

Rambles with a Sketchbook Holiday in the Southern Lake District

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 Lake District

Trip code: CNN07-PDW05

Grades: 1, 2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Let the Southern Lake District spark your creativity as you learn how to sketch some of the very same scenes that inspired the likes of William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter. Enjoy short walks guided by an HF Holidays Leader and capture the timeless beauty of Tarn Hows, the Langdale Valley, and Windermere's western shoreline 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
- 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: Tarn Hows

Today, we'll start close to our base in Monk Coniston with a ramble around Tarn Hows. The 1.5-mile path around the lake has been well maintained by the National Trust and its immediate surroundings offer interest from all angles, aided by the stunning mountain backdrops. Distance: 4.5km (2.75 miles) / Ascent: 90m (300 ft)

Day 3: Claife to Wray Castle

Our ramble today follows the western shoreline of Windermere, starting at Claife Heights before meandering on undulating paths by the lakeside until we reach Wray Castle. Distance: 6.5km (4 miles) / Ascent: 140m (460 ft)

Day 4: Free Day - Southern Lake District

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

Day 5: Skelwith Bridge to Elterwater

Starting at Skelwith Bridge, we'll follow the River Brathay along the Cumbria Way and continue as it becomes Elterwater. With the Langdales as a backdrop, this is an ideal spot for capturing both dramatic and tranquil landscapes. Distance: 3.5km (2 miles) / Ascent: 80m (260 ft)

Day 6: Little Langdale

The peaceful and picturesque Langdale Valley is an artist's haven. On today's walk, we'll pass Cathedral Cave and Slater Bridge, before finishing in the village of Little Langdale. Distance: 3.5km (2 miles) / Ascent: 90m (300 ft)

Day 7: Rydal & Grasmere

Our final day takes us north to Rydal and Grasmere. Our path will lead us around the south side of Rydal Water and into Rydal village, before heading up along the old coffin route which links it to Grasmere. Distance: 6km (3.75 miles) / Ascent: 190m (620 ft)

Day 8: 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.

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).
