From inspirational homes of great British writers and artists to gardens for all seasons. With one of the most complete industrial heritage sites in Britain at Quarry Bank and the dramatic scenery of the Lake District, you’ll be spoilt for choice for great days out.

New for 2017

**Sticklebarn and The Langdales**
Take a walk or just admire the dramatic landscape of Great Langdale Valley – a great place for lunch in the relaxed and comfortable atmosphere of Sticklebarn.

**Sizergh**
An overgrown area of the garden is brought to life using more than 20 enormous tree stumps. The Stumpery perfectly displays a selection of Sizergh’s four National Collections of Fern, alongside a variety of new plants for all-year-round interest.

**Beatrix Potter Gallery and Hawkshead**
‘That corner of the Lake District’ is an exhibition taking a closer look, past and present, at places Beatrix loved and sought to protect through her pioneering conservation work.

Perfect for groups

**Steam Yacht Gondola**
Take a nostalgic cruise aboard this elegant vessel on Coniston Water, as part of the Grand Victorian Circular Tour – retracing the steps of Victorian and Edwardian tourists on an adaptation of one of the original Furness Railway tours of the Lake District. Enjoy an exciting itinerary including two lakes and various types of transport accompanied by a National Trust guide for the day. Available on various dates throughout the season.

Stay in the Lakes and also visit Sizergh or Wordsworth House and Garden.

**Itinerary ideas**

**Gardens for everyone to love**
Head to Dunham Massey to explore the beautiful garden. The Winter Garden springs to life with iris, snowdrops and narcissus; in July enjoy the colourful blooms of the Rose Garden featuring its very own ‘Dunham Massey’ and ‘Stamford’s Sanctuary’ roses.

Continue your journey to Quarry Bank and discover the newly restored Upper Garden with its magnificent glasshouse. And finally, follow in the footsteps of Mr Darcy at Lyme beside the lake in the BBC’s Pride and Prejudice, visit the Orangery, the Italian Garden and the Rose Garden – Lady Newton’s favourite spot. Lyme’s extensive gardens are an ideal place to stroll and relax.

**Top three tours**

**Exclusive guided tour: a light-hearted look at Tudor times**
Little Moreton Hall see page 230

**Tour with the gardener**
Rufford Old Hall see page 234

**The daily life of the Wordsworths**
Wordsworth House and Garden see page 244
Acorn Bank
Temple Sowerby, near Penrith, Cumbria CA10 1SP

At the heart of the Eden Valley, with spectacular views to the Lake District, Acorn Bank is a tranquil haven with a rich and diverse history. The walled gardens shelter a medicinal herb garden and traditional orchards. Woodland walks, famous for springtime daffodils, reveal a half-hidden story of gypsum mining and a working watermill with a medieval past. In the midst of this beautiful estate sits a 17th-century sandstone manor house, once owned by the indomitable author and poet, Dorothy Una Ratcliffe. This unfurnished manor is now partially open to our visitors while under restoration. Note: access to fragile grass paths may be restricted after wet weather.


Contact: 017683 61893
acornbank@nationaltrust.org.uk

Coaches: limited parking, booking essential. Space for 1 coach or minibus, 80 yards. Narrow approach road, access information with map provided at time of booking.

Visit: average duration is 2 hours. Welcome to site. Guided tour*. Out-of-hours tours*. Shop.

Catering: small tea-room, not suitable for groups. Catering for groups provided in a private room, booking essential.

Group admission: £5.95

Beatrix Potter Gallery and Hawkshead
Main Street, Hawkshead, Cumbria LA22 0NS

The Beatrix Potter Gallery displays original items from our collection in this year’s exhibition ‘That Corner of the Lake District’. For anyone who has ever been enchanted by Beatrix’s endearing characters, the gallery is the place to go to marvel at these miniature masterpieces. This unique space occupies a 17th-century building which served as the office of Beatrix’s solicitor husband. For a perfect day out, why not follow in Beatrix Potter’s footsteps to Hill Top, then spend time outdoors? Hawkshead village is an excellent base for exploring the countryside that inspired Beatrix and many other artists, authors and poets.

Note: nearest toilet 300 yards in main village car park (not National Trust).

Contact: 015394 36355 (gallery). 015394 36471 (shop) beatrixpottergallery@nationaltrust.org.uk

Coaches: nearest parking, 300 yards from entrance, in Lake District National Park (LDNP), pay-and-display car park.

Visit: average duration is 30 minutes. Introductory talk. Shop.

Catering: several cafés and pubs in Hawkshead village.

Group admission: £6 (groups 8+). 50% discount off gallery admission for groups visiting both Hill Top and Beatrix Potter Gallery

Access: Gallery

Beatrix Potter Gallery/Hawkshead
M T W T F S S

18 Feb–25 May 10–4 M T W T S S
27 May–3 Sep 10–5 M T W T F S S
4 Sep–29 Oct 10–4 M T W T F S S
27 May–3 Sep 10–5 M T W T F S S
4 Sep–31 Dec* 10–4 M T W T F S S

At busy periods, timed entry system in operation. Hawkshead Courthouse open: 1 April to 29 October (access by key from National Trust shop in Hawkshead). *Closed 24 to 26 December.

Access: Gallery
Dunham Massey

Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4SJ

Set within a wall of warm red brick, Dunham Massey is home to more than 400 years-worth of family history, a herd of fallow deer and a garden for all seasons. ‘Dunham’s Lost Years’ has seen the house transformed to tell a tale of love, status and scandal, which changed Dunham’s history for ever. Outdoors, a 12-hectare (30-acre) garden awaits with colourful swathes of planting and a sweeping lawn at its centre – a great spot for a picnic. The stables and working mill are also close by, but for those who want to escape deeper into the park, follow one of the tree-lined avenues, spotting deer along the way. Note: everyone (including members) requires a house and garden ticket (available from reception on the day). No groups on Bank Holiday weekends and occasionally other peak times.

Garden best: all year.

Contact: 0161 942 3989 (Infoline). 0161 941 1025 dunhammassey@nationaltrust.org.uk

Coaches: parking for 2 coaches, 50 yards from entrance, 200 yards from house and clock-tower. Shuttle buggy transfer available most days. Please use approach from A56 – low bridge on B5160 to west of property.

Visit: average duration is 4 hours. Guided walks in the deer-park (additional charge) are available on request when making your booking. Shop.

Catering: café, self-service, 80 covers, with additional open-air seating for 100. Stables Restaurant, self-service, 200 covers. Unfortunately we are not able to reserve tables.

Group admission: £12.75. Garden only £8

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*House: entry to house to 22 March by regular guided tour (booking not necessary). House: last entry one hour before closing, or dusk if earlier. **Stables: close 4. †Shop and café: open 10. Garden: closes at dusk if earlier than stated time. Mill: open 12 to 4, 11 February to 5 November. White Cottage: open last Sunday of month, March to October, 2 to 5 (booking essential, 0161 928 0075). Whole property closed 22 November and 25 December (including car park).

Access:

House Garden and park

Please book all group visits, tours and catering direct with our places
Gawthorpe Hall
Burnley Road, Padiham, near Burnley, Lancashire BB12 8UA

This imposing house, set in the heart of urban Lancashire, contains fabulously opulent interiors, created by Sir Charles Barry in the 19th century. The Hall displays textiles from the Gawthorpe Textile Collection, including needlework, lace and embroidery, while outside the grounds are popular with dog walkers. Note: financed and run in partnership with Lancashire County Council. Opening times and prices for the Hall are controlled by LCC and subject to change – please check availability and price.


Contact: 01282 771004
gawthorpehall@nationaltrust.org.uk

Coaches: parking for 2 coaches, 100 yards. Narrow access road.

Visit: average duration is 2 hours. Guided tour£. Out-of-hours tours£.

Catering: café, self-service with limited seating, 40 covers.

Group admission: please contact for details

Hill Top
Near Sawrey, Hawkshead, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 0LF

Beatrix Potter’s beloved Hill Top is more than just the inspiration for her little white books. Full of her precious things, Hill Top encapsulates her passion that went on to dominate her life, preserving the landscape and culture of the Lakes. From traditional Lakeland furniture, to trophies for her prize-winning Herdwick sheep, Hill Top represents her legacy. The colourful garden is just as Beatrix knew it. Today, we continue in Beatrix’s footsteps, working in a changing world to conserve the Lake District for ever, for everyone. The house can be very busy and visitors occasionally have to wait to enter. Note: timed-ticket entry system for the house. Tickets not needed for garden and shop. Combined ticket available for a visit to Hill Top and nearby Beatrix Potter Gallery.

Garden best in: May–August.

Contact: 015394 36269. 015394 36801 (shop)
hilltop@nationaltrust.org.uk

Coaches: no coach parking. Drop-off 10 yards from entrance. Restrictions apply, must call for details and travel alternatives. Coach parking: 1 mile on road to Windermere or in Hawkshead, then transfer to minibus (charge applies).

Visit: average duration is 45 minutes. Out-of-hours tours£. Shop.

Catering: no catering on site. Nearby hotels (neither National Trust) can cater for groups; to arrange contact Tower Bank Arms on 015394 36334, or Sawrey House Hotel on 015394 36387.

Group admission: £10.40 (no group discount)
**Little Moreton Hall**

Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4SD

While modern life rushes by on the busy road outside, Little Moreton Hall survives as a stunning Tudor fantasy, inviting the visitor back to another time and place within moments. Built to impress by craftsmen’s hands over 500 years ago, the Hall continues to exude an inimitable quirky charm and homely intimacy. With its crooked walls and uneven floors, it is at once fragile and resilient. This remarkable survivor offers visitors a rare chance to pause for a moment, to take an up-close look at Tudor life and times as you’re led around one of Britain’s most famous and arguably the finest timber-framed, moated manor house dating back over 500 years. The Village Hall continues to exude an inimitable quirky charm and homely intimacy. With its crooked walls and uneven floors, it is at once fragile and resilient. This remarkable survivor offers visitors a rare chance to pause for a moment, to take an up-close look at Tudor life and times as you’re led around one of Britain’s most famous and arguably the finest timber-framed, moated manor house dating back over 500 years.

**Group admission:** £8.50

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Open Bank Holiday Mondays. Upper Floors may close early if light levels are poor. Please note the building is being repainted in autumn.

**Access:**

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**Special interest tours**

**Conservation in Action New**

Take a look behind the scenes with our conservation team and find out how we conserve this remarkable timber-framed construction. See the techniques and special materials used to ensure the building survives another 500 years. Tour available mid-February to mid-March.

- **Tour cost:** from £75 per group
- **Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Exclusive guided tour**

Take a light-hearted look at Tudor life and times as you’re led around one of Britain’s most famous and arguably the finest timber-framed, moated manor house dating back over 500 years.

- **Note:** maximum group size 35.
- **Tour cost:** from £65 per group
- **Duration:** 1 hour

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**Lyme**

Disley, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 2NR

Much-loved home of the Legh family for more than 600 years, Lyme sits in 570 hectares (1,400 acres) of deer-park, with glorious views across Manchester and the Cheshire Plain. Its lavish interiors reflect the life of a great estate, from its earliest beginnings to its Regency heyday, when Thomas Legh brought Lyme back to its full glory. You may recognise Lyme as ‘Pemberley’ from the BBC adaptation of Pride and Prejudice, starring Colin Firth, and the ‘Big House’ in series two of The Village. Lyme’s ever-changing gardens, with the Reflection Lake, Orangery and Rose Garden, are an ideal place to relax and stroll. Note: owned and managed by the National Trust, but partly financed by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council. Sorry, no groups at weekends or Bank Holidays.

**Garden best in:** April–May, July–September.

**Contact:** 01663 762023

**Coaches:** parking for 3 coaches, 200 yards from house. Drop-off point, 100 yards. Shuttle service available. Free parking for groups booked to visit house and garden.

**Visit:** average duration is 3 hours. Ask about our informative, free spotlight talks; these are held throughout the day in various locations, on a variety of subjects. Shop.

**Catering:** tea-room (licensed) in house, table service, 60 covers. Café in Timber Yard, self-service, 70 covers. Call to discuss catering.

**Group admission:** £9.50. Garden only £6.20

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*House: open Thursday, 27 July to 31 August, 11 February to 5 November, last entry one hour before closing. **Parts of house open for Regency Christmas events only. †Garden opens 10:30; shop closed January. ††Gates locked at closing. Deer-park: open 8 to 8, 26 March to 5 November.*

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**Timber Yard shop and café**

- **1 Jan–25 Mar:** 10–4
- **26 Mar-5 Nov:** 10–5
- **1 Mar–25 Mar:** 10–4
- **6 Nov-31 Dec:** 10–4

**Shop:**

- **Garden and shop only:** 10–4
- **Tea-room:** 11–5

**Grounds**

- **Lowing:** 11–4
- **Deer-park:** 11–5
- **Woods**: 8–6

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**Access:**

House, Garden, Shop, Café, Cafe in Timber Yard.
Quarry Bank
Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 4LA

As the Industrial Revolution dawned, the tranquillity of the river valley at Quarry Bank gave way to the clatter and bustle of Samuel Greg’s cotton mill at work. Among the shaking, hissing machinery, men, women and children toiled six days a week to earn their meagre living. This summer, our major Heritage Lottery-funded project will bring the different worlds of the mill workers and their masters to life, as a worker’s cottage in Styal village and the Greg family home are opened to the public for the very first time.

An exhibition in Quarry Bank House will explore the intellectual society that Samuel’s wife Hannah gathered around her, in sharp contrast to the stark realities faced by the workers. **Note:** car-park improvements taking place all year. Building works in mill planned from November. No groups on Bank Holidays.

**Garden best in:** April–September.

What’s new in 2017? Thanks to your donations, the restored curvilinear glasshouse will be open from spring. The new café and shop completes a visit to the Upper Garden.

**Contact:** 01625 527468 quarrybankmill@nationaltrust.org.uk

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**Coaches:** coach parking, 200 yards. Steep hill, many steps or ramp, shuttle service available.

**Visit:** average duration is 3 hours. Welcome to site. For whole site visit allow 4 hours. Visits to mill and garden are self-led. Visits to Apprentice House are limited, by booked timed guided tour only. Shop.

**Catering:** Mill café, 96 covers and Upper Garden café, 36 covers, both licensed. Cafés are busy at all times; groups of 20+ can book exclusive catering service for lunch in suites above the Mill café.

**Group admission:** £18

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### Quarry Bank

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Whole property closed 9 to 20 January for maintenance. Closed 25 December, open 26 December to 7 January 2018.

*Café: opens at 10. **Garden: closes dusk if earlier. **Building works in mill planned from November (mill closure likely); rest of property remains open. Please ring or check website for information.

**Access:** 

- Mill
- Apprentice House
- Grounds

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Special interest tours

**Check website or call for details of all tours or talks**

**The working mill**

Explore the contrasting stories of the Gregs and their mill workers as experienced guides offer unique insights into Quarry Bank. Watch live demonstrations of working mill machinery which show the developments in technology during the Industrial Revolution.

**Tour cost** from £25 per group

**Duration** 1 hour 30 minutes
Rufford Old Hall

200 Liverpool Road, Rufford, near Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 1SG

Set in the low-lying lands of south-west Lancashire, Rufford Old Hall has over 500 years of family history to tell. Step back in time to the timber-framed Tudor Great Hall where the ‘moveable’ oak screen has witnessed theatrical productions in Shakespeare’s time and seven generations of Hesketh family history. Our daily house and garden talks will satisfy your curiosity, while our wild art and bug-hunting kits will keep the children entertained. You can relax and unwind in the 5.6 hectares (14 acres) of stunning gardens and grounds – with spring bulbs, autumn colour and views over the Leeds to Liverpool canal.


Contact: 01704 821254
ruffordoldhall@nationaltrust.org.uk

Coaches: parking for 1 coach, adjacent to visitor reception. Coaches will be directed by a member of staff.

Visit: average duration is 2 hours. Welcome to site. Guided tour. Out-of-hours tours². Introductory talk must be requested at time of booking. Shop.

Catering: tea-room (licensed), table service, 40 covers. Discounted group menu available if booked.

Group admission: £7

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Special interest tours

Check website or call for details of all tours or talks

Tour with the gardener

Join the gardener for an exclusive tour of our charming gardens for a light-hearted look at the garden’s history, its design and plants, as well as hearing about our resident bee colony.

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<th>Tour cost</th>
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<td>Duration</td>
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Sizergh

Sizergh, near Kendal, Cumbria LA8 8DZ

With more than 750 years of history and centuries-old portraits sitting alongside modern family photographs, this medieval house has been home to the Strickland family. It is surrounded by rich gardens and a 647-hectare (1,600-acre) estate, combining a newly created wetland, limestone pastures, orchards and semi-natural woodland, all inhabited by a rich variety of wildlife, including the rare hawfinch. There is a unique and very special limestone rock garden, where colours change with the seasons and its timeless atmosphere makes this the perfect place to relax. Sizergh has many tales to tell and it's an ideal place to start discovering the Lakes.

Note: some opening restrictions apply.

Garden best in: April–October.

Contact: 015395 60951
sizergh@nationaltrust.org.uk

Visit: average duration is 2 hours 30 minutes.
Welcome to site. Shop.

Catering: café (licensed), self-service, 80 covers with outdoor area on the terrace. Sorry, not possible to book.

Group admission: £9.45. Garden only £5.75

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Estate

Open all year 9–6† | M | T | W | T | F | S |

*Guided house tours (excluding Saturdays or Mondays) at 11 and 11:20 (approximately 45 minutes, places limited, £1 per person; tickets available from reception at least 15 minutes before tour). House: open Bank Holiday Mondays. **Garden: parts closed Friday and Saturday in January, February, November and December. †Closes 4:30, 1 January to 5 March and 30 October to 31 December. Car park: open 9 to 4:30, 1 January to 6 March, and 31 October to 31 December. Closed 25 December.

Access: 

Building: 
Ground: 

Please book all group visits, tours and catering direct with our places nationaltrust.org.uk/groups
Speke Hall
Speke, Liverpool L24 1XD

Speke Hall is a cherished Tudor mansion – an oasis of beauty, atmosphere and surprise. Built by the Catholic Norris family during the unsettled Tudor period, the house has several hidden security features, including a priest’s hole and eavesdrop. Following years of neglect (including a spell when it was used as a cowshed), interiors were revived in a cosy Arts and Crafts-style during the Victorian push for improvement. Today you can relax in inviting gardens and woodland, with seasonal displays of rhododendrons and bluebells – a tranquil escape from modern life. The adjacent coastal reserve, along the shore of the River Mersey, is perfect for bracing strolls and wildlife walks. Families can explore and enjoy our play areas and trails.

**Garden best in:** April–August.

**Contact:** 0151 427 7231
spekehall@nationaltrust.org.uk

**Coaches:** parking available on site, 75 yards from entrance.

**Visit:** average duration is 2 hours. Entry to Hall for groups from 12:30. Groups are self-led and need to divide into smaller groups of ten to prevent overcrowding. Shop.

**Catering:** Home Farm restaurant, self-service, 60 covers, with additional outside seating, 500 yards from house. Tea-room located closer to house.

**Group admission:** £9. Grounds only £5.90

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*House: entry before 12:30 by guided tour only (places limited), tickets available from reception on day; free-flow from 12:30. **Shop opens at 11. †Closed 24 to 26 December. Access and closing times subject to change in February and March. Car park: closes 30 minutes after all times stated.

**Access:**
- Hall
- Grounds

Please book all group visits, tours and catering direct with our places
Steam Yacht Gondola

Coniston Pier, Lake Road, Coniston, Cumbria LA21 8AN

Rebuilt by the National Trust from the original 1860 Gondola, today’s passengers can experience the nostalgia of a steam-driven cruise on Coniston Water once enjoyed by the Victorians. Based on the design of a Venetian ‘Burchiello’, her streamlined hull cuts silently through the water, with Sid the golden sea serpent at the bow as her majestic figurehead. You can watch the steam engine in action at close quarters and explore the whole boat, guided by the crew with a full commentary on her long history on the lake and her association with Swallows and Amazons. **Note:** cruises depart from Coniston Pier (subject to weather conditions). Sorry no toilet on scheduled sailings.

**What’s new in 2017?** A full day tour retracing the steps of Victorian and Edwardian tourists on an adaptation of one of the original Furness Railway tours of the Lake District.

**Contact:** 01539 432733 sygondola@nationaltrust.org.uk Booking Office, The Hollens, Grasmere, Cumbria LA22 9QZ

**Coaches:** parking for 2 coaches, 100 yards from entrance.

**Visit:** average duration is 2 hours. Introductory talk. Guided tour. Out-of-hours tours. Please allow 3 hours if visiting Brantwood House. Shop.

**Catering:** a buffet lunch or tea can be provided if Gondola is privately hired.

**Group admission:** Head of Lake cruise £9. Full Lake cruise £16. Walkers £9 or £12 (depending on disembarkation point)

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**Walkers/Full Lake Cruise**

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| Piers at Coniston, Monk Coniston and Parkamoor, also Lake Bank and Brantwood (not National Trust). All sailings depart Coniston Pier. Cruises subject to weather conditions.

**Access:**

**Gangway:**

**Special interest tours**

**Check website or call for details of all tours or talks**

**A Victorian day out on Coniston**

Indulge in a luxurious cruise on captivating Coniston Water aboard this carefully rebuilt steam-powered yacht with its sumptuously upholstered saloons. Enjoy the glorious views as wealthy Victorians once did. Disembark at Brantwood House (not National Trust), home of famous Victorian artist and writer John Ruskin before returning on Gondola.

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<tr>
<th>Tour cost</th>
<th>from £15 per person</th>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
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**Grand Victorian Circular Tour**

An epic tour on Windermere and Coniston Water re-creating a Victorian day out once promoted by the Furness Railway. The escorted tour also visits Claife Viewing Station for a picnic lunch and you travel with our partners by steam train, passenger launch and minibus, concluding with a cruise on Gondola.

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<tr>
<th>Tour cost</th>
<th>from £65 per person</th>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
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Tatton Park
Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6QN

Tatton means so many different things to so many people. Set in 400 hectares (1,000 acres) of parkland, the former Egerton family home is open for you to witness contrasting upstairs and downstairs lifestyles in the mansion. You can wander through impressive formal gardens and meet rare breed animals at the working farm. The parkland provides the perfect setting for picnics, sailing, horse-riding or relaxing country walks. The Old Hall has special open days when you can uncover centuries of history. There are over 100 events each year, ranging from festivals you can see, to farmer’s markets, to concerts. 

**Visit:** average duration is 3 hours. Welcome to site. Guided tour £. Out-of-hours tours £. General guided tours are available for the mansion and gardens. Groups 25+ will require an extra guide (additional charge). Shop.

**Catering:** Stables Restaurant (licensed) not National Trust, self-service, 200 covers, includes private Harness Room with waitress service and groups menu. Also Gardener’s Cottage, waitress service, 80 covers.

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**Access:**

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**Grounds:**

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**Special interest tours**

- **250 years in 50 acres**
  The gorgeous gardens at Tatton Park cover a lot of history. Discover how each generation of the Egerton family made their own mark on the landscape. In the walled kitchen garden unearth what the Victorians would have eaten and explore Japanese and Italian gardens in the English countryside.
  - **Tour cost:** from £10 per group
  - **Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes

- **Hidden treasures**
  Take a look behind the scenes in the mansion at amazing artefacts and objets d’art. The eclectic and fascinating items include Lord Egerton’s ethnographic store full of weird and wonderful collections, first-edition novels, transcriptions of original documents, illustrated books on travel and animals, silver gilt and antique china.
  - **Tour cost:** from £10 per group
  - **Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes

- **Mr New and Mrs Cork**
  A rare opportunity to put yourself in the shoes of a Victorian servant and really get a taste of what life was like for those ‘below stairs’. Join an entertaining costumed dramatic tour of the mansion’s state rooms and servants’ quarters with the butler Mr New and housekeeper Mrs Cork.
  - **Tour cost:** from £10 per group
  - **Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes

- **Tatton in wartime**
  Take a look at Tatton’s role in the Second World War when it was used as a training ground for the Parachute Regiment. The working farm also played an important role in supporting the estate during this time and is set up as it was then for you to see.
  - **Tour cost:** from £10 per group
  - **Duration:** 2 hours

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**Group admission:** £5.50. £10 for Totally Tatton Ticket (mansion, gardens and farm)
Wordsworth House and Garden

Main Street, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9RX

Step back to the 1770s at the childhood home and garden that inspired William to become a poet. Hands-on rooms give a real feel for middle-class Georgian life – there’s even a rope bed to try. Costumed servants cook in the kitchen, gossip and tell tales on selected days in term-time and throughout school holidays. Guided and audio tours reveal the happiness and heartache experienced by the Wordsworths and other occupants, while, in the cellar, the household’s ghosts share their stories. New this year, a series of exhibitions celebrate the power of landscape to inspire generations of writers, artists and photographers.

Garden best in: June–August.

Contact: 01900 820884 (Infoline). 01900 824805 wordsworthhouse@nationaltrust.org.uk

Coaches: coaches park across river at Wakefield Road car park, 300 yards. House accessed via footbridge from car park.

Visit: average duration is 1 hour 30 minutes. Introductory talk. Out-of-hours tours. Out-of-hours tours can be organised to take place between 9 and 11:30 or after 5. Talks and harpsichord recitals (additional charge) can be arranged, during opening times or out of hours. Shop.

Catering: café, 18 covers, groups can only book 2 tables due to small size. Groups can also book catering at the Trout Hotel (not National Trust) next door and receive a 10% discount.

Group admission: £6.50

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*Café: open 10:30 to 4:30. Last entry to house one hour before closing (timed tickets may operate on busy days). Open selected Fridays in holidays (please telephone for information).

Access: 2

Building 1
Grounds 1

Special interest tours

Check website or call for details of all tours or talks

Georgians and Cumbrian ghosts

With ghostly tales, haunting harpsichord music and a cast of costumed characters from when Wordsworth was a boy, this entertaining evening tour is a memorable one. Gain an insight into the life of the Wordsworth family, meet the servants in the atmospheric Georgian kitchen and enjoy a glass of wine.

Tour cost: from £9 per person
Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

The daily life of the Wordsworths

Be greeted by the Wordsworths’ servants for a special insight into the life of young William in the 1770s. Our costumed staff will talk about life in the Georgian era and you can sample food in the busy working kitchen – soak up the atmosphere and ask questions at your leisure.

Tour cost: from £9 per person
Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Wordsworth’s childhood garden

Tiptoe back in time through Wordsworth’s magical childhood garden, the source of inspiration for some of his most emotive and cherished poems. On this delightful guided tour, learn about the research undertaken to establish how the garden was then and what it takes to keep it that way.

Tour cost: from £9 per person
Duration: 1 hour
North West

These properties have a limited offer for groups, but are well worth exploring for fascinating short visits that can be worked into your tour itinerary.

Aira Force and Ullswater
near Watermillock, Penrith, Cumbria

Aira Force is a showcase for the power and beauty of nature; it’s a place to escape the ordinary. For 300 years visitors have been drawn here, where rainwater runs from the fells into Aira Beck and thunders in one 65-foot leap over the falls. Yet, Aira Force is much more than an impressive waterfall. A network of trails weaves its way from Ullswater lakeshore to Gowbarrow summit, passing towering Himalayan firs, rare red squirrels, woodland glades, picnic spots and views out across Ullswater. You can start your day in Glenridding and arrive by boat, taking in the sights of Ullswater Valley along the way, then stroll back to Glenridding through Glencoyne Park and along the lakeshore. Note: boat rides on Ullswater operated by Ullswater ‘Steamers’ (not National Trust). Coaches: booking essential – restrictions and charges. One mile to falls – steep walk, steps. The Glade is wheelchair accessible, ½ mile.

Contact: 017684 82067
ullswater@nationaltrust.org.uk

Sticklebarn and The Langdales
near Ambleside, Cumbria

Forged by fire and ice, The Langdales are dramatic to say the least. Home to the majestic Langdale Pikes and mountain tarns, this is a natural playground. Sticklebarn sits at the heart of miles of walking routes, and with hearty food, real ale and roaring fires, this is the perfect place to eat, drink and relax after a day on the fells. The ambitious can tackle the major peaks, but it’s not all about high-level scrambling. The circular route around Blea Tarn is easily accessible, with views of Little and Great Langdale. High Close Estate and Arboretum, between Elterwater and Grasmere, offers 4.5 hectares (11 acres) of tranquillity, 1,000 years of fascinating history and rare trees from around the globe. Note: essential that groups of 10+ book catering. Coach parking is at Stickle Ghyll and must be booked, call 015394 37623.

Contact: 015394 37356 (Sticklebarn)
sticklebarn@nationaltrust.org.uk

Wray Castle
Low Wray, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 0JA

Boarding a regular lake cruise from Ambleside allows you to arrive at Wray Castle in style. A gentle walk or cycle here also make a perfect start to your visit. This unusual and exciting National Trust castle is a place for all the family to explore and enjoy. We don’t have any of the original castle contents, so it is more informal and child-friendly. Our Peter Rabbit Adventure is the perfect spot for creative play for our youngest visitors, while older children might like dressing-up or building their own castle. To find out more about this fascinating building, why not join one of our guided tours, which run for most of the year? Plus, there’s loads to do outdoors. Note: please use ‘green ways’ to get here: boat, bike, bus or boot. Limited car parking. No coach parking. Recommend large groups park in Ambleside and take boat. After disembarking, 500-yard walk up slope, uneven ground.

Contact: 015394 33250
wraycastle@nationaltrust.org.uk

North West