



Collett's
MOUNTAIN HOLIDAYS

GRASMERE & THE SOUTHERN LAKES

A SERIES OF BEAUTIFUL DAY WALKS FROM GLORIOUS GRASMERE

www.colletts.co.uk

enquiries@colletts.co.uk

01799 513331

A Guided walking break in the Lake District

The Facts

Our new Lake District walking break allows you to explore the famous Lakeland fells from a beautiful location. We are based in Grasmere, the one time home of Coleridge and a place described by Wordsworth as “the loveliest spot that man hath ever found.” Nestled in the picturesque village of Grasmere, our base at Tweedies Bar & Lodge provides brilliant access to sublime walks in towering fells and sparkling lakes. Grasmere is a great gateway to the wider Lake District, and we will showcase the very best of the area, including some bewitching hidden gems.

If you like the Collett’s centre-based holiday formula, this walking experience should be ideal for you: a daily choice of 2 walks, one easier moderate classic; the other a longer, harder trek for those in search of something more challenging. An Office Hour each early evening allows us to relax over maps and a pre-dinner drink. Here, you can sign up for the walk that takes your fancy, scheduled for the following day. This leaves you to enjoy the rest of your evening – including (on your first, last and ‘middle’ nights) an excellent 3 course dinner – with everything sorted for the next day.

Accommodation

Once home to Wordsworth and Coleridge, Grasmere village can inspire and enchant in equal measures, it’s easy to see why we chose it as the base for our new Lake District Walking Break. After a day in the fells what better way to relax than to enjoy a drink from the award winning bar at Tweedies, you really are spoilt for choice with their selection of craft ales, the perfect accompaniment to a hearty meal from the in house restaurant. Located in the centre of Grasmere, Tweedies is in the beating heart of the Lake District, with easy access to the surrounding fells and a stone’s throw from many of the regions cultural landmarks. Tweedies has undergone a transformation in the past year having refurbished all of their tweed suites, they come with striking views of the surrounding fells to stir the soul in anticipation of the days ahead. There is ample chance to rest and relax in the secluded mews suites, or to enjoy the lush gardens from their nest & nook or classic rooms. Each morning a hearty breakfast will await you before you venture out for a rewarding day around the surrounding lakes and fells. A packed lunch will also be provided on each of your walk days, and additional supplies can be purchased in one of the local village shops. On your first, last and ‘middle’ nights, after office hour, a delicious three course dinner shall be served before retiring to the bar for a nightcap or an early night. On the other nights you are invited to try one of the local restaurants Grasmere or Ambleside.

Dates & Prices

6-12 September (Monday – Sunday, 6 nights): Suite £995pp

12-17 September (Sunday – Friday, 5 nights): Standard room £785-£825pp. Suite £895pp

Prices are per person and based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Unfortunately there are no single rooms available at Tweedies, and whilst single occupancy of a double rooms is always possible, it works out to be rather expensive (£300+). Sorry!

Included in the price

- Daily choice of 2 guided walks:
One classic moderate walk; and
One harder, longer and more challenging trek.
- B&B accommodation at Tweedies Bar & Lodge, Grasmere
- 3 Dinners – 3 course dinner on your first, last, and ‘middle’ night.
- Picnic lunches provided daily, except on your day of departure.
- Office Hour - guarantee yourselves a succession of unforgettable days out at a sociable, pre-dinner gathering with us and other guests. Sign up for the walks of your choice and enjoy your evenings with everything sorted

Not included in the price

- Travel – to and from Grasmere
- Local Transport – to and from walks, if required
- Dinners, other than the 3 included (see above)
- Maps
- Admission to heritage sites
- Insurance
- Drinks & snacks – and all other extras

Itinerary

Arrive either Monday 6 Sep (6 night break), or Sunday 12 Sep (5 night break)

The itineraries below are purely indicative, and do not guarantee that a given route will be offered on a given day, or indeed at all. These are very much the routes we plan to offer but the exact routes are always subject to change depending on the weather and ultimately of course the overall ability of participants.

Day 1 – Arrive in Grasmere & Settle In

Arrive by car or bus, the nearest train station is Windermere.

Day 2 – Loughrigg or Helm Crag

Loughrigg – *The Easier Moderate Option. Route Statistics* – 12.8km, 350m ascent, 350m descent

The Route – The week begins for the easier moderate walkers with an ascent of Loughrigg. One of the most astounding vistas in the Lake District can be enjoyed from the top of this unassuming fell. Views stretch down to Lake Windermere, across Grasmere and around much of the surrounding fells. After a steady descent, the path winds its way into Ambleside, the vibrant town at the head of Lake Windermere. The return to Grasmere passes Rydal Hall with its impressive gardens and famous grotto, built in 1668, at the base of Rydal falls. As we stroll back to Grasmere, the path passes Dove Cottage, the one-time home of William Wordsworth.

Helm Crag – *The Harder Option. Route Statistics* – 13.1km, 510m ascent, 510m descent

The Route – A cracker of a day that climbs out of Grasmere up onto Helm Crag for a superb view across the Vale of Grasmere and along Grasmere Common towards Greenup Edge. Following the ridge past Gibson Knott and onto Calf Crag, the path then turns to the east to drop down through Grasmere Common, following Wainwright's iconic coast to coast path as it twists and turns its way back into Grasmere alongside Far Easedale Gill.

Day 3 – Walla Crag or The Langdales

Walla Crag – *The Easier Moderate Option. Route Statistics* – 13.8km, 450m ascent, 325m descent

The Route – After a short bus journey to Keswick, the walk begins by following the shoreline of Derwent Water to Calfclose Bay. The ascent up to Walla Crag rewards us with terrific views over Derwent Water to Catbells and towards the Cumbrian coast along Bassenthwaite Lake. After crossing the gap between Low Rigg and High Rigg, the path then follows the stream up the pretty St Johns in the Vale to the hamlet of Thirlmere. Time for coffee and cake here before the short bus ride back to Grasmere.

The Langdales – *The Harder Option. Route Statistics* – 17.5km, 770m ascent, 790m descent

The Route – Starting in Dungeon Ghyll, the path follows the Cumbria Way up Stake Gill and onto Stake Pass. The high moorland here is the watershed between the northern and southern lakes and is also home to the Langdales. The route crosses three Wainwrights here, Pike of Stickle, Harrison Stickle and Pavey Ark, collectively known as the Langdale Pikes, before dropping past Stickle and Easedale Tarns on its way back into Grasmere.

Day 4 – Two Tarns or Helvellyn

Two Tarns – *The Easier Moderate Option. Route Statistics* – 13.7km, 580m ascent, 580m descent

The Route – Leaving Grasmere, the route heads west on its way to Easedale Tarn on a path that climbs beside Sourmilk Gill waterfall. The pretty tarn is flanked on one side by Slapstone Edge and by climbing the zig-zag path up the edge, we are rewarded with a visit to Stickle Tarn with its stunning backdrop of the Landgale Pikes, including the imposing south face of Pavey Ark. The route back to Grasmere offers more classic views, stretching to Helvellyn in the north and towards Coniston in the south.

Helvellyn – *The Harder Option. Route Statistics* – 13.5km, 800m ascent, 950m descent

The Route – After a short bus ride alongside Thirlmere, we climb the lower slopes of Browncove Crags and Lower Man to approach the mighty Helvellyn. The view from the summit stretches far and wide in all directions, the following ridge is no less impressive as the path passes Nethermost Pike, High Crag and Dollywagon Pike. Dropping past Grisedale Tarn, nestled neatly between the towering peaks, we'll finish the day by descending the coast to coast path back into Grasmere.

Day 5 – Blea Tarn or Watendlath

Blea Tarn – *The Easier Moderate Option. Route Statistics* – 13.5km, 350m ascent, 350m descent

The Route – This morning we take a short bus ride to our trailhead at Elterwater. From here, we climb to Little Langdale and cross the River Brathay at Slater Bridge to arrive at the stunning Cathedral Cavern. After passing Little Langdale Tarn the route rises to Blea Tarn as we cross from Little Langdale into Great Langdale. Surrounded by some of the largest fells in the Lakes, the path follows the Cumbria Way back into Elterwater.

Watendlath – *The Harder Option. Route Statistics* – 15.8km, 555m ascent, 570m descent

The Route – From the outskirts of Keswick, the route passes Castlerigg farm heading to Walla Crag and a superb view across Derwent Water and the surrounding fells. As the path drops slightly, it enters Ashness Wood and arrives at 'surprise view' for another stunning vista across Derwent Water. Following Watendlath Beck up the valley, the path arrives at the village and tarn of the same name. The path then climbs across moorland with the giant Helvellyn across the valley to the east, passing Blea Tarn, before it drops to Thirlmere and a return journey to Grasmere.

Day 6 – Depart (5 night break), or Latterbarrow or The Old Man of Coniston (6 night break)

Day 6 only applies to the longer break running 6-12 September

Latterbarrow & Wray Castle – The Easier Moderate Option. Route Statistics – 13.1km, 225m ascent, 225m descent.

The Route – A short drive takes us to the National Trust site of Wray Castle on the shore of Lake Windermere. Setting off along the lakeside path, the route hugs the shore of Windermere before heading up into Claife Heights towards the summit of Latterbarrow. The path drops towards Hawkshead before completing the loop to Wray Castle via Blelham Tarn.

The Old Man of Coniston – The Harder Option. Route Statistics – 13.2km, 750m ascent, 750m descent.

The Route – After an attractive drive to Coniston, we'll set off for the summit of the Old Man by following the old Walna Scar road. As the route turns uphill, we'll pass Goat's Water, wedged in the valley between the Old Man and Dow Crag, before arriving at the summit and a knockout view across the southern lakes. The path then follows the ridge to Swirl How and a peak into the Langdales before descending back through the Coniston Fells to complete the circuit.

Day 7 – Depart (6 night break)

Travel from Grasmere – Enjoy one final breakfast before your departure, independent onward travel or the possibility to extend your stay. For those looking for more walking options in the Lake District, why not take a look at our Lake District Loops, point to point trips across the north and south of Lakeland.

Terrain

Our routes vary from well-trodden woodland paths to open moorland and bridleways, as is normal in the UK there are some sections along country roads and through towns and villages. Certain sections of the route may be considered exposed by some people. Naturally, in the Lake District a certain level of hiking experience, surefootedness, a good head for heights and a good level of fitness are essential. In the UK *weather conditions can change quickly*, being prepared for this can make all the difference to your holiday.

Guided Walks

The aim each day is to offer two guided walks – one easier than the other. To do this we have handpicked two guides – each of whom will offer a different walk each day. However, in order to keep group sizes nice and small, most guides tend to limit their numbers to 10-12 people. With this in mind, we recognise that we will need a minimum of 4 people to sign up to each walk to ensure both walks can take place. In any event, once the group is together, there will be ways of making satisfactory contingency plans. We are confident that at least 4 guests will want to do the harder option on any given day, so both walks should venture out as planned – but it is important that you are aware of this 'group size' matter at the time of booking.

