



## ▶ A Coastal Adventure: Maritime History & Heritage

Cumbria's coastal history and heritage stretches back throughout the ages, from tales of pirates and smugglers to modern day harbours and marinas. Discover it all with this itinerary, which travels along the coast and stops at some fascinating places along the way.

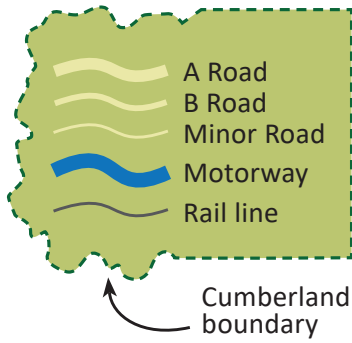
### ★ Highlights

- Maritime history & heritage
- Family friendly attractions
- Stunning coastal views





## MAP & KEY



- 1 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



Please note, this map is for illustrative purposes only. Not all routes are suitable for all vehicles.

## Good to know

Each stop along this itinerary can be reached by train using the Cumbrian Coast Line, operated by Northern. Tickets are available online and via the Northern app, as well as through third party operators.





## Where to Eat

### The Peddler

*The Bus Station, Bransty Row, Whitehaven CA28 7XE*

Casual dining in Whitehaven's former bus station. [www](#)

### Raven's Nest

*78 Lowther St, Whitehaven CA28 7RB*

Retro inspired vegetarian cafe and cocktail bar. [www](#)

### Howling Wolf Cafe

*West Strand, Whitehaven CA28 7LY*

A family run bakery and coffee house beneath the Beacon Museum. [www](#)

## DAY 1

### 1 Whitehaven

Today, discover Whitehaven's rich maritime history: this coastal town was once the third-largest port in the UK, with trade links across the world.

## Explore Whitehaven

The port of Whitehaven was mainly used by fishing boats until the 1630s, when the export of salt and coal began. This was so successful that by the 1700s, around 80% of all the coal from Ireland was shipped from Whitehaven!

By the 18th century Whitehaven was a major hub for imported goods with tobacco coming in from North America, and spice, sugar and spirits from the West Indies. Between 1710 and 1769, it was also directly involved in the transatlantic trade of trafficking enslaved people (learn more about the darker period in our history at The Rum Story).

Although the American War of Independence (1775-1783) severely affected the tobacco trade, it was boom-time for shipbuilding and Whitehaven produced around 1000 wooden ships over the next 100 years.

In the 1830s the construction of piers to surround the outer harbour began - both piers took 25 years. Whitehaven's two iconic 19th century lighthouses have recently been restored and today, the harbour's story continues to evolve with the transition from industrial to leisure use.

### The Edge (new for 2025)

**8 West Strand, Whitehaven CA28 7LR**

Watch out for The Edge coming in 2025. This new coastal activities centre on the harbour in Whitehaven will boast changing facilities, a cafe, activities and events gallery and accommodation, all across three floors.

### The Beacon Museum

**West Strand, Whitehaven CA28 7LY**

Overlooking Whitehaven's harbour, the Beacon's interactive exhibits focus on social, industrial and maritime heritage. There's also a viewing gallery offering breath-taking views of Whitehaven and the Solway Coast.

 [www](#)

### The Rum Story

**27 Lowther St, Whitehaven CA28 7DN**

Housed in an original warehouse, The Rum Story takes you on a thought-provoking journey to the heart of Whitehaven's maritime heyday. Learn more about the area's role in the spice and rum trade, with tales of Blackbeard and piracy on the high seas; smugglers and Nelson's navy; and the local Jefferson family, who traded rum, sugar and molasses from the West Indies.

 [www](#)



### GOOD TO KNOW:

Whitehaven has strong links with North America. The first-ever U.S President George Washington's grandmother lived here (her grave lies in the town's St Nicholas churchyard). Whitehaven's town layout was also used as the blueprint for the expansion of New York in the mid 18th century.





## DAY 2

### 2 Maryport

15 miles north of Whitehaven stands another important harbour: once home to a Roman fort and bustling shipyards, today it's better known for its marina, harbour and major new investment in exciting attractions and facilities coming throughout 2025.

### Explore Maryport

For centuries Maryport was a fishing hamlet known as Ellenfoot. At the start of the industrial revolution, Humphrey Senhouse recognised its strategic importance and obtained an Act of Parliament to develop a new town and harbour. Named 'Maryport' after his wife, the town quickly grew and by 1800, it had 3000 inhabitants and 90 ships.

As well as shipbuilding, the new Maryport was also an important port for the shipment of minerals and goods produced locally, including coal, iron ore, steel rails, timber, cotton and livestock.

Following a period of industrial decline in the 20th century, Maryport has undergone an impressive transformation into a marina and harbour for leisure craft. Explore the harbour and attractions which have developed around it.

### Maryport Maritime Museum

22 Curzon Street, Maryport

Learn more about the town's history at this museum featuring art exhibitions, models and displays. Operating in a temporary space for 2024, it moves into a larger building on the harbour in Spring 2025.



www

## Where to Eat

### Marina View Cafe

Marina, Marine Rd, Maryport CA15 8AY  
Harbour views and homemade comfort food.

www

### Maryport Tandoori

2-3 South Quay, Maryport CA15 8AB  
Named Curry Restaurant of the Year 2024 (North) at the Nation's Curry Awards.

### Portobello Wood Fired

29 Senhouse St, Maryport CA15 6BL  
Hand stretched, wood fired pizza served in a bistro in the heart of Maryport. Booking advised.

www



### DID YOU KNOW:

Maryport was the birthplace of Thomas Henry Ismay, one of the great shipping magnates of the time and owner of the White Star Line (which built the ill-fated Titanic).



## Where to Eat

### **The Bank of Silloth**

9 Eden St, Silloth, Wigton CA7 4WY

A popular Spanish restaurant and bar, serving tapas dishes in a friendly atmosphere.

[www](#)

### **Silloth Cafe Fish & Chips**

2 Station Rd, Silloth, Wigton CA7 4AE

Enjoy fish & chips on the prom overlooking the Solway Firth.

### **Fairydust Emporium Cafe**

8 Eden St, Silloth, Wigton CA7 4AD

Seaside tea room serving locally sourced food and drink in a quirky, colourful setting. Visit for the 'biggest hot chocolate in Cumbria'.

[www](#)

### **Stella's Bistro**

6, Park Terrace, The Green View Guest House, Criffel St, Silloth, Wigton CA7 4DQ

Expect a warm welcome and home made food at this friendly bistro overlooking the Solway Firth.

[www](#)

## DAY 3

### 3 Silloth

Having explored two harbour towns whose ships played an important role in the industrial revolution, step further back in history with a visit to Silloth.

### Explore Silloth

Before being developed as a railhead and port by the Victorians, the area was known as Skinburness and is steeped in maritime history.

Edward I, a famous adversary of the Scots, based his naval vessels here in order to supply troops and provisions prior to his assault on southern Scotland. There began hundreds of years of conflict and lawlessness in the border region. The Skinburness coastline was infamous for smuggling, with secret tunnels being built to transfer contraband inland from the coast.

Today Silloth is far removed from its turbulent past and a walk along the promenade is the best way to enjoy stunning views over the Solway Firth to Scotland.

## Where To Stay

### **Moresby Hall**

Moresby Hall,  
Whitehaven CA28 6PJ


[www](#)

### **The Old Mill Inn, Dearham**

Row Brow, Dearham,  
Maryport CA15 7JP



[www](#)

### **Green View Guesthouse**

6, Park Terrace, Criffel St,  
Silloth, Wigton CA7 4DQ



[www](#)