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LET'S LOOK AFTER THE LAKE DISTRICT

Great People, Great Places

The Lake District has been shaped over the centuries by great artists, writers, poets and thinkers. Explore the stunning landscapes that inspired these people, and discover the places where they left their mark. The area around Coniston and Hawkshead is full of character and history, try something new and follow this heritage trail.

The People

The Artist Beatrix Potter

Beatrix Potter was born in London and first visited the Lake District when she was 16 and on holiday with her parents. Whenever she came to visit, she spent all her time sketching the plants and animals in the area. In 1901 she wrote the story of Peter Rabbit and with the royalties she bought Hill Top Farm in Near Sawrey. She later married and settled in the Lake District. In her will she left all her land, farms and sheep to the National Trust, making her their biggest benefactor. Potter's generosity allowed the natural beauty of the lakes to be preserved for all to enjoy today.

The Writer Arthur Ransome

Arthur Ransome is best known for his children's books, particularly the Swallows and Amazons series based upon the lakes of Coniston and Windermere. The stories are about the sailing adventures of schoolchildren on holiday. Ransome himself learnt to sail on Coniston. He had an interesting past, and after working as a spy during the Russian Revolution he settled in the Lake District with his wife Eva, Leon Trotsky's secretary.

The Poet William Wordsworth

Unlike the other people in this trail, Wordsworth was born in the Lake District, in Cockermouth. He went to school in Hawkshead and spent his youth exploring the fells around him. Here he developed his love and appreciation for the natural beauty of the lakes. After travelling around Europe he returned to the Lake District and moved to Dove Cottage in Grasmere with his sister. In the garden he wrote many great poems, while the cottage itself was a social hub for The Lake Poets.

The Thinker John Ruskin

John Ruskin wrote his first poem while on holiday in the Lake District, and he was lucky enough to see his hero, Wordsworth, on that same holiday. He wrote many radical essays about social reform, public libraries, the National Trust and green policies. Thus Ruskin had a great influence on the landscape and culture we experience to this day.

Enjoy the journey by bus or by boat and get closer to the Lake District

If you enjoy this itinerary, look out for the Coffin Trail between Grasmere and Ambleside which takes you to many places important to Wordsworth



"The bus and attraction tickets are great value"



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The Places

Spend a leisurely day exploring the villages, homes and landscapes that influenced the lives and work of many famous people. Take your pen and paper and unleash your creative side, or just enjoy the views!


Hawkshead

The picturesque village of Hawkshead is where Wordsworth spent his childhood and it had a lasting impression on him. Wordsworth attended **Hawkshead Grammar School**, now open to the public as a museum. Take a look at the wooden desk where he carved his name over 200 years ago! Open Apr - Oct.

While at school, Wordsworth lived in **Ann Tyson's Cottage**, a picture postcard country cottage.

The **Beatrix Potter Gallery** has a delightful collection of original drawings and prints; you'll find it in the old solicitor's office where her husband used to work. Open all day Sun- Thur in Summer (May - Nov).

Near Sawrey

 Beatrix Potter's home at **Hill Top** in Near Sawrey is managed by the National Trust and kept as if she had just stepped out for a little while. Many of her characters lived here, Tom Kitten, Jemima Puddle-Duck, and Samuel and Anna Maria Whiskers! Open from May to Nov, Sat-Thu, all day. There is a timed ticket entry system.

There are some beautiful walks nearby, the water lilies on **Moss Eccles Tarn** inspired the story of Jeremy Fisher.

Coniston

The **Ruskin Museum** in Coniston was set up by Ruskin's secretary W.G. Collingwood in 1901 as a memorial to Ruskin, who was fascinated by the local area. The museum has great exhibits about mining, lace making, and farming, it's well worth a visit. Open Mar - Nov, Mon - Sun, all day (Nov -Mar, **closed Mondays and** reduced hours).

Coniston Water was the inspiration for Ransome's famous children's books. The children in Swallows and Amazons start their summer holiday adventure at Holly Howe, which is based on **Bank Ground Farm** on the shore of the lake. From here they sailed to Wildcat Island, which was inspired by **Peel Island** in the centre of Coniston Water.

If you fancy yourself as a skipper, hire a motor boat, rowing boat, canoe or sailing boat from **Coniston Boating Centre**. Open Mar - Oct, Mon - Sun, all day (and Nov - Feb, reduced hours). The **Steam Yacht Gondola** is a great way to soak up the scenery that inspired Ransom's tales. Sails Mar -Nov, Mon - Sun, 4 or 5 times per day, from the boating centre.

Brantwood House is Ruskin's former home and is now a treasure house of historical importance and a lively centre of contemporary arts. Jumping Jenny's restaurant on the terrace is the perfect place for a brew with a view! Relax in the gardens, browse the bookshop and discover the craft gallery. With so much to see and do, Brantwood is an all-weather favourite. Opening hours are the same as Coniston Boating Centre.



Car-free and Care Free

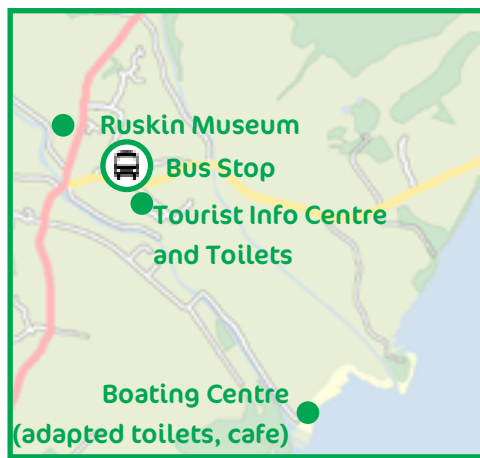
Go car-free and help to protect the landscape that has inspired so many, so that it can be enjoyed for future generations. Use this map and the route on the next page to follow in the footsteps of your heritage heroes!

If you enjoyed this itinerary, go to visitlakedistrict.com/travel for more great ideas for a car-free day out!

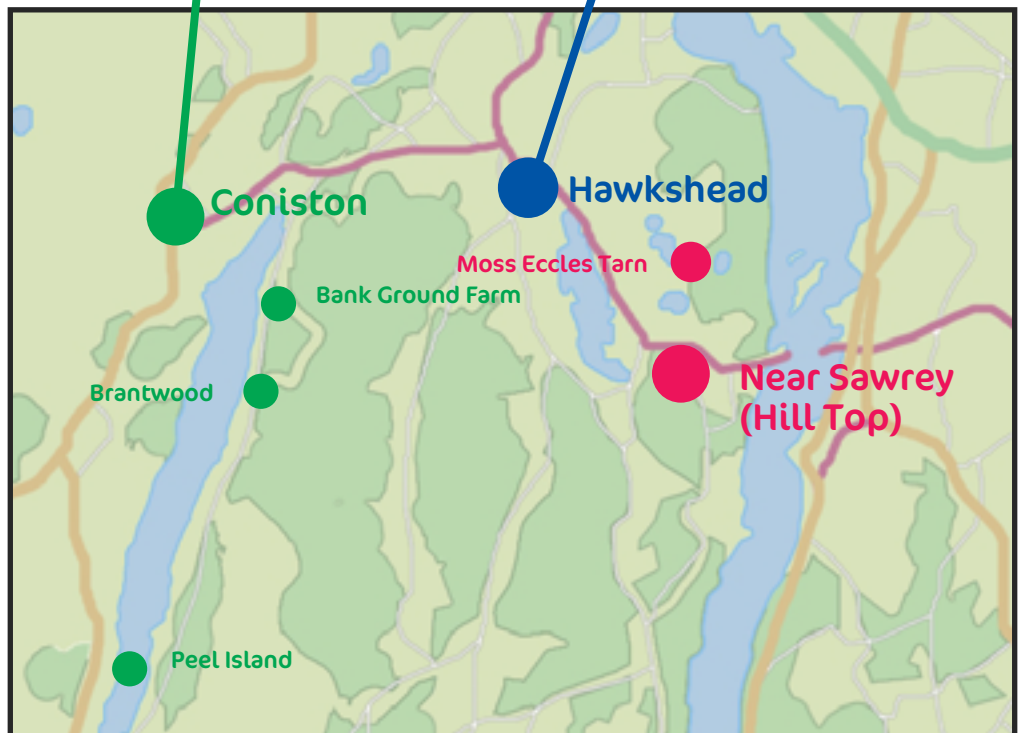
Visit Lake District, Cumbria



Coniston Town Centre



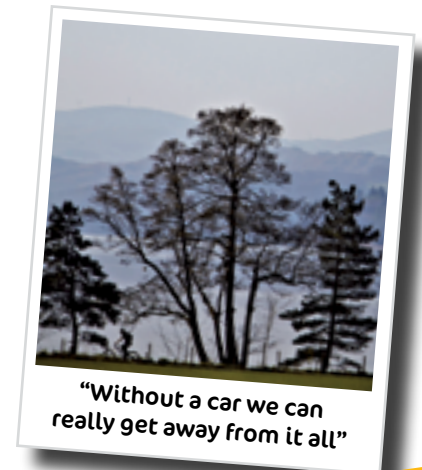
Hawkshead Town Centre



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Getting Around

- 1 Start in Wordsworth's home village of Hawkshead. It's so easy to get here by bus, take the 505 from Windermere (40 mins) or Ambleside (20 mins). The 505 bus runs all year, every day, every hour.
- 2 Head to Hill Top where Potter was inspired. Take a walk past beautiful tarns. Pop into the Tourist Information Centre in Bowness-on-Windermere for details. The walk is approximately 6 km (4 miles) and should take 2 hours each way.



Call traveline on
0871 200 22 33 for
public transport info

Bag a Bargain Ticket!

The "Bus & Boat" ticket includes 505 Stagecoach bus, Coniston Launch, and Brantwood House. Buy yours from the bus driver.

The Cross Lakes Experience ticket includes buses, Windermere Cruise and Coniston Launch. Visit www.golakes.co.uk/crosslakes

- 3 Visit the Ruskin Museum in Coniston village. Hop on the 505 bus from Hawkshead to Coniston (15 mins).
- 4 Follow the signs down to Coniston Water - the setting for Ransome's adventures. The short stroll on pavement next to quiet roads is 1 km (½ mile) and should take 15 mins each way. Hire a boat or clamber aboard the Steam Yacht Gondola.
- 5 Explore Brantwood House and gardens and arrive in style on Coniston Launch. It runs from Mar to Nov, every day, every hour from 10:45 until 15:15, the cruise takes 45 mins.
- 6 Stroll back into Coniston village, where there are plenty of restaurants and pubs for refreshments. Take the 505 bus back to Ambleside or Windermere.

The routes shown are for guidance only. Please ensure you have an up-to-date map and a compass with you, and you know how to use them, before undertaking any of the trails. Let people know where you are going, and what time you expect to be back. All information is correct at time of print. We cannot be held responsible in the unlikely event of injury or accident whilst undertaking any of these activities.