

Historical houses & castles to visit during your stay



Leighton Hall

(Historic Seat of the Gillow Family)

Situated near Silverdale with breathtaking views of the Lakeland hills. The families' Gillow ancestry means there are many unusual Gillow pieces of furniture in the house. Outside the hall within the gardens, are woodland walks and a 19th century garden.

In the Avery Garden is Leighton Hall's unique collection of Birds of Prey, which are flown each afternoon (weather permitting).

Directions: 10 minutes drive from the M6 (J35), Leighton Hall is signposted from M6 junction on the A6.

Journey: 30 minutes by car.

Open: Daily 1st May to 30th September 2.00pm to 5.00pm excluding Saturday & Monday other than Bank Holidays (August only 12.30pm to 5.00pm)

Guide Price: Adult £5.00, Child £3.50, and Family (2+3) £15.00

Tel: 01524 734474

Holker Hall

(Home of Lord and Lady Cavendish dates from 1871)

Splendidly set at the south of the Lake District near Grange-over-Sands just a mile away from the shores of Morecambe Bay.

The house contains many outstanding examples of European furniture, painting, sculptures, and carvings. Priceless carpets and tapestries and elegant fireplaces and ornate ceilings adorn the rooms.

Idyllic gardens and Deer Park are complimented by one of the most fascinating collections of motoring memorabilia including the Campbell Legend Bluebird Exhibition.

Directions: From the M6 (J36) take the A590 to Ulverston. Follow signposts for Holker Hall from the A590.

Journey Time: 45 minutes by car.

Open: 25th March to end 2nd November everyday except Saturdays

Hall: 10.30am to 4.45pm

Gardens: 10.00am to 6.00pm

Lakeland Motor Museum: 10.30am to 4.45pm

Guide Price: Adult £8.75, Child £5.00 for Hall, Garden and Motor Museum.

Other options available. **Tel:** 015395 58328

Brantwood

(John Ruskin's home 1872-1900)

Brantwood is one of the most beautifully situated houses in the Lake District. It enjoys the finest views over Coniston Lake towards the mountains with the Old Man of Coniston dominating the skyline.

The home of John Ruskin the house became an intellectual powerhouse and one of the greatest literary and artistic centres in Europe. The house is filled with Ruskin's drawings and watercolours together with much of his original furniture, books and personal items.

Brantwood has 250 acres of woodland gardens, lakeshore meadows and moorland hilltops. A well marked nature trail winds and twists through the estate. Try the home baked cakes and meals at Jumping Jenny's with stunning views from the terrace.

Directions: Situated on the east shore of Coniston Water just 1 mile from Coniston village.

Journey Time: 1 hour 15 minutes by car.

Open: mid March to mid November 11.00am to 5.30pm. Winter: Wednesday - Sunday 11.00am to 4.30pm.

Guide Price: Adult £4.75, Child, £1.00, Family (2+3) £10.00

Tel: 015394 41396

Harewood House

(Lord Harewood's mother HRH Princess Royal lived at Harewood until her death in 1965)

Located between Harrogate and Leeds on the A61. A stunning house with magnificent interiors by Robert Adams and Staterooms lavishly furnished by Chippendale.



Harewood is one of the great Treasure Houses of Britain. Glorious gardens with the restored Victorian Terrace, Lake and sparkling fountains.

The Bird Garden works closely with UK and overseas collections in captive breeding some of the world's rarest creatures. See these beautiful birds including penguins, flamingos, owls and parrots in their lovely lakeside setting. Also includes an Adventure Playground.

Directions: Harewood House is situated at the junction of the A61/A659 on the Leeds to Harrogate road.

Journey Time: 1 hour 20 minutes by car

Open: 12th March to end 16th November

House: 11.00am to 4.30pm

Grounds/Adventure Playground: 10.00am to 6.00pm

Terrace Gallery: 11.00am to 5.00pm

Victorian Kitchen: 12.00pm to 4.00pm

Guide Price: Adult £9.50, Child £5.25, and Family £29.00. Other options available.

Tel: 0113 218 1010

Sizergh Castle (National Trust)

The Stricklands family have lived in Sizergh Castle for more than 750 years and it remains their home today.

Set in beautifully landscaped gardens near Kendal on the A6. Sizergh was extended in Tudor times. This romantic fortified mansion contains some of the finest Elizabethan carved ornaments in the country as well as a collection of good English and French furniture and family portraits.

The large gardens surrounding the castle include the National Trust's largest limestone rock garden including part of the National Collection of Hardy Ferns.

Enchanting rose, wildflower and water gardens also add to the charm of this elegant estate. A variety of walks are available

Directions: 3.5 miles south of Kendall, signposted off A590.

Journey Time: 30 minutes by car

Open: Sunday to Thursday 1st April to 31st October 1.30pm to 5.30pm

Guide Price: Adult £5.00, Child £2.50, and Family £12.50

Tel: 015395 60070

Levens Hall & Gardens

Levens Hall and the unique Topiary Gardens are only 5 minutes from the M6 (Exit 36) and 5 miles south of Kendal on the A6. The Hall is an Elizabethan mansion built around a 13th century Pele tower.

The home of the Bagot family the mansion includes fine panelling and plasterwork, period furniture, Cordova leather wall coverings, paintings by Rubins, Lely and Cuypp, the earliest

English patchwork and other beautiful objects to form a fascinating collection.

The Gardens created by M. Beaumont from 1694 and its design remains largely unchanged to this day. Over 90 individual pieces of topiary together with spring and summer bedding create a magnificent visual impact.

Directions: Levens Hall is situated some 5 miles south of Kendall on the A6 (M6 J36) There are brown "historic house" signs to Levens Hall directing drivers from the A6, A590 and A591 roads.

Journey Time: 30 minutes by car

Open: 13th April to mid October (Closed Friday and Saturday)

Garden & tearoom: 10.00am to 5.00pm

House: 12.00pm to 4.30pm

Guide Price: Adult £7.00, Child £3.50, and Family (2+3) £15.00

Tel: 015396 60321

Lancaster Castle

Lancaster Castle has dominated the town for almost 1000 years ever since it was first established in 1093. The Lancashire Witches were tried, convicted and condemned to die here. The castle includes:

- The beautiful Gillow furniture in the Grand Jury Room where Queen Victoria dined.
- The dungeons and "Drop Room" from where thousands of convicts were transported to Australia.
- Hanging Corner where hundreds of condemned prisoners were publicly hanged
- The magnificent Shire Hall with its display heraldic shields spanning 800 years of British history.

Directions: Located near centre of town towards the river.

Journey Time: 20 minutes by car.

Open Daily: 10.00 am – 5.00 pm

Guided Tours by qualified historians and professional guides at 30 mins intervals from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm inclusive. Tour duration 45 minutes.

Guide Price: Adult £4.00, Child £2.50, and Family (2+2) £11

Tel: 01524 64998

Skipton Castle

Skipton is one of the best-preserved and most complete medieval castles in England, despite enduring a 3-year siege in the Civil War.

Directions: Located at the top of Skipton High Street.

Journey Time: 45 minutes by car.

Open Daily: 10.00 am – 6.00 pm (Sunday 12 noon)

Guide Price: Adult £4.80 with illustrated tour sheet, Under 18s £2.40, Family (2=3) £13.50

Tel: 01756-792442