

# Wainwright Bagging Northern Fells Challenge

**Tour Style:** Challenge walks

**Destinations:** Lake District, United Kingdom & England

**Trip code:** DBWBC

**Trip Walking Grade:** 6



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

---

Bag the fell tops listed in Alfred Wainwright's legendary guidebook *The Northern Fells*. Led by an experienced HF Holidays Leader, this week-long exploration of the Lake District sees you and a group of like-minded walkers tackle over 10 miles of remote landscapes and four to six Wainwrights each day. Highlights include the trail to the summit of Skiddaw and a ridge walk to High Pike for stunning views towards Scotland.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

---

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

---

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

---

- Following in the footsteps of Alfred Wainwright on some of his favourite fells
- Bagging all the summits in his *The Northern Fells* guide
- Enjoying challenging walking with wonderful views and sense of achievement
- Admiring panoramic mountain, lake, and river views from fells and peaks
- Summiting Skiddaw, Blencathra, and Skiddaw Little Man amongst others

---

## TRIP SUITABILITY

---

This trip is graded walking Activity Level 6. We explore the Northern Fells with long distance walks covering vast amounts of ground. This holiday is designed for experienced walkers who have good levels of fitness.

### Your fitness

This holiday has been designed for experienced walkers with a good level of fitness. Having a solid base of fitness before your holiday will ensure you've the best chance of completing the holiday and enjoying it to boot. Here's a few simple tips to help you get fit and ready for your challenge:

- Get out walking – whatever the weather, get out there, and start building your fitness months before your holiday
- Build your distance gradually and get a number of 6-8hr hill days in
- Ideally, try and do two consecutive days training if possible
- Take the stairs every time
- Train on different terrain
- Train with your day pack and your walking boots too, to ensure they're well worn in before your holiday
- Other sports help improve your walking fitness too. The best ones are jogging, cycling, swimming, which will build your stamina, and yoga which will help strengthen your core and improve balance

Time training will help ensure you enjoy your holiday to the max.

---

## ITINERARY

---

### Day 1: Arrival Day

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

### Day 2: Skiddaw

**Distance:** 10½ miles (16.5km)

**Total ascent:** 3,130 feet (950m)

Today's challenge takes in five of the Wainwrights. After a short coach ride, we'll begin our walk via Ullock Pike towards the summit of Skiddaw - the highest of the Wainwrights in *The Northern Fells* pictorial guide. From there we'll continue, bagging Long Side, Carl Side, and Skiddaw on the way. We'll then descend via Bakestall, before dropping down to Bassenthwaite village for a well-earned break.

### Day 3: Carrock Fell, High Pike, And Great Calva

**Distance:** 12 miles (20km)

**Total ascent:** 2,850 feet (860m)

We'll explore the quieter side of the Lake District and the most northerly of the Wainwrights today. Our first

summit will be Carrock Fell from where we'll continue along the ridge to High Pike to enjoy the best views towards Scotland from the Northern Fells. We'll retrace our steps briefly to take in Knott and Great Calva before descending into the River Caldew valley. We'll return past Carrock Mine to Mosedale, where we'll meet our coach back to Derwent Bank having ticked off four Wainwrights.

## Day 4: Free Day

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

## Day 5: Bowscale Fell, Blencathra, And Souther Fell

**Distance:** 10½ miles (17km)

**Total ascent:** 2,920 feet (900m)

We'll return to Mosedale this morning and continue our journey to bag five more Wainwrights. Our first summit will be Bowscale Fell via Bowscale Tarn, and then we'll follow the ridgeline to Bannerdale Crags, Mungrisdale Common, and the iconic peak of Blencathra. Our descent takes us onto Souther Fell and down to Mungrisdale village.

## Day 6: Binsey, Meal Fell, And Brae Fell

**Distance:** 11 miles (17.5km)

**Total ascent:** 2,890 feet (880m)

On the northern edge of the Lake District, we'll tackle six more Wainwrights. Our first fell will be Binsey before walking via Over Water and Orthwaite to climb Great Cockup, Meal Fell, and Great Sca Fell. Our descent will take in Brae Fell and Longlands Fell before we head back. We'll explore the quietest, lowest, and least rugged part of the Northern Fells range today.

## Day 7: Latrigg, Lonscale Fell, And Skiddaw Little Man

**Distance:** 13½ miles (21.5km)

**Total ascent:** 3,400 feet (1,030m)

Our first fell stands proud above Keswick's skyline – Latrigg. After admiring the views from the top, we'll continue along the Cumbria Way into the Glenderaterra Valley to ascend Lonscale Fell. Our route will take us onto Skiddaw Little Man, Broad End, Carl Side, and on to Dodd. We'll then take the Keswick launch back to Derwent Bank having ticked off the final four, and therefore all, of Wainwright's favourite Northern Fells, ready for a little celebration.

## Day 8: 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 Keswick, Walla Crag, and Latrigg, 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.

## Country House Accommodation

### 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 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:** 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.

#### Room supplements

| Superior | Premium single | Premium double/twin | Choose your room |
|----------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| £25 pppn | £20 pppn       | £20 pppn            | £30 per room     |

\*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 [Derwent Bank](#)

## TRAVEL DETAILS

---

### Address

Derwent Bank  
Portinscale  
Nr Keswick  
Cumbria CA12 5TY

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1768 773667](tel:+44(0)1768773667)

### By Train

The nearest station is Penrith, on the main line between London and Glasgow.

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

### By Shared Transfer

If you're travelling to or from Derwent Bank on Mondays or Fridays or over the festive period, you can join our group transfer from Penrith Railway Station.

2024 prices are £50 per person for a return transfer or £25 per person for a single transfer. 2025 prices are £64 per person for a return transfer or £32 per person for a single transfer.

Outward journey: Depart Penrith Railway Station at 16:50; arrive at Derwent Bank at 17:30.

Return journey: Depart Derwent Bank at 09:15; arrive at Penrith Railway Station at 10:00.

Places are limited so booking is essential. We recommend booking at least 14 days in advance by contacting:

**HF Holidays Sales and Support Team**

Tel: [+44 \(0\)203 974 8865](tel:+44(0)2039748865)

Email: [reservations@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:reservations@hfholidays.co.uk)

**By Taxi**

The 20-mile journey from Penrith railway station to Derwent Bank takes about 40 minutes by taxi in normal traffic conditions.

For pricing, please contact Davies Taxis directly.

**Davies Taxis**

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

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1768 772676](tel:+44(0)1768772676)

Email: [info@daviestaxis.co.uk](mailto:info@daviestaxis.co.uk)

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

\*Davies Taxis is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

**By Bus**

The X5 bus runs approximately every hour from Penrith station and the journey takes around 50 minutes. The nearest bus stop is on the A66, about a three-quarter mile walk from the house.

As you alight the bus at the Portinscale bus stop, turn to your right and go down the road signposted to Portinscale, Grange, and the Newlands Valley. Follow this road through Portinscale village - Derwent Bank is on your left-hand side after the Derwentwater Marina.

Alternatively, catch the X4 or X5 bus to Keswick bus station and take a 10-minute taxi ride to Derwent Bank. As of 2023, this should cost around £6 for a 4-seat taxi if using a pre-booked service with our recommended taxi provider listed above.

**By Car**

There is a large car park at Derwent Bank if you decide to drive.

From Penrith, you'll need to leave the M6 motorway at junction 40, taking the A66 towards Keswick. After 17 miles you'll reach a roundabout - continue ahead following signs to Cockermouth and Workington. Turn left off the A66 towards Portinscale, Grange, and the Newlands Valley. Derwent Bank is about three quarters of a mile further on the left.

**By Air**

The nearest airport is Manchester International Airport.

There are direct trains every hour from Manchester Airport to Penrith and the journey time is about two hours.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option but you'll have a longer onward train journey – it could take at least 4.5 hours to reach Penrith. From Heathrow, take the train to London Paddington, then the London Underground to London Euston connecting to the main line train to Penrith, which takes three 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 Derwent Bank.

### Keswick

Approximately two miles away, this market town is the most northerly of the Lake District's towns. Don't miss the community-run Keswick Museum & Art Gallery for a huge amount of objects and exhibits that reflect life in the local area.

### Derwentwater Launch Company

Departing every 30-minutes during the summer and regularly throughout the rest of the year, this 50-minute boat trip round Derwentwater is a must. There are various landing stages to disembark. The nearest stop to Derwent Bank is Hawse End.

### Theatre By The Lake

Home to Cumbria's leading professional theatre company, this lottery-funded performance space is located between Hope Park and Derwentwater. The Main House seats 400 while the Studio Theatre is set up for an audience of up to 100. Bookings are recommended.

### Honister Slate Mine

A 30-minute drive away, England's last working slate mine is located at the top of the Honister Pass in Borrowdale. You can watch slate being riven (meaning split or torn apart) using 300-year-old processes and learn about the history of underground mining.

### Whinlatter Forest

England's only true mountain forest offers nine walking trails, three cycling trails, and unrivalled views across Bassenthwaite Lake, Derwentwater, and Keswick. It's also home to a Go Ape centre with a high ropes course and an all-terrain segway trail.

### Derwent Water Marina

Just a five-minute walk away, this is a great spot for hiring canoes, kayaks, stand up paddle boards, rowing boats, and windsurfing equipment. Tuition is also available for individuals and groups.

### 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.

### Ullswater

A 30-minute drive away, this watery wonder is the second-largest in the Lake District. Highlights include exploring the lake on foot or by steamer, marvelling at the Aira Force waterfall, and visiting Dalemmain Mansion

and its beautiful gardens.

## Lake District Wildlife Park

Just a 10-minute drive from Keswick, this 24-acre park is home to over 100 species of animal including anaconda, zebra, mandrills, meerkats, otters, gibbons, monkeys, and more. There's also bird of prey flying displays, reptile encounters, and keeper talks.

## Carlisle

Of all the historic attractions in Cumbria's county city, the 900-year-old castle where Mary Queen of Scots was held prisoner is the most famous. Further must-see spots include Carlisle Cathedral, Tullie House Museum, and Cumbria's Museum of Military Life.

## 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. Fleece makes 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

## Safety On Your Holiday

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest while clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.



**Please note:** If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

## 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.

**Document produced:** 13-10-2024

