

Lake District

25 – 31 May



This lovely tour explores the Lake District, an area of outstanding natural beauty and home to the five tallest mountains, the deepest lake in England and two national parks. We see Coniston Water, scene of Donald Campbell's world water speed record attempts, take in the spectacular scenery of Ullswater, see breath-taking views as we drive over the Kirkstone Pass (weather permitting), visit Hill Top, home to Beatrix Potter and Grasmere, once the home of the famous poet William Wordsworth.

FRIDAY 25 MAY Departing Oxted we make our way northward, stopping for refreshments along the way and arriving late afternoon at our Keswick hotel.

SATURDAY 26 MAY A day at leisure to explore the bustling market town of Keswick with its interesting variety of shops, many located around the central market square.

SUNDAY 27 MAY Today we shall be joined by a Blue Badge Guide who will take us on a full day tour of the area, passing Ambleside to Hill Top, the delightful 17th-century farmhouse where Beatrix Potter wrote many of her famous children's stories.

Here we shall have time to look around the house before continuing on to Hawkshead, our lunch stop, with an optional walking tour that includes a visit to the Beatrix Potter Gallery. Later we drive on to Coniston Water where you may wish to partake of afternoon tea at the Bluebird Café or visit the Ruskin Museum and discover the lake's connection with Donald Campbell, who lost his life here in 1967 attempting to break the water speed record. His car, K7 has been fully restored and will be housed in the Ruskin Museum after speed trials on Coniston Water. Late afternoon we make our way back to our hotel,



passing the farm where the film Miss Potter was made.

MONDAY 28 MAY After a leisurely breakfast we make our way to the quayside to join Keswick Launches for a 50 minute circular cruise around Derwentwater.

After disembarking we journey to Cockermouth where we shall have time to find lunch and have a browse before visiting Wordsworth's house.

TUESDAY 29 MAY We take a scenic drive today, through some of the most stunning scenery seen anywhere in England. Our scenic journey follows the shores of Ullswater before travelling over the fantastic Kirkstone Pass, wonderful mountain and lake views all the way (weather permitting) to Windermere. Later our return journey will take us via Ambleside to Grasmere, where William Wordsworth spent fourteen of his most creative years living at Dove Cottage, Allan Bank and the Rectory – and described it as "the loveliest spot that man has ever found".

WEDNESDAY 30 MAY We have a choice today: you may spend the day at leisure in Keswick; spend time exploring the towns of Carlisle, Penrith and Appleby, or take a ride on England's most scenic

railway. For those not staying in Keswick we drive to Carlisle, where everyone shall have time to browse and have coffee before those who wish, board the train for Settle. The 72 mile journey takes you through the gentle, lush rolling hills of the Eden Valley, over the 24 arches of the Ribbleshead Viaduct and through the magnificent Yorkshire Dales. On arrival in Settle, there will be time to have a look around the town and find lunch before re-boarding the train for the journey to Appleby to re-join the coach. Those who stay in Carlisle will have some further time to explore before driving to Penrith, once the capital of Cumbria, in time to find lunch and browse before continuing on to the attractive market town of Appleby. Here we shall have some time to maybe find tea before those that went on the train arrive and re-join us for the drive back to Keswick.

THURSDAY 31 MAY Departing after breakfast we make our way homewards, arriving back early evening.

What's included

THE KESWICK COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

Keswick

All bedrooms are en suite with TV, telephone, trouser press, hair dryer & hospitality tray.

6 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

Time to explore Keswick

Full day guided tour of Beatrix Potter Country

Entry to Hill Top & Beatrix Potter Gallery

Entry to Wordsworth House

Boat trip on Derwentwater

Full day scenic tour

Optional ride on Carlisle to Settle Railway

Optional visit to Carlisle, Penrith & Appleby

£640.00 PER PERSON

Single Room Supp: £90.00

Nat Trust members less £16 but must bring card

Carlisle to Settle to Appleby £16.50