



Windermere

“Gateway to the Lake District”

The Lake District National Park, at 912 square miles, is the most diverse of all the English National Parks. From picturesque lakes to winding mountain passes; from coastal scenes to moorland vistas. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2017. The town grew around the railway station, about a mile and a half from Lake Windermere. The village was originally called Birthwaite; over the years, the village has become merged with the older lakeside town of Bowness-on-Windermere, though the two have quite separate centers.

Windermere is the ideal center to discover the National Park with its transportation connections from rail to lake cruise to coach tour departure point. Windermere is about a 2 hour drive from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle and Manchester airports.



The Lake District does not only host some of the UK's most breathtaking scenery, it is steeped in history and has some of the greatest literary associations to be found anywhere.

Mountain Goat have been touring the Lake District fells since 1972, offering a variety of award-winning guided tours, in 16 seat luxury coaches, that reach every corner of the National Park. Tours depart from 6 villages including Windermere. Private Hire service is available from the 4 airports.

Located in the heart of Cumbria, the land within the National Park contains the deepest bodies of water, West Water and Windermere, as well as the highest mountain in England, Scafell Pike.

Mountain Goat offers a wide range of half and full day tours, available throughout the year. Tours cover all areas of the Lake District ensuring you don't miss any of the breathtaking natural views.

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| 1. Aira Force 30 miles north | 6. Helvellyn 14 miles north |
| 2. Castlerigg Stone Circles 20 miles north | 7. Hill Top 9 miles west |
| 3. Coniston Water 12 miles west | 8. Lake Windermere 1 mile |
| 4. Derwentwater 21 miles north | 9. Rydal Mount 6 miles north |
| 5. Dove Cottage 9 miles north | 10. Ullswater (Glenridding) 14 miles north |

1. Aira Force

Rainwater runs from the fells into Aira Beck and thunders in one 65-foot leap over the falls. Yet, Aira Force is much more than an impressive waterfall. A network of trails weaves its way from Ullswater to Gowbarrow summit, passing towering Himalayan firs, rare red squirrels, woodland glades, picnic spots and views out across Ullswater.



2. Castlerigg Stone Circles

Perhaps the most atmospheric and dramatically sited of all British stone circles, with panoramic views and the mountains of Helvellyn and High Seat as a backdrop. It is also among the earliest British circles, raised in about 3000 BC during the Neolithic period.



3. Coniston Water

Coniston Water is about five miles long and half a mile wide. Above its western shore, the mountain of the Old Man of Coniston towers above the lake and the village. The lake is about half a mile down from the village.



4. Derwentwater

Known also as “Keswick’s Lake”, Derwentwater is fed by the River Derwent catchment area in the high fells at the head of Borrowdale, and has a long historical and literary background. The lake is very much a landscape of moods.



5. Dove Cottage

William Wordsworth’s home from 1799 to 1808. Here he produced the most famous and best-loved of his poems, and his sister Dorothy kept her Grasmere journals. His 3 oldest children were born here. Now a museum to his memory.



6. Helvellyn

England’s favorite walk. Helvellyn is a 4.2 mile out and back trail located near Glenridding that features a river and is rated as moderate. The trail is primarily used for hiking and walking.



7. Hill Top

National Trust property. Beatrix Potter wrote many of her famous stories in this 17th century stone house. Characters such as Tom Kitten, Samuel Whiskers and Jemima Puddleduck were created here. The books contain many pictures based on the house and garden.



8. Lake Windermere

England's largest lake, at 10.5 miles long, and at its deepest point is 219 feet. Windermere is also the name of the town, which lies just over a mile from the lake shore. It is separate from the town of Bowness-on-Windermere, which is one of the busiest places on the lake.



9. Rydal Mount

William Wordsworth’s best loved family home for the greater part of his life from 1813 to his death in 1850 at the age of 80. Between Ambleside and Grasmere it commands glorious views of Windermere, Rydal Water and the surrounding fells. The house, continues to be owned by the family.



10. Ullswater

The Ullswater Way is a 20 mile walking route that goes around the whole of Ullswater lake. You can do the walk in one go, or do a smaller section combined with a boat trip or bus ride. There are villages and eating places along this fairly low-level, easy to walk route.

