



## ▶ Take a Walk on the Wild Side: A Family Adventure

Cumbria's coast and landscapes are home to a vibrant array of animal attractions and nature reserves offering a great day out for families to enjoy. There's something for kids of all ages, with interactive experiences alongside educational activities.

Pick a day, or extend your trip to include all three!

### ★ Highlights

- Interactive experiences
- Fascinating wildlife
- Nature reserves



# MAP & KEY

A Road  
B Road  
Minor Road  
Motorway  
Rail line

Cumberland boundary

- Points of interest
  - Open all year
  - On public transport route
  - Parking
  - Accessible Parking/ Drop off point
  - Wheelchair access
  - Accessible toilets
  - Hearing loop
  - Refreshments available
  - EV Charger
  - Wifi
  - Dog Friendly
- ACCOMMODATION ONLY:**
- Star Rating
  - Price indicator
- VE/AA Visit England / AA



© Walby Farm Park / Steve Barber



## DAY 1 Carlisle

### 1 Walby Farm Park Walby, Crosby-on-Eden, Carlisle CA6 4QL

With lots to enjoy both indoors and out, Walby Farm Park offers something for all ages. Set on a working farm, there are plenty of different animals to see, with interactive sessions including pony grooming, goat racing and milking demonstrations. Indoors, you'll find Cumbria's largest indoor adventure play area; there's also an undercover 'Roman fort' for kids to explore.

Keep an eye out for seasonal events like pumpkin picking and Santa's grotto.

[www](#)

### 2 Watchtree Nature Reserve Nr Wiggonby, Carlisle CA5 6NL

This fully accessible, 250 acre nature reserve on the Solway Plain is home to various habitats teeming with wildlife. A network of accessible trails is complemented by onsite bike hire, including child seats for those too little to pedal.

Check the calendar for special events throughout the year.

[www](#)

### 3 Cumberland Bird of Prey Centre Moorhouse Rd, Thurstonfield, Carlisle CA5 6HB

As well as full and half day bird of prey training courses and activities, there are also shorter options - including a one-hour Family Experience, where visitors can learn more about the different birds who live at the centre. The centre's relaxed programme is particularly well suited for visitors who require a slower and less chaotic service.

[www](#)

## Where to Stay

**Tranquil Otter**  
*The Lough House, Thurstonfield, Carlisle CA5 6HB*

Luxury lodges around their own private tarn.

VE 5★ ££-£££ [www](#)

**Kirklington Hall**  
*Kirklington Hall, Carlisle CA6 6BB*  
Self catering cottages beside a 17th century country hall ruin, surrounded by 14 acres of formal gardens, woodland and meadow.

[www](#)

## Where to Eat

**The Cowshed Cafe at Walby Farm Park**  
*Walby Farm Park, Walby, Crosby-on-Eden, Carlisle CA6 4QL*  
Family friendly food and drink at Walby Farm Park's on-site cafe.

[www](#)

**Watchtree Nature Reserve Cafe**  
*Nr Wiggonby, Carlisle CA5 6NL*  
Refuel at the Watchtree Cafe or enjoy an ice cream from the Three Hills Gelato Shack.

[www](#)



## Where to Eat

**Cafe Ambio, Whinlatter Forest**  
*Whinlatter Forest, Whinlatter Pass,  
Keswick CA12 5TW*

Located at Whinlatter Forest, serving fresh dishes with local produce.

[www](#)

**Armathwaite Hall Hotel**  
*B5291, Bassenthwaite Lake,  
Keswick CA12 4RE*

Hotel restaurant and eatery, open to non-residents and just a stone's throw from the Lake District Wildlife Park.

[www](#)

### DAY 2

## Keswick

#### 4 Lake District Wildlife Park Bassenthwaite, Keswick CA12 4RD

Set across 24 acres of parkland, the Lake District Wildlife Park is home to 100+ species of animals including lemurs, zebra and otters. With the backdrop of the Skiddaw massif, it's a unique place to learn more about our planet's wildlife.

There are also bookable experiences like walking with alpacas, bird of prey experiences, and the ultimate animal experience - offering the chance to get closer to some of the park's residents.

 [www](#)

#### 5 Keswick Canoe & Bushcraft Contact via website for location details

Get stuck in and learn the essential skills of bushcraft - as well as developing an understanding of the natural environment - with bushcraft sessions in Whinlatter Forest. Or try family-friendly canoeing on Derwentwater, with expert tuition and the chance to learn more about the area and its wildlife.

Want to give back? Look out for free lake shore and island clean up sessions.

 [www](#)

#### GOOD TO KNOW:

Stay safe when heading for the hills or the water. Check out the [Adventure Smart website](#) for tips and advice; and always ask yourself the following three questions.

- Am I confident I have the knowledge and skills for the day?
- Do I know what the weather will be like?
- Do I have the right gear?



## DAY 2

### Keswick (continued)

#### 6 **Whinlatter Forest** Whinlatter Pass, Keswick CA12 5TW

As well as stunning views and excellent walking routes for all abilities, England's only true mountain forest is also home to a variety of rare and interesting wildlife. Explore at your leisure, or learn more with events and activities throughout the year. There's also a WildPlay playground where kids can swing, slide, splash and climb through the trees.

For something a little different, guided alpaca walks through the forest are available with Alpacaly Ever After - they also offer experiences at nearby locations including The Lakes Distillery and The Lingholm Estate.



#### Keep an eye out for ospreys

Until 2001, osprey nests hadn't been seen in the Lake District since the 1830s. That all changed when a pair arrived and successfully bred near Bassenthwaite Lake; today, ospreys are some of Cumbria's most famous wildlife residents!

See if you can spot any on your visit. Until recently, a viewing point at Dodd Wood offered a view of a pair of breeding ospreys (they have since chosen to nest somewhere more private).

A 40-minute drive west, Cogra Moss near Workington is a hidden gem of a reservoir and regularly attracts feeding ospreys.

## Where to Stay

### **Bassenthwaite Lakeside Lodges**

*Bassenthwaite, Keswick CA12 4QZ*

A friendly holiday park on the shores of Bassenthwaite.



www

### **Burns Farm Caravans, Camping and Glamping**

*St Johns in the Vale, Keswick, CA12 4RR*

Set on a working farm, choose from camping pitches; luxury cabins; caravan pitches; and bell tents.



www



## Where to Stay

### West House Farm Cottages, Maryport

Dearham, Maryport CA15 7LD  
Self-catering cottages, located on a working dairy farm.

[www](#)

### 1692 Wasdale

Low Lonnin, Seascale CA20 1EW  
Family-run B&B offering a warm welcome, and home to their very own fluffy residents: a small group of alpacas!

[www](#)

### Stone House Farm B&B

133 Main St, St Bees CA27 0DE  
Family-run B&B offering a warm welcome, and home to their very own fluffy residents: a small group of alpacas!

[www](#)

## DAY 3

# Cumbria's Coast

### 7 The Lake District Coast Aquarium South Quay, Maryport CA15 8AB

Visit 75 displays showcasing a diverse collection of marine life from across the Cumbrian and UK coastline. Explore the SeaLab extension with a microscope, visit the lobster hatchery project, and see a coral display that kids can climb inside. There's also a 14-hole mini golf course, an adventure playground and a fishing tackle shop.

[www](#)

### 8 Explore the Coast

Cumbria's coast offers plenty to discover, with sea birds, wildflower meadows and beautiful beaches. St Bees Head is home to an RSPB nature reserve (and the beach below is a great place to build sandcastles and enjoy an ice cream). The stretch between Whitehaven and St Bees is dotted with wildflower meadows - the King Charles III English Coast Path runs between the two, offering a great way to explore.

### 9 Muncaster Hawk and Owl Centre Muncaster Castle, Ravenglass CA18 1RQ

At Muncaster Castle, alongside extensive gardens and a 'haunted' castle, you'll also find a Hawk and Owl Centre. There's a strong focus on conservation and kids will love seeing the birds in the Centre and Owl Garden. Don't miss the impressive bird of prey flying displays, which take place against the backdrop of the castle and Lakeland fells.

[www](#)

## Where to Eat

### Studio Pixel

52 Senhouse St, Maryport CA15 6BS  
Coffee and cake (including locally famous NYC cookies), served in a relaxed cafe.

[www](#)

### The Stables Cafe at Muncaster Castle

Muncaster Castle, Ravenglass CA18 1RQ  
Located in the Castle's former stables, serving a range of home cooked food from light bites to hearty meals. [www](#)

### The Wharf

Harbour, Marine Rd, Maryport CA15 8AY  
Cafe on the harbour in Maryport. [www](#)

