



**National
Trust**

How to make the most of an open day at Derwent Island House

For many people, a visit to Derwent Island is something they've looked forward to for a long time.

To help you get the most out of your day, here's some more information about how the Derwent Island House open day works.

Booking

- Book online by locating the event in our 'What's On' listing at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/borrowdale and clicking the 'Book Online' button. Alternatively, call 0344 249 1895. Please note a booking fee of 5% per ticket applies to all customers.
- Sadly we are not able to accommodate dogs on the island.

Parking

- The closest parking is Keswick Lakeside car park, Lake Road, CA12 5DJ. This is a pay and display car park (not National Trust).
- To allow time for and getting to the island and back, we recommend you pay for a minimum of 3 hours parking. Parking prices are listed on the [Parkopedia website](#). You can pay by mobile phone.

Tickets

When booking your tickets you can choose whether to print your own or have them sent to you through the post. Whichever you choose please bring them along with you on the day. Crossing times are fixed and please be sure to arrive in good time.

Canoeing to the island

- Because the lake level of Derwent Water changes so much, we have found that the most reliable way of getting to the island is by canoe – it dramatically reduces the risk of us having to cancel an open day because the water is too low to land a boat.
- We use a local licensed outdoor provider, [Keswick Canoe and Bushcraft](#), who provide two qualified canoe instructors to give you help and advice.
- The canoes are six Canadian 'open boat' style canoes, bound together in pairs as three 'rafts', which makes them very stable, and easier to paddle. You will need to paddle, but with six people in each canoe raft, no one person has to work too hard.
- Keswick Canoe and Bushcraft supply buoyancy aids and paddles.
- Because of the size of the smallest buoyancy aid, we are unable to take children under the age of 4 in the canoes.
- Canoeing to the island takes about 5 minutes, plus 10 minutes of safety briefing and embarking / disembarking.
- Getting in and out of the canoe may involve getting your feet wet and/or muddy, so you might want to bring a change of shoes.

Time on the island

- Your timed ticket gives you about 2½ hrs on the island.
- The first 45 minutes is a guided tour of the main show rooms in the Georgian mansion with one of our knowledgeable guides.
- The remaining 1¾ hrs is yours to explore the island at your own pace, and enjoy the sense of tranquillity which makes the island such a special place. We provide lawn games and a children's quiz, and you are welcome to bring your own picnic.

Bringing children

- We very much welcome children at the Derwent Island Open Days, but for safety reasons we have to ensure that there are no more than two children for every adult participating. We ask that you please keep this in mind when booking tickets for children.
- The only way we can enable visitors to access the house is by guided tour. The guided tour of the house is 45 minutes long. We have some handling objects for children as part of the tour, but the simple truth is that 45 minutes of listening isn't every child's idea of a good day out.
- Families who have visited say that they think it works for children aged eight and over, but you'll know best whether your child will enjoy joining a guided tour.
- If you feel that your child won't enjoy the guided tour, you're welcome to visit the island and miss out the house. Outside, we have a children's quiz with a map to help them explore the whole island, and lawn games including croquet, boules and giant dominoes

Visitor facilities on the island

- There is a unisex toilet available for visitors on the island in the Garden Room, formerly part of the cellars of the mansion.
- When we have enough volunteers, we are able to offer tea, coffee and cakes in the Garden Room; unfortunately we are not able to guarantee that we can offer refreshments every open day.
- Lunches are not available on the island – you are welcome to bring your own picnic, or enjoy lunch at the Theatre by the Lake café before or after your visit.
- There are two rooms to shelter from rain while you're on the island; the Garden Room and the Chapel. The open day is mostly an 'outdoor' experience though, so we do recommend that you bring waterproofs and come prepared for the Lake District weather.

Size of the island

Derwent Island is the largest of the four islands in Derwent Water. It is approximately 250m long and 150m wide at its broadest point.

Private Tenants

Derwent Island is the private home of National Trust tenants. The rental income helps towards the upkeep costs for maintaining the island and the mansion. It is the only inhabited island in the Lake District which opens to visitors.

We run our open days five days a year. The dates are listed on our website at

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/borrowdale-and-derwentwater

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