England: The Lake District

Tour-Only Itinerary

Wandering clouds cross the halcyon skies above Grasmere, casting shadows on the lonely fells. Wordsworth called this “the loveliest spot that man hath ever found”; who could possibly disagree? It’s hard not to wax poetic when your Lake District walking tour leads past rushing creeks, brooding peaks, glassy lakes, and ancient oaks wrapped in morning mist. This afternoon you’re bound for Wordsworth’s Rydal Mount estate, where the poet’s beloved daffodils and dozens of other blooms brighten the luxuriant grounds. Later you’ve got your own estate to retreat to. Your inn the next three nights is one of Beatrix Potter’s former country homes—fitting start to the journey’s next chapter.



Highlights

Glimpse the life of a literary legacy on a tour of poet William Wordsworth’s country home, Rydal Mount, in the heart of the Lake District.
Watch gorgeous scenery unfold as you glide across Derwent Water lake aboard a Victorian wood-paneled ferryboat.
Follow in historical footsteps as you walk past ancient slate mines along paths built by long-forgotten quarrymen.
Traverse a magnificent countryside of rolling hills and tranquil lakes, which has inspired artists, authors, and poets for centuries.



Activity Level

This tour is one of our Guided Walking Adventures, rated easy to moderate with more challenging options on some days, and with an average of 4 to 6 miles per day. There are daily ascents and descents. The hills are short, usually a 30-minute gradual ascent, unless noted otherwise on the itinerary. The steeper, more vigorous walks are those that are the more challenging, and therefore are optional. The terrain can be rocky, sometimes with loose gravel, or with roots, which may become slippery when wet. This tour is ideal for nature lovers, and the guides set an even pace, providing time to take photos and to appreciate the beautiful countryside. There are some cultural visits included in the itinerary, especially for those interested in literature or poetry.

DAY 1

Join your *England: The Lake District* tour

4 miles, easy; 2 miles, easy

Your guide(s) meet you at the George Hotel at 10:00 a.m. in the lobby. Your guide(s) will be wearing a Country Walkers shirt. Please be dressed for walking.

Upon meeting your guide(s), you immediately transfer to the village of Askham to walk through the Lowther Estate, owned by Lord Lonsdale. Continuing over the fell and into Lake District National Park, you pass ancient prehistoric settlements and enjoy your first views of the Cumbrian Mountains and Ullswater—the second-largest lake in the Lake District. Descending to the village of Pooley Bridge at the edge of the lake, you pause for lunch in a local pub. This village was one of the earliest settlements on the lake, dating back to the Celts. Following lunch, you transfer to the hamlet of Dockray, overlooking the lake, and walk by Aira Beck toward Aira Force, probably the most famous of the Lake District's waterfalls. Here, you admire the views and are regaled with tales about the romanticism that the region has long inspired.

The short drive to the hotel, just a few miles outside of Keswick, allows plenty of time to settle in before meeting for a pre-dinner drink and an introduction to the week ahead. The hotel restaurant features local produce, and tonight's dinner promises excellent cuisine.

Accommodation: Borrowdale Gates Hotel, Grange-in-Borrowdale
Included Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2

Whinlatter Pass to Buttermere Valley

4 miles, easy to moderate; 2 miles, easy

Today, you cross Whinlatter Pass, which connects the beauty of the Keswick Valley to Buttermere and beyond. Here, magnificent nature predominates, and as you walk in the ancient forests and along the shores of Crummock Water, you see stirring views of the high mountains surrounding this pretty vale.

Completing the walk at the hamlet of Buttermere, you enjoy a pub lunch and afterward take an optional walk along the picturesque shore of Buttermere Lake. Board the coach to ride over Honister Pass, returning to the hotel via Borrowdale. There is time to refresh and enjoy your accommodation's beautiful surroundings before heading to dinner in a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Borrowdale Gates Hotel, Grange-in-Borrowdale
Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3

Derwent Water to Keswick, Victorian ferryboat ride

4 miles, moderate; 2 miles, easy

Breakfast this morning is a buffet consisting of cereal, fruit, pastries, and cold meats, or a traditional hot Cumbrian breakfast. Then, head out to your walk, following in the footsteps of the men of Borrowdale—the quarrymen and miners of yesteryear. This valley was once home to many slate mines, most of which are now closed. Starting from the hotel, you walk along a Victorian terrace, overlooking the jewel that is Derwent Water. A short boat ride will take you to Keswick, one of the more populated towns in the Lake District. After lunch and some free time in Keswick, a second boat ride will take you to Lodore, and from there, you can amble back to the hotel. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant which prides itself on using freshly prepared local ingredients.

Accommodation: Borrowdale Gates Hotel, Grange-in-Borrowdale
Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4

Rydal Mount, The Vale of Grasmere

4 miles, easy to moderate; 2 miles, easy

On the morning walk, you meander through one of the region's prettiest dales, making your way through the area around two of small lakes, Grasmere and Rydal Water, and in the footsteps of William Wordsworth, one of England's most famous poets of the early 19th century. After lunch, your day

continues with a tour of Rydal Mount, William Wordsworth's best-loved family home for the greater part of his life, from 1813 to his death in 1850 at the age of 80. The house continues to be owned by the Wordsworth family and retains the feel of a lived-in family home. The day is complete with a walk along an ancient "coffin route," enjoying lovely views along the way.

At the walk ends, you arrive at your next hotel where a warm welcome awaits. Later, you have a delicious dinner.

Accommodation: Lindeth Howe Country House Hotel, Bowness-on-Windemere
Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5

Tarn Hows and Coniston Water

6 miles, easy

Following a hearty English breakfast, you transfer by coach past the head of Windermere and the ancient Roman Fort of Galava to the starting point of your walk. A gradual climb along historical paths will lead you to Tarn Hows, a wonderfully picturesque tarn, or lake, in the hills. This is one of the most popular beauty spots in the district and quite rightly so. It was formed in the late 1800s when the landowner built a dam, which led to the connection of the three smaller tarns. For once, man has rivaled nature as a bewitching landscape artist! There are incredible views of the surrounding mountains, which have wonderful names—Old Man of Coniston, Wetherlam, Helvellyn, and the Langdale Pikes. Descend to the shores of Coniston Water to enjoy lunch at a lakeside hostelry. In the afternoon, meander along paths by the side of Coniston Water, listening to the lapping waves, singing birds, and tales of adventure and mishap from the Water's past.

At the end of the walk your coach returns you to your hotel. Your evening is free to explore and eat either at the hotel or further afield.

Accommodation: Lindeth Howe Country House Hotel, Bowness-on-Windemere
Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6

The Langdale Pikes, Skelwith Bridge to Great Langdale

4.5 miles, easy; 2 miles, easy

The Langdale Pikes is one of the best-loved and most-photographed areas of The Lake District. Popular with walkers, fell-runners, and climbers, some of the area's tallest mountains surround this valley, and nearby is England's highest—Scafell Pike. Starting at the tiny village of Skelwith Bridge, you pass by a slate factory, a waterfall, and a small lake before arriving at the hamlet of Elterwater. From there, the walk takes you on a winding track into Great Langdale, deep into the valley where cars are few and walkers many. After lunch at the only pub in the country owned by the National Trust (located in a hotel that has been catering to walkers for more than 300 years), your walk takes you farther into the valley, before coming to an end. Returning to the hotel, you toast your explorations with a farewell drink and celebratory dinner.

Accommodation: Lindeth Howe Country House Hotel, Bowness-on-Windemere
Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7

Your *England: The Lake District* tour concludes

Savor a late breakfast before your transfer to the Penrith train station, arriving at approximately 12:30 p.m., where you depart for your next destination.

Included Meals: Breakfast

What's Included

	Tour Only
Exceptional boutique accommodations	✓
All on-tour meals except 1 lunch and 1 dinner	✓
Local guides with you throughout tour	✓
Local wine and/or beer with dinner	✓
Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary	✓
Travel assistance available 24/7 provided by Allianz	✓