

4 Night Southern Lake District Discovery Tour

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 Lake District

Trip code: CNN04-HCR05



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The Southern Lake District's standout sights take centre stage on this four-day discovery tour. Ride the Lakeside and Haverthwaite steam train and cross Lake Windermere on a scenic cruise. Delve into the area's past at the Elizabethan Levens Hall, home to the world's oldest topiary garden, and find out about the Strickland family at the National Trust's Sizergh Castle. You'll also get to follow in the footsteps of poet William Wordsworth with a visit to Dove Cottage – his charming former home in Grasmere.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering Sizergh Castle
- Riding the Lakeside & Haverthwaite railway
- Enjoying a cruise on Lake Windermere
- Visiting Dove Cottage, former home of William Wordsworth
- The stunning topiary gardens at Levens Hall
- Staying in the comfort of our country house in Coniston

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Entrance to Blackwell, Windermere Jetty Museum, Dove Cottage and Levens Hall and tickets for the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway and Windermere Lake Cruise
- 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
- Guided sightseeing with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from sites of interest
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

Please note - Entrance fees are not included. See more information tab for details.

TRIP SUITABILITY

Trip suitability

Our Discovery holidays give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the local area through **active sightseeing**.

On each Discovery day, you will be walking throughout the course of the day as you explore the venues and locations we visit. You'll also be hopping on and off the coach throughout - you should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Most of this walking will be at attractions but some may be across country tracks or footpaths so be sure to **bring sturdy shoes**. There will also be stairs to climb in the majority of the venues you visit, though other more accessible options may be available. At some venues, there may also be uneven surfaces, such as cobbles or rocky paths.

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: Haverthwaite, Windermere and Blackwell

It's time for another train ride as we make our way from Haverthwaite to Lakeside, situated at the southern tip of Windermere. We'll board a lake cruise here and disembark again at Bowness-on-Windermere, a popular and busy Lakeland town in a delightful setting. In the afternoon, we stop at Blackwell, a magnificent Arts & Crafts house, before moving on to the fascinating Windermere Jetty Museum. There are some beautifully restored launches on display and the lake's 200-year boating history is brought to life.

Day 3: Grasmere

Upon our arrival in Grasmere, we'll first pay a visit to Dove Cottage, home of the famed Lakeland poet William Wordsworth. Afterwards, there'll be a little free time to explore the village, or join an optional scenic stroll. Don't miss the world-famous Grasmere Gingerbread shop! Later we travel to the Great Langdale Valley and wander along the shores of Elterwater, finishing at the acclaimed tearoom, Chesters by the River.

Day 4: Levens Hall and Sizergh Castle

A visit to Levens Hall, an impressive Elizabethan house with the world's oldest and most spectacular topiary gardens. Established in 1694 they have remained largely unchanged since the 17th century. Prepare to be amazed exploring this awe-inspiring wonderland! In the afternoon we head to Sizergh Castle, a much-loved National Trust property, home to the Strickland family for over 800 years. There is much to explore in the medieval house, as well as the rich gardens and wider estate.

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Monk Coniston

With a desirable address overlooking Coniston Water (the inspiration for Arthur Ransome's 1930 novel, *Swallows and Amazons*), this characterful Grade II-listed house delights with lakeside and woodland walks from the doorstep, décor that stays true to the period feel, and plenty of Beatrix Potter references. While the children's author and illustrator did not live at the Monk Coniston estate (her beloved home was Hill Top, bought in 1905 with the royalties from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*), she campaigned with the National Trust to save it from development. She then purchased the entire estate in 1930 and as the new owner she immediately sold half to the organisation, bequeathing them the other half in her will.

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.

Safety Information - Discovery Tours/Discover More Tours

The itinerary may be changed for safety reasons. Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole and may need to alter or curtail the planned itinerary for the day if circumstances dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest if fitness requirements are in doubt, or if clothing, equipment and behaviour are unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone and first aid kit. 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. 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 - Discovery Tours

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing. Essentials Suitable, sturdy footwear with a good grip. You'll be on your feet for much of the day Waterproof jacket Waterproof overtrousers Sunhat Rucksack Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity) Sunscreen Mobile phone UV sunglasses Recommended First aid kit, including plasters Sit mat Waterproof pouch for valuables Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace) Wallet/purse Optional extras Walking poles, Flask for hot drinks Durable lunch box Waterproof rucksack liner
