

A brief history

You are invited to take part in a new adaptation of the Grand Victorian Circular Tour of the Lake District.

The modern tour route is a re-creation of Tour No 4: The Middle Circular Tour, operated by the Furness Railway Company, which commissioned, built and launched the original Steam Yacht Gondola on Coniston Water in 1860 (rebuilt in 1980 and now operated by the National Trust). The company acquired the Windermere United Steam Yacht Company in 1866 (now Windermere Lake Cruises) and promoted the railway branch line to Lakeside on Windermere, still operating today as the Haverthwaite Steam Railway.

The Furness Railway Company exploited opportunities for the development of mass tourism, following the decline of rail freight traffic in Cumbria (mainly iron ore and gunpowder) and used links with local horse drawn coaches and charabanc operators. By 1903 a range of 20 different tours were promoted by the Furness Railway Company for late Victorian and Edwardian visitors to the Lake District.

The approach of World War II saw a rapid decline in tourism and most of the old steam pleasure boats were then sold out of service and eventually broken up. The golden age of early rail and boat tourism was effectively over by 1936 but now in 2019 you can once again experience the forgotten pleasures of the Grand Victorian Circular Tour.

To request a booking form or discuss your requirements:

Telephone: 015394 32733

Email: gondola.bookings@nationaltrust.org.uk
or visit the website at:

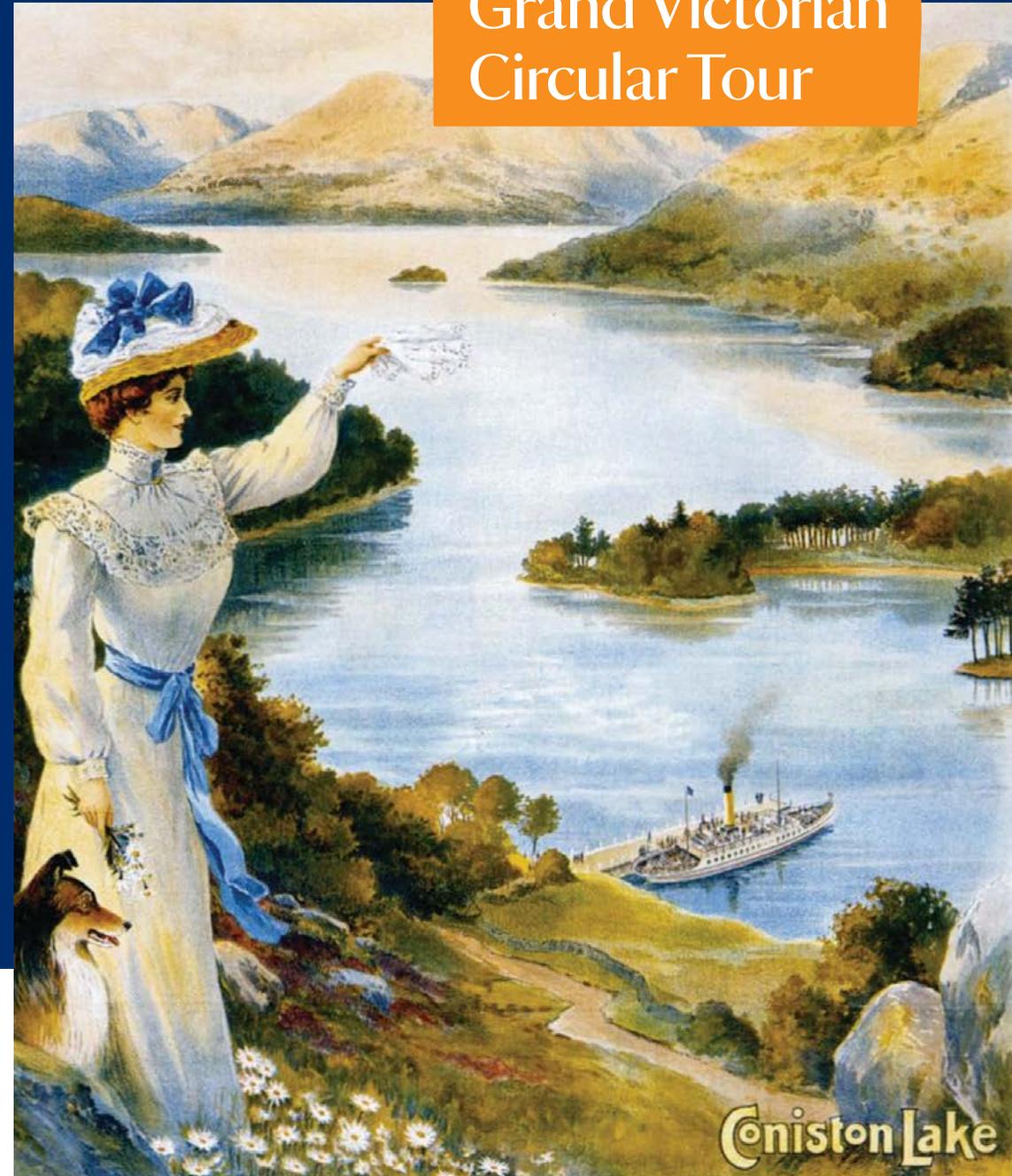
www.grandvictoriantour.org.uk

The National Trust is a registered charity number 205846.



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Experience the Lake District's Grand Victorian Circular Tour



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Coniston Lake

The Lake District's Grand Victorian Circular Tour

A day of adventure exploring the unique landscape of the Lake District by various modes of transport, in the traditional style of the Victorian era.

Your itinerary

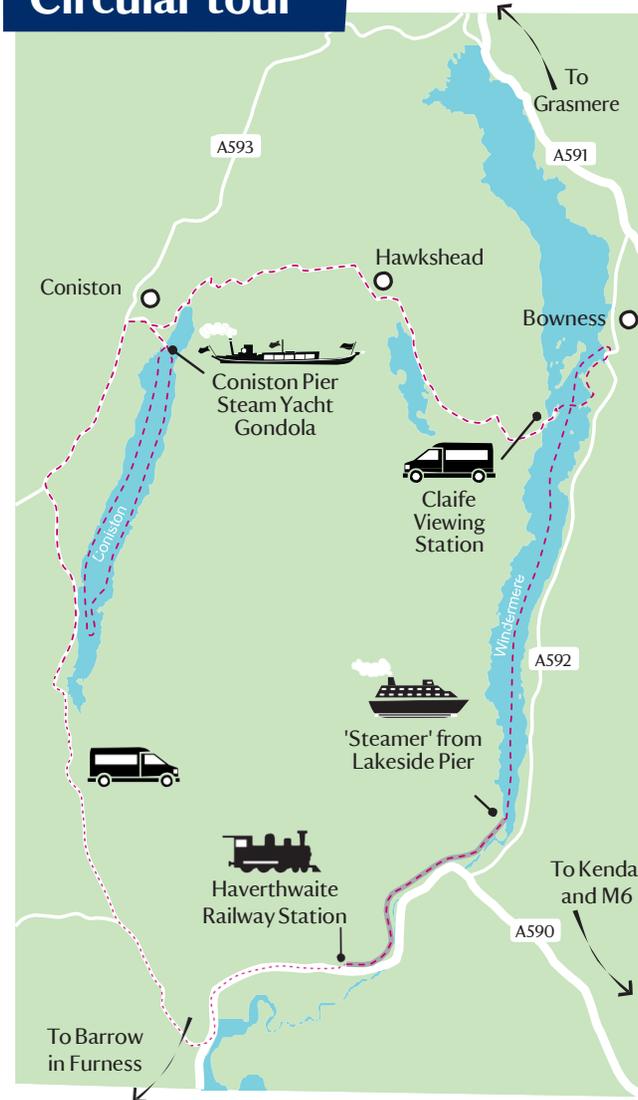
- 10.15am** Meet at Haverthwaite Steam Railway Station – you will be greeted by a Tour Guide from the National Trust
- 10.40am** Journey commences on board a steam train from Haverthwaite Railway Station to Lakeside, a 3.5 mile journey
- 11.20am** Depart Lakeside on board a Windermere Lake Cruises 'Steamer' to sail northward on Windermere, arriving at Bowness at 12 noon
- 12.40pm** Sail by traditional launch across Windermere, from Bowness Bay to the Ferry House
- 12.55pm** Stroll from the Ferry Landing to Claife Viewing Station, where a 'Ferryman's Picnic Lunch' will be collected from the café
- 1.45pm** Depart Claife Viewing Station for a short drive by Mountain Goat minibus via Sawrey and Hawkshead to Coniston Pier to connect with Steam Yacht Gondola
- 2.15pm** Arrive Coniston Pier on the shores of Coniston Water
- 2.30pm** Board the Steam Yacht Gondola, originally built in 1859 by the Furness Railway Company. Enjoy the ultimate experience of cruising back in time, in the opulent saloons or relax on the open air decks to view the spectacular scenery around Coniston Water.
- 4.15pm** Return to Coniston Pier and re-join minibus for drive back to Haverthwaite
- 5.00pm** Arrive at Haverthwaite Steam Railway Station

Dates for tours in 2019

Friday 10 May, Friday 7 June, Friday 6 September, Friday 4 October

(Other dates are possible by prior arrangement)

Circular tour



Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway



Windermere Lake Cruises



The Mountain Goat



Steam Yacht Gondola

Tours cost £75 per person.

All sailings on Steam Yacht Gondola are weather permitting.

Ferryman's Picnic Lunch will have a vegetarian option when booking is made.

Minimum of 10 people and a maximum of 30 people per tour. Maximum of 15 people per minibus.

You will be accompanied by a National Trust guide, who will interpret the Circular Tour as it would have been taken by early Victorian visitors.

Accessibility - not suitable for wheelchairs, short walking distances. Suitable footwear and clothing recommended. Ramped gangways with a few steps to board the boats. As this is a full day of transport including minibus journeys, not suitable for dogs, unless by prior arrangement.