

7-Night Southern Lake District Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Guided Walking

Destinations: Lake District, United Kingdom & England

Trip code: CNBOB-7

2, 3 & 5



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Relax and admire magnificent mountain views from our Country House on the shores of Conistonwater. Walk in the footsteps of Wordsworth, Ruskin and Beatrix Potter, as you discover the places that stirred their imaginations. Enjoy the stunning mountain scenes with lakeside strolls, taking a cruise across the lake on the steam yacht Gondola, or enjoy getting nose-to-nose with the high peaks as you explore their heights. Whatever your passion, you'll be struck with awe as you explore this much-loved area of the Lake District.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- High quality en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day
- 5 days guided walking; 1 free day
- Use of our comprehensive Discovery Point
- Choice of up to three guided walks each walking day
- The services of HF Holidays Walking Leaders

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Head out on guided walks to discover the varied beauty of the South Lakes on foot
- Choose a valley bottom stroll or reach for the summits on fell walks and horseshoe hikes
- Let our experienced leaders bring classic routes and hidden gems to life
- Visit charming Lakeland villages
- A relaxed pace of discovery in a sociable group keen to get some fresh air in one of England's most beautiful walking areas
- Evenings in our country house where you can share a drink and re-live the day's adventures

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 2, 3 and 5.

Our best-selling **Guided Walking** holidays run throughout the year - with their daily choice of up to 3 walks, these breaks are ideal for anyone who enjoys exploring the countryside on foot. Perhaps choose an Easier walk, then build up to something more challenging as your holiday progresses.

ITINERARY

Version 2 (Runs 2019/20)

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check-in to your room from 2:30 p.m. onwards (upgraded rooms from 1 p.m.) Please join us for afternoon tea.

Day 2: Exploring Coniston And Its Fells

Option 1 - Tarn Hows

Distance: 4½ miles (7km)

Ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In Summary: Explore the charming countryside surrounding Monk Coniston and visit the picturesque Tarn Hows, a famous beauty spot.

Highlight: The picturesque views abound at Tarn Hows straight out of the pages of a Victorian tourist guide.

Option 2 - Tom Heights

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 1,100 feet (340m)

In Summary: Walk across fields to Yew Tree Farm and the Yewdale Valley. After ascending Tom Heights we return via Tarn Hows.

Highlight: Tom Heights is dwarfed by the surrounding peaks, but it enjoys great views over the local countryside.

Option 3 - Old Man Of Coniston

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Ascent: 2,800 feet (860m)

In Summary: Follow the 'tourist path' past Low Water to the iconic summit of the Old Man of Coniston, the area's highest peak and an impressive viewpoint. Return by Goats Water with views across to the crags of Dow Crag.

Highlight: On a clear day the view from the top of the 'Old Man' is particularly impressive - keep your eyes peeled for the Blackpool Tower.

Day 3: Grasmere And Fairfield

Option 1 - Grasmere & Rydal Water

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In Summary: Discover the delightful scenery surrounding Grasmere and Rydal on one of the Lake District's best lower-level walks. We pass Wordsworth's former home at Rydal Mount, before ending the walk in the popular town of Ambleside.

Highlight: Don't forget to seek out the poet's grave in the village churchyard, or sample the famous (and very tasty) Grasmere Gingerbread.

Option 2 - Great Rigg & Heron Pike

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 2,400 feet (740m)

In Summary: Make the steep ascent to Great Rigg and the summit of Heron Pike on the western ridge of the Fairfield Horseshoe. We then follow the ridge to Rydal and continue to the end of the walk at Ambleside.

Highlight: The view South over Windermere and its surrounding hills and forests as you descend one arm of the Fairfield Horseshoe.

Option 3 - Fairfield Horseshoe

Distance: 10½ miles (16.5km)

Ascent: 3,350 feet (1,020m)

In Summary: Walk the famous Fairfield Horseshoe, one of the finest mountain walks in the Lake District. Tick off eight separate Wainwright Fells on this day of fantastic high-level walking.

Highlight: A celebratory pint will be richly deserved after this challenging but rewarding walk.

Day 4: Free Day

Day 5: The Langdale Fells

Option 1 - Langdale Valley

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 700 feet (220m)

In Summary: Follow the Langdale Valley past Elterwater village, to the New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel through increasingly grand scenery.

Highlight: The two spectacular waterfalls of Colwith Force and Skelwith Force; two of the best cascades in the Lake District.

Option 2 - Crinkle Craggs

Distance: 7½ miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 2,600 feet (800m)

In Summary: Enjoy this high-level traverse along the aptly named Crinkle Craggs with its undulating five mini-summits.

Highlight: Negotiating the 'Bad Step' – a short scramble over an impressive chock stone wedged between the crags.

Option 3 - Langdale Pikes

Distance: 9½ miles (15km)

Ascent: 3,050 feet (940m)

In Summary: Explore the popular Langdale Pikes with visits to the summits of Pavey Ark, Harrison Stickle, Pike O'Stickle and Rossett Pike.

Highlight: This walk along the Langdale skyline contains some of Lakeland's most iconic peaks.

Day 6: Troutbeck And The Far Eastern Fells

Option 1 - Troutbeck To Ambleside

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Ascent: 900 feet (280m)

In Summary: Enjoy fabulous views of Windermere from the lower slopes of Wansfell on a walk from 17th century Jesus Church at Troutbeck to Ambleside.

Highlight: There's plenty of time to explore the popular town of Ambleside or relax by the lake shore.

Option 2 - Sallows & Sour Howes

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Ascent: 2000 feet (620m)

In Summary: Starting in Troutbeck we ascend the quiet neighbouring fells of Sallows and Sour Howes. The walk returns into Troutbeck village passing an old coaching inn, before continuing to Ambleside along gentle paths via Skelghyll Woods.

Highlight: Enjoy wide ranging views along Windermere, and over Morecambe Bay beyond.

Option 3 - Far Eastern Fells

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 2,550 feet (780m)

In Summary: A fantastic high-level walk from the Kirkstone Pass, taking in the summits of Stony Cove Pike and Thornthwaite Beacon before following the superb high level ridge South over the summits of Froswick, Ill Bell and Yoke.

Highlight: The spectacular ridgeline traverse of Troutbeck's three high fells, Froswick, Ill Bell and Yoke is a walk to savour.

Day 7: Little Langdale & The Coniston Fells

Option 1 - Little Langdale

Distance: 6½ miles (10.5km)

Ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In Summary: Walk through the beautiful valley of Little Langdale, taking in Slaters Bridge and Cathedral Cavern, returning through the Tilberthwaite Valley to Coniston.

Highlight: The incredible Cathedral Cavern, one of the Lake District's hidden gems, is monastic in state and awe-inspiring in scale.

Option 2 - Langdale To Coniston

Distance: 9½ miles (15.5km)

Ascent: 2,100 feet (640m)

In Summary: Walk from the Langdale Valley to Coniston, crossing the lower slopes of Wetherlam and descending via the Coppermines Valley.

Highlight: The narrow gorge of Tilberthwaite Gill, carved into the lower slopes of Wetherlam.

Option 3 - Swirl How & Wetherlam

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Ascent: 3,450 feet (1,060m)

In Summary: From the Langdale Valley enjoy a mountain walk over the Coniston Fells via the summits of Great Carrs, Swirl How & Wetherlam.

Highlight: The ridge walk from the Wrynose Pass to the top of Great Carrs is a great way to ascend into the Coniston Fells.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Version 1 (Runs 2019/20)

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check-in to your room from 2:30 p.m. onwards (upgraded rooms from 1 p.m.) Please join us for afternoon tea.

Day 2: Tarn Hows & Wetherlam

Option 1 - Tarn Hows

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In Summary: Walk in the footsteps of Beatrix Potter through the woods from Monk Coniston to the stunningly beautiful lake of Tarn Hows, returning via Yew Tree Farm; a great walk right on the doorstep.

Highlight: Yew Tree Farm was donated to the National Trust by Beatrix Potter and used for the film Miss Potter.

Option 2 - Black Crag & Holme Fell

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 1,800 feet (560m)

In Summary: Walk from Monk Coniston past Tarn Hows to the summits of two local hills, Black Crag and Holme Fell.

Highlight: Holme Fell may be modest in height, but it commands extensive views over southern Lakeland.

Option 3 - Wetherlam

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 2,650 feet (820m)

In Summary: Ascend via Tilberthwaite Gill to the summit of Wetherlam, before descending via the disused workings of the Coppermines Valley

Highlight: The ascent to the top of Wetherlam is rugged in places; but with luck you'll get to enjoy a view of many of the other peaks visited later in your holiday.

Day 3: Loughrigg And The Scandale Fells

Option 1 - Loughrigg Circuit

Distance: 6½ miles (10km)

Ascent: 1,200 feet (380m)

In Summary: A delightful contouring circuit of Loughrigg Fell with extensive views of four lakes and the surrounding mountains. This walk finishes in the popular Lake District town of Ambleside.

Highlight: The immense Rydal caves, with their wonderful views over Rydal Water and Nab Scar beyond.

Option 2 - Red Screes

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

Ascent: 2,600 feet (780m)

In Summary: Walk from Ambleside to the picturesque High Sweden Bridge, continuing via Scandale Pass to the lofty summit of Red Screes.

Highlight: The sense of achievement as you climb the final steps onto the summit of Red Screes and get to gaze out along Windermere to the South and Brothers Water to the North.

Option 3 - Red Screes & Dove Crag

Distance: 11½ miles (18km)

Total ascent: 3,600 feet (1,100m)

In Summary: A challenging circuit taking in Red Screes and Dove Crag, returning to Ambleside over High Pike and Low Pike. The ascent of Red Screes entails a steep scramble.

Highlight: With four 'Wainwright' summits to bag, this is a great high level route for a keen walker.

Day 4: Free Day

Day 5: The Langdale Valley

Option 1 - The Langdale Valleys

Distance: 7 miles (12km)

Ascent: 1,350 feet (420m)

In Summary: Walk along the peaceful valley of Little Langdale with its waterfalls and iconic Slaters Bridge. We pass Blea Tarn, then descend into the larger neighbouring valley of Great Langdale.

Highlight: Beautiful Blea Tarn, with its impressive views of some of the Lake District's most famous peaks.

Option 2 - Above Langdale

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 2,200 feet (680m)

In Summary: Ascend to the great viewpoints of Side Pike and Lingmoor on the Langdale skyline. We descend to Elterwater Village to join the Cumbria Way along the base of this immense glacial valley.

Highlight: 'Threading the needle' (squeezing through a narrow fissure) to reach the summit of Lingmoor, and its classic view of the Langdale Pikes.

Option 3 - Bow Fell

Distance: 9½ miles (15.5km)

Ascent: 3,300 feet (1,000m)

In Summary: Climb two of the Lake District's highest peaks. We first ascend to the top of Bow Fell via The Band , before continuing to the equally impressive Esk Pike.

Highlight: There's a great sense of achievement in scaling the two highest summits of the Langdale valley, on this challenging but rewarding walk.

Day 6: Grasmere And Easedale

Option 1 - Grasmere & Easedale

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 1000 feet (300m)

In Summary: Starting from the village of Grasmere we'll walk to Easedale Tarn, an impressive glacial lake.

Highlight: There's time to explore Grasmere, famous as the home of poet William Wordsworth. Don't forget to seek out the poet's grave in the village churchyard, or sample the famous (and very tasty) Grasmere Gingerbread.

Option 2 - Helm Crag & Calf Crag

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 1,950 feet (580m)

In Summary: An opportunity to climb Helm Crag, one of the most distinctive Lakeland Fells with the 'Lion and the Lamb' rock formations on the summit. We'll follow the ridge to Gibson Knott and Calf Crag before descending via Far Easedale.

Highlight: It's a steep climb to the top of Helm Crag, but you'll be rewarded with great views over Grasmere.

Option 3 - High Raise

Distance: 11½ miles (18km)

Ascent: 2,900 feet (880m)

In Summary: A longer circuit which ascends Sergeant Man via Easedale Tarn to High Raise, returning along the Calf Crag ridge back to Grasmere.

Highlight: The return walk along the ridge to Helm Crag is a fine conclusion to this walk.

Day 7: The Coniston Fells

Option 1 - Brantwood & Gondola

Distance: 5½ miles (9km)

Ascent: 1,250 feet (380m)

In Summary: Follow the fells along the eastern side of Coniston Water, enjoying excellent views of the lake below. We'll stop at Brantwood, home of Victorian poet and artist John Ruskin, before continuing to Monk Coniston aboard the gondola.

Highlight: The cruise up Coniston Water aboard the National Trust's restored steam yacht gondola; a fantastic way to appreciate this magnificent setting.

Option 2 - Old Man Of Coniston

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 2,800 feet (860m)

In Summary: An opportunity to climb to the summit of the Old Man of Coniston – the highest peak in the local area. We'll pass two mountain lakes – Goats Water on the ascent and Levers Water on our return to Coniston.

Highlight: The sense of achievement when you reach the top of the 'Old Man' - as one of the more accessible big fells it is a magnet for many walkers.

Option 3 - Coniston Horseshoe

Distance: 11½ miles (19km)

Ascent: 3,550 feet (1,080m)

In Summary: A challenging high-level circuit of four 'Wainwright' summits on the Coniston Fells: Dow Crag, the Old Man, Brim Fell, and Swirl How.

Highlight: Fantastic high-level walking, including the rugged descent of Prison Band.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Version 3 (Runs 2019/20)

Every 7-night holiday includes a free day. The walks are unlikely to change, however your free day may fall on a different day to that listed below.

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check-in to your room from 2:30 p.m. onwards (upgraded rooms from 1 p.m.) Please join us for afternoon tea.

Day 2: Tarn Hows And Grizedale

Option 1 - Tarn Hows

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In Summary: Walk in the footsteps of Beatrix Potter through the woods from Monk Coniston to the stunningly beautiful lake of Tarn Hows, returning via Yew Tree Farm; a great walk right on the doorstep.

Highlight: Yew Tree Farm was donated to the National Trust by Beatrix Potter and used for the film Miss Potter.

Option 2 - Tom Heights

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 1,100 feet (340m)

In Summary: Walk across fields to Yew Tree Farm and the Yewdale Valley. After ascending Tom Heights we return via Tarn Hows.

Highlight: Tom Heights is dwarfed by the surrounding peaks, but it enjoys great views over the local countryside.

Option 3 - Tarn Hows & Grizedale Forest

Distance: 10½ miles (17km)

Ascent: 1,650 feet (500m)

In Summary: A stride out from the house including the iconic Tarn Hows and the occasionally spectacular views framed by the boughs of this vast expanse of mixed forest.

Highlight: The occasional art installations positioned amongst the oaks and pines of Grizedale Forest, including a treefold, and a huge circular frame.

Day 3: Grasmere And Easdale

Option 1 - Grasmere & Easedale

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 1000 feet (300m)

In Summary: Starting from the village of Grasmere we'll walk to Easedale Tarn, an impressive glacial lake.

Highlight: There's time to explore Grasmere, famous as the home of poet William Wordsworth. Don't forget to seek out the poet's grave in the village churchyard, or sample the famous (and very tasty) Grasmere Gingerbread.

Option 2 - Helm Crag

Distance: 6 miles (9½km)

Ascent: 1,600 feet (480m)

In Summary: Ascend Helm Crag one of the most distinctive Lakeland Fells with the 'Lion and the Lamb' rock formations on the summit. A grassy descent takes us to the valley giving the option of continuing to Easedale Tarn with its spectacular waterfall.

Highlight: A short but spectacular walk with amazing views.

Option 3 - Helm Crag & Calf Crag

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 1,950 feet (580m)

In Summary: An opportunity to climb Helm Crag, one of the most distinctive Lakeland Fells with the 'Lion and the Lamb' rock formations on the summit. We'll follow the ridge to Gibson Knott and Calf Crag before descending via Far Easedale.

Highlight: It's a steep climb to the top of Helm Crag, but you'll be rewarded with great views over Grasmere.

Day 4: Free Day

Day 5: Troutbeck And The Far Eastern Fells

Option 1 - Troutbeck To Ambleside

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Ascent: 900 feet (280m)

In Summary: Enjoy fabulous views of Windermere from the lower slopes of Wansfell on a walk from 17th

century Jesus Church at Troutbeck to Ambleside.

Highlight: There's plenty of time to explore the popular town of Ambleside or relax by the lakeshore.

Option 2 - Elterwater & Loughrigg

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 1,500 feet (460m)

In Summary: We start today's walk by following the Cumbria Way to the village of Elterwater. Ascending to Loughrigg fell we are treated to jaw dropping views over the Langdales and across Rydal Water, before beginning our descent to Ambleside.

Highlight: Spectacular views from the tracks around Loughrigg Fell.

Option 3 - Wansfell

Distance and ascent to be confirmed.

In Summary: Enjoy views from Wansfell Pike before descending to Troutbeck and following the route taken by the easier group back to Ambleside.

Highlight: Beatrix Potter used to live at Troutbeck Park Farm, where she bred herdwick sheep. The property, and the sheep are now the property of the National Trust.

Day 6: The Langdale Valley

Option 1 - Langdale Valley

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 700 feet (220m)

In Summary: Follow the Langdale Valley past Elterwater village, to the New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel through increasingly grand scenery.

Highlight: The two spectacular waterfalls of Colwith Force and Skelwith Force; two of the best cascades in the Lake District.

Option 2 - Stickle Tarn

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Ascent: 2,100 feet (640m)

In Summary: We start today's walk in Skelwith Bridge, passing Loughrigg Tarn before ascending to Swinescar Pike and Stickle Tarn. We end the walk at the New Dungeon Ghyll pub, where we'll have the opportunity to stop for a refreshing drink!

Highlight: Stickle Tarn was enlarged by the building of a stone dam in 1838 and is used to supply water for the inhabitants of Langdale.

Option 3 - Above Langdale

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 2,200 feet (680m)

In Summary: Ascend to the great viewpoints of Side Pike and Lingmoor on the Langdale skyline. We descend to Elterwater Village to join the Cumbria Way along the base of this immense glacial valley.

Highlight: 'Threading the needle' (squeezing through a narrow fissure) to reach the summit of Lingmoor, and its classic view of the Langdale Pikes.

Day 7: The Coniston Fells

Option 1 - Western Coniston Water

Distance: 6½ miles (10.5km)

Ascent: 500 feet (150m)

In Summary: Visit remote Torver tarn with superb views of the Coniston fells, before reaching Torver village where we'll stop for some lunch. After that we'll stroll across fields to reach the shores of Coniston Water and follow the Cumbria Way back to Coniston.

Highlight: The red telephone box outside the village store in Torver has been converted into a seven foot tall fish tank!

Option 2 - Blawith Fells

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 1,150 feet (360m)

In Summary: Walking over Blawith Fells we follow the Cumbria Way along the Eastern Shores of Coniston Water to Monk Coniston.

Highlight: Our highest point today gives us a fantastic opportunity to enjoy unspoilt views over Coniston Water

Option 3 - Old Man Of Coniston

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 2,800 feet (860m)

In Summary: An opportunity to climb to the summit of the Old Man of Coniston – the highest peak in the local

area. We'll pass two mountain lakes – Goats Water on the ascent and Levers Water on our return to Coniston.

Highlight: The sense of achievement when you reach the top of the 'Old Man' - as one of the more accessible big fells it is a magnet for many walkers.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Monk Coniston

Wrapped in manicured gardens with stunning views over Coniston Water, Monk Coniston combines country house grandeur and romantic, gothic-style charm with contemporary touches to great effect among the rugged landscapes of the Lake District. Rocky mountains and grassy fells loom all around this handsome home, once owned by Beatrix Potter, and more latterly turned hikers' hotel and owned by the National Trust. Fell-flecked scenery unfurls from the windows of the bedrooms in the main house, adjoining cottage and counting house. While the setting remains traditional and the grand entrance recalls a traditional era, the interiors have been swept into the present with bold patterns and comfy fabrics. Beyond the house, trails from the doorstep set off to explore the Lake District. Climb famous summits including Bow Fell, the Langdale Pikes and the Old Man of Coniston. Bag a series of Wainwright summits. Alternatively, slip into the beautiful valleys and stroll picturesque lakeside paths in search of secret corners such as Cathedral Cove in Little Langdale.

Matchless Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Rooms

Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi

Stay in the smartly presented rooms in the main house. With 32 rooms, Monk Coniston has plenty of space and there's a range of Good, Better and Best Rooms to choose from. Rooms with a view are well worth the extra spend as you'll be overlooking the gardens or the lake. Our favourite is Room 9 on the first floor, which contains some of the original features from when it was first built in 1885, a striking sailboat-patterned wallpaper and opens on to beautiful views of the gardens and fields that slope down to the shore of Coniston Water.

All 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress, larger television, enhanced toiletries and a fluffy bathrobe & slippers – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-20 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.

Facilities

Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, extensive garden, lounge, bar, Lakeland barn for activities, library and board games to borrow

After a day exploring the Lake District, return to the house. Stroll through the extensive grounds with their putting green and croquet lawn and uncover the hidden walled garden on the hill behind the house. Take a turn around the National Trust nature trail and look out for the fabulous, rare mature trees. Stumble on the small

secret folly stood quietly among the bluebells when they're out and the lush green grass when they're not. Catch up with fellow guests in the bright and spacious lounge or grab a drink from the airy bar and wander down the garden to the bench overlooking Coniston Water for the perfect place to enjoy a sundowner – you might even spot the restored steam yacht Gondola cruising the five-mile length of the lake. After hours, duck into the converted Lakeland barn with its exposed beams and rustic chandelier for evening activities and skittles.

Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at Monk Coniston is varied and tasty and has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Once a week the bright dining room with its giant fireplace and oversized mirror hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might try a five-course feast of regional flavours. From a cup of Monk Coniston walled garden vegetable soup to a Wabberthwaies Cumberland sausage – the only Cumberland sausage to have a royal warrant and to be served on Concorde – to twelve-hour slow cooked Cumbrian lamb and Ravenglass crab and Morecambe Bay shrimp cakes, the kitchen puts out the best of the Cumbrian countryside. Look out too for the Kendal Mint cheesecake among the assiette of deserts.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865

Travel Details

Our address is: Monk Coniston, Coniston, Cumbria LA21 8AQ

By Train:

The nearest train station is at Windermere. For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone 03457 48 49 50.

By Taxi:

The 13 mile journey from Windermere railway station takes approximately 30 minutes. Pre-booked taxis cost approx £25. Details of our current recommended taxi company and rates will be sent to you with your final dispatch documents, four weeks before departure. The taxi company will arrange shared taxis wherever possible. The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Monk Coniston Manager.

By Bus:

From Windermere station you can catch the 505 bus direct to Monk Coniston - the bus stop is right outside our Country House. Journey time is around 50 minutes. For bus times see www.traveline.info

By Car:

From Ambleside take the A593 signposted to Coniston. Turn sharp left over a narrow bridge, then after half a mile turn left onto the B5286, signposted to Hawkshead. About 3 miles along this road, and just before Hawkshead, turn right onto the B5285, signposted to Coniston. Follow this road over Hawkshead Hill. The road descends then goes around a 180° bend to the left. The entrance to Monk Coniston is on the left about 100yds after the bend. There is car parking available within the grounds.

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 Oxenholme, change here for Windermere- this is straightforward journey - allow 1½ hours to Oxenholme. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

You can take a taxi from Oxenholme station to Monk Coniston or you may prefer to change trains and continue your journey to Windermere. Please pre book your taxi from Oxenholme as there may not be taxis available at the station.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option, but has a longer onward train journey - allow at least 4 hours to reach Oxenholme. 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 Oxenholme takes 2½ hours. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

Local Area

Monk Coniston is an imposing Gothic property leased from the National Trust and set in 8 acres of grounds, including a restored walled garden and the impressive arboretum. Some particularly impressive specimens, including a giant sequoia (the largest tree in the world) and the wollemi pine can be explored on the Monk Coniston Tree Trail.

Views from the property offer breathtaking glimpses of Coniston Water and the surrounding mountains.

Coniston village is about one mile away – there is a direct path from the house to the village. Here you'll find a small supermarket, post office, newsagent, pubs and a Barclays Bank (open 3 times a week). A wider range of facilities is available in Ambleside, the nearest town, about 8 miles away. The Ruskin Museum is also well worth a visit - find out more about the lake's connections to Donald Campbell and Arthur Ramsome. www.ruskinmuseum.com

During your visit to Monk Coniston you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest:

Steam Yacht Gondola

First cruising Coniston Water 150 years ago, the restored gondola is now operated by the National Trust, stopping at the Monk Coniston jetty at the bottom of the meadow below the house before gliding across the lake, calling at Coniston village and Brantwood House. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/steam-yacht-gondola

Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway

Ride 'L'al Ratty' a highly scenic narrow gauge railway which runs from the coast at Ravenglass along beautiful Eskdale. You could combine a visit with a walk over Muncaster Fell, or to Stanley Gill waterfall. www.ravenglass-railway.co.uk

Blackwell House

Blackwell is a stunning house, completed in 1901 in the Arts & Crafts style. Admire the remarkably preserved interiors, and soak up the beautiful views over Lake Windermere and the Coniston fells

Brantwood House

Just a couple of miles from Monk Coniston, John Ruskin's former home commands superb views over the lake. www.brantwood.org.uk

Tarn Hows

A short walk from the Country House, this man-made water was created by Monk Coniston's resident owner, James Garth Marshall in 1865, as he continued to develop the estate and expand his pleasure grounds. He built a dam to flood the area, amalgamating several smaller tarns, before planting the shores and islands with new woodlands and specimen trees.

Grizedale Forest

Nearby Grizedale Forest is ideal for mountain biking and also has a popular sculpture trail. You can also experience the Go Ape! high-ropes course – a great option for active teenagers. www.forestry.gov.uk/grizedale

Levens Hall

Visit this stately home, famous for its magnificent formal garden and topiary displays. www.levenshall.co.uk

Grasmere

Grasmere is about 30 minutes' drive from Monk Coniston and is famous for its connections with William Wordsworth. The poet's homes at Dove Cottage and Rydal Mount can be visited, the former of which includes the Wordsworth Museum. www.wordsworth.org.uk

Windermere

Take a cruise along the length of Windermere - England's largest lake. Ferries connect Ambleside in the north to Bowness and Lakeside in the south, where you can connect with the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway. www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk, www.lakesiderailway.co.uk

About

Mountain Country House • 32 Bedrooms • Open March to November & Festive Period • Standard check-in from 2.30pm • Free Parking on site • Free Wi-Fi throughout • Walkers' Facilities including Boot Room & Drying Room • Discovery Point with route guides and maps

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

What To Bring

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety is our priority and Britain is famous for its changeable weather, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares)
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers
- Warm hat and gloves. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks
- 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 – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)

Optional Equipment

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

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 – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

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.

ASSOCIATE'S FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying an Associate's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full life 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: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

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

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. 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 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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