

ULLSWATER 'STEAMERS'

Group Pack – Suggested Itineraries x4

Gardens of Eden

A full day tour exploring two of Eden's great gardens in Cumbria, the Lake District combined with a relaxing cruise on Ullswater – England's most beautiful lake.

10.00 Acorn Bank Gardens and Watermill

Owned by the National Trust, Acorn Bank (Temple Sowerby near Penrith), is a delightful garden renowned for its collection of over 250 medicinal and culinary herbs, the largest collection in the North of England. There are orchards of old English fruit varieties and circular wooded riverside walks leading to a partially restored watermill. Enjoy morning coffee in the tearoom and browse around the National Trust shop. Gardens open Wednesday - Sunday.

Tel: 01768 361893 www.nationaltrust.org.uk

11.30 Depart Acorn Bank

Depart for Hutton-in-the-Forest via A66 and M6 (North). Exit at junction 41 towards Wigton.

12.15 Arrive at Hutton-in-the-Forest

This romantic and historic house, home of Lord and Lady Inglewood, is a house of six periods from the mid 14th to mid 19th centuries. It features fine collections of furniture, tapestries, portraits and ceramics, a beautiful walled garden, topiary terraces and woodland walks. Private use of the Cloisters tearoom can be organised on request for hot and cold meals. Enjoy lunch here.

Tel: 017684 84449 www.hutton-in-the-forest.co.uk

3.00 Depart Hutton-in-the-Forest

Hutton-in-the-Forest via the B5305, M6 (South), A66 towards Keswick and the A592 to Glenridding.

4.30-5.05 Shopping at Pooley Bridge

Spend some retail therapy time in our Pooley Bridge Gift Shop and opt for our later sailings. Depart Pooley Bridge for a one way cruise, arrive Glenridding at 5.35 or 6.05 respectively on the RED service.

What better way to round off the day than by enjoying the stunning scenery of the Ullswater Valley with a relaxing cruise aboard one of these beautifully maintained vessels, on England's most beautiful lake. Free coach parking at Glenridding.

Tel: 017684 82229 www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk

Useful information

Timings in this itinerary have been based on group visits taking place between 28th March and 27th September, 2009. Please check websites for opening times/sailings at other times of the year. Pre-booking is required for group visits. Other useful contacts: www.visiteden.co.uk www.cumbria4coaches.com Penrith TIC: 01768 867466



In Wordsworth's Footsteps

This full day tour starts with a visit to poet William Wordsworth's Grasmere home, *Dove Cottage* and a chance to explore this lovely Lake District village. The tour then takes you on a spectacular journey over Kirkstone Pass with stunning lake and mountain views, to Glenridding for a cruise aboard a heritage 'Steamer' on Ullswater, the most beautiful of English lakes, where Wordsworth saw his famous daffodils.

10.30 Dove Cottage and The Wordsworth Museum and Art Gallery

Set in the lovely Lake District village of Grasmere, *Dove Cottage* is the beautifully preserved home of William Wordsworth and is where he wrote his best loved poetry.

Enjoy a guided tour of his inspirational cottage and discover the internationally important collection of portraits, manuscripts and possessions in the Wordsworth Museum.

Tel: 015394 63512 www.wordsworth.org.uk

12.00 Lunch

Time for some lunch, either as a group in the *Dove Cottage Restaurant* and/or free time to explore Grasmere village with its lovely individual shops, cafés and tearooms.

1.50 Depart Grasmere for the Ullswater Valley over the spectacular Kirkstone Pass road (A592) with fantastic vistas of the surrounding mountains.

3.15-4.45 Cruise

The RED service has three departure options from Glenridding – 3.15, 4.00 or 4.45pm sailings. Arriving

in Pooley Bridge at 4.20, 5.00 or 5.50pm, respectively. Our LILAC service has alternative options of 3.05 or 3.50pm from Glenridding, arriving at Pooley Bridge 4.20 or 4.55pm.

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Eden Explorer

Combine a cruise on Ullswater, England's most beautiful lake with a visit to nearby Dalemain, a historic country house set within magnificent gardens and home to the internationally acclaimed Marmalade Festival. To finish the day try something totally different, a visit to either The Alpaca Centre or Eden Ostrich World. All located within Eden, Cumbria and The Lake District.

09.45-10.50 Depart Glenridding

Take advantage of our Early Bird Booking Discount, see fare options for details. Depart from Glenridding Pier for a one-way cruise to Pooley Bridge. What better way to start the day than by enjoying the stunning scenery of the Ullswater Valley with a relaxing cruise aboard one of these beautifully maintained vessels. Leave the hustle and bustle behind and spend some time on England's most beautiful lake. Free coach parking at Glenridding. Tel: 017684 82229 www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk

12.20 Depart Pooley Bridge

Spend a little time visiting our gift shop in Pooley Bridge then depart for Dalemain, along the A592, keeping an eye out for Red Squirrels.

12.30 Arrive at Dalemain Historic House and Gardens

Set against a backdrop of the splendid Lakeland fells, this much loved historic family home is a fine mix of Medieval, Tudor and Georgian architecture. Wander

around the five acre Plantsman's Garden and enjoy lunch in the Medieval Hall Tearoom. Don't miss Mrs Mouse's house on the backstairs! There's a gift shop, plant centre and a great programme of special events too. House open Sunday - Thursday. Tel: 017684 86450 www.dalemain.com

3.15 Depart Dalemain

Depart Dalemain, travelling north along the A592.

3.20 Arrive at The Alpaca Centre

Located just a few minutes from Dalemain, it offers a unique combination – the opportunity to discover more about these delightful animals and then browse through the shop's extensive range of items crafted from one of the most luxurious fibres. This is a working farm welcoming visitors all year round. For a small charge you can view the Alpacas close-up in their paddocks and find out more about their history, how they first came to this country and why their fibre is so sought after by the world's top designers. Tel: 01768 891440 www.thealpacacentre.co.uk

Or head on to the A66 towards Penrith and then A686 for Langwathby for Eden Ostrich World

3.40 Arrive at Eden Ostrich World

An interesting mix of farm and exotic animals. The centre boasts rare breeds of cattle, donkeys, pigs, goats, deer, meerkats, zebras, porcupines, racoon dogs, ducks and geese. Of course, the centrepiece is the magnificent African Black Ostrich. Visitors marvel at the magic of incubation with eggs hatching on a daily basis (May to October).

Conservation of the environment is high on the agenda with dry stone-walling, hedge planting, hedge laying and tree planting being featured. Perhaps the jewel in the crown is the River Eden Walk which is available for the pleasure of visitors. So important is this stretch of river for bio-diversity that English Nature has designated it a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Tel: 01768 881771 www.ostrich-world.com

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A Taste of the Lake District

Enjoy great views of three lakes, a fantastic cruise on Ullswater combined with a spectacular journey over a famous Lakeland Pass on this day out in Cumbria and the Lake District. Also the chance to take home some tasty local Cumbrian produce or a piece of real Lake District craftsmanship – a lasting reminder of your visit.

10.00 The Village Bakery, Melmerby

Natural good taste is the secret of The Village Bakery's success. A pioneering organic bakery brand established nearly 30 years ago, which still maintains a unique reputation for quality and product innovation. The Bakery uses natural processes, artisan methods, renewable energy and interesting ingredients to make their award winning organic and special dietary ranges. Relax over coffee in the Village Bakery Restaurant, which offers a genuine, warm, friendly and unfussy service in a light, modern environment. The Bakery Shop stocks a full range of organic breads, cakes, biscuits and snack bars. Tel: 01768 898437 www.village-bakery.com

11.00 Depart Melmerby

Leave the Village Bakery, taking the A686 towards Penrith, travelling through the rolling countryside of the Eden Valley to join the A66. Your next stop, Rheged, is just two minutes from the M6 (junction 40), at Penrith.

11.30 The Rheged Centre

Enjoy the very best of Cumbria at Rheged, Europe's largest grass covered building, designed to resemble a Lakeland hill. Rheged's cinema screen is the size of six double decker buses showing special films daily. Take your seat for 'Rheged – The Lost Kingdom' and marvel as you 'fly' over spectacular and dramatic Lake District scenery! Then lunch in one of Rheged's three restaurants.

Take home a reminder of your visit from the Made in Cumbria craft shop or Taste! Just two of the rather special shops to be found at Rheged. The Centre hosts a range of daytime and evening events. Tel: 01768 868000 www.rheged.com

2.00 Depart Rheged

Leave Rheged, taking the A592 to the nearby village of Pooley Bridge where you will board the 'Steamer'.

2.35-4.30 Depart from Pooley Bridge Pier

Depart from Pooley Bridge Pier for a one-way cruise with Ullswater 'Steamers', arrive Glenridding 3.50 on

the RED service. Alternatively, our LILAC service gives you a departure time of 2.35 or 4.30 at Pooley Bridge arriving in Glenridding at 3.40 and 5.35, respectively.

What better way to enjoy the stunning scenery of the Ullswater Valley than with a relaxing cruise aboard one of these beautifully maintained vessels on England's most beautiful lake. Coach drop-off point at Pooley Bridge and free coach parking at Glenridding. Tel: 017684 82229 www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk

3.40-5.35 Depart Glenridding

Depart Glenridding and journey over the spectacular Kirkstone Pass road (A592) to Ambleside, passing Brotherswater and catching glimpses of Windermere. Sit back and enjoy fantastic lake and mountain views.

A ride through the Southern Lake District via Windermere (A591) will take you back to the M6 with easy connections for your journey home or to your accommodation.

Useful information

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Group Pack – One Happy Family, Journey Options, Fares and Terms & Conditions.

One Happy Family

We have provided you with some fully prepared itineraries but now is a chance to attract your clients with a snapshot of history, on this one or two day tour combined with our sister company Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway, and a spot of retail therapy in Keswick.

We offer a special rate to tour operators for groups visiting both attractions of £11.50, fare includes a one way cruise on Ullswater and return trip from Ravenglass or Dalegarth at the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway, please contact us for further details.

Day 1 – Tour of the Ullswater Valley

Shopping and Sailing – Keswick and Ullswater

Retail therapy in the heart of the hills, glancing over the homes of Mrs Tiggy Winkle, Peter Rabbit's Garden, Squirrel Nutkin's Island then cruise England's most beautiful lake set deep within the mythical glacial valley of Ullswater.

Keswick, a bustling market town full of cobbled streets and courtyards that would make even the most hardened non-shopaholic smile: its modern shopping outlets a far cry from the 13th century, where legend has the town listed as *Cesewic* signifying an early link to cheese!

On your journey look for the distinctive shape of Catbells, a fell once described by Alfred Wainright as a "*shapely topknott that attracts the eye.*" It is behind Catbells that a certain little washer-woman hedgehog lived; the famous Mrs Tiggy Winkle, a great favourite of the many Beatrix Potter tales that we all know and associate with the Lake District. Transport yourself back to

1903 to reflect on the image of a young Miss Potter sketching the vegetable garden of Peter Rabbit with its distinctive wicket gate and the convoy of Squirrels led by Squirrel Nutkin who cross the lake on rafts using their tails as sails to Owl Island (St. Herbert's Island) at the Northern end of Derwentwater.

We leave the tales of our favourite characters behind to enter another world, the stunning Ullswater valley, its dramatic landscape shaped by the three distinctive rock types: the ruggedness of the Borrowdale Volcanics, Skiddaw Slates and the smoothness of the limestone hills at the Northern Reach. A land where Donald Campbell broke the world speed record on Ullswater on the 23rd July, 1955 in the Jet powered Bluebird K7 and William Wordsworth penned his famous poem 'The Daffodils' which immortalised the *Lenten lilies* for all to enjoy every Spring.

Day 2 – A visit to the Western Lake District

Steam to the Hills on Lakeland's oldest, longest and most scenic railway

The Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway runs for seven-miles from the delightful coastal village of Ravenglass through two of Lakeland's loveliest valleys to the foot of England's highest mountains. At Dalegarth, our terminus, we've built a new visitor centre which is home to Fellbites Eatery, the Scafell Gift Shop, and our exhibition and group room, the Eskdale Room.

Four heritage steam engines, including the world's oldest working 15" gauge locomotive and one of the most powerful, haul trains of open-top, open sided, and comfortable enclosed carriages. There are a minimum of six daily trains throughout the main season, ensuring that whatever time you want to travel an engine won't be far away. (Out of season excursions can usually be catered for.)

The journey takes 40-minutes in each direction and our timetable allows whistle-stop visits and more leisurely journeys with a more relaxed stopover at Dalegarth.



We've dedicated free parking for coaches at Ravenglass, close level access to the trains, café, loos and shop. Each train has its own guard, a willing volunteer to help people to their seats. Coach drivers and/or tour leaders travel free, or can enjoy the delights of home cooking at Jan's café at Ravenglass.

Check out our website www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk for the full story.

For A Pocket History of Ullswater for Tour Guides, a CD of copyright free images, or simply a chat regarding your particular needs either email enquiries@ullswater-steamers.co.uk or dial 017684 82229.