

5-Night Northern Lake District Self-Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Self-Guided Walking

Destinations: Lake District & England

Trip code: DBPOA-5

1, 2, 3, 4 & 5



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Enjoy a break in the Lake District with the walking experts; we have all the ingredients for your perfect self-guided walking holiday. Our 4-star country house, Derwent Bank, is idyllically situated on the shores of Derwent Water and geared to the needs of walkers and outdoor enthusiasts. Discover the beauty of the Lake District at your pace, and we'll help you create a holiday full of lasting memories.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- High quality en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day
- The use of our Discovery Point to plan your walks – maps and route notes available

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Use our Discovery Point, stocked with walk guides on all the walks in the local area
- Head out on any of our walks to discover the varied beauty of the Lake District on foot
- Admire panoramic mountain, lake and river views from fells and peaks
- Enjoy magnificent Lake District scenery and visit charming Lakeland villages
- Look out for wildlife, find secret corners and learn about the Lakes' history
- Choose a relaxed pace of discovery and get some fresh air in one of England's most beautiful walking areas
- Cycle around the lake or in nearby Whinlatter Forest
- Take in a performance at Keswick's superb Theatre by the Lake

TRIP SUITABILITY

Explore at your own pace and choose the best walk for your pace and ability.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards.

Enjoy a complimentary Afternoon Tea on arrival.

Day 2 - 4: Laid Back Walks

Our easiest routes allow plenty of time to savour the magnificent mountain landscapes. All our walk notes suggest the best places to stop, great pubs, and tea rooms.

- Latrigg short walk - 1½ miles
- Mirehouse & St Bega's Church - 1½ miles
- Friar's Crag - 2 miles
- Brandlehow Woods - 2½ miles
- Through the Jaws of Borrowdale - 4 miles
- Around Buttermere - 4 miles
- Around Swinside - 5 miles
- Ashness Bridge - 5 miles

Day 2 - 4: Leg Stretcher Walks

Some longer walks on valley and lakeside paths, plus a few of the easier lower fells. Experience the true flavour of Lakeland as you follow these varied routes.

- Walla Crag & Ashness Bridge - 6 miles
- Borrowdale & Derwent Water - 6 miles
- Cat Bells Terrace - 7 miles
- Cat Bells - 7 miles
- Watendlath & Derwent Water - 8 miles
- Newlands Valley - 9 miles
- Latrigg via Keswick - 9 miles
- Around Derwent Water - 9 miles

Day 2 - 4: Full On Walks

For those who love the high mountains. Expect some rough paths as you head to some of these famous summits, but there are plenty of rewards when you reach the top.

- Haystacks - 5 miles
- Blencathra - 7 miles
- High Stile - 9 miles
- Scafell Pike - 9 miles
- Cat Bells, Maiden Moor & High Spy - 12 miles
- Newlands Round - 13 miles

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Derwent Bank

Adored by poets, painters, and literary giants for centuries, the Lake District has always had an irresistible pull. It's no surprise, then, that this country house near the market town of Keswick holds such appeal, not least for its setting in lovely grounds that slope down to the shores of Derwentwater. The location couldn't be more perfect; to the west is Cat Bells, to the east is the stunning viewpoint of Friar's Crag, and to the south is the entrance to the Borrowdale valley. There's a wealth of big-name attractions within easy travelling distance, including Blencathra, Helvellyn, and Ullswater. Also visit-worthy for walkers is Scafell Pike for its well-trodden routes and trails and the 73-mile-long Cumbria Way for its mist-shrouded peaks, glacial valleys, and many excuses for pit-stops and picnics. Originally known as Finkle Street House, the property was built in 1785 for Joseph Pockington Senhouse, the former High Sheriff of Newark. While it is unknown whether he lived here, he was insistent on drawing up his own architectural plans and arranging buildings in rather unsuitable positions (this led his neighbour, the romantic poet Robert Southey, to mock 'that ugly house opposite'). Later renamed Derwent Bank, it was sold in 1824 to Lady William Gordon and again in 1847 to physician Dr David Ross Leitch, a close friend of American writer Ellis Yarnall who remarked on how the mountains 'seemed to put one in the mood for the poetry'. Derwent Bank had several owners prior to 1925 when it was purchased by Mrs Edmunson who employed contractors to build the stables, the coach house, and two cottages (now accommodation for our team). It has been part of our HF Holidays line-up since 1937 and much extended over the years. Nowadays, you'll find 40 well-appointed and stylish guest rooms in three categories (Classic, Premium, and Superior), with some either overlooking the lake or facing Cat Bells and Grizedale Pike. You'll also find a comfortable lounge, a licenced bar, an attractive orangery, and a dining room for a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. Elsewhere, the house has a boot and drying room and a Discovery Point offering a wide range of local area maps, route guides, and easy-to-follow information for self-guided walks. There's also a ballroom, books and games to borrow during your stay, an outdoor terrace for summer drinks and snacks, and beautiful formal gardens with a putting green, croquet lawn, and mature trees.

Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Need To Know

The safety of our guests, team, and leaders is always top of our list. We will closely align ourselves with the latest government advice and guidance on COVID-19 and implement the best possible hygiene practices across our country houses. We ask that you take sensible precautions to protect other people's health and would

appreciate you informing the house team immediately if you feel unwell. For the latest COVID-19 FAQs, please visit our [Coronavirus Travel Advice Page](#)

Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Derwent Bank has 40 well-appointed guest rooms available in three categories: Classic, Premium, and Superior.

Classic Rooms are comfortable en-suite guest rooms, ideal for a peaceful night's sleep. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, and shower gel), and a 23-inch TV.

Premium Rooms are more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surrounds. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel, shower cap), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses. Please note that an extra charge of £15 per person per night applies for this room type.

Superior Rooms are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surrounds. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel, shower cap), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses. Please note that an extra charge of £25 per person per night applies for this room type.

We love: Room 12 for its extra space and lovely views across the gardens and Derwentwater. Rooms 46, 47, 48, and 49 are first-floor garden rooms, each with their own balcony.

The **Choose Your Room** service is available at our UK country houses, allowing you the option of choosing and confirming a specific room for an extra charge of £30 per room. This is subject to availability. Upgrade supplements apply.

CHECK IN & CHECK OUT

You are welcome to check in from **4:00pm at the earliest**. On arrival, you'll enjoy a complimentary cream tea and get to meet your fellow guests, our HF Holidays Leaders, and the rest of the friendly team.

On the day of departure, we kindly ask all guests to check out by **10:00am**. You'll be asked to settle your bill prior to leaving. You may, of course, make a charitable donation to our HF Holidays Pathways Fund if you wish. Please note that we only accept card payments.

About Your Stay

A WARM WELCOME

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, the HF Holidays Big Pub Quiz held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays Leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

WALKS TALKS

Our HF Holidays Leaders host guided walking information briefings before and after dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (usually held before and after dinner, so you can join whenever suits). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

THE WALKING DAY

Prior to setting off on walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear (we recommend anything waterproof enough to keep you dry in a sudden downpour). If you choose to do

your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

Food & Drink

Led by experienced chefs, we serve a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. We always aim to source the best produce available and use home-grown herbs and vegetables from our own gardens whenever possible. Additionally, we have a licenced bar with beers, soft drinks, and a superb selection of spirits.

Full-board comes as standard and includes a cream tea on arrival and a hearty breakfast on departure day. Most dietary requirements can be catered for, so please inform us of any food intolerances or allergies at the time of booking. Currently, global challenges such as COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine are directly impacting our food and drink supply chain. We thank you for appreciating that menu descriptions are kept flexible to allow for last-minute changes if needed.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Derwent Bank](#)

TRAVEL DETAILS

Our address is: Derwent Bank, Portinscale, Nr Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5TY
Tel: [01768 773667](tel:01768773667)

By Train:

The nearest railway station to Derwent Bank is at Penrith on the main line between London and Glasgow. For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone [03457 48 49 50](tel:03457484950).

By Taxi:

The 20-mile journey from Penrith railway station to Derwent Bank by taxi takes approximately 40 minutes. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, Davies Taxis. The 2022 guide price for a 4-seat taxi is around £42. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Davies Taxis*
Tel: [+44 \(0\) 17687 72676](tel:+4401768772676)
Email: info@daviestaxis.co.uk

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Derwent Bank Manager.

*Davies Taxis is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

By Bus:

The X5 bus runs approximately every hour from Penrith station. The nearest bus stop is on the A66, about ¼ mile walk from Derwent Bank. Alight at the Portinscale bus stop and take the road on the left (signposted to Portinscale, Grange and the Newlands Valley). Follow this road through Portinscale village - Derwent Bank is on the left-hand side after the Derwentwater Marina.

Alternatively catch the bus to Keswick and then take a short taxi journey to Derwent Bank in Portinscale. A taxi from Keswick to Derwent Bank takes approximately 10 minutes for the 3-mile journey and as a guide costs £6 for a 4-seat taxi in 2022, when pre-booked (see above).

For bus times see www.traveline.info

By Car:

From Penrith - leave the M6 motorway at junction 40 and take the A66 towards Keswick. After 17 miles you'll reach a roundabout in Keswick - continue ahead following signs to Cockermouth and Workington. One mile beyond the roundabout, and 200yds beyond the B5289 turning to Keswick, turn left off the A66 signposted to Portinscale, Grange and the Newlands Valley. Derwent Bank is approx ¾ mile along this road on the left after the Derwentwater Marina and before the Nichol End Marina. There is a large car park available at Derwent Bank.

Travelling From Overseas

For most guests the most convenient option is to book a flight to Manchester Airport. There are direct trains every hour from Manchester Airport to Penrith - this is straightforward journey - allow 2 hours to Penrith. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

From Penrith station you can complete the journey to Derwent Bank by bus or taxi (see above).

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option, but has a longer onward train journey - allow at least 4½ hours to reach Penrith. From Heathrow, first take the train to London Paddington station. Next take the Underground train to London Euston. Finally the main line train from London Euston to Penrith takes 3 hours. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

LOCAL AREA

The Lake District is England's premier national park with outstanding mountain scenery.

Keswick

The nearest town to Derwent Bank is Keswick, about two miles away. As a popular tourist destination it has a range of facilities including supermarkets, banks, a post office, pubs and cafés. It is also well known for its huge number of outdoor shops where you can buy an array of clothing and equipment for the outdoors.

During your visit to Derwent Bank you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest:

Derwentwater Launch

Take a leisurely journey around Derwentwater [on the ferry](#) - a great way to see the surrounding mountains from a different perspective. The nearest stop at Nichol End is just a few minutes' walk from Derwent Bank.

Theatre By The Lake

Situated by the lakeshore in Keswick, the [Theatre By The Lake](#) offers an excellent repertoire of plays in the main house and smaller studio theatre. The theatre's popularity means that advance booking is recommended, especially in the high season.

Honister Slate Mine

Go underground on the mine tour at this famous Lake District mine which is situated at the top of Honister Pass between Borrowdale and Buttermere. Here you can travel underground and learn about the history of Lake District slate production. [Honister Slate Mine](#) is around 30 minutes' drive from Derwent Bank, and can also be reached directly using the Honister Rambler bus.

Whinlatter Forest & Go Ape!

[Whinlatter Forest](#) is England's only true mountain forest. Its 9 walking trails and 3 cycling trails reward with views over Bassenthwaite Lake, Derwentwater and Keswick. It is home to the longest purpose-built mountain bike trail in the Lake District. The forest also has a [Go Ape](#) centre with a high ropes course and an all-terrain Segway trail.

Derwent Water Marina

Hire a canoe or sailing boat from [Derwent Water Marina](#) and enjoy one of England's most beautiful lakes from a different perspective. Just five minutes' walk from Derwent Bank.

Grasmere

Grasmere is about 30 minutes' drive from Derwent Bank and is famous for its connections with William Wordsworth as well as its traditional [gingerbread shop](#). The poet's homes at Dove Cottage and Rydal Mount can be visited, the former of which includes the [Wordsworth Museum](#). The house and gardens of [Wordsworth's birthplace](#) can also be visited in Cockermouth; the house is owned by the National Trust. This pleasant market town is to the north-west of Derwent Bank. Both Grasmere and Cockermouth can be reached by local bus from Keswick.

Ullswater

About 30 minutes' drive from Derwent Bank is Ullswater, arguably the most beautiful of the Cumbrian lakes. Enjoy its glorious scenery either on foot or by [steamer](#). If you are visiting the Ullswater area you could also visit the superb waterfall of [Aira Force](#) or the country house and gardens at [Dalemain](#). Dalemain also hosts the annual [marmalade awards](#) and festival.

Lake District Wildlife Park

[The Lake District Wildlife Park](#) is home to over 100 species in its 24-acre site. Watch the antics of the otters, apes, meerkats and monkeys and marvel at the flying displays of eagles and vultures.

Carlisle

Carlisle, about 45 minutes' drive from Derwent Bank is the historic county town of Cumbria. Here you'll find a good selection of shops, the [cathedral](#) and the [900 year old castle](#) where Mary Queen of Scots was held prisoner. Of particular interest is the [Tullie House Museum](#) which is recognised for its exciting, varied events and exhibitions programme and is full of exciting interactive displays.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

Before you head out on your walk it's always sensible to make sure you're carrying the correct kit. Below is a list of recommended equipment:

Essential Equipment

- Rucksack with a waterproof liner,
- Thermos flask for hot drink,
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar.
- Small torch

- First aid kit

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent,
- Sun hat,
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

Safety On Your Holiday

Please follow the tips below to ensure your holiday is safe and enjoyable:

- Please complete and hand in your registration card to the House Manager on the first evening of your holiday
- Please note the number of the accommodation where you are staying (see Travel details section of your trip notes)
- Check the weather forecast - this is updated regularly and displayed on the Discovery Point. Be prepared for the weather to change during the day and wear appropriate footwear such as walking boots. We would recommend that you wear or carry a waterproof jacket and trousers, a spare warm jumper or fleece, hat and gloves. In addition we recommend a water bottle, spare food, map, compass, torch, whistle, small first aid kit and survival bag
- Take a copy of a map and a route card
- Be aware of ticks – more information can be found at the Discovery Point

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm, Saturday: 9am – 1pm, Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking

confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the [Manage My Booking](#) function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

Your final balance payment is due 6 weeks before departure if you are staying in an HF Holidays UK country house, 8 weeks before departure if you are travelling on one of our holidays in Europe and 10 weeks before departure if you are on a Guided Trail staying in one of our partner hotels or are travelling on a Worldwide holiday. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on [01702 427 236](tel:01702427236) or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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