

welcome to The Lake District



The Home of British Hiking

To appreciate the grandeur of the views, you need to get out on the fells. Hikers have been coming to the Lake District ever since the early days of Victorian tourism, and walking on the fells remains an essential part of the Lakeland experience. If there's one man whose spirit looms largest over the history of hiking in the Lake District, it's Alfred Wainwright: a passionate hill walker, painstaking cartographer and gifted writer, whose original Pictorial Guides are still the preferred choice of many walkers, despite the fact that they're getting on for six decades old.

Land of History

Though modern Cumbria is a relatively young county, formed in 1974 from the old districts of Cumberland and Westmorland, its history stretches back into Britain's ancient past. Stone Age tribes, pagan druids, Viking settlers and generations of hill farmers have all left their own mark on the landscape, and for much of the Middle Ages this was a region plagued by conflict, ominously dubbed 'The Debatable Lands'. From ancient stone circles to lavish stately homes, it's a place where history often seems to be written right into the landscape.



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For lovers of the great outdoors, nowhere in Britain can compare to the Lake District. It's home to some of the nation's most breathtaking natural landscapes, as well as its most beloved national park.

(left) View over Lake Ullswater
(below) Traditional pub in Cumbria



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Food & Ale

Eating out in the Lake District is always a treat, whether it's settling in for a pint at a country inn, popping in for tea and cake at a village cafe or dressing up for dinner at a Michelin-starred hotel. The food here is full of heart and soul, and if you're searching for the stickiest toffee pudding, the crumbliest gingerbread, the hoppiest ales and the richest Sunday roast, you won't find anywhere to beat it in Britain.

Grandstand Views

'No part of the country is more distinguished by its sublimity,' mused the grand old bard of the lakes, William Wordsworth, and two centuries on his words still ring true. Britain's largest national park is a place where you can almost hear the creak and grumble of Mother Nature's cogs at work, with a parade of panoramic landscapes that never fail to fire the imagination: wild hilltops, rugged valleys, misty tarns, emerald fields and shafts of sunlight breaking through the cloud. The Lake District has always been a place of inspiration and escape, and it's high time you found out why.