

**DRIVE LESS
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LET'S LOOK AFTER THE LAKE DISTRICT



discover windermere & bowness on windermere

With the lake shore of Windermere so close, there is always something to do whatever the season.

bus and ferry services

Lakeslink 555
Lancaster - Kendal - Windermere - Ambleside - Grasmere - Keswick

Windermere ferry - link to western shore

Windermere has lots to offer whether it's walking along the lakeside, enjoying views of the lake and mountains from several viewpoints, experiencing a host of water-based activities, luxuriating in the pleasures of travelling around the area by steamer, open-top bus or steam locomotive or discovering the lake for yourself by hiring a rowing boat, dinghy or cruiser.

Orrest Head

Orrest Head is a short gentle stroll from Windermere train station that offers magnificent views. It may not be the highest peak in the Lake District but is considered by many to be the best viewpoint over Lake Windermere. On a clear day, the fell offers a 360° panorama; from the top you can see nearly the whole of Lake Windermere and beyond to the higher Langdale Pikes. It is the first fell that Wainwright famously climbed which gave him a lifelong love of the Lake District landscape. Simply take the well signed footpath that starts opposite NatWest Bank and head up the hill!

Bowness on Windermere

World of Beatrix Potter

Step into the magical world of Beatrix Potter and her beloved tales, with characters such as Peter Rabbit and Tom Kitten, plenty of activities for the children, as well as a lovely café serving a selection of cream teas and cakes, and souvenirs and gifts available in the shop.

Boat Hire

If you fancy an independent day on the lake there are several outlets along the promenade offering rowing boat hire and self-drive motor boats. It's a great way to explore the lake and its islands - take a picnic if the weather is nice.

For the more adventurous, sail boat and canoe hire is also available. Hire yours from Lakes Leisure which is located at Miller Ground on Rayrigg Road (A592) just beyond World of Beatrix Potter on the way out of Bowness on Windermere.



The Glebe & Cockshott Point

Perfect Picnics

There are plenty of picture-perfect picnic spots along the lake at Bowness on Windermere. Bowness Bay is where you will find Bowness Pier, The Glebe and Cockshott Point.

The path through Cockshott Point, which goes very close to the lake shore, is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. There are also a few bench seats along the path, which look out to Lake Windermere; this is also a popular picnic spot with families.

Mini Golf

The Glebe in Bowness on Windermere (the parkland beside the lake and boats) offers shops, restaurants and cafes. Here you can also challenge your kids, or friends to a game of mini or crazy golf. It's the perfect way to spend a fun and relaxing half an hour with your friends or family.

Windermere Lake Cruises

Leaving from Bowness Pier, there are a number of lake cruises available, from relaxing tours of the islands to excursions to the many attractions at Lakeside, Ambleside and Wray. Timetables and fares are available from the Tourist Information Office or Bowness Pier. Don't forget you can always head out on the boat and take the bus back!

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things to do locally

Windermere has lots of activities to keep you busy, Take a lake cruise, indulge in some retail therapy, visit the Lakes Aquarium hit the trail at Grizedale Forest.

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World of Beatrix Potter

Bowness on Windermere's top attractions is the World of Beatrix Potter. This attraction brings to life Beatrix Potter and her beloved tales, with characters such as Peter Rabbit and Tom Kitten. There is also a lovely café serving a selection of cream teas and cakes.

Beatrix Potter spent most of her adult life in the Lake District and wrote her famous tales here, inspired by the beautiful natural surroundings.

Take a trip on the ferry to Hill Top, Beatrix Potter's home and setting for many of her famous novels. It is as if Beatrix has just stepped out; still full of her favourite things and the cottage garden is a traditional mix of flowers, herbs, fruit and vegetables. Hill Top is open everyday except Friday.

Bowness on Windermere

Bowness on Windermere is a very popular destination, with the town busy for much of the year. People come to enjoy the lake for sailing and watersports, or just to relax and enjoy the atmosphere of the area, the town's delightful setting and its cosmopolitan mix of shops and restaurants.

Windermere Lakes Cruises

Bowness bay is an amazing gateway for a range of sightseeing cruises across Lake Windermere. They are an excellent way to soak up the views, explore and access other destinations such as Wray Castle, Ambleside, and Lakeside.

Why not get the boat / steamer to Ambleside, wonder round its plentiful outdoor clothing shops and have a cake or a pint at one of its many cafés and pubs. Alternatively travel to Lakeside in style on Windermere Lake Cruises and go to the Lakes Aquarium, Haverthwaite & Lakeside Steam Railway or Lakeland Motor Museum.

Lakes Aquarium

The Lakes Aquarium is one of South Lakes most popular visitor attractions. Joint ticketing options available for the Railway and lake cruises, ask for details. Why not arrive here in style on Windermere Lake Cruises and take in the views across the lake.

Mountain Biking

Grizedale Forest is a great day out for all levels of cyclist. You can take the adrenalin pumping red route "The North Face Trail" which offers a rush of curves, berms and north shore, taking you on an adventure trail through the forest. Alternatively there are a range of family green and blue trails that lead you around on forest roads and tracks with stunning lakeland views.

If you don't want to travel all the way to Grizedale, the quiet West shore of Windermere offers some great routes along Claife Heights, easily reachable by taking the ferry across from Bowness on Windermere.



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walks and trails

Fantastic walks from Windermere. Taking in Orrest Head, Brant Fell and School Knott.

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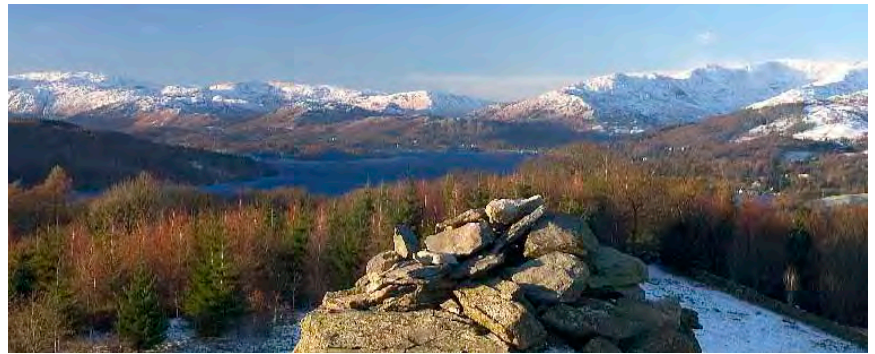
Orrest Head

Orrest Head may not be the highest peak in the Lake District but is considered by many to be the best viewpoint over Lake Windermere. On a clear day, the fell offers a 360° panorama; from the top you can see nearly the whole of Lake Windermere and beyond to the higher Langdale Pikes. It is the first fell that Wainwright famously climbed which gave him a lifelong love of the Lake District landscape. The total distance of this walk is approximately 2.5 miles and will take around 50 minutes from Windermere to the summit.



Brant Fell & Bowness on Windermere

Brant Fell is but a short walk from Windermere and the town of Bowness on Windermere. With relatively little effort you can summit the heights of Brant Fell and enjoy a delightful view out over Windermere to the Coniston fells and the central summits of the Lake District up to the mighty Fairfield. This walk is approximately 3 miles to Brant Fell and will take roughly an hour, if you include Bowness on Windermere it is slightly longer.



School Knott

School Knott is a local secret; just a mellow meander from Windermere is the beautiful vantage point at the top of this lovely little fell. When you get to the summit you are rewarded with a lovely view of the town of Windermere, the northern part of the lake and the Langdale Fells. This is a view not to be missed. This lovely walk is approximately 3 miles and takes around 50 minutes.



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walks and trails

Fantastic walks from Windermere offering some of the best views in the Lake District. Taking in Wansfell Pike, Claife Heights and Queen Adelaide Hill.

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Windermere to Ambleside via Wansfell Pike

This is a very popular mid level walk that offers excellent views. This walk takes you to the top of Orrest Head where you can take in the beautiful panoramic views before heading to the lovely quaint village of Troutbeck. From here you amble to the top of Wansfell Pike to a summit that offers an incredible vista of the amazing Lakeland landscapes. Here you can see down into Ambleside, over to the Langdales, the Kirkstone Pass and beyond. From the top you then wander down into Ambleside where you can reward yourself with a cup of tea at one of the many cafés that can be found here. This walk is approximately 8 miles and will take roughly 4 and a half hours from St John's Lodge.

Claife Heights

Why not walk and get the ferry across to Claife Heights and see the lake from the other side of the water. Claife Heights is the fell facing you across the lake from Windermere. Take the ferry across the lake, following the clearly marked route along the lakeshore. The walk can be easily extended into the woodland of Claife Heights where you are spoiled for choice of routes to take, including taking in a trip to Hill Top (Beatrix Potter's former home). The walk is a pleasant hilly, woodland excursion, returning along the shore of Windermere, with great views out towards Bowness on Windermere and the North of the lake. Look out for historical Wray Castle with its beautiful gardens.

Queen Adelaide Hill

This walk takes you to some amazing view points looking down Lake Windermere towards Ambleside and the Langdale Pikes. Follow the bottom road out of Bowness on Windermere towards Ambleside. Keep walking until you get to a gate on the left with a footpath clearly marked this will take you to the lake shore. Go into the grassy field and up the hill on the left and take in the spectacular view. Go over the hill and back onto the road. Continue in the same direction and you will come to a layby view point with the most spectacular views. To return to Bowness on Windermere retrace your tracks until you get to a gate on the right before the footpath you came on, it says Millerground. Follow this down to the lake shore and walk along here until you get to where you joined the lake shore path before and retrace your tracks again from here.



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windermere

Discover Windermere, Bowness on Windermere, Grasmere and use the Cross Lakes Experience to discover the West of this iconic lake.

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Bowness on Windermere

Head out from Windermere, down the hill towards the lake (approx 15mins). You will enter the village of Bowness on Windermere which offers some lovely shopping, pubs and cafes. Soak up the breathtaking views of Lake Windermere and stroll along the promenade.



Brockhole - The Lake District National Park Visitor Centre

A wealth of activities for the whole family, with exhibitions on Lakeland life and landscapes, special events and workshops and the indoor soft play and creativity space for children. The more adventurous can try out the aerial woodland quest that is Treetop Trek or experience wildlife at close quarters in the Predator Park. Brockhole is the perfect base from which to extend your day out into the surrounding area, waterbuses sail from the jetty at Brockhole across to the National Trust property of Wray Castle and the West Shore of Lake Windermere.

Bike hire is available both at Low Wray on the west shore and also at Brockhole Visitor Centre, between buses, bikes and boats there's a route to suit everyone, ask staff at the Visitor Centre for details.



You may wish to continue to Grizedale Forest which is great for mountain biking or for Go Ape adventures, or to the village of Coniston for a cruise on the Steam Yacht Gondola. Cross Lakes Experience tickets can be bought from the Windermere Lake Cruises ticket office or on board any Mountain Goat bus from the driver. Prices vary dependent on route.

Grasmere Village

Catch the 599 bus for the scenic 45 minute journey to Grasmere Village. Grasmere was the home of the world famous writer, William Wordsworth. You can visit his former home, Dove Cottage, and also explore the museum and find out all about Wordsworth's intriguing life and how the Lake District's breathtaking landscapes inspired his work. Whilst in the beautiful village of Grasmere, take a gentle wander around Grasmere lake. This easy walk allows you to take in the breathtaking hills and stunning natural surroundings.

Also in the village of Grasmere, a day trippers "must do" is visit the home of the famous Grasmere Gingerbread. Discover the history of the delicious gingerbread and sample a taste for a truly Lake District experience. Buses run every 20 minutes in summer. Check current timetables.

