



Ullswater

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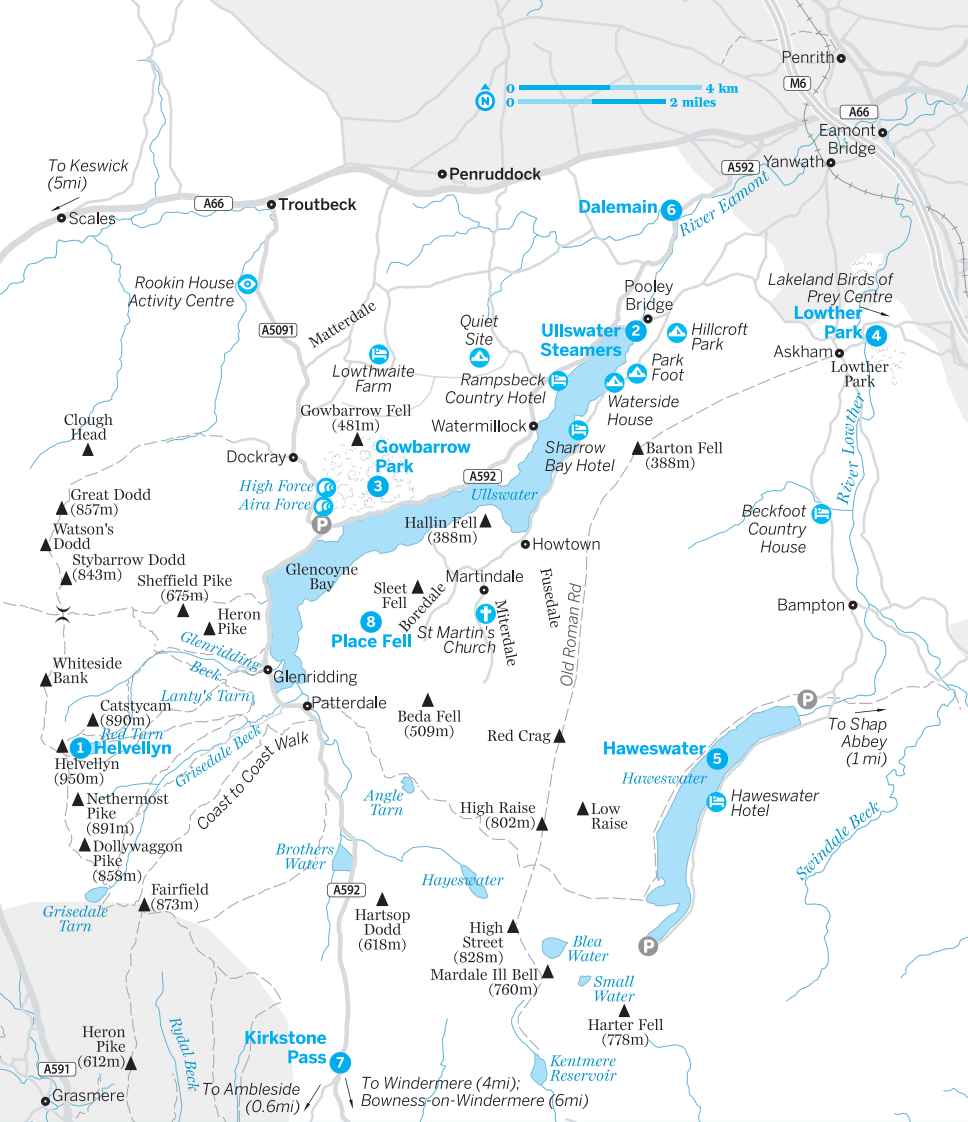
Why Go?

Second only in stature to Windermere, Ullswater cuts a regal 8-mile sweep through the eastern fells. Gouged out by a long-extinct glacier, it's arguably one of the most dramatic of the valleys, with each shore flanked by serrated summits, including the unmistakable razor ridges of Helvellyn, England's third-highest mountain.

It's a great lake for cruising, with a fine fleet of old 'steamers' plying the waters between the small villages of Pooley Bridge, Glenridding and Patterdale. Overlooking the lake are the woodland parks of Gowbarrow and Glencoyne, whose springtime daffodil displays were canonised by Wordsworth in one of his best-loved poems. And while the west side of the lake can feel jammed in summer, you can usually find solitude in the little-visited valleys on the eastern side, or by detouring away from the lake to the rolling parkland of the Lowther estate and the wild valley of Haweswater out to the southeast.

When to Go

As elsewhere in the Lake District, Ullswater isn't at its best in the height of the summer crush. Much better to visit early or late in the season, especially if you can time your visit with the local walking festival, held between the end of September and the start of October, which is also one of the best seasons to climb the summit of Helvellyn. Look out for a series of festivals throughout the year at Dalemain, including a deliciously eccentric Marmalade Festival in February.



Ullswater Highlights

- 1 Tame your nerves on the tightrope walk along Striding Edge to **Helvellyn** (p144)
- 2 Hop aboard one of Ullswater's historic '**steamers**' (p139)
- 3 Wander among the daffodils of **Gowbarrow Park** (p141)
- 4 See a restoration work-in-progress at **Lowther Park** (p147)
- 5 Scan the skies above **Haweswater** (p147) for one of England's last golden eagles
- 6 Soak up the country-house splendour of **Dalemain** (p139)
- 7 Drive over Lakeland's highest stretch of road at **Kirkstone Pass** (p146)
- 8 Leave the crowds well behind on the summit of **Place Fell** (p143)