

# HF Book Club in the Southern Lake District: Lakeland Writers & Poets

**Trip style:**

**Destination:** 📍 Lake District

**Trip code:** CNN03-ABC05

**Carbon Footprint:** 🌳 104kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The simple beauty of the Southern Lake District has stirred the imagination of visitors for centuries. Stay at our historic country house in Coniston and delve into a variety of works linked to these stunning landscapes. Look out on some of the very same scenes that inspired the likes of William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter and take part in discussion groups guided by an expert leader. Visits to two of Wordsworth's former homes – and Dove Cottage and Rydal Mount – and the company of fellow literature lovers make for an enriching and sociable weekend ideal for solo travellers and book clubs.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Meeting like-minded book lovers
- Discussing a variety of literary works
- Enjoying a guided sightseeing visit
- Discussion groups with our expert leaders

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Free-flowing literary discussions throughout your holiday
- Transport to and from venues on your excursion day
- Entry to Dove Cottage & Rydal Mount
- 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.

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### **Day 2:** Around Grasmere & Rydal

Our excursion day takes us to Wordsworth's stomping grounds in Grasmere and Rydal: Dove Cottage and Rydal Mount. There will also be time to visit Grasmere village and the church where Wordsworth was laid to rest.

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### **Day 3-4:** HF Book Club

On our book club breaks, your leader team will facilitate discussions about the themes and topics featured in their chosen titles and there'll be an open forum to discuss opinions. *A Passionate Sisterhood: The Sisters, Wives & Daughters of the Lake Poets* by Kathleen Jones *A Passionate Sisterhood* explores the often-untold lives of the women connected to the Lake Poets: sisters, wives, and daughters. Through their letters and journals, it reveals their sacrifices, rivalries, illnesses, loves and thwarted ambitions, showing how much these women sustained, and suffered, within the Romantic circle. *The Bay* by Julia Rampen In *The Bay*, Rampen weaves the story of Arthur, a lonely widower who once worked the Morecambe Bay cockling flats, and Suling, a young undocumented migrant in debt and danger. Their unlikely friendship forms amid tides of prejudice, loss, and the harsh beauty of the shifting sands above Morecambe Bay. *Towards Mellbreak* by Marie-Elsa Bragg In *Towards Mellbreak*, Bragg tells the story of Harold Marras, a hill farmer in 1970s Cumbria, labouring to sustain his family's ancestral farm amid sweeping agricultural, bureaucratic and environmental changes. Amid the harsh landscape he clings to ritual, faith and familial bonds as roots vanish.

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### **Day 5:** Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## 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.