

Is migration common in those raised in Sunderland? Why do you think that is?

A lot of people in Sunderland and round the north east tend to stay in the north east, whether that's due to a sense of pride in their home town or the inability to actually move away. Even the ones that do move away for university or other means, tend to ways come back.

Name 5 aspects of culture and tradition that you associate with Sunderland.

Football
Ship building
Glass making
Music
Coast

From Mackem/ geordie rivalry to the stadium of light. Football is a huge part of culture for many people around Sunderland. It is something for them to look forward to, week in week out (even if they do get beat loads). The ship Building industry in Sunderland used to be the biggest and best in Europe at one point in time. However over the last 30 years it's declined so much that it's almost none existent. The glass industry in Sunderland is well known due to the national glass centre in Roker having thousands of people through its doors. An industry that was once huge, now almost near to non existent but the centre does its best to keep it alive. Music is a big culture in Sunderland and some big bands like maximo park and the Futureheads started from tiny practice rooms like the bunker, and played venues like pop recs, and independent. (Some small music stages to help local bands climb the ladder). There are no finer moments than taking a big breath of the fresh sea air. The amazing coastlines of the northeast of England are some of the best around the North Sea. Being able to walk your dogs along the beach daily a five minute drive from your house is pure bliss.

You mentioned before about abandoned buildings and homes, expand on that. Why are so many homes abandoned?

There's so many abandoned business' and venues around Sunderland, once blooming areas of the city, have been run down to the ground. It's a shame because these small local business used to be blooming around the city. However lower incomes or rather, smaller disposable incomes have lead to most people going for the cheapest possible places to shop to save money. The under cutting of prices in the market has led so many business going under.

Describe in one sentence the atmosphere/mood of Sunderland.

Describe in one sentence the atmosphere/mood of Newcastle.

The mood in Sunderland as you walk around it, is sad, depressed and unhappy. People just seem to have no drive or passion. Nothing for them to strive and push themselves for because there's so little on offer for them from a young age. They get born into this run down grubby bubble that is Sunderland and find it so hard to break out of it. Compare this to Newcastle. People walk around with full off passion and excitement on their faces. Opportunities left right and centre and you can see it in the way people live their lives.

Name one positive aspect of life in Sunderland.

One positive aspect of living in Sunderland is that you're right in the coast.

From the national air show displaying the red arrows and classic war planes, Coleman's well renowned fish and chips down to minchellas ice cream huts all along the coastline. Living by the beach is one of the smaller joys in life but one that once you've had a taste of, you never want to let go.

Name one negative aspect of life in Sunderland.

One negative aspect of living in Sunderland is how dead it feels. It being run down and the people of the city going through so many changes over the last 40 years, losing their jobs through the recessions, not being able to afford to live. The quality of life in Sunderland is so poor considering it's 10 miles away from Newcastle.