

4 Night Rambles with a Sketchbook Holiday in the Northern Lake District

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 Lake District

Trip code: DBPDW-4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Let the Lake District spark your creativity as you sketch some of the very same scenes that inspired so many artists over the centuries. Enjoy a range of walks, guided by an HF Holidays Leader, and capture the timeless beauty of Derwentwater and the surrounding lakes with the help of an expert art tutor. Perfect for those who've experienced our Introduction to Drawing breaks but also open to beginners, this holiday allows you to develop your artistic skills while drawing inspiration from stunning surroundings.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Developing your sketching skills
- Exploring the local area with an HF Holidays Leader
- Having an expert art tutor on hand for advice and guidance
- Building your expertise and trying new techniques
- Small groups of 15 people or fewer

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Expert tuition with a HF art tutor
- Loan of wooden A3 art boards
- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- A trip on the Ullswater Steamer
- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information available in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2: Buttermere

Distance: 7km (4½ miles) Ascent: 140m (460 feet) This circular walk encompasses the whole of Buttermere, starting and ending in the village. It is a low-level walk which mainly follows the lakeshore, but we'll be surrounded by some mighty peaks, such as Fleetwith Pike, High Stile, and Haystacks, that will surely provide inspiration for our artwork.

Day 3: Castlerigg & Ashness Bridge

Distance: 6.5km (4 miles) Ascent: 210m (700 feet) Descent: 320m (1,050 feet) Set above the town of Keswick, Castlerigg Stone Circle is not only the start point of our walk, but an intriguing subject matter set amongst dramatic scenery. Our 'ramble' will then take us over Walla Crag and Falcon Crag, before dropping down towards Ashness Bridge. Please note: portions of this walk will be rocky underfoot and there may be loose stone.

Day 4: Aira Force & Pooley Bridge

Distance: 5.5km (3½ miles) Ascent: 50m (150 feet) Descent: 200m (600 feet) Our final walk takes us to Ullswater, the second largest lake in England. We'll start up in Dockray before descending to the lakeshore beside Aira Force, a dramatic series of waterfalls surrounded by peaceful woodland. Next, we take the Ullswater Steamer from Glenridding to Pooley Bridge, before taking one final stroll along the lakeshore to capture a different perspective on Ullswater.

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Derwent Bank

Adored by poets, painters, and literary giants for centuries, the Lake District has always had an irresistible pull. It's no surprise, then, that this country house near the market town of Keswick holds such appeal, not least for its setting in lovely grounds that slope down to the shores of Derwentwater. The location couldn't be more perfect; to the west is Cat Bells, to the east is Keswick, Walla Crag, and Latrigg, and to the south is the entrance to the Borrowdale valley. There's a wealth of big-name attractions within easy travelling distance, including Blencathra, Helvellyn, and Ullswater. Also visit-worthy for walkers is Scafell Pike for its well-trodden routes and trails and the 73-mile-long Cumbria Way for its mist-shrouded peaks, glacial valleys, and many excuses for pit-stops and picnics.

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

Walking safety - SHARED WITH ALL

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests. Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you. If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

Packing list - New Rambles with a Sketchbook

What to Bring On our Rambles with a Sketchbook holidays, you will carry all kit with you throughout your walks and will not have access to the coach for the duration of the day. We advise packing light wherever possible. For Sketching H/HB/B pencils Sketchbook with good quality cartridge paper – size to suit (A4 is popular) Pencil sharpener Eraser Portable and lightweight easel and stool (optional) Wider range of pencils or graphite sticks (optional) For Walking To enjoy your walking comfortably and safely, it is essential that your footwear, clothing and equipment are suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. Britain is famous for its changeable weather, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities. Please bring a rucksack, a thermos flask for a hot drink, a water bottle (at least 1 litre) and first aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed).
