view the sites along the banks of the river Tyne, from the shipyards in Wallsend to the regenerated Quayside in the heart of Newcastle-Gateshead on selected summer Sundays. They last for three hours and are accompanied by live music or a live commentary.

Tyne Tours run throughout the spring and summer and offer a 40-minute trip on the Tyne. They include a commentary about the history of the River Tyne written by Shields Gazette historian Janice Blower.

The Shields Ferry is also available for private hire functions such as weddings, birthday parties and corporate functions.

To find out more about Tyne Tours, Afternoon River Trips and corporate or personal hire go to [www.nexus.org.uk](http://www.nexus.org.uk) or call **0191 454 8183**.

If you require further supplies contact the Media department on 0191 203 3229.

## Information

### Nexus TravelShops

Conveniently located in key Metro and bus concourse areas, TravelShops are open six days a week.

Buy tickets, check times, pick up leaflets and even book a short break - our friendly staff are always happy to help.

Nexus TravelShops can be found at:

- Central Station Metro station
- Gateshead Interchange
- Haymarket Metro station
- Heworth Interchange
- Four Lane Ends Interchange
- MetroCentre
- Monument Metro station
- North Shields Metro station
- Park Lane Interchange
- South Shields 34-36 Fowler Street

### Traveline

Traveline is a national service which provides impartial planning information for all public transport services.



WEB [www.nexus.org.uk](http://www.nexus.org.uk)



**traveline**  
public transport info  
**0871 200 22 33**  
north east

Large print and alternative formats are available on request **T:0191 203 3333** or email [marketing@nexus.org.uk](mailto:marketing@nexus.org.uk)

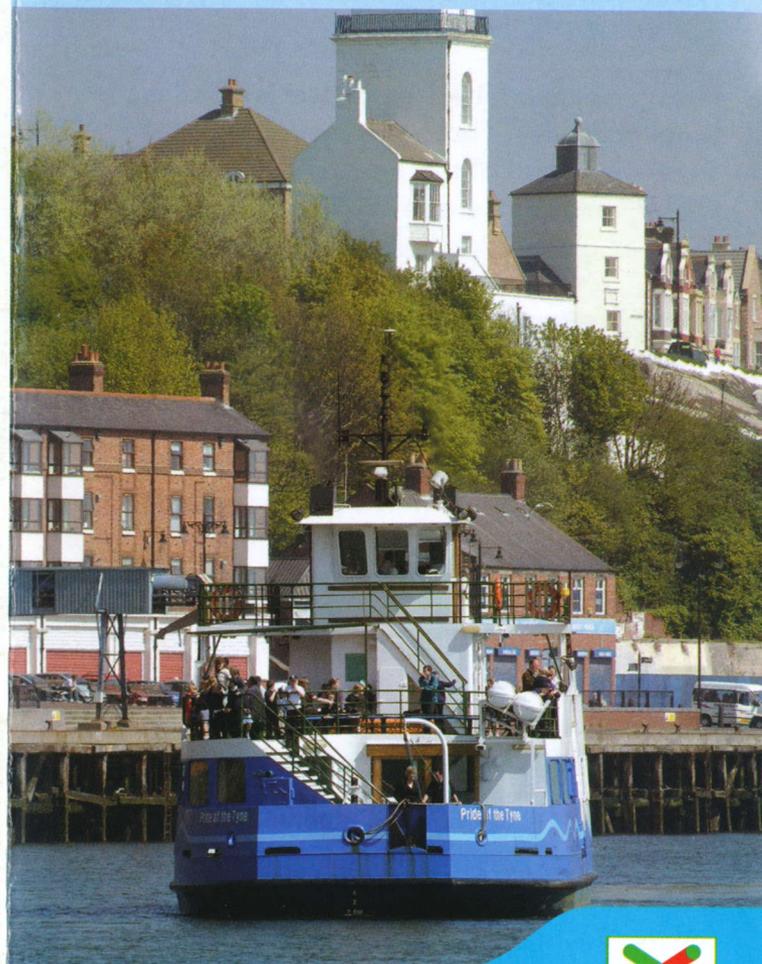
Information correct at time of print.

## Find Out More

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## The Shields Ferry



## Proud tradition

The Shields Ferry crossing has a proud tradition on the River Tyne dating back hundreds of years.

Today, it continues to serve the communities of North and South Shields, providing an easy means for local people to access jobs, services and places of leisure.

The ferry carries 450,000 passengers every year, running a fast, reliable and frequent service across the Tyne daily.

Nexus has two ferries in its fleet which take turns in service. These are the Pride of the Tyne, and Spirit of the Tyne, which is the newest vessel, entering service in 2007 to replace the 30-year-old Shieldsman.

## Vital link

The ferry is highly valued by the communities it serves.

It plays a key role in helping to regenerate nearby town centres through the trade it brings into the local shopping centres, in particular the South Shields market.

It helps to tackle social exclusion and promote economic regeneration by providing a link from the deprived wards of South Tyneside to the major new employment areas in the A19 corridor in North Tyneside.

It is a key element of Route 19 a bus route linking Royal quays, Silverlink and Cobalt to Northumberland Park Metro. It has been supported financially by North Tyneside Council, South Tyneside Council as well as by Nexus.

## A long history

The Shields Ferry has a fascinating heritage that dates back to the 14th century.

There has been a working ferry between North Shields and South Shields since at least 1377, according to documents from the time.

Between 1862 and 1908 paddle steamers from the Tyne General Ferry Company ran a passenger service with 21 stops between Elswick and South Shields.

As late as 1929 there were 11 ferry routes across the Tyne between Newburn and the mouth of the river.

The opening of the Tyne Tunnel in 1967 led to a huge reduction in ferry traffic. Before it opened 400,000 cars a year still crossed the Tyne by boat.

The Tyne Tunnel also caused the closure of the 'Mid Tyne' passenger ferry between Jarrow and Howdon – it was this ferry which featured in a shoot-out in the film Get Carter.

Nexus, formerly known as the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive, took over the operation of the Shields Ferry in 1972.

Over the past few years, £3.2m has been invested by Nexus in new ferry landings at North and South Shields.

Spirit of the Tyne is the fourth ferry to be commissioned following the Freda Cunningham in 1972, the Shieldsman in 1976 and Pride of the Tyne in 1993.



**Spirit of the Tyne entered service 2007**  
Photograph courtesy of News Guardian



**Pride of the Tyne**



**Shieldsman - retired in 2007**