

Walk the Cumbria Way!



Highlights

The Lake District in northwest England is arguably the most scenic in the entire country and an immensely popular walking destination for tourists far and wide. On this five day tour you'll follow the Cumbria Way, devised in the 70s by the Rambler's Association in an effort to showcase the very best of the English countryside.

The Cumbria Way is a virtually straight extended footway cutting a swathe through the northwestern countryside of England, spanning the 70 mile gap between the towns of Ulverston and Carlisle. The majority of the walk is encompassed by the Lake District boundaries. It is a very peaceful route to tackle and with a guide book and maps provided and an itinerary to walk at your own pace, there should be lots of time to take in the views!

There's five days of walking and six nights of overnight accommodation included in the price, in which you'll stay in a hand-picked selection of wonderful 3 and 4 star guesthouses, inns and B&Bs.

Cumbria and the neighboring Lake District are considered by many to be the ultimate walking grounds of England. This is mainly due to the dramatic scenery you'll encounter – the sweeping views over both Derwent and Coniston Waters make for excellent backdrops to a gentle day's walking.

The famed British hospitality also shines through in the numerous inns and B&Bs which make up your accommodation for the week. The classic country pub is an institution in England - after a long day in the fresh air, make sure you take half an hour out to 'quaff an ale' at the bar!

Is it for me?

You will be covering around 15 miles on each of the five days and there are some steep ascents. Maps and a guide book are provided, so don't worry about your navigation skills too much! Standard walking equipment will be required of course, the basics of which are good walking footwear, warm and waterproof clothing and a day bag. your main luggage will be transferred to your next stop during each day but it is asked that you keep this luggage to one 15kg case per person.

England is notorious for its bad weather, especially in the northern climes. Being the Lake District, the best advice would be to keep an eye on the forecast when planning your trip, then disregard everything the forecast tells you and pack for rain!

It is also worth noting that the tour operator adhere to strict responsible tourism policies, so you can sleep easy knowing that your explorations are being conducted in an environmentally friendly way.

Accommodation

The tour operators take great pains to seek out the very best independently-run accommodation. As a result, you can expect quality overnight stays in 3 and 4 star establishments, ranging from guesthouses, B&Bs, country pubs and small hotels. En-suite rooms are booked wherever possible.

A large breakfast is included on each day of the tour, generally a filling cooked breakfast with all the trimmings, although toasts and cereals are available if you fancy something a bit lighter.

Prices from

375 GBP (5 days) per person

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Lunch and dinner is not included in the price, but staff at the accommodation you will stay at on any given day are usually more than happy to make you a packed lunch to take on the walk. In the evening, you can't go wrong with a freshly cooked meal at a country pub - steak and ale pies, gammon and minted lamb shanks are staples of an English pub menu and all highly recommended.

Itinerary

Day One: Ulverston

Arrival at Ulverston, which is easily reached by train from Manchester Airport (two hours) or London (four hours.) Ulverston is a delightful friendly town with a unique charm, and the birthplace of Stan Laurel. Olde worlde pubs, cafes and cobbled streets hold many surprises. The time here is your own, with overnight stay provided to get you well rested before the first day of walking.

Day Two: Lake District

(14 Miles) Starting from The Gill and perhaps paying a visit to the Laurel & Hardy Museum or Barrow Monument, you quickly leave Ulverston. A pleasant walk through rich farmland soon brings you to the Lake District National Park and the views across the Coniston Fells are splendid. A rough Lakeland path brings the chimneys of Coniston Hall into view, which marks days end.

Now mainly a base for outdoor enthusiasts, Coniston was originally a slate mining village. Famous for being the site of Donald Campbell's ill-fated world record water speed attempt, it is a lovely town and nearby Tarn Howes is one of the lakes most popular beauty spots.

Day Three: Elterwater

(12 Miles) An absolutely delightful day of Lakeland walking delivers views that will take your breath away. Elterwater and Chapel Stile both make excellent lunch stops. Dungeon Ghyll is just one of a few hamlets and lodgings which have been welcoming Lakeland travellers for centuries.

Day Four: Mickleden Valley

(16 Miles) The amazing Mickleden Valley makes up most of your walk for the first half of the day, surrounded by Bowfell and the Pikes, then a zigzag ascent up the fell side before dropping back down into Langstrath valley. The view down to Rosthwaite is one you won't forget in a hurry.

From Rosthwaite you'll push on through the delightful Borrowdale Valley and the tranquil woodland paths with views to Derwent Water. Walking in the Lake District simply doesn't get any better, and after a short while you will arrive at the next overnight town of Keswick, the largest tourist centre in the northern lakes.

Day Five: Caldbeck

(14 miles) There is a choice today between a high or low level walk. The low level walk is a little longer, but a much easier option, but whether you take the route over the fell tops or skirt around the bottom, you are assured a great days walking.

Eventually you'll reach Caldbeck, which was once a thriving industrial town with woollen mills, bobbin mills and a brewery all powered by the river which runs through the town. (Cald Beck) Today it is a friendly and proud village largely untouched by tourism.

Day Six: Eden Valley

(8 Miles) Leaving the Lake District behind you, you'll walk through the rich farmlands of the Eden Valley on the final leg of the route, escorted most of the way by the river Caldew before reaching the historic City of Carlisle. Carlisle has plenty of places to visit and welcoming pubs and restaurants to celebrate the end of your walk on the Cumbria Way.

Details

Getting there

A two-hour train journey from Manchester will take you to Ulverston, or trains from London will get you there in four hours.

Price includes

Accommodation, door to door baggage transfer, detailed info pack, guide book and map for the group leader, emergency telephone support.

Available

Mar—Oct

Typical Duration

6 days

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed