

YOUR GUIDE TO GREAT DAYS OUT

CUMBRIA'S *LIVING* HERITAGE

**HISTORIC HOUSES, GARDENS, CASTLES,
MUSEUMS, CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS**



Welcome to Cumbria's Living Heritage

We are a county honoured with two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: one at our heart, The Lake District, the other, part of the Hadrianic Frontier, starts at Ravenglass on the Cumbrian coast finishing at Wallsend in the east. One is the result of 500 million years of geological processes while the other is a relative newcomer. As you can imagine, we have a lot of history to share with you.

Open the door of a small Lakeland cottage in Grasmere, a farmhouse in Sawrey or a castle in Ravenglass and 'meet' the people who have given this inspiring landscape a living heritage.

So, with thousands of years of stories to discover - which door will you be knocking on?

Know before you go

All our attractions' website details are clearly listed so you can check them for the most up-to-date information about admission times, special events and, in some cases, how to pre-book.

We recommend that you check details before you leave home. Being prepared makes for a great day out.

Front cover: Townend, National Trust. Photo: Paul Harris
This page: Dove Cottage, Wordsworth Grasmere. Photo: Gareth Gardener

Brantwood

John Ruskin's Home



One of the most beautifully situated houses in the country; a vibrant centre for the arts, a historic house and a relaxing retreat for the mind.

Filled with many fine paintings and beautiful furniture, the house retains the character of its famous resident.

Set amid 250 acres of gardens and woodland with stunning mountain views across Coniston Water which can be enjoyed from the house, café terrace and garden trails.

Coniston

Map Ref 1

brantwood.org.uk

HIGHLIGHTS

Gardens: 8 beautifully designed gardens, natural meadows; woodland.

Terrace Café: All food cooked at Brantwood from fresh ingredients.

Annual exhibition and display programme: Contemporary art exhibitions and historical displays in the house and studio gallery.

Open Air Theatre: A summer programme of family entertainment.

Jetty: Arrive by SY Gondola or Coniston Launch.

Dogs: Welcome on a lead in gardens and café.

Come and stay: In *The Lodge*, the *Coachman's Quarter's* or *The Eyrie*.

Pay once: visit free for a year.



Brockhole

LDNP Visitor Centre on Windermere



A beautiful lakeside Arts & Crafts villa set in extensive grounds on the shores of Windermere.

Designed by architect Dan Gibson as a holiday home for silk merchant William Gaddum and his wife Edith (née) Potter, cousin to Beatrix Potter. Brockhole is one of the lesser known Arts & Crafts treasures of Cumbria, but one you should certainly put on your 'Lake District historic houses and gardens' must visit list - if only for The Gaddum!

Windermere

Map Ref 2

brockhole.co.uk

HIGHLIGHTS

Gardens: Originally designed by Thomas Mawson.

Mawson's Kitchen Garden: Recently returned to production and supplying seasonal veg to the kitchen.

The Gaddum: Serves lunches and classic afternoon teas in an Arts & Crafts setting.

Brockhole Café: Cumbrian cooking at its best; outside table service; terrace with spectacular views.

Shopping: Local art and produce; maps and guide books; outdoor clothing.

Dogs: Welcome in gardens and café.

Exhibitions: Changing displays by local artists in the Gaddum Gallery.

Dalemain Mansion and Gardens

Dalemain, Penrith
Map Ref 3
dalemain.com



Dalemain is a family home surrounded by beautiful gardens in a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Inside, there is a nationally important collection of art, ceramics and furniture along with everyday objects from the past.

Outside, there is an award-winning plantsman's garden which is full of magic and imagination as well as incredible views out to the High Fells of the Lake District.

HIGHLIGHTS

Gardens: Blue Himalayan Poppies, Rose Walk, Tudor Knot Garden, Earth Giant, Topiary Dragon, Snowdrops, Daffodils and more.

Tearoom: Enjoy homemade food served in a historic setting, inside or out.

Special Events: The Dalemain World Marmalade Awards, Plant Fair; and Harvest Fair.

Shopping: Marmalade, plants and other gifts

Dalemain Loop: 5 miles, through historic parkland and the Ullswater valley.

Dogs: On a lead, allowed outside the café area.



Hutton-in-the-Forest

Penrith
Map Ref 5
hutton-in-the-forest.co.uk



Lord and Lady Inglewood's ancient house in the medieval Forest of Inglewood was originally built as a stronghold against the Scots. The house has evolved into an architectural puzzle with each generation leaving its mark both inside and outside.

The extensive gardens with topiary and terraces, a wild flower meadow and lake, lead round to the Walled Garden which is now the main flower garden.

HIGHLIGHTS

Gardens: Tulips and lilies, herbaceous borders, roses and fruit trees are a mass of colour and interest throughout the summer.

Cloisters Tearoom: Enjoy delicious homemade food and picnics, served inside and out.

Annual events: Plant and Food Fair, Classic Cars in the Park, The Wanasee Music Festival, Apple Day and Potfest in the Park.

Interiors: Original William Morris wallpapers, magnificent Cupid Staircase, an eclectic collection of contemporary ceramics.

Dogs: Welcome on leads in the gardens, tearoom and woodland walk.



Holker Hall and Gardens

Cark-in-Cartmel
Map Ref 4
holker.co.uk



The Holker Estate is the much loved home of the Cavendish family; each generation leaving its impressions, either by planning and altering the landscape or by changing the house by adding, re-facing, embellishing or even rebuilding (after a fire in 1871).

The 23 acres of immaculately kept gardens have evolved over hundreds of years, each owner adding new features and planting to create a garden rich in heritage, character and beauty yet always evolving.

HIGHLIGHTS

Gardens: Holker lime is designated one of The Tree Council's 50 Great British Trees.

Courtyard Cafe: Serving seasonal menus using estate and local produce.

Special Events: Including the popular Winter Markets the first weekend of November.

Ilex Bar & Brasserie: Offering a sense of occasion. Hire it for your own special occasions.

Gift Shop: A unique Aladdin's cave of ideas and inspiration, the perfect place to find a stunning gift.

Dogs: Welcome in Gardens, Parkland and Courtyard. Please keep on a lead at all times.



Keswick Museum

Keswick
Map Ref 6
keswickmuseum.org.uk



Come rain or shine, no visit to Keswick is complete without a trip to the town's award-winning museum, situated next to the beautiful Fitz Park and ever popular Keswick to Threlkeld railway trail.

The museum is great for families- the entry ticket includes free children's trails and activities.

Displays and exhibits tell the stories of the Lake District, Keswick's fascinating characters and the local arts & crafts.

HIGHLIGHTS

Open daily all year round.

Natural Science Year exhibitions (from Summer 2023): *Flood* – the past and present of flooding in and around Keswick; *Explorations and Experiments* – the Lake District scientific explorers.

Events & Activities: Storytelling, trails and children's holiday activities, talks and workshops.

Café West: Indoor and outdoor seating overlooking Fitz Park.

Fitz Park: Parkland, riverside walks, children's play area.

Shop: Locally produced arts & crafts and books: children's stories, art, local history, and natural heritage.

Pay once: visit free for a year.



- 1 Brantwood
- 2 Brockhole on Windermere
- 3 Dalemian Mansion & Gardens
- 4 Holker Hall & Gardens
- 5 Hutton-in-the-Forest
- 6 Keswick Museum
- 7 Lakeland Motor Museum
- 8 Levens Hall & Gardens
- 9 Mirehouse & Gardens
- 10 Muncaster Castle & Gardens
- National Trust:
- 11 Acorn Bank
- 12 Allan Bank
- 13 Fell Foot
- 14 Hill Top
- 15Sizergh
- 16 Steam Yacht Gondola
- 17 Townend
- 18 Wordsworth House & Garden
- 19 Wray Castle
- Windermere Lake Cruises:
- 20 Bowness
- 2 Brockhole
- 21 Lakeside
- 22 Waterhead
- 23 Windermere Jetty
- 24 Wordsworth Grasmere



Getting about



Traveling around this beautiful county can be as delightful as arriving. We have bus, train and boat services taking you through beautiful landscapes and villages.

Bus services: stagecoachbus.com
Heritage railways: lakesiderailway.co.uk, ravenglass-railway.co.uk



Boat services: ullswater-steamers.co.uk, windermere-lakecruises.co.uk, conistonlaunch.co.uk, nationaltrust.org.uk/steam-yacht-gondola

Private tours: mountain-goat.com

Car parks: lakedistrict.gov.uk/visiting/car-park-status

Lakeland Motor Museum

Newby Bridge
Map Ref 7
lakelandmotormuseum.co.uk



Over 30,000 exhibits tracing more than 100 years of road transport heritage, including a new exhibition which details the history of the Isle of Man TT Races. Numerous fascinating stories rooted in our local area: a typical 1930's Westmorland garage re-creation, the Campbell Bluebird Exhibition and the Leven Valley Heritage Centre which depicts how life used to be in the Backbarrow Blue Mill, the iron works, gunpowder factories and woodland industries.

A thoroughly enjoyable experience which entertains all ages, whatever the weather.

HIGHLIGHTS

Open 364 days a year: Daily (Except Christmas Day) from 9:30am

Displays: Include full size detailed replicas of the 1935 Bluebird car, the 1939 Bluebird boat (K4), and the famous 1967 jet hydroplane Bluebird K7.

The Lakeland Historic Car Club: Meet on the first Saturday of every month at the museum.

Café Ambio: Situated on the banks of the river Leven

Dogs: Welcome on leads in the museum.



Mirehouse and Gardens

Keswick
Map Ref 9
mirehouse.com



Mirehouse is a "Manor from Heaven" according to Melvyn Bragg. Set in stunning landscape between mountainside and Bassenthwaite Lake, the gardens include a tranquil walled garden planted for bees, a terraced Poetry Walk and woodland playgrounds.

The house has a wealth of unique literary connections - Tennyson, Southey and Thomas Carlyle.

Visitors enjoy a relaxed welcome to this living family home and estate.

HIGHLIGHTS

Playgrounds: Woodland play areas; adventurous for the older children, fanciful for the younger ones.

Estate Walks: Poetry walks, lakeside walks and woodland walks with nature notes for families.

The Old Saw Mill Café: Views down to Bassenthwaite Lake. The café is always popular with walkers, cyclists, bird-watchers and visitors to Mirehouse.

Music: Live piano music welcomes visitors into the house on open days.

Dogs: Welcome on leads on your walks around the estate.



Levens Hall and Gardens

Nr Kendal
Map Ref 8
levenshall.co.uk



A fascinating and beautiful Elizabethan mansion, home to the Bagot family. The Hall contains fine oak panelling, ornate plasterwork, Cordova leather wall coverings, collections of period furniture, paintings and clocks, and the earliest examples of English patchwork.

Dating from the 1690s, this 10-acre garden includes the world's oldest topiary gardens, spectacular herbaceous borders, giant beech hedges and an ever-changing array of over 30,000 bedding plants.

HIGHLIGHTS

Gardens: The world's oldest topiary trees.

Levens Kitchen: A seasonally inspired menu with a strong focus on fresh local produce, much sourced from the Estate. Special events and offers.

Deer Park: A gently undulating 3 mile circular walk along the River Kent.

Shopping: An eclectic gift shop; garden plant sales.

For Children: Play area, willow labyrinth and quizzes.

Dogs: Allowed on leads in deer park and café terrace.



Muncaster Castle

Gardens and Hawk & Owl Centre

Ravenglass
Map Ref 10
muncaster.co.uk



A highlight of the Lake District coast where the mountains tumble into the sea and bursting with treasures and tales, haunted Muncaster oozes history from every rough stone which fashion the castle walls. John Ruskin described the stunning views of England's highest mountain as "Heaven's Gate". Still nurtured by the family who have inhabited Muncaster for over 800 years, the surrounding gardens are wild and breathtaking, teeming with wildlife and exotic plants from around the world.

HIGHLIGHTS

Hawk & Owl Centre: Flies falcons, hawks, eagles, owls, herons & vultures daily throughout the season.

Special Events: Seasonal events including the amazing Halloween Week!

Sino-Himalayan Gardens: Enjoy our rhododendrons and have an adventure.

Other Facilities: Cafés and play areas: Enchanted Trail, swings & slides, the Meadow Vole Maze; the Bird Box and Carriage House gift shops; the new EcoBarn.

Dogs: welcome on a lead in the gardens.

Come and stay: accommodation available.



Peaceful days out

made with the National Trust

Take some time for yourself at National Trust places across the Lake District. Discover unique collections at Hill Top,Sizergh and Townend; beautiful gardens at Acorn Bank and Wordsworth House & Garden and memorable experiences at Allan Bank, Fell Foot and aboard the Steam Yacht Gondola.

nationaltrust.org.uk/the-lakes

Winderemere Lake Cruises

Winderemere
Map Ref 2, 20, 21, 22, 23

winderemere-lakecruises.co.uk



Explore Winderemere – England's largest natural lake onboard a historic 'steamer' or launch. Winderemere Lake Cruises offers scenic, sightseeing cruises between Ambleside (Waterhead), Bowness and Lakeside piers all-year round.

Their fleet of historic vessels includes MV Tern (built 1891) and all offer inside & outside seating with the best views of the Lakeland Fells. All cruises include a brief commentary about the area and point out the many historic sites along the lakeshore.

HIGHLIGHTS

Jetties at: Waterhead Lakeside, Bowness Brockhole and Winderemere Jetty

Electric Self Drive Boats: available from Bowness and Ambleside

Traditional Row Boats: Available from Bowness and Ambleside

Dogs: Welcome on all of our vessels and travel for free

Special Events: Summer Evening Buffet Cruises run from June – August

Onboard Bars & Cafés: serve hot and cold drinks, snacks, beer, wine and spirits.

Walkers Ticket: Combine a Lake Cruise with a 4 mile lakeshore walk

Combined Tickets: With a number of local attractions in and around the Lake.

Wordsworth Grasmere

Town End, Grasmere
Map Ref 24

wordsworth.org.uk



Nestled away in a beautiful historic hamlet in Grasmere sits Dove Cottage, home of the great English poet William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy. The Cottage transports you back to the early 1800s, where Wordsworth wrote many of his greatest poems and his sister Dorothy kept her Grasmere journal. Enjoy the Museum, gardens and views of Grasmere from the Viewing Station, visit the Café serving locally sourced food and drink.

20% off admission when you arrive by bus. Buses stop right outside.

HIGHLIGHTS

Dove Cottage: Experience the sights, sounds and smells that bring to life the Wordsworth's bustling family home from over 200 years ago.

Museum: William and Dorothy Wordsworth's remarkable story is told through a unique collection of original letters, objects and manuscripts.

Garden-Orchard: *'The loveliest spot that man hath ever found.'*

Viewing Platform: Panoramic views of Grasmere Vale.

Café: At the heart of the hamlet. Welcoming muddy boots and dogs.

Pay once: visit free for a year.



Everything you need for a great day out.

Cumbria boasts England's deepest lake, highest mountain, 150 miles of coastline and a good stretch of Hadrian's Wall.

If you're seeking inspiration, you're in the right place, in a landscape that has inspired poets, painters and wordsmiths.

If it's a stroll or a hike you desire then many have mapped the way. And, if it's our stories you seek then here they all are...

Brantwood, John Ruskin's Home Coniston

brantwood.org.uk



Brockhole Windermere

brockhole.co.uk



Dalemain Mansion & Historic Gardens Penrith

dalemain.com



Holker Hall & Gardens Cark-in-Cartmel

holker.co.uk



Hutton-in-the-Forest Penrith

hutton-in-the-forest.co.uk



Keswick Museum Keswick

keswickmuseum.org.uk



Lakeland Motor Museum Backbarrow

lakelandmotormuseum.co.uk



Levens Hall & Gardens Nr Kendal

levenshall.co.uk



National Trust Cumbria

nationaltrust.org.uk

Facilities vary at each venue

Mirehouse & Gardens Keswick

mirehouse.com



Muncaster Castle Ravenglass

muncaster.co.uk



Windermere Lake Cruises Windermere

windermere-lakecruises.co.uk



Wordsworth Grasmere Town End, Grasmere

wordsworth.org.uk



Special events/annual festivals/changing exhibitions

Indoor attraction/outdoor covered spaces

Refreshments

There's stuff for kids/activities/play area

Dogs are welcome in particular areas

Shop/Plant sales

Beautiful Gardens /Park

Arrive by boat/train/bus Car park at venue

Accessible for wheelchair users alone or with a helper

Charging point/bicycle/vehicle

Free internet for visitors

Find us on: and at cumbriaslivingheritage.co.uk