

Spend a day on Derwent Water, surrounded by mountains and stunning scenery.



Key Info



Scan or visit
bit.ly/derwent-water
to find the map
in Mapometer and
download the GPX file

Start and finish:

Lakeside Car Park, Lake Road,
Keswick CA12 5DJ

Distance: 6.5 miles

Time: 2 - 3.5 hrs (approx)

Locks/Portages: None

OS Map: Landranger 89 West Cumbria,
Cockermouth and Wastwater

- 1** The launch, on the lake foreshore, is entirely at the discretion of Keswick Launch Company (please speak to KLC staff for assistance). Boats leave here frequently and although you may drive up to launch or remove boats, removal of vehicles, immediately, to the car park is required.
- 2** This tour takes you anti-clockwise around a pretty, almost rectangular lake. As you launch you will see Derwent Isle straight in front of you. Turn right and follow the curves of the shoreline around the lake.
- 3** Passing Isthmus Bay on your right, you will then see a large camping and caravan site on the shore. A reedy foreshore marks the point where the River Derwent leaves for Bassenthwaite.
- 4** Further from here you will see Derwentwater Marina and then Nichol End Marina. Beyond Nichol End you can spot the boathouse which was used in the filming of Miss Potter.
- 5** As the land steepens at the side of the lake Lingholm Islands come into view. These small, rocky islands contain very little but a few trees.
- 6** Continuing on, come to pass Copperheap, Derwent and Kitchen Bays. As you pass Kitchen Bay you can see St Herbert's Island. You are permitted to land here and explore but must not light a fire or stay the night.
- 7** As you now head towards the end of the lake you pass Brandelhow Park; a magnificent piece of headland and woodland. You may be able to spot the 'Hands' sculpture by the shore, which celebrates the purchase of the land for the National Trust.
- 8** The bird reserve of Great Bay marks the southern end of the lake. Soon after this you see the point that the infant River Derwent enters the lake. Round from here is the landing stage at Kettlewell; a good stopping point if needed.
- 9** A fairly clear stretch of bank is now between you and the islands clustered in the middle of the east shore. Ashness Gate can provide another resting point.
- 10** You now pass Rampsholme Island and then the larger Lord's Island, which used to have a manor house, now burnt down.
- 11** The last part of your journey is under high cliffs and crags, with your final push through the channel of Derwent Isle.



Find more
paddling trails at:
gopaddling.info



Along the route:

Derwent Isle is owned by the National Trust but rented out to a private tenant. You are not permitted to land there but the house is open to the public for five days a year. Derwent Isle has been occupied for hundreds of years and was home to a monastery in the fifteen hundreds.

Derwent Water Marina offers canoe hire, tuition, changing, toilets, parking and launching. A cafe is also close to the marina.

Copperheap Bay is where copper ore, from the mine at Newlands, was carried across the lake to Keswick in the 1800's.

St Herbert's Island is 'Owl Isle' of the Beatrix Potter books. St Herbert, a hermit, died here in 687AD.

Kettlewell, Ashness Gate and Calfclose Bay all have small car parks.

On the banks of Rampsholme Island you may spot the National Trust Centenary Stone. This is a split rock sculpture by Peter Randall-Page, celebrating 100 years of the National Trust.

The Area:

Keswick is a great centre for the Lake District with every type of tourist attraction and accommodation. Bassenthwaite and the lower Derwent valley are to the north, leading to Cockermouth and the west coast. The mountains to the south eventually rise to Scafell Pike. Skiddaw and Blencathra are to the north and north-west of the town.

Further useful information can be found on the following websites:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/borrowdale-and-derwent-water/>

<http://www.keswick.org/>

<http://www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/campsites/uk/cumbria/keswick/derwentwater>



Parking: Park at the Lakeside car park, by the theatre. Please note there are charges to park here.

The launch, on the lake foreshore, is entirely at the discretion of Keswick Launch Company (please speak to KLC staff for assistance). You may drive up to launch or remove boats but removal of vehicles, immediately, to the car park is required.

Safety and Licenses

We want you to enjoy a safe trip, so here are a few tips for staying safe and paddling responsibly.

Paddle Safe:

Be prepared and take the right kit:

- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid
- Mobile phone – in a waterproof case
- Whistle – to attract attention in case of emergency
- Map and / or route description
- Appropriate clothing for the weather conditions + spares in a dry bag
- Food, drink & sunscreen!

Paddle Responsibly:

Respect the natural environment and other users:

- Respect other waterway users #sharethespace
- Be environmentally aware, minimise your impact
- Ensure you have the correct licence if required
- Observe navigational rules – keep right and give other users space
- Check, Clean, Dry after every trip!

Licences: The waterways on this trail don't require you to have a licence to paddle on them. However if you paddle regularly you should consider becoming a member of British Canoeing. For more information on British Canoeing membership please visit britishcanoeing.org.uk

Visit our website
britishcanoeing.org.uk
for more information

