

The Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales

7 – 11 June 2027

5 days from £945 per person (based on min 40 paying guests)

Itinerary

Day 1 – Monday 7 June 2027

We depart by coach from Emsworth and head north stopping en-route at **Lyme (NT)** to visit the spectacular Regency mansion and estate. We will step inside the grand house to marvel at lavish, golden interiors, intricate woodcarvings, and rare historic tapestries, before exploring a vibrant costume dressing room where history truly comes alive. Outside, there will be time to stroll through the beautifully manicured formal gardens, featuring a vibrant Edwardian rose garden, peaceful greenhouses, and the world-famous sunken Italian garden with its iconic *Pride and Prejudice* reflecting lake. Lunch will be available here (not included).

We later continue to our comfortable accommodation, the **3-star Crookland Hotel**, where dinner is served in the evening.

Day 2 – Tuesday 8 June 2027

Following breakfast, we will visit the gardens at **Levens Hall**. The topiary gardens are world-famous and were created in 1694 by Monsieur Guillaume Beaumont, who had been trained under Le Nôtre at Versailles, and who laid out the gardens at Hampton Court. Under the magnificent topiary sculpted from box and yew there is a spectacular under-planting populated with an ever-changing range of over thirty thousand flowers. Further on, beyond the romantic old orchard and separated by the great beech hedges, lie the magnificent herbaceous borders. These are traditionally double in format and are amongst the finest to be found in England. There is also a rose garden, a nuttery and a fountain garden laid out with pleached limes in 1994 to celebrate 300 years of the gardens at Levens Hall.



This afternoon we head to **Bowness-on-Windermere** where there will be some free time to browse round the shops or perhaps visit the popular attraction **Beatrix Potter World** (admission not included). We later embark on a **scenic lake cruise** in the very heart of the Lake District. Our spectacular voyage to Lakeside provides magnificent views of mountain scenery, secluded bays and the many wooded islands.

We return to our hotel where dinner is served in the evening.

Day 3 – Wednesday 9 June 2027

After breakfast, we enjoy a leisurely day exploring the heart of the **Yorkshire Dales National Park**. Our first stop is **Hawes**, a bustling traditional market town surrounded by the magnificent scenery of Wensleydale. Here, we visit the **Dales Countryside Museum**, housed in the town's former Victorian railway station. Its fascinating displays tell the stories of the people who have lived and worked in the Dales through the centuries, exploring local farming, lead mining, textiles and the traditional crafts and trades once central to village life. Historic railway carriages and engaging exhibitions bring the area's rich heritage vividly to life.



We then continue to the **Wensleydale Creamery**, where we discover how the renowned Yorkshire Wensleydale cheese is made and learn about the Creamery's long-standing relationship with the local farming community. There will also be time to browse the shop and perhaps take home some delicious Yorkshire produce. Lunch will be available here (not included).



Later, we enjoy a leisurely journey aboard the **Wensleydale Railway**, taking in wonderful views as we travel through the tranquil Dales countryside. This nostalgic ride offers a charming glimpse into Yorkshire's rich railway heritage.

Our final stop today is the picturesque village of **Aysgarth**, where we'll visit the fascinating **Edwardian Rock Garden**. This unusual Grade II-listed garden was commissioned by local landowner Frank Sayer-Graham in the early 20th century and is described by the Yorkshire Dales National Park as a 'secret garden' experience. Discover its unusual rock formations, planting and peaceful setting before taking a little time to enjoy the village.

We later return to the hotel in time for dinner.

Day 4 – Thursday 10 June 2027

Today, following breakfast, we begin with a visit to **Dove Cottage**, in Grasmere, William Wordsworth's home from 1799 to 1808 and now an award-winning museum. This is where much of his poetry was written and is home to the very couch referred to in the poem 'Daffodils'. There were many famous visitors to Dove Cottage during Wordsworth's time here: Walter Scott, Thomas De Quincey, Robert Southey and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, to name but a few. Much of his life at Dove Cottage was centred around the garden and orchard, the harshness of the white-wash cottage subdued by his training of roses, honeysuckle and scarlet beans to clamber up the walls. His sister Dorothy brought plants such as wild thyme and wild orchids from the side the lake.



We move on to the house and gardens of **Rydal Mount**, which was Wordsworth's best-loved family home for the greater part of his life from 1813 to his death in 1850. The house, which is still owned by the Wordsworth family, dates from the 16th century but was enlarged over the years, even by Wordsworth himself. It contains a selection of the family's prized possessions and portraits. Wordsworth was a keen landscape gardener and the five acre garden remains very much as he designed it, consisting of fell-side terraces, rock pools and an ancient mound.

Our final visit today is to **Holehird**, a garden owned by the Holehird Trust and run by the Lakeland Horticultural Society, probably the only garden in Britain run entirely by volunteer gardeners and open every day of the year. A working farm until the mid-19th century, it is now a wonderful 10 acres of vibrant and interesting planting – described as 'many high-quality gardens within a larger garden which is part of an outstanding landscape.' ***Please note there is walk uphill from the car park.***

Dinner is served in the evening.

Day 5 – Friday 11 June 2027

After breakfast we check out of our hotel and travel to visit **Sizergh Castle (NT)**, near Kendal. Originally built in the Middle Ages by the Strickland family, who still live here, this imposing house at the gateway to the Lake District stands proud in a rich and beautiful garden, with a pond, a lake, an important collection of hardy ferns and a superb limestone rock garden. The estate is crossed with footpaths, giving stunning views over Morecambe Bay and the Lakeland hills. Lunch facilities are available here (not included).

Following our visit, we continue our journey south where we expect to arrive back at our original departure point in the evening.



Included in the price

- Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast and the Crooklands Hotel
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- Entrances to Levens Hall Garden, Dales Countryside Museum and Edwardian Rock Garden; A cruise on Lake Windermere, a journey on the Wensleydale Railway and a cheese making demo and tasting at Wensleydale Creamery

Not included (per person)

- Single supplement £75 per person
- Entrances to National Trust visits (Lyme & Sizergh Castle)