

7 Night Southern Lake District Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

Tour Style: Walking with sightseeing

Destinations: Lake District, United Kingdom & England

Trip code: CNWOD-7

Trip Walking Grade: 2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

These holidays offer a perfect mix of short, guided walks (4-5 miles), combined with time spent sightseeing. Visit a selection of standout highlights in the Southern Lake District with hassle-free coach travel and the help of an HF Holidays Leader.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A cruise on the National Trust's Steam Yacht Gondola, entrance to Hill Top, the Herdwick Experience
- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks and sightseeing visits with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks and sites of interest

- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

Please note - Entrance fees are not included. See more information tab for details.

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Exploring the Coppermines Valley, rich in the Lake District's industrial heritage
- Taking a trip on the restored National Trust Steam Yacht Gondola
- Discovering the impressive Cathedral Caves
- Visiting Hill Top, Beatrix Potter's Lakeland farmhouse
- Meeting Yew Tree Farms 'Ambassador' Herdwick sheep flock
- Views of the rugged mountain landscapes and scenic lakes

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 2. Walking is generally on good, well-graded paths; some sections are over rougher or steeper terrain. Walks are up to 5 miles (8km) with up to 1000 feet (320m) of ascent.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Enjoy a complimentary cream tea on arrival, served from 4.30pm.

Day 2: GRASMERE AND RYDAL

Grasmere And Rydal

Distance: 4.5 miles (7km)

Ascent: 600 feet (200m)

In summary: We'll walk along Loughrigg Terrace to Rydal Cave and descend to cross the River Rothay to Rydal Hall. We visit the 17th century viewing station which frames the waterfall on Rydal Beck; passing Rydal Mount we follow the old 'Coffin Route' to Grasmere. There's time to take in the surrounds and learn more about William Wordsworth, with options including a visit to the National Trust's Allen Bank property or Dove Cottage. For some, a trip to the famous Gingerbread Shop might be more appealing!

Highlight: The stunning waterfall in the grounds of Rydal Hall. The artists' grotto at the bottom of the falls has a window which frames the falls perfectly.

Day 3: CONISTON, BRANTWOOD AND GONDOLA

Coniston, Brantwood And Gondola

Distance: 4 miles

Ascent: 550 feet (150m)

In summary: We walk on good tracks via Low Yewdale to the Coppermines Valley, strewn with relics of the area's industrial past. We explore Coniston village before making our way to the lake shore, to cruise Coniston Water on the restored steam yacht Gondola, with an option to visit Brantwood the home of John Ruskin before a short and pleasant walk through a field into the gardens of Monk Coniston.

Highlight: A cruise on Coniston Water, aboard the National Trust's historic Steam Yacht Gondola.

Day 4: Free Day - Southern Lake District

Discover more about [Monk Coniston and the local area](#) for ideas on how to make the most of your free day.

Day 5: LITTLE LANGDALE AND CATHEDRAL CAVE

Little Langdale And Cathedral Cave

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 950 feet (300m)

In summary: From Skelwith Bridge our walk takes us by two beautiful waterfalls Skelwith Force and Colwith Force into the Little Langdale Valley. We then visit Cathedral Cave and the iconic Slater Bridge before heading into Little Langdale village and then on to Elterwater.

Highlight: Cathedral Cave - one of the hidden gems of the Lake District.

Day 6: HILL TOP TO HAWKSHEAD

Hill Top To Hawkshead

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Ascent: 500 feet (150m)

In summary: Visit Hill Top, the home of Beatrix Potter, and Moss Eccles Tarn – on which Potter's *The Tale of Jeremy Fisher* is based. On a clear day there are excellent views over to the Langdale Pikes. We'll walk into the picturesque village of Hawkshead and have time to explore. Perhaps visit Wordsworth's old school, wander the cobbled streets or browse the fantastic selection of shops.

Highlight: A visit to Hill Top, Beatrix Potter's beloved Lakeland farmhouse.

Day 7: TARN HOWS AND HERDWICK EXPERIENCE

Tarn Hows And Herdwick Experience

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 935 feet (285m)

In summary: We'll explore the charming countryside around Monk Coniston, with a walk up to the famous beauty spot of Tarn Hows. After completing a circuit of the Tarn and taking in the stunning scenery, we'll descend beside Tom Gill and its surging waterfalls, to arrive at Yew Tree Farm. Here, we'll enjoy the unique and unforgettable Herdwick Experience. On this 'one-of-kind' farm tour, we'll learn all about the Herdwick breed, their cultural significance and fell farming in the Lake District. Afterwards, we'll have the opportunity to meet and get up close to the very friendly 'Ambassador' sheep flock.

Highlight: Meeting Yew Tree Farms 'Ambassador' Herdwick sheep flock.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Monk Coniston

With a desirable address overlooking Coniston Water (the inspiration for Arthur Ransome's 1930 novel, *Swallows and Amazons*), this characterful Grade II-listed house delights with lakeside and woodland walks from the doorstep, décor that stays true to the period feel, and plenty of Beatrix Potter references. While the children's author and illustrator did not live at the Monk Coniston estate (her beloved home was Hill Top, bought in 1905 with the royalties from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*), she campaigned with the National Trust to save it from development. She then purchased the entire estate in 1930 and as the new owner she immediately sold half to the organisation, bequeathing them the other half in her will.

Country House Accommodation

Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Monk Coniston has 30 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 TV.

Premium Rooms are more spacious en-suite guest rooms*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses.

Superior Rooms are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surroundings*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses.

We love: The rooms with a garden or lake view. We also love Room 9 on the first floor for its original features and beautiful views across the gardens and fields that slope down to the shores of Coniston Water.

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.

Room supplements

Superior	Premium single	Premium double/twin
£25 pppn	£20 pppn	£20 pppn

*Views and layout reflect each properties unique character and location

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 dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (held before dinner every evening). 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. 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 licensed 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.

HF Holidays understands the importance of managing allergens effectively to ensure food is safe for guests with food allergies. Whilst we are always able to confidently inform guests which allergens are present in our ingredients and dishes, we are unable to guarantee absolute freedom from the 14 main allergens in our kitchens. Vegetarian and vegan menu choices are available. If you have allergies, food intolerances, or any special dietary requirements, please inform our reservation team at the time of booking.

Accessibility

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

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Monk Coniston
Coniston
Cumbria LA21 8AQ

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1539 441566](tel:+44(0)1539441566)

By Train

The West Coast mainline runs to the east of the Lake District, connecting Oxenholme (which is near Kendal),

Penrith and Carlisle with London and Glasgow. A direct train runs from Manchester to Windermere. Local trains from Oxenholme call at Kendal, Staveley and Windermere.

The nearest station to Monk Coniston is Windermere. From Windermere you can take a taxi or bus to Monk Coniston (see below).

Check National Rail for journey times and routes.

By Taxi

The journey from Windermere train station to Monk Coniston is 10 miles.

From Oxenholme, it's double that at 23 miles.

For pricing, please contact Ace Taxi directly.

Ace Taxi

You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended company, Ace Taxi*. We recommend booking your taxi at least seven days in advance by contacting:

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1539 445445](tel:+44(0)1539445445)

Email: acetaxiwindermere@gmail.com

A return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the HF Holidays House Manager at Monk Coniston.

*Ace Taxi is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

By Bus

From Windermere station catch the 555 or 599 to Ambleside Kelsick Road. Change here onto the 505 to Monk Coniston. The stop is right outside our country house.

Check Stagecoach for bus times.

National Express also run coaches to Lancaster, Penrith and Carlisle where you can catch an onward bus connection into the Lake District.

By Car

Car parking is available at Monk Coniston.

Leave the M6 motorway at junction 36. Follow the A590 to Greenodd Roundabout, take the second exit and follow the A5092 before turning right onto the A5084 signposted to Torver. At the T junction turn right onto the A593 and follow into Coniston village. Turn right onto the B5286 and follow for 1.5 miles. The entrance to Monk Coniston will be on your right.

By Air

The nearest airport is Manchester International Airport.

There are direct trains every hour to Oxenholme with the journey time around 90 minutes. From here you can change to Windermere or get a taxi (we recommend pre-booking one).

National Rail have up-to-date information on times and routes.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option, but it'll take you at least four hours to reach Oxenholme. Take the train to London Paddington station, then the London Underground to London Euston where you can connect to the main line train to Oxenholme. The journey from here is 2.5 hours.

LOCAL AREA

Whether you're enjoying a guided or self-guided walking holiday, there's always the opportunity to linger for longer. Here's our pick of the very best things to see and do within easy travelling distance of Monk Coniston.

Coniston

About a mile from the house and easily accessed from a direct path, this small village charms with a superb position at the foot of the Old Man of Coniston and by the western shore of Coniston Water. The small town of Ambleside is a 20-minute drive away.

The John Ruskin Museum

Coniston's John Ruskin Museum charts the history of the village through exhibits focused on the people who have lived and worked here throughout the ages. It's newest treasure is the restored Bluebird K7, Donald Campbell CBE's world-record breaking Jet Hydroplane. Mr Campbell broke 4 World Water Speed records on Coniston Water and tragically died attempting his 5th when Bluebird somersaulted in January 1967. The wreckage lay at the bottom of the lake for 34 years until it was raised in 2001, finally returning home to Coniston in 2024.

Steam Yacht Gondola

Manged by the National Trust, this restored steam-powered yacht on Coniston Water was built by the Furness Railway Company in 1859. It stops at the Monk Coniston jetty at the bottom of the meadow below the house and calls at Coniston and Brantwood House.

Brantwood House

A couple of miles away, this 250-acre Lakeland estate was once home to English writer, philosopher, art critic, and social revolutionary, John Ruskin. The eight beautiful gardens were created by Ruskin, his cousin Joan Severn, and head gardener Sally Beamish.

Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway

Known locally known as La'al Ratty meaning 'little railway', this is one of England's oldest and longest narrow gauge railways dating back to 1873. A trip here can easily be combined with a walk over Muncaster Fell or to the Stanley Ghyll Waterfall.

Blackwell House

Designed by esteemed architect Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott between 1898 and 1900, this Grade I-listed building is one of the UK's finest examples of Arts & Crafts architecture. Don't miss the well-preserved interiors and the formal terraced garden.

Tarn Hows

Just a short walk away, this man-made lake was created in the mid-19th century by one of Monk Coniston's former owners, James Garth Marshall. The 1.5-mile path around the lake has been well maintained by the National Trust and is suitable for wheelchair users.

Grizedale Forest

Set right in the heart of the Lake District between Windermere and Coniston, this vast woodland is perfect for walking, mountain biking, and swinging through the trees on a Go Ape course. There's also a visitor centre with

a gift shop, tearoom, and playground.

Levens Hall & Garden

A 50-minute drive away, this privately-owned Elizabethan mansion is cherished for its award-winning topiary gardens – the oldest in the world. Inside, there's fine oak panelling, ornate plasterwork, leather wall coverings, and the earliest examples of English patchwork.

Grasmere

Best known for its William Wordsworth connections, this impossibly pretty village is a 30-minute drive away. Highlights include Grasmere Lake, Allan Bank, and the 17th century Dove Cottage - home to the Wordsworth Museum.

Windermere

The largest natural lake in England, this watery wonder measures 10.5 miles long, one mile wide, and 220 feet deep. Ferries connect Ambleside in the north to Bowness and Lakeside in the south, where you can board the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeeces make a good choice
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Rucksack with waterproof liner
- Flask for hot drinks
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- UV sunglasses

Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera
- First-aid kit

Admission Information

Admission fees are payable locally and aren't included in your holiday price. This gives you greater choice,

freedom, and flexibility to only pay the entrance fees for the attractions that interest you most. Should you choose to visit all the highlighted attractions during your holiday please see the table below for the approximate totals. If you have National Trust (NT) membership, please be sure to bring your membership identification with you. We recommend bringing some cash with you for any entrance fees to sites you wish to visit.

2024 prices

Approx. cost of entrance fees	3 night holiday	4 night holiday	7 night holiday
NT members	£30	£20	£50
No memberships	£45.50	£20	£65.50

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.

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