

Did you know?

For many years **St Anne's Chapel (NY 378 046)** was Ambleside's only place of worship, but was not registered to record marriages and deaths. The deceased were carried nearly 4 miles along the old 'corpse road', now signposted as the Coffin Route, to St Oswald's Church in Grasmere for burial. Once St Mary's Church was built and consecrated in 1854 this arduous trek was no longer necessary.

In the 1850s, 'Chairy' Rigg, a basket maker and chair repairer, brought up a family of six in the tiny **Bridge House**. The **Log House** on Lake Road was imported from Norway by local artist Alfred Heaton Cooper and used as his studio for many years. It now operates as a restaurant.

'The Struggle' aptly describes the steep ascent out of Ambleside to the Kirkstone Pass Inn, one of the highest hostries in the UK. Teams of packponies and horse-drawn carriages regularly laboured up this gruelling hill. It's the scene of the annual Kirkstone Pass Car Pull, where teams compete to pull a one-ton car up the 3-mile Struggle in the fastest possible time. The current record to beat is 51 min and 20 sec.

During the Second World War, **canned perch** from Windermere (called 'perchines') were eaten as a substitute for sardines!

Troutbeck has several fine **roadside wells**, each dedicated to a different saint.

St Mary's Church was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, who also designed the Albert Memorial, St Pancras Station, Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral and the iconic red telephone



Around the Lake

Walking

Known to many as the walking capital of South Lakeland, Ambleside abounds with routes for all ages and abilities, from lakeside strolls to fell walks. **Loughrigg Terrace** is one of the best low level walks in the area and provides stunning views over Grasmere and Rydal Water. From the top of Loughrigg, the view over the Langdales is spectacular and you can choose a variety of routes down – to Loughrigg Tarn, Eterwater, Skelwith Bridge, Rydal Water or Grasmere. **Wansfell** is a relatively easy climb with the option of extending the walk to Troutbeck and look out for **Jenkins Crag** in **Skeighyll Woods**, one of the UK's most romantic picnic spots. Or for something more strenuous, there are many classic fell walks within a short distance of Ambleside, including the distinctive **Langdale Pikes, Fairfield Horseshoe, Red Screes and Dove Crag**. For advice on walking routes visit www.golakes.co.uk/walking or call into the **Tourist Information Centre**.

Cycling

The fells just west of the town offer a good introduction to those new to cycling in the Lake District. The circular eight mile tour of **Loughrigg Fell** is a strenuous mountain bike tour that takes in a pretty mix of lakes, woodland, fells and lanes, while Troutbeck and Ambleside are linked by an old brideway that traverses the southern flanks of Wansfell. This high level route makes a superb mountain bike ride. There are various places in the town to hire bikes including **Ghyllside Cycles (015394 33592)**. www.golakes.co.uk/cycling.

On the Lake

Windermere Lake Cruises

With regular daily sailings (reduced winter service), the cruises are a great way to travel and see both the lake and the many beautiful lakeshore properties. Combined cruise and admission tickets to Brockhole Visitor Centre, Lakes Aquarium, Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway and Lakeland Motor Museum give savings on the full admission/cruise prices and provide an enjoyable way of arriving at your chosen destination. In the summer the bike boat allows exploration of the traffic-free western shore of Windermere.

Tel: 015394 43360 www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk

Low Wood Watersports and Activity Centre

A good range of water-based instruction, including sailing, kayaking, canoeing, water-skiing, wakeboarding and wakesurfing. Motor and rowing boats are also available for hire.

Tel: 015394 39441 www.elh.co.uk/watersports



Ambleside, at the head of Windermere and the foot of the Kirkstone Pass, lies in the very heart of the Lake District, with easy access to Grasmere, Keswick, Windermere and the Langdales. A vibrant, busy town, surrounded by magnificent Lakeland fells, it is the ideal location for a rural break. Although Ambleside has its roots in the medieval woollen trade, it is predominantly a Victorian town, built of dark grey slate.

Ambleside's history reaches back at least as far as Roman times. At nearby Waterhead the Romans built a stone fort, on a trade route through South Lakeland (now in **Borrans Field**). Medieval Ambleside had a thriving woollen industry centred on the fast flowing **Stock Ghyll** which powered the fulling mills that pounded the newly woven cloth. When the town was granted a market charter in 1650, the Market Place became the commercial centre for agriculture and the wool trade. The 17th and 18th centuries were a major period of building, initiated by yeoman farmers and landowners made wealthy by the profits of the woollen trade. Many houses date from this period.

The iconic **Bridge House** is a tiny house over Stock Beck in the centre of the town and one of the most photographed buildings in the Lake District. Originally built as an apple store by the Braithwaites of Ambleside Hall in 1723, the building is now owned by the National Trust and is open daily from Easter to October.

Ambleside is also gateway to the spectacular valleys of Great Langdale and Little Langdale. These tranquil valleys offer a haven for cyclists and walkers, with a range of gentle days out or more challenging routes on some of the most iconic Lakeland Fells. Ambleside is deservedly popular, both with leisure visitors wanting a relaxing break and outdoor enthusiasts looking for a challenge.

The town offers easy access to a range of water sports, walks, climbs and cycle routes, and has plenty of great pubs and cafés to suit all budgets. It also has a wonderful literary and artistic heritage, which can be explored in the town's galleries and museum. Ambleside's specialist retailers offer everything from outdoor clothing to local delicacies. Other shops specialise in unique pieces inspired by the landscape, including slate ornaments, watercolour paintings and pottery.

On the opposite shore of Windermere lies the imposing Wray Castle, a National Trust property with a difference. Here you are encouraged to interact with the space and even run around dressed up as a knight!

By Bus

Bus services stop on Kelsick Road. Services run Grasmere - Keswick, and locally to Waterhead, Brockhole, Windermere Station and Bowness Pier. Other services connect with Coniston, Hawkshead and Great Langdale. **Service 599** operates Bowness Pier (Windermere) - Grasmere (via Windermere station and Ambleside). Seasonal Sunday service. **Service 555** Kendal - Grasmere (via Windermere and Ambleside) at regular intervals daily. **Service 505** daily service to Hawkshead and Coniston. **Service 516** daily service to Great Langdale (Apr–Oct only).

For timetable, fare and Explorer ticket information please visit www.stagecoachbus.com/plan-a-journey

There is currently a temporary bus service connecting Keswick and Grasmere via Thirlmere, linking existing buses at Grasmere. Hourly 7am-7pm Mon-Sat, two hourly Sun 10am-5pm. Buses leave Keswick 5 mins past the hour and leave Grasmere 10 mins to the hour (first bus departs at 7am). Pick up/drop off is at all the usual 555 service stops.

By Boat

Windermere Lake Cruises has a choice of sailings from Ambleside Pier (Waterhead) to Bowness and Lakeside. Daily sailings (reduced in winter), special Walkers' Tickets and combined cruise/entry tickets for attractions available www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk

By Train

Nearest main-line railway station is Oxenholme (2 miles SE of Kendal). A branch line connects to Windermere (5 miles away). There is a frequent rail link between Oxenholme and Windermere (Lakes Line).

For more information on all bus, rail, ferry timetables and fares visit www.golakes.co.uk/travel

By Cycle

For more information on cycling in Cumbria generally, go to www.golakes.co.uk/cycling

Car Hire

Pay as you Drive low emission car hire available from Windermere and Oxenholme stations. Visit www.co-wheels.co.uk.

For local events, where to eat, stay and do in Ambleside visit www.golakes.co.uk

Whilst every effort was made to ensure that the information was correct at the time of going to press, Cumbria Tourism can accept no responsibility for any changes, errors or omissions, nor for any inconvenience arising therefrom.

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what to see & do...



Windermere



Lake District Visitor Centre at Brockhole



Wray Castle



Hayes Garden World



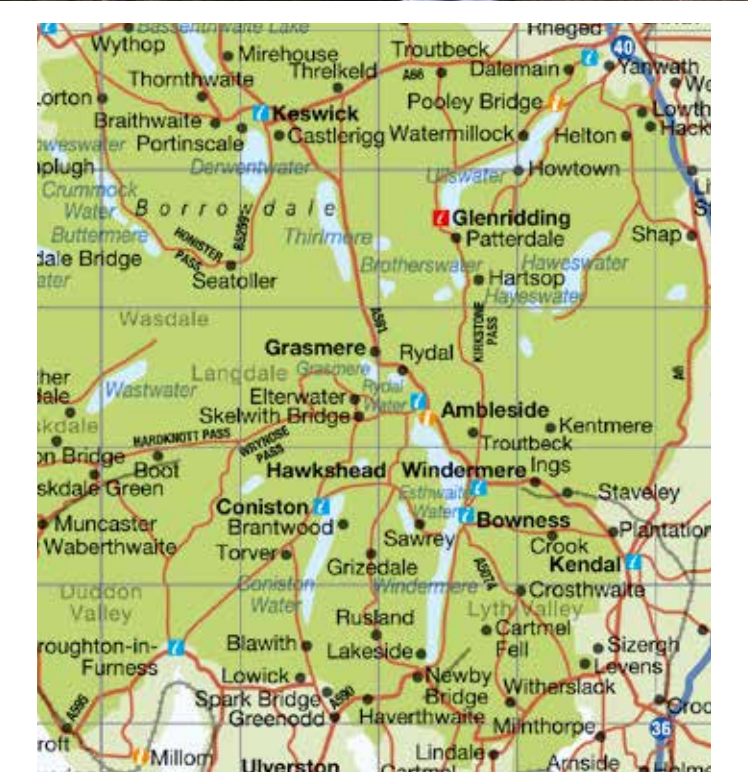
Stockghyll Force



Waterhead



Bridge House

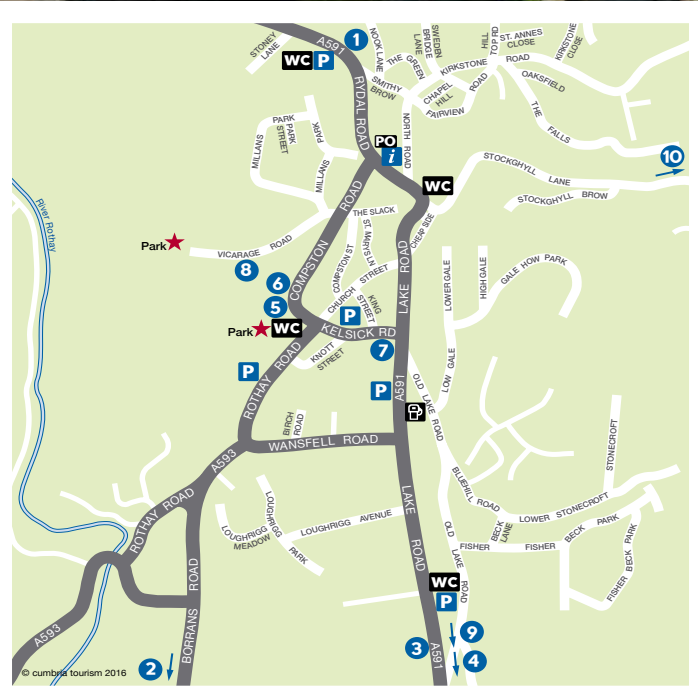


More things to see & do

- 1 Armit Museum & Library (NY376047)**
Rydal Road, Ambleside, LA22 9BL Tel: 015394 31212 www.armit.com
Combined museum, library and art gallery that explores the history of Ambleside and its surroundings from Roman times to the present day. There are exquisite watercolours of fungi by Beatrix Potter, historic photographs of old Ambleside, and paintings and collages by German artist Kurt Schwitters (who settled in Ambleside after fleeing Nazi persecution). Regularly changing exhibitions of artwork. Admission charge. Open daily except Sundays (10.00am–5.00pm).
- 2 Galava Roman Fort (NY373034)**
Borrans Road, Ambleside LA22 0EN
Built around AD 120, the original stone fort of Galava at Waterhead stood on a raised platform to avoid flooding from the rivers Rothay and Brathay. The Roman garrison numbered about 500 men and supported a sizeable civilian settlement outside the fort. The fort was in use for about 150 years before being abandoned sometime before AD 400. On-site interpretation panels provide information on how the fort would have looked and operated.
- 3 Hayes Garden World (NY376036)**
Lake Road, Ambleside, LA22 0DW
Tel: 015394 33434 www.hayesgardenworld.co.uk
Housing one of the north's largest selection of plants, furniture and leisure products from around the world. During the winter months they have one of the finest Christmas displays in the region.
- 4 Brockhole, The Lake District Visitor Centre (NY389010)**
Windermere, LA23 1LJ Tel: 015394 46601 www.brockhole.co.uk
A wealth of activities for the whole family. There are exhibitions on Lakeland life and landscapes, special events and workshops, a café and attractive gardens with picnic areas and an adventure playground for children. Throughout the holidays and most weekends, they host a wide range of exciting activities and events - including Treetop Trek and Nets, boat and bike hire. Open all year, admission to the site is free, but parking charges apply. Disabled access to most of the house and gardens.



- 5 White Platts Recreation Area (NY374042)**
Compston Road, Ambleside LA22 9DJ Tel: 015394 31332 www.whiteplatts.co.uk
Fun for all the family. 9 hole mini-golf course, putting green, crazy golf, tennis courts, a bowling green, infant play area and places to just sit and relax. Open: April 1st - October 31st. Peak Times: Half term, bank holiday weekends, sunny Sundays and July/Aug 10am–7pm Off-Peak: 11am–5pm
- 6 Zeffirellis and Fellinis Cinemas (NY 375044)**
Millans Park, Compston Road, Ambleside LA22 9AD
Tel: 015394 33845 www.zeffirellis.com/cinema
Zeffirellis is an independent cinema that supports new and emerging talents within the world of cinema and the arts. All 4 screens benefit from state of the art Dolby® Digital technology, air conditioning and induction loops plus Screen 1 and Screen 3 have Dolby® 3D capability. Fellinis also offers a unique studio cinema experience. We show art-house and independent films hosting seasons of live performances of opera, theatre and ballet via satellite. There is good disabled access but there are some steps and stairs. Please ring to be sure about access. Please ring for screenings and times.
- 7 Ambleside Climbing Wall (NY 376042)**
101 Lake Road, Ambleside LA22 0DB Tel: 015394 33794
www.amblesideadventure.co.uk
This 35ft lead climbing wall is a replica of a real crag taken from a direct mould of natural limestone. It provides all the intricacy and excitement of movement on natural rock. Beginners of all ages can receive expert tuition and supervision from highly qualified and experienced instructors. Experienced climbers can get open access to a wall where route quality, training facilities and regular route changes are what matters. Open 7 days a week, telephone or check website for opening times.



- 8 St Mary's Parish Church (NY374044)**
Designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and consecrated in 1854. The erection of the spire caused much consternation at the time as it was thought to be too ostentatious. The Wordsworth Chapel was built as a memorial to the poet, who died in 1850. A large mural depicts the annual rushbearing ceremony in July.
- 9 Stagshaw Garden (NY380029)**
Ambleside, LA22 0HE Tel: 015394 46027 www.nationaltrust.org.uk
A steep woodland garden, created out of Skelghyll Woods, noted for its fine collection of flowering rhododendron, azaleas and camellias. The best time to visit is in spring, when the shrubs are in full colour. Open April–June and by appointment from July–October.
- 10 Stockghyll Park (NY382046)**
Victorian pleasure gardens created around Stockghyll Force – a cascade of water that gushes through a precipitous gorge. Winding paths, steps, bridges and rocky outcrops provide vantage points to admire the falls. Bathing was permitted at Stockghyll in the 1880s but only between 6.00am and 9.00am or after 7.30pm. Towels were provided

- ### Local facilities
- PO Post Offices** - Market Place, Ambleside LA22 9BU.
 - i Tourist Information Centre** - Market Cross, Ambleside, 015394 32582.
 - ★ Public Parks** - Rothay Park: children's play area and riverside footpath to Rothay Holme. Borrans Park: lakeshore setting
 - P Car parks** - Waterhead, Rothay Holme, Millerfield, Rydal Road, Lake Road, Low Fold, King Street. Disc parking scheme for on-street parking (reusable discs available from local shops, businesses and Tourist Information Centre).
 - 🛢 Petrol Stations** - Lake Road, Ambleside. Troutbeck Bridge.
 - WC Public Toilets** - White Platts Recreation Ground (seasonal). Rydal Road car park. Rothay Holme car park (seasonal). Low Fold car park. Mechanics Institute, Market Place. Waterhead car park. Rothay Park (closed Dec-Feb).