

Southern Lake District Walking Taster Weekend Holiday

Destinations: Lake District & England
Trip code: CNTWE



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

A TASTE OF THE BEST WALKING EXPERIENCE IN THE UK You probably know the Lake District is Britain's premier National Park. But you might not know HF Holidays yet, Britain's biggest and best walking holiday company; this weekend will show you what you've been missing. We're all about choice. Graded, guided walks from easier low-level rambles to full-on hill walks are available. There are maps, guides and HF Holidays-authored walks you can borrow too if you prefer to do your own thing. Your stay at historic Monk Coniston, which sits in a gorgeous, secluded corner of the Lakes includes great hospitality, stunning guided walks from the doorstep and a really friendly vibe. We truly are for everyone who loves the outdoors, whether you're a chuck-your-boots-in-the-car if the sun's out type, or you're dressed head to toe in Paramo.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- High quality en-suite accommodation
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day
- 1 full day guided walking (choice of 3 walks), one extra walk on Sunday (departure day) finishing at lunchtime
- Use of our comprehensive Discovery Point (maps, guides, route information)

- The services of HF Holidays Walking Leaders
- Transport to and from the walks

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay in a National Trust owned Country House. Fabulous grounds, stunning views down Coniston Water and up to the mountains
- A choice of 3 Guided Walks on Saturday, from a valley-bottom stroll to an iconic Lakeland peak
- Experienced, friendly walk leaders bring classic routes to life
- Discover Britain's only co-operative holiday company
- Enjoy great, locally-sourced food, some from our own Victorian walled kitchen garden. Fabulous picnic lunch designed by walkers for walkers
- Gin tasting session in the evening

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 2, 3 and 5. Our Walking Taster Weekend is based in the Southern Lake District, at Coniston, where you can 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, accompanied by stunning mountain scenes and serene lakeside strolls. Whatever your passion, you'll be struck with awe as you explore this much-loved area of the Lake District.

Our experienced guides are very knowledgeable and will make sure you get to see the best of the Southern Lake District, no matter your walking level.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

We'll be ready to welcome you from 2:30 p.m (upgraded rooms from 1 p.m.). Settle in, look around, take in the peace, quiet and views. Afternoon tea is laid on at 4 pm, after which we'll give you a short guided tour of Monk Coniston (so long as the weather's kind).

There will be a **Drinks Reception** at 6.30 pm, where you can enjoy a glass of fizz with us then hear all about tomorrow's walks from the walk leader team before dinner.

Day 2: Langdale

A choice of walks from Langdale, a short coach journey away. Each walk makes its way back to Monk Coniston.

Option 1 - Little Langdale

Distance: 6½ miles (10.5km)
Ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

From Elterwater, we walk through the beautiful valley of Little Langdale, taking in Slaters Bridge and Cathedral Cavern, returning through the Tilberthwaite Valley to Coniston. The incredible Cathedral Cavern, one of the Lake District's hidden gems, is monastic in state and awe-inspiring in scale. A stunning low level walk.

Option 2 - Langdale To Coniston

Distance: 9½ miles (15.5km)

Ascent: 2,100 feet (640m)

We start near the head of the Langdale Valley, right beneath the towering, famous climbing crags and head up to Blea Tarn, the best photo stop for the Langdale Pikes. We cross the lower slopes of Wetherlam and head down to Coniston Village via the Coppermines Valley, where the pub might tempt us to pause before we reach Monk Coniston itself.

Option 3 - Swirl How & Wetherlam

Distance: 10 miles (16km)
Ascent: 3,450 feet (1,060m)

A spectacular day on the fells which walks from the head of the Langdale Valley over the Wrynose Pass to reach Coniston Village via the summits of Great Carrs, Swirl How & Wetherlam. The ridge walk from the Wrynose Pass to the top of Great Carrs is a great way to get up and into the heart of the Coniston Fells with amazing 360° views.

NOTE - We watch the weather carefully and want to provide the best experience possible, making sure we balance safety and enjoyment in the right way. We may adjust the above walks accordingly on the day.

In The Evening

After dinner enjoy a short, curated gin tasting; we've got an award-winning distillery in the Lakes and other delights to share with you.

Day 3: Tarn Hows & Departure Day

After breakfast, if you've time before you head home, join us on a short walk to a honeypot so close it's unmissable, so be sure to pass by in your car by if you need to get going.

Tarn Hows

Distance: 4½ miles (7km)
Ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)
but we'll stay flexible depending on demand.

From our front door, we head up through the woods before popping out at the Tarn, with views of the Langdales, where we started yesterday. Tarn Hows is a man-made lake, and impossibly picturesque. The Tarn is the beautiful shallow lake, and the "Hows" are the surrounding small, wooded hills.

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. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, Ace Taxi. As a guide price, it cost £24 per 4-seat taxi in 2019. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Ace Taxi*

Tel: +44 (0) 1539 445445

Email: acetaxiwindermere@gmail.com

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Monk Coniston Manager.

*Ace Taxi is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

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

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

What To Bring

"There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong type of clothing!" goes the adage. **Come prepared for all eventualities and you'll walk in comfort as well as safety.**

ESSENTIALS

- Walking boots with a good grip is the key to avoiding accidents. Ones with ankle support are recommended.
- A waterproof jacket (and over-trousers if you are going on the Option 3 walk)
- Gloves and a warm hat (it can be chilly at any time of the year)
- Rucksack
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- A small torch
- Sunscreen (just in case we get some warm spring sunshine)

Denim jeans and waterproof capes are not suitable on any walks.

RECOMMENDED

- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed (Man-made fabrics are better than cotton for walking)
- Specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- A first aid kit inc plasters – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication

YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT

- Lots of people find walking poles useful – especially for descents.
- Flask for hot drinks
- Rigid lunch box
- Blister kit (eg Compeed) just in case
- Waterproof rucksack liner or plastic bag to keep everything dry in your rucksack if it rains
- Sunglasses

Safety On Your Holiday

On the first evening of your holiday your leaders give a short talk about safety on walks which we would like you to attend. 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.

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.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £10 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: 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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