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 LET'S LOOK AFTER THE LAKE DISTRICT



coniston

Visit Beatrix Potter attractions, explore local walks with rewarding views and indulge in local food and ale for a well earned rest.

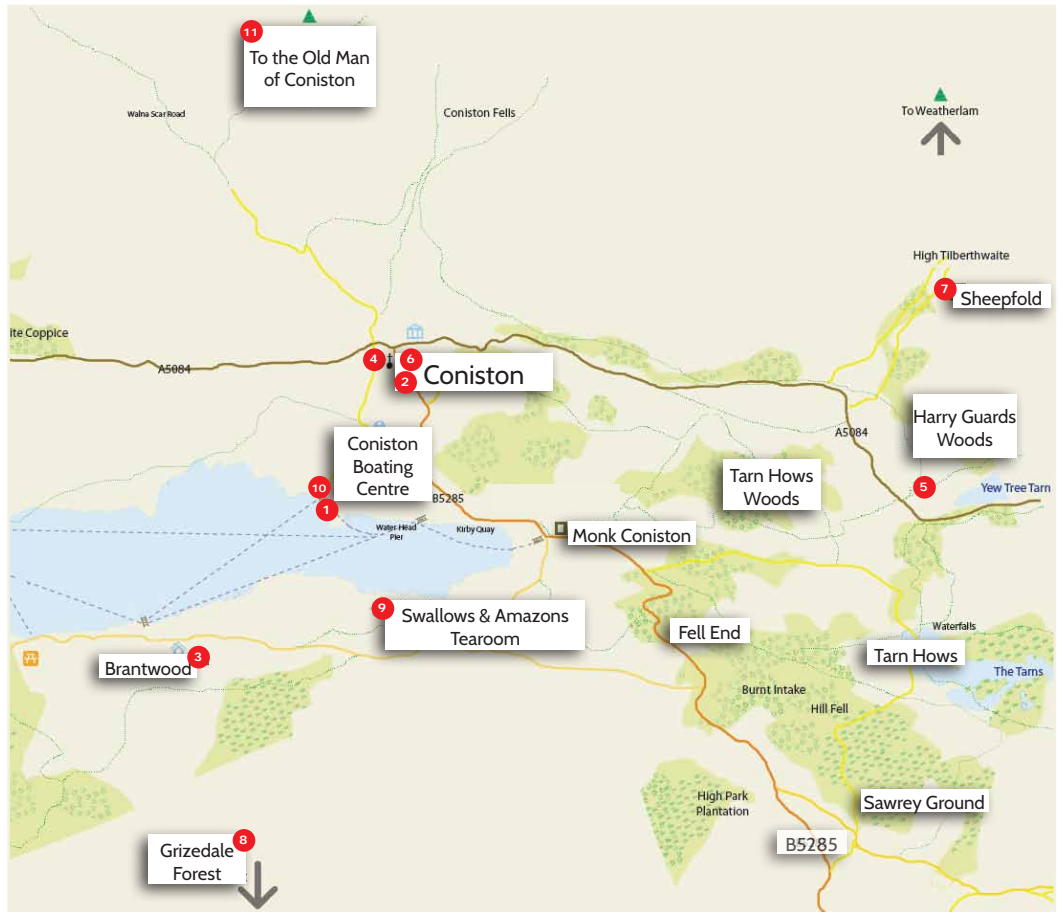
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bus services

505 Coniston - Hawkshead - Ambleside

X33 Ambleside - Hawkshead - Coniston - Ravenglass



Welcome to Coniston

Welcome to Coniston, here in the heart of the English Lake District. Discover this beautiful traditional village alongside Coniston Water and underneath the majestic Coniston Fells including the captivating famous Coniston Old Man. This famous fell provides walks with breathtaking summit views across most of the Lake District to the East. Various routes will allow you to summit and should take around five hours. The most popular is via the Walna Scar Road, past shimmering Goats Water (tarn) and descending past the old quarry works at Crowberry Haws. OS maps recommended for experienced walkers.



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explore coniston

Discover the area with its beautiful woodlands, craggy mountains, idyllic streams and waterfalls. Coniston village has lots to offer with cute traditional shops, a host of cafes and pubs and a fine selection of visitor attractions.

bus services

505 Coniston Rambler Coniston
- Hawkshead - Ambleside

Cruise on Coniston

Use the Coniston launch service to access other destinations around Coniston Water, such as Brantwood and Torver. It's the perfect way to soak up the views and enchanting atmosphere of the waters of Coniston and surrounding fells.

Special tour cruises run during the week, which give you a taste of Coniston's history, including a Swallows and Amazons tour where you can discover a secret harbour on Wild Cat Island. Check current timetable for details.

Steam Yacht Gondola

Ride in style across the lake on the beautifully restored Victorian Gondola. View the spectacular scenery in luxurious saloons aboard the Gondola. Use this service to access Brantwood and Monk Coniston to walk to the peaceful Tarn Hows. Check current timetable for details.



Coniston Boating Centre run by the Lake District National Park Authority

If you'd like to discover Coniston Water at your own pace, why not hire your own canoe, sail dinghy or rowing boat. Sail between elegant swans, feel the wind in your hair and soak up the awe inspiring Coniston landscapes. Hire motor boats traditional wooden rowing boats, kayaks and canoes, or if you can sail hire one of their sailing dinghies. Call ahead to enquire 015394 41366.

Brantwood

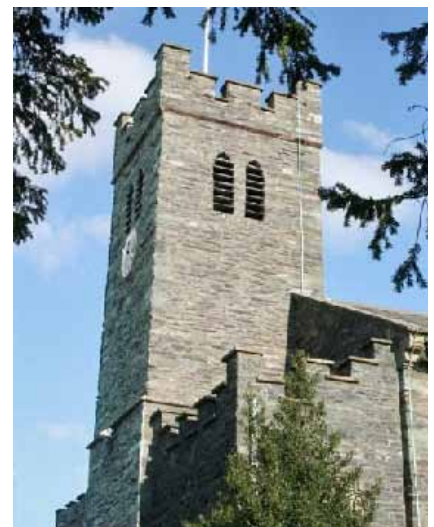
Famous philanthropist John Ruskin once lived in quite possibly the most beautiful situated house in the Lake District. Brantwood, nestled on the water's edge on the east of Coniston Water, houses Ruskin's treasures including art, furniture and personal memorabilia. Furthermore, Brantwood has unique and beautiful mountainside gardens, set in a 250 acre wood estate with spectacular views. Wind down at Jumping Jenny's restaurant. Access the house by launch or Gondola.

John Ruskin Museum

Ruskin's former secretary set up a museum in 1901 as a memorial to Ruskin and a celebration of the area's heritage. The museum not only showcases a Ruskin collection, but there are interesting exhibits relating to the local area's heritage including coppermines, slate, geology, lace, farming and Donald Campbell. Visit to learn more about the history of Coniston and browse through the beautiful galleries.

Grave at St Andrew's Church

St Andrew's quintessential Lakeland church, in the heart of the village, is the resting place of Ruskin. He passed away at Brantwood across the lake in 1900 and was laid to rest here. You can visit his grave and see his large carved cross made from green slate from the local quarry at Tilberthwaite.



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Yew Tree Farm

The Monk Coniston estate at the north of the lake was bought by Beatrix Potter of the Tales of Peter Rabbit fame. Within its land is the picturesque Yew Tree Farm.

This beautiful 17th century farmhouse was the setting for the Miss Potter film. Pass this stunning farm on your way to Tarn Hows and make sure you capture its interesting spinning gallery to the left of the house. Yew Tree Farm is not open to the public, it is a guesthouse, but it's worth passing to take some photos!



Andy Goldsworthy's sheepfold

Just north of Coniston, lies Tilberthwaite which was once rich for mining. It's a great little spot for exploring remains of old mines which have revealed beautiful stone (take care) and walk besides the gill. Here you can also find a lovely sculpture that blends into the landscape. Artist Andy Goldsworthy has created a beautifully designed sheepfold from local stone and slate. To reach the sheepfold, walk on the Coniston fells beneath Weatherlam.

Swallows and Amazons Cafe

Across the lake is Bank Ground Farm, it is here that Arthur Ransome based his Swallows and Amazons series of books. The farm has a cafe, and when visiting you will see just why Ransome was so inspired and captivated by the setting to base his fictional novel here.

Opening times may be limited due to Covid restrictions, so please ring ahead before visiting. Visit by taking a boat to Brantwood or Monk Coniston, the farm is roughly in between the two on a quiet country lane besides the lake. They also offer kayak and bike hire from here, call ahead to enquire 015394 41264.

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Mountain Walks

Above the village centre is the towering Coniston Old Man. This famous fell provides its walkers with breath taking summit views across most of the Lake District to the east.

Various routes can allow you to summit and should take around five hours. The most popular is via the Walna Scar Road, past shimmering Goats Water (tarn) and descending past the old quarry works at Crowberry Haws. OS maps recommended for experienced walkers.



The Taste District

The Lake District has its own identity when it comes to food and drink. With so much gorgeous local produce and traditional dishes to try, sample the best right on your doorstep. Coniston has a fine selection of eateries to try local food and be sure not to miss out on locally brewed ale. Coniston has its very own brewery; Coniston Brewing Company's most popular proving to be Bluebird Bitter and Old Man Ale. Enjoy...

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grizedale forest

Get your heart racing and enjoy a range of mountain bike routes between the trees. Routes to suit families and beginners. It's also a great place to spot wildlife, including Red Squirrels and Red Kites.

Mountain Bike Trails

Grizedale is famous for its Mountain Bike Trails including the popular North Face Mountain Bike Trail. The North Face Bike Trail is a 16km loop starting at the Visitor Centre, moving through meadows, woodland and along exhilarating boardwalk sections.

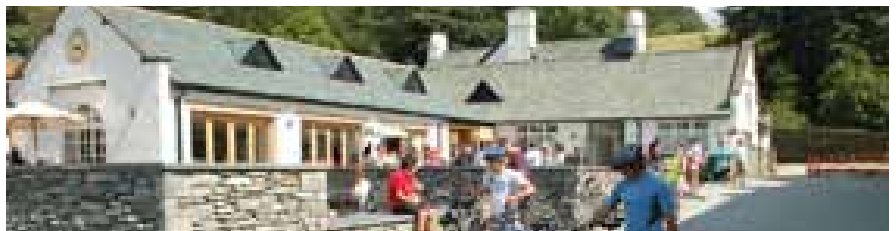
You can hire mountain bikes on site at Grizedale Mountain Bikes from between £16 to £45 for a full day depending on your type of bike - then head out to tackle trails at a range of different gradings.



Visitor centre and café

Grizedale Forest has an excellent visitor centre and café. Monkey around at Go Ape! on the tree-top adventure course. With a zipwire 275 metres long and platforms up to 19 metres above the ground, it's the perfect venue for kids (10+) and adventurous adults. Admission is £30 for 18+ and £20 for 10 to 17 year olds. The course is open daily from late March to late October.

If you plan to visit at other times check their website: www.goape.co.uk



The Sculpture Trail

Grizedale Visitor Centre is the start point for heaps of walking routes, and with over 60 pieces of sculpture around the forest, you can enjoy the area's natural beauty alongside magnificent artwork.



Wildlife

On your trek or trail, keep a sharp eye out for Red Kites in the forest. The Forestry Commission's reintroduction project at Grizedale is aiming for a viable population of these birds of prey to be established by 2015. Also be on the look out for Red Squirrels and England's last naturally afforested herd of Red Deers.



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coniston to tarn hows walk

Tarn Hows is the perfect spot if you're looking for a gentle stroll. This beauty spot is ideal for families, you can wander through woodland and relax besides the picturesque tarn.

route information

The route: A long route of great variety, taking in the popular Tarn Hows

Distance: 10.9km

Minimum time: 3 1/2 hours
Paths: Road, grassy tracks and 4 stiles



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- 1 Exit the car park on to the road (Tilberthwaite Avenue) and turn right. Continue until, in a few hundred paces, a road leads off left. Follow this to Shepherd Bridge, which leads right over Yewdale Beck. Cross and go left over the low stone stile. The path leads above the river to a kissing gate and enters a field. Bear diagonally right towards the rocky outcrop and continue along to the right of a stone wall. In a little way the path leads directly to a recently renovated stone building.

Pass the building on the left. Ascend to pass through a gate.

- 2 Bear right following the wall and then rise to a little gate through the stone wall which forms the perimeter of High Guards Wood. Climb steeply to the top of the hill through the Scots pine. Cross a ruined stone wall and follow the waymarked path to descend through Guards Wood. Exit the wood and continue down a stony track to a gate and stile leading on to a stony lane.

Go left up the lane. In a few hundred paces go right through a gate. Rise with the grassy track until it swings right to pass through a gate/stile. The vague grassy track intercepts a fence with Tarn Hows Wood below.

- 3 Keep right along the track and continue to a steep, surfaced track. Go right along the track to the Tarn Hows road. Go left, ascending the road and passing the car park, to find a track bearing off left above Tarn Hows. Follow the track to make an anticlockwise circumnavigation of the tarn.

Turn right at the dam and descend the path to the right of the beck.

- 4 At the bottom go left over the footbridge then right through car park and out on to the Coniston road. Cross and go left.
- 5 Turn right at Yewtree Farm and then go off right to pass through a gate. Rise to pass through another gate, then go left above the fence. Keep along this grassy track until a gate leads out on to the Hodge Close road. Turn left over Shepherd's Bridge and join Coniston road.

Cross and go left until, opposite High Yewdale Farm, a path leads right along the line of yew trees. Pass the trees, and then go right across the fields. Enter the farmyard of Low Yewdale. Go left along a lane, over a bridge, and continue to round a sharp bend. Go right, signed 'Cumbria Way', through the field.

- 6 Beyond a stone wall the track ascends then bears right. Continue to enter Back Guards Plantation. Follow the track through the wood.

Pass through yew trees and descend to join the outward route back into Coniston village.

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hill top

Hill Top was Beatrix Potter's farmhouse and garden and an inspiration and setting for many of her creations, such as the Tale of Tom Kitten and the Tale of Pigling Bland.

Dating from the 17th century, Hill Top is one of several properties in the Hawkshead area that the famous author left to the National Trust after her death in 1943. It is presented as it was in her day, with no electricity and full of her treasures and so serves as more of a snapshot of her life as opposed to a museum.



The cottage is open every day apart from Friday, when the house is cleaned and left to rest to help preserve the contents inside. In the summer the house is open from 10.30am to 4.30 pm. The garden and shop, selling Beatrix Potter related items, gifts cold drinks, are free admission and are open daily from 10am to 5pm.



As the small cottage is very popular, with up to 3500 visitors a week in summer, a timed-ticket system is used to avoid overcrowding and allow everyone an equal chance to explore the property.

Room guides are available so you can self-guide yourself around the cottage and grounds and discover more about Beatrix Potter's treasures. The garden is a beautiful mix of flowers, herbs, fruit and veg. There is a trail for children to explore – with clues to discover hidden around the garden.

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explore any way you wish

Explore the region in a variety of different ways - by boat, bus, boat and bike. Easy travel between Coniston, Hawkshead and Windermere as well as launches on Coniston Water too. You can purchase tickets and begin your adventure on any day from the end of March to the beginning of November. Prices depend on how far you want to travel.

For enquiries and timetables, visit your nearest Tourist Information Centre. Coniston Launch is the perfect way to soak up the views and enchanting atmosphere of the waters of Coniston and surrounding fells.



Brantwood

Brantwood is the former home of John Ruskin. Visit this beautiful house situated right beside the lake to learn more about the life of the famous writer and wind down at the restaurant and in the galleries. The House and Gardens are open all year. From Brantwood jetty reboard the launch to Coniston jetty.



coniston to torver jetty walk

Discover the area with its beautiful woodlands, craggy mountains, idyllic streams and waterfalls. Coniston village has lots to offer with cute traditional shops, a host of cafes and pubs and a fine selection of visitor attractions.

route information

The route: A walk along the shoreline of Coniston Water, with the option of returning on the Coniston Launches from Torver jetty

Distance: 7km round trip or 3.5km if you catch the boat
Starting at: Coniston Boating Centre

End: Turning point: Torver Jetty



This route is also a permitted cycleway

Walk back up Lake Road along the smooth, stone footpath on the left. Cross the bridge and go through the business units to a double kissing gate, wide enough for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

A good track leads to more gates and Coniston Hall Farm - have a look at the huge chimneys. Follow the tarmac road around the campsite pole barrier and head south through another gateway.

After a second left turn, there is a small copse of trees on the right and you approach a wicket gate, giving access to the shore.

Over the lake are the wooded slopes of Grizedale Forest and the imposing house is Brantwood, home of John Ruskin, the eminent Victorian writer, artist and social reformer.



Look back to see Coniston Old Man towering over the village. Go through a double kissing gate and cross a footbridge to Hoathwaite.



The route follows a track inland and bears left to two gates and into Torver Common Wood.

After 500 metres, cross the new footbridge to Torver jetty, where you can take a boat back to Coniston.

