

Lake District Gardens Tour

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 Lake District

Trip code: DBK04-GDT05



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Enjoy a week-long holiday at our welcoming country house on the shores of Derwentwater and explore some of Cumbria's best gardens. From the elegant Winton Park and the immaculate topiary of Levens Hall, to historic Lowther Castle, every stop is perfect for garden lovers and green-fingered guests. We'll visit a mix of hidden gems and award-winning garden spaces, all guided by our knowledgeable leader every step of the way.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Exploring the world's oldest topiary garden at Levens Hall
- Visiting a selection of award-winning and notable Lake District gardens
- Meeting like-minded garden lovers

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All entrance fees (other than National Trust & English Heritage properties)
- 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

TRIP SUITABILITY

This holiday is active and busy with visits throughout the day. You will need to be able to get on and off minibuses with ease, and be able to walk up to 2 miles, across uneven, grassy terrain where the ground can be slippery underfoot.

It is important for your own and your fellow guests' enjoyment that you can maintain the pace. We've provided a simple fitness test below, which will help you assess whether this holiday is for you.

You should be able to do the following:

- Walk for one hour at a reasonable pace (2 miles per hour) without needing to take a break to rest
- Climb two flights of stairs at a reasonable pace
- Stand unaided for an hour
- Stand up and sit down ten times in one minute

Please ensure you are able to fulfil these fitness requirements, to ensure you get the very best from your holiday.

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: Sizergh & Levens

Today's journey takes us south to Sizergh Castle & Levens Hall, both near Kendal. At Sizergh, the limestone rock garden, reflective lake and colourful border planting create a garden full of interest. In the afternoon, we explore Levens Hall, home to the world's oldest topiary garden. Here, the clipped shapes stand among roses and flowering borders. Please Note: Entry to Sizergh Castle is not included in the price of this holiday. It is a National Trust property and NT members can take advantage of free entry.

Day 4: Free Day - Northern Lake District

Discover more about Derwent Bank and the local area for ideas on how to make the most of your free day.

Day 8: 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.