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Hampton by Hilton Newcastle

Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, England

A good-value and well-located city-centre hotel with modern, frills-free yet thoughtfully designed rooms for both business- and leisure-guests. It serves up generous breakfasts and the staff are on the ball.

Location

8 / 10

Opposite Newcastle Central Station, on the corner of one of the city's principal streets, Grainger Street, it has a prime, if busy, central position with most of the city's attractions - the Castle, Cathedral, Quayside, Centre for Life, Eldon Square plus the shops, restaurants and Theatre Royal in Georgian Grey Street - within a five- to 10-minute walk. The football ground and Great North Museum are around five minutes further while the Metro line - with direct access to the airport and coast - is a few steps from the front door.

Style & character

7 / 10

Converted from a 1970s office-block - all bland concrete and windows - and above a ground- and first-floor assortment of shops and bars, it looks unpromising.

Inside, however, it is surprisingly light, fresh and modern, with an open-plan reception that segues into a bar and lounge area, and curves round into a dining area and business centre, cleverly separated with semi-open wooden screens. There's a mix of sofas and armchairs in warm colours, plus stools by a high table designed for laptop working. Large windows give views onto the splendid station building and a busy streetscape providing endless entertainment.

Service & facilities

7 / 10

For a budget-style hotel, again, the facilities are surprisingly good. As well as a 24-hour gym - with views - there are free computers, secure bicycle storage, discounted parking (£8 for 24 hours) a five-minute walk away, plus a small 'shop' with a range of treats and essentials, from toothpaste and phone chargers to snacks and drinks. Available 24 hours, too. If you just want to borrow a charger, that's fine, too.

The small staff-team (predominantly local) are bright and on-the-ball with everything from bus numbers to the best local coffee shops.

- Bar
- Fitness centre
- Parking
- Restaurant
- Wi-Fi

Rooms

8 / 10

The 160 rooms, spread over five floors, are identical in style but vary in views and size. It sounds dull but someone has worked hard on the design to create large-feeling rooms that work well: storage space under the bed, an ergonomic chair at the desk, sockets where you need them, and a sliding door to a bright bathroom with large walk-in shower. There are decent reading lights, too.

Splashes of green in the curtains and feature walls add freshness, while large windows give views over the city, with corner rooms having the best. Twin rooms have small double beds.

Food & drink

7 / 10

Food is not why you stay here. There's a short bar-menu - such as chicken strips, burgers, lasagne - available from 10am to 10pm, but they are primarily pre-prepared meals (the hotel has a limited kitchen) that are designed to fill a peckish gap. The small bar has a limited selection of beers, spirits and wines. Breakfast is self-service and offers a good choice, from fruit salad, yoghurts and mini-muffins to porridge, full English and make-your-own waffles.

Value for money

8 / 10

Doubles from £89, including breakfast. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

Eight fully accessible rooms, plus linking rooms for carers. Lifts plus accessible public areas.

Family-friendly?

Larger rooms have sofa-beds, and cost £10-£15 extra, including breakfast. Free cots. Children's menu on request.

Neville Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5EN, England.
[0191 500 5001hamptoninn3.hilton.com](http://0191.500.5001hamptoninn3.hilton.com)