



▶ A Culture Vulture's Guide: Create your Own Adventure

Immerse yourself in a rich arts and culture scene, with world class art galleries; live music and theatre venues; literary gems; and plenty more. Get inspired with this itinerary, which takes you through the area's creative scene. With so much to explore, take your pick and create your own adventure.

★ Highlights

- Outdoor sculpture
- Literary icons
- Theatre and live music
- Renowned museums and galleries



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© Tullie

DAY 1

1 Carlisle

By day, visit a newly refurbished museum housing modern and ancient art; in the evening, head to one of the city's live music venues.

Tullie

Castle St, Carlisle, CA3 8TP

Refurbished in 2024, this museum, art gallery and community hub showcases fine and decorative art, human history and natural sciences. Old Tullie House is a classical Grade One Listed Jacobean building; adjacent is a purpose built art gallery, seamlessly fusing new and old. As well as permanent collections, there are always temporary exhibitions to discover.



www

The Old Fire Station

Peter St, Carlisle CA3 8QP

Hosting famous names and budding artists alike, Carlisle's award-winning Old Fire Station hosts a fantastic range of live music, comedy events, and more.



www

GOOD TO KNOW: The Old Fire Station is located a 10 - 15 minute walk from Carlisle Train Station.

The Brickyard

Richmond Hall, 14 Fisher St, Carlisle CA3 8RN

Formerly known as The Richmond Hall, the building in which The Brickyard stands has been a key feature of Carlisle's music scene for many years. Today, it's a great place to catch live music and themed events.



www

Where to Eat

Cakes & Ale

17-19 Castle St, Carlisle CA3 8SY

This cosy, hidden gem of a cafe is tucked away at the back of the Bookcase Bookshop.

www

Alexandros Greek Restaurant and Deli

68 Warwick Rd, Carlisle CA1 1DR

Acclaimed Greek restaurant serving up authentic, homemade dishes in a relaxed atmosphere.

www

Print Yard

5-6 Old Post Office Court, Carlisle CA3 8LE

Street food, cocktails and craft beer, served in a street-art decorated yard.

www

OKA Tapasu

4 The GreenMarket, Carlisle CA3 8JE

Japanese- Korean tapas restaurant inspired by the flavours of Asia.

www

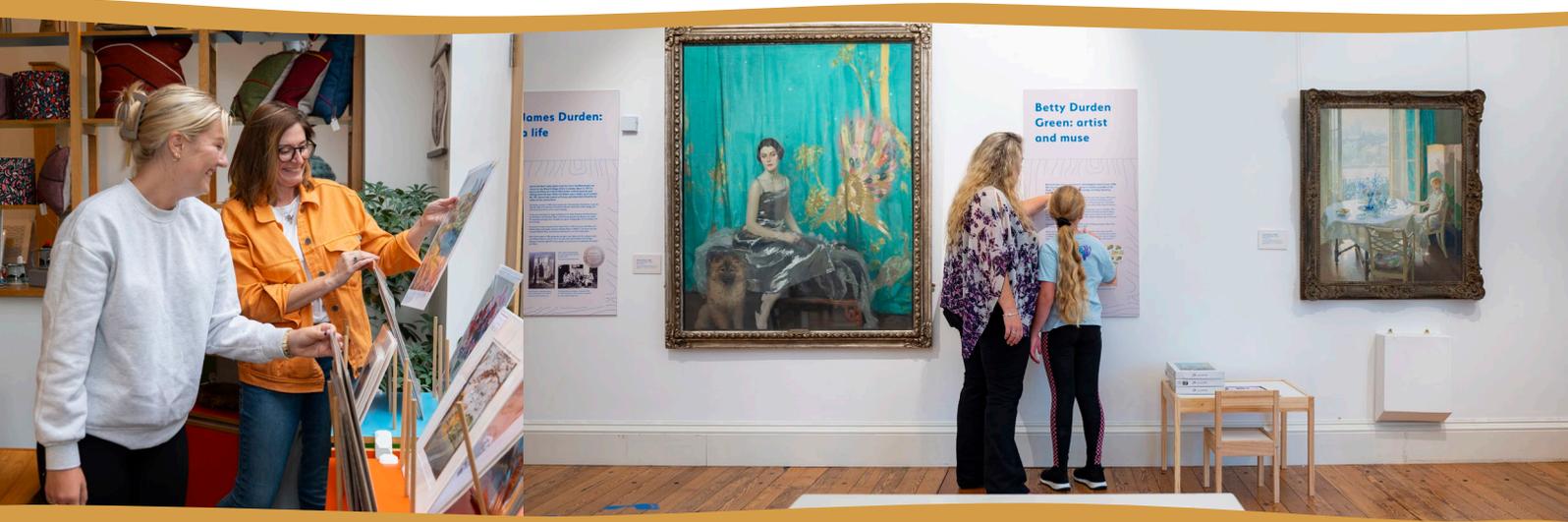
Carlisle Cathedral Cafe

Carlisle Cathedral, Carlisle CA3 8TZ

A modern cafe set in the grounds of Carlisle Cathedral.

www

For more, head to www.discovercarlisle.co.uk



DAYS 2 & 3

2 Keswick & Bassenthwaite

Spend a day exploring the market town of Keswick: there are interesting museums, galleries and workshops to enjoy, followed by an evening at the theatre.

Keswick Museum & Art Gallery

Station Rd, Keswick CA12 4NF

See an impressive display of decorative metalware items, created by the Keswick School of Industrial arts (founded in 1884), along with an impressive collection of 18th and 19th century fine art. Many of the works in the collection are of regional significance.



The Makers Mill

The Makers Mill, Greta Side, Keswick CA12 5LG

Housed in a 19th century mill on the banks of the river Greta, this creative venue is home to an art and design gallery, workshop space, and makers' studios. Pop in to see artists at work, or check out their events calendar to get stuck in yourself.



Northern Lights Gallery

22 St John's St, Keswick CA12 5AS

Take home a piece of original artwork from Northern Lights Gallery, which exhibits work by both local and UK based artists.



Theatre by the Lake

Lakeside, Lake Rd, Keswick CA12 5DJ

Located on the shores of Derwentwater, this unique venue stages a year-round programme of theatre, music, films and festivals. It's home to two stages: the larger Main House and the more intimate Studio Theatre. Visiting companies and touring works can be seen alongside homegrown productions.



TOP TIP: Look out for relaxed performances for those who may benefit from a more easy-going atmosphere; and performances which weave BSL, captions and audio description into the storytelling.





Where to Eat

The Lakeside Cafe & Restaurant at Theatre by the Lake

30A Lake Rd, Keswick CA12 5DG

Open daily, and until 7pm on show nights, offering pre-performance dining on the shores of Derwentwater.

[www](#)

Derwent Walker Cocktail Bar & Restaurant

19 Lake Rd, Keswick CA12 5BS

Dinner and cocktails in a quirky yet elegant setting.

[www](#)

Bar eS

1 New Street, Keswick CA12 5BB

Tapas, craft beers, cocktails and tequila served in a colourful bar.

[www](#)

Piri Fresco

91 Main St, Keswick CA12 5DT

A Portuguese style menu with a piri piri twist.

[www](#)

Yonder

1 Main St, Keswick CA12 5BA

Independent cafe serving coffee, lunch and bakes.

[www](#)

DAYS 2 & 3

2 Keswick & Bassenthwaite

Discover the history of the pencil and pick up art supplies; visit an impressive country house; or get stuck in with arts and craft courses.

Derwent Pencil Museum

Southey Works, Keswick CA12 5NG

Graphite, from which the modern day pencil evolved, was first discovered in Borrowdale in the 1500s. The Derwent Pencil Museum takes you from those humble beginnings through to modern day production.

Stock up on art supplies at the Derwent Fine Art retail shop, or take part in an art workshop - check website for details.

[www](#)

Mirehouse and Gardens

A591, Keswick CA12 4QE

Built in the mid-1600s, Mirehouse is a family run historic house and gardens on the shores of Bassenthwaite. Frequented by the 'Lakes Poets' (Wordsworth, Taylor Coleridge, Southey and Carlyle), it was also the place where Alfred Tennyson stayed when he wrote his lines on Excalibur for Morte d'Arthur.

Not to be missed is Mirehouse's collection of rare manuscripts, including a collection of works by Francis Bacon.

[www](#)

Higham Hall

Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth CA13 9SH

Fancy getting creative? Higham Hall offers residential and non-residential courses. If you're looking to learn a new craft, improve your musical skills or even study philosophy, there's plenty to choose from.

[www](#)

GOOD TO KNOW:

You're in the landscape that inspired J.M.W. Turner - he painted and sketched in the Borrowdale Valley in 1797.



© Castlegate House Gallery



© Market Place Print Studio

Where to Eat

The Moon & Sixpence

29 Main St, Cockermouth CA13 9LE

Local coffee house known for their speciality coffee and homemade bakes.

[www](#)

Shill's of Cockermouth

11 South St, Cockermouth CA13 9RU

A cosy cafe, restaurant and deli. Watch out for live music and wine tastings.

[www](#)

Fika

7A Station St, Cockermouth CA13 9QW

Daytime and evening dining, with locally roasted coffee and freshly prepared dishes.

[www](#)

Aspava

64 Main St, Cockermouth CA13 9LU

Authentic, family run Turkish restaurant and patisserie.

[www](#)

Kirkgate Arts Centre

Kirkgate, Cockermouth CA13 9PJ

Hosting live theatre and music, and weekly cinema screenings, the Kirkgate Arts Centre is at the heart of the local community.

Cockermouth Heritage Group are also based at the centre and regularly host exhibitions.

[www](#)



SAVE THE DATE: Cockermouth Live is a free festival held in July every year, with live music, art trails, and rare access to the grounds of Cockermouth Castle.

DAY 4

3 Cockermouth

Spend a day in Cockermouth: see where Wordsworth was born, and visit independent galleries.

Wordsworth House

Main St, Cockermouth CA13 9RX

Discover the birthplace of William and Dorothy Wordsworth. Inside, explore the house's rooms and discover interactive activities; outside, the peaceful garden must surely have inspired Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy's love of the natural world.



[www](#)

Castlegate House Gallery

Castlegate, Cockermouth CA13 9HA

British art from established and emerging talent, including local artists like Sheila Fell, Percy Kelly and Winifred Nicholson. The Gallery also exhibits some of the best studio pottery in the UK.



[www](#)

Percy House Gallery

38-42 Market Pl, Cockermouth CA13 9NG

A large selection of work by Cumbrian and British artists, housed across seven rooms in a Grade II listed building.



[www](#)

Market Place Print Studio

21 Market Pl, Cockermouth CA13 9HN

Give it a go yourself, with printmaking and art workshops in this playful, creative studio space. There's something for all levels, as well as open access for experienced printmakers.



[www](#)



DAY 5

4 Maryport

Head east to Maryport, where you'll find a burgeoning arts scene in the town which inspired some of LS Lowry's works.

The Shipping Brow Gallery

1 Senhouse St, Maryport CA15 6AB

This community art gallery, housed in a brightly coloured building by the River Ellen, showcases the work of local artists including Percy Kelly and William Mitchell, alongside present-day local artists.

[www](#)

Walk the Lowry Trail

Artist L S Lowry often visited Maryport, spending time with local artist Percy Kelly and producing paintings and drawings of the town. A 2021 project saw local primary school children draw their own versions of Lowry's pictures; these are displayed at key sites including the Market Steps, the Shipping Brow and along the harbour.



Where to Eat

Studio Pixel
152 Senhouse St,
Maryport CA15 6BS
Coffee and cake (including locally famous NYC cookies), served in a relaxed cafe.
[www](#)

Marina View Cafe
Marina, Marine Rd,
Maryport CA15 8AY
Harbour views and homemade comfort food.
[www](#)

Redby Coffee
19 Senhouse St,
Maryport CA15 6AB
Barista coffee with lots of homemade cakes, pies, quiches and soups to choose from. Watch out for live entertainment.
[www](#)



DAY 6

The Western Lake District and Coast

Cumbria's coast is home to a rich industrial heritage, as well as the birthplaces of renowned artists and an exciting modern arts scene. Begin the day in Egremont, before heading down the coast to Millom.

5 Florence Arts Centre Florence Mine, Egremont CA22 2NR

Once the last working deep iron ore mine in Europe, Florence Mine is a fantastic hub for the arts, with regular events and a gallery featuring a changing programme of exhibitions from local artists. Give it a go yourself, with a range of short courses and workshops (booking required).

 [www](http://www.florenceartscentre.co.uk)

GOOD TO KNOW: The on-site printmakers shop sells art materials made using natural Cumbrian earth pigments.

5 Lowes Court Gallery 2 Main St, Egremont CA22 2DJ

This former coal merchant's cottage is home to Lowes Court Gallery: an artist-run space which showcases traditional and contemporary Cumbrian art.

 [www](http://www.lowescourtgallery.co.uk)

TOP TIP: Visit [Hartleys Ice Creamery](#) in Egremont. Created in 1931, this family run ice cream shop now has over 60 flavours!

6 Explore by bike Cleator Moor

Add a bike ride into your itinerary by following the [West Cumbria cycle network](#) to Cleator Moor. Here you will find three sculptures by celebrated artist Conrad Atkinson, who was born in the town in 1940. He created these special works as a memorial to the town's once thriving mining industry – they are known as the Miner, the Phoenix and the Hand.

Discover the Sculptures of Josefina de Vasconcellos

The late sculptor Josefina de Vasconcellos MBE is responsible for a total of 14 stunning stone carvings which can be found across Cumbria. These include the 'Vision of St Bega' and 'The Hand' in St Bees, at St Bega's Priory and St Bees School respectively.

A large stone carving called 'Escape to Light' is located by the beach in Haverigg, and a number of her works can be found in local churches, including: St John's Church, Keswick, St Mary's Church in Maryport and St Mary's Church, Westfield in Workington.



DAY 6

7 The Western Lake District and Coast

Millom Heritage & Arts Centre

Station Buildings, Station Rd, Millom LA18 5AA

Millom was the home of renowned 20th century poet Norman Nicholson OBE.

Discover his work at Poets Corner in the Millom Heritage and Arts Centre. Located in a beautifully restored railway station and with a strong emphasis on visual arts, the centre is home to exhibitions about the town's history and heritage from as early as the Bronze Age.



[www](#)

Norman Nicholson's House

14 St George's Terrace, Millom

Millom was the home of renowned 20th century poet Norman Nicholson OBE.

The poet's lifelong home in Millom, 14 St George's Terrace, is owned by the Norman Nicholson Society (with future plans to develop it into a museum). Keep an eye on their website for events and information.

[www](#)

TOP TIP: If you are visiting Millom take the time to travel a few miles north to enjoy Josefina de Vasconcellos large stone carving 'Escape to Light' by the beach at Haverigg.

Where to Eat

Deja Brew

57 Main St, Egremont CA22 2DB

All day breakfasts, ramen noodles, bubble tea and more at this colourful cafe in Egremont.

[www](#)

The Byre Cafe

Millstones Barn, Bootle, Millom LA19 5TJ

Cosy, welcoming cafe in the village of Bootle.

[www](#)

The Brown Cow Inn

Waberthwaite, Lane End, Millom LA19 5YJ

Cosy country pub serving food made with local produce from coast and countryside.

[www](#)

Da Vinci

West County Hotel, Market Square, Millom LA18 4HZ

Italian restaurant serving delicious dishes like antipasti, pizza and pasta.

[www](#)

Silecroft Beach Cafe

Silecroft, Millom LA18 4NY

Modern beach cafe overlooking the Irish Sea. New externally accessed toilet facilities include a Changing Places room for visitors with additional needs.

★ Did you know? The building's bespoke shutters were designed by Turner Prize winner, Martin Boyce.



© Rosehill Theatre



© Rosehill Theatre

Music and Theatre in the Western Lakes

The Beggar's Theatre, Millom Market Square, Millom LA18 4HZ

A thriving playhouse at the heart of the community. It hosts a wide array of acts including live music, family shows, touring productions and comedy.



Carnegie Theatre & Arts Centre, Workington Finkle St, Workington CA14 2BD

This award-winning venue offers a year-round programme of concerts, plays and shows. Previous performers have included Psychic Sally, Francis Rossi and The Ladyboys of Bangkok.



Rosehill Theatre, Whitehaven Whitehaven CA28 6SE

With an intimate interior described as a “rose-red silk-lined jewel box”, there’s also a varied programme including music, drama, comedy, craft workshops, films and live screenings.



Did you know?

Some famous faces have long-standing links with Carlisle, the Western Lake District and coast.

The late Norman Nicholson - widely regarded as the most important Cumbrian poet of the 20th century – was a lifelong resident in Millom. Find two audio trails on the [Norman Nicholson app](#).

Food columnist and TV regular Grace Dent is originally from Carlisle.

Funny man Rowan Atkinson attended St Bees School in his earlier years.

