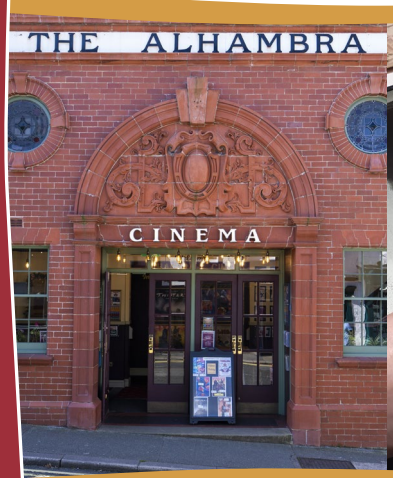
5 DAYS

A Culture Vulture's Guide

Immerse yourself in a rich arts and culture scene, with world class art galleries; live music and theatre venues; literary gems; and plenty more. Get inspired with this itinerary, which takes you through the area's creative scene. With so much to explore, take your pick and create your own adventure.

Highlights

- Outdoor sculpture
- Literary icons
- Theatre and live music
- Renowned museums and galleries



Main Image: © Tullie

MAP & KEY

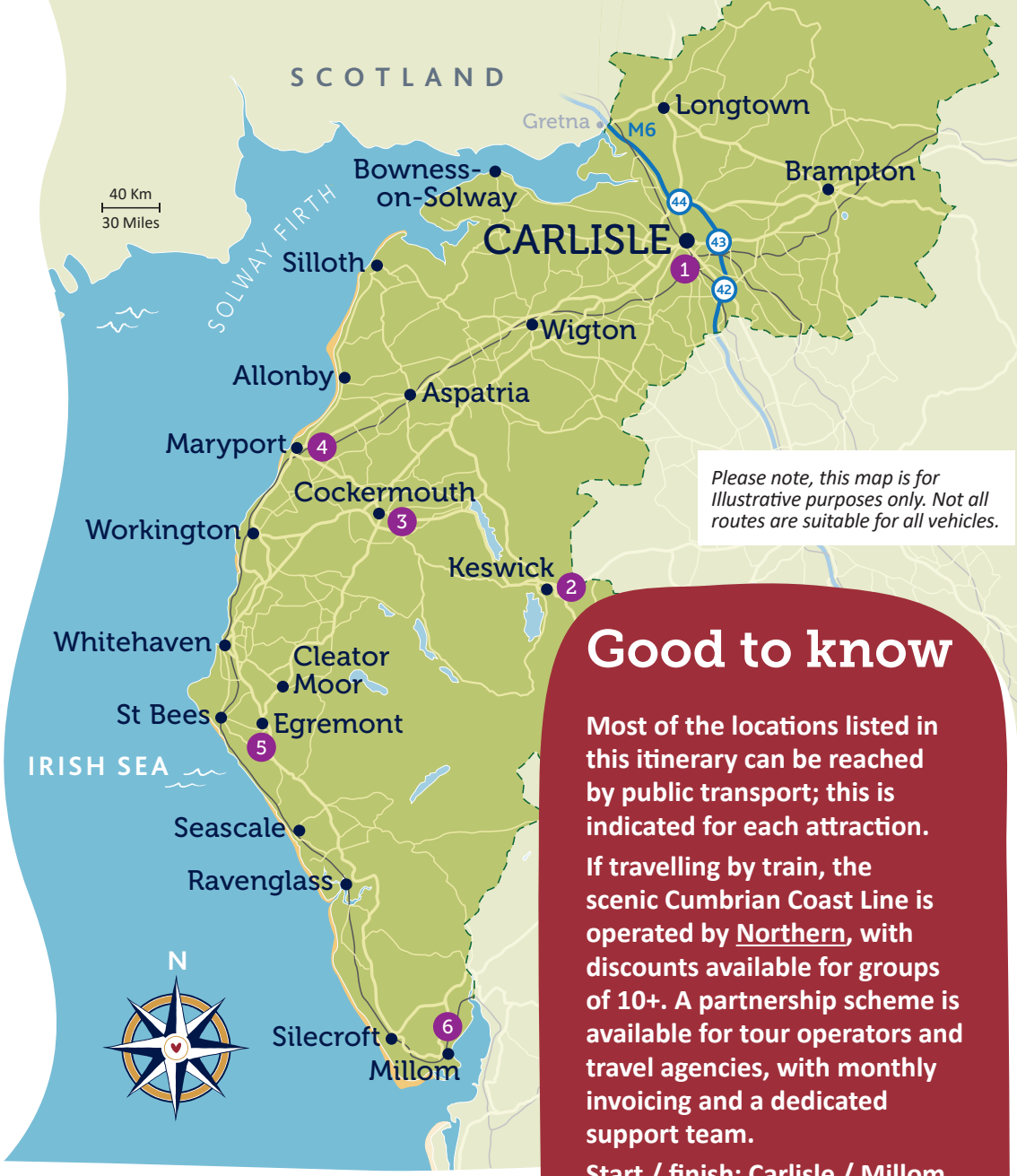
A Road
B Road
Minor Road
Motorway
Rail line
Cumberland boundary

- 1 Points of interest
- Open all year
- On public transport route
- Parking
- Accessible Parking/ Drop off point
- Wheelchair access
- Accessible toilets
- Hearing loop
- Refreshments available
- EV Charger
- Wifi
- Dog Friendly

ACCOMMODATION ONLY:

- ★ Star Rating
- £ Price indicator

VE/AA Visit England / AA



Please note, this map is for Illustrative purposes only. Not all routes are suitable for all vehicles.

Good to know

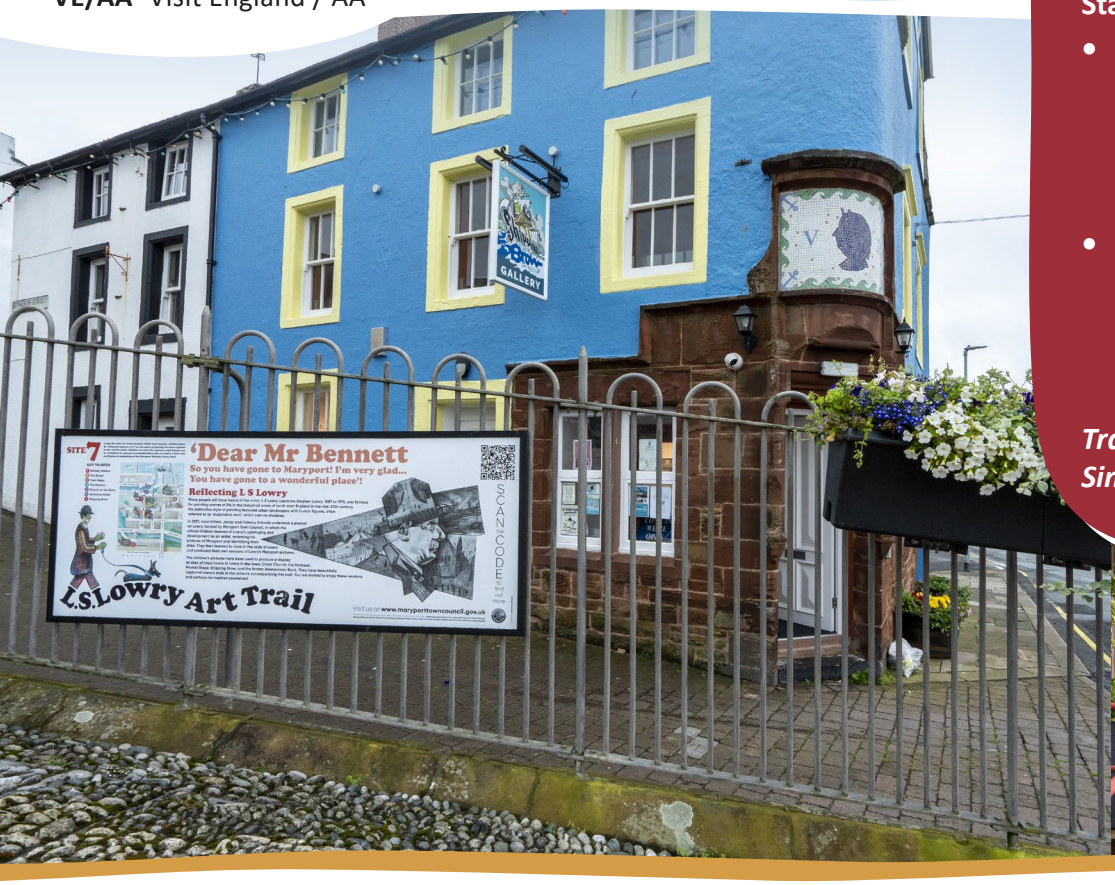
Most of the locations listed in this itinerary can be reached by public transport; this is indicated for each attraction.

If travelling by train, the scenic Cumbrian Coast Line is operated by Northern, with discounts available for groups of 10+. A partnership scheme is available for tour operators and travel agencies, with monthly invoicing and a dedicated support team.

Start / finish: Carlisle / Millom

- **Carlisle station is well connected with the UK, with direct services from major cities in England and Scotland.**
- **Millom station can be reached via direct services from Lancaster, which connects with major destinations across the UK.**

Travelling from the south? Simply reverse the itinerary!



© Discover Carlisle

© Tullie / Stuart Walker

DAY 1

1 Carlisle

By day, visit a newly refurbished museum housing modern and ancient art; in the evening, head to one of the city's live music venues.

Tullie

Castle St, Carlisle CA3 8TP

Refurbished in 2024, this museum, art gallery and community hub showcases fine and decorative art, human history and natural sciences. Old Tullie House is a classical Grade One Listed Jacobean building; adjacent is a purpose built art gallery, seamlessly fusing new and old. As well as permanent collections, there are always temporary exhibitions to discover.

WWW

Tullie

Group Size: 8+ people.

Open: All year.

Parking Facilities: Parking is available at Castle Car Park (Pay & Display), a 5-minute walk from the museum.

Food & Drink: Cafe on site. Refreshments can be pre-booked, private dining space is available on request.

Accessibility: Wheelchair access throughout venue, accessible toilets.

Languages: English.

Rate Information: Group rates available.

The Old Fire Station

Peter St, Carlisle CA3 8QP

Hosting famous names and budding artists alike, Carlisle's award-winning Old Fire Station hosts a fantastic range of live music, comedy events, and more.

WWW

GOOD TO KNOW: The Old Fire Station is located a 10 - 15 minute walk from Carlisle Train Station.

The Brickyard

Richmond Hall, 14 Fisher St, Carlisle CA3 8RN

Formerly known as The Richmond Hall, the building in which The Brickyard stands has been a key feature of Carlisle's music scene for many years. Today, it's a great place to catch live music and themed events.

WWW

DAY 2

2 Keswick

Spend a day exploring the market town of Keswick: there are interesting museums, galleries and workshops to enjoy, followed by an evening at the theatre.

Derwent Pencil Museum

Southey Works, Keswick CA12 5NG

Graphite, from which the modern day pencil evolved, was first discovered in Borrowdale in the 1500s. The Derwent Pencil Museum takes you from those humble beginnings through to modern day production. Guided tours of the museum are available for groups.

WWW

TOP TIP: Located opposite the Derwent Pencil Museum, the recently refurbished Pencil Factory offers event space for up to 500 people.

Theatre by the Lake

Lakeside, Lake Rd, Keswick CA12 5DJ

Located on the shores of Derwentwater, this unique venue stages a year-round programme of theatre, music, films and festivals. It's home to two stages: the larger Main House and the more intimate Studio Theatre. Visiting companies and touring works can seen alongside homegrown productions.

WWW

TOP TIP: Look out for relaxed performances for those who may benefit from a more easy-going atmosphere; and performances which weave BSL, captions and audio description into the storytelling.

Group Travel

Derwent Pencil Museum

Group Size: 10 - 35 people.

Open: All year.

Parking Facilities: Pay & Display parking available.

Food & Drink: Small cafe on site.

Accessibility: Wheelchair access throughout the museum.

Languages: English.

Rate Information: Group rates available.

Theatre by the Lake

Group Size: 10+ people.

Open: All year.

Parking Facilities: Pay & Display parking available.

Food & Drink: On-site bar and restaurant.

Accessibility: Wheelchair access throughout venue, wheelchair adapted toilets and changing places.

Languages: English.

Rate Information: Group rates available.

© Keswick Alhambra Cinema

DAY 2 (continued)

2 Keswick

Keswick Alhambra Cinema

36 St John's St, Keswick CA12 5AG

Enjoy a movie at Keswick's Alhambra Cinema: one of the UK's oldest cinemas in continuous operation, showing the latest releases as well as live streams of national stage performances. With advance notice, special screenings and private hire can be arranged. Cinema tours are also available.

www

Group Size: 157 people.

Open: All year.

Parking Facilities: Short walk from central Keswick car parks.

Food & Drink: Cinema confectionary available.

Accessibility: Space for 2 - 3 wheelchairs, step free access, disabled toilets.

Languages: English, Mandarin Chinese, German, Portugese.

Rate Information: Group rates available.

Music & Theatre in the Western Lakes

Rosehill Theatre, Whitehaven

Whitehaven CA28 6SE

With an intimate interior described as a "rose-red silk-lined jewel box", there's also a varied programme including music, drama, comedy, craft workshops, films and live screenings. Group rates and bespoke experiences are available, with the option of pre-performance catering.

www

The Beggar's Theatre, Millom

Market Square, Millom LA18 4HZ

A thriving playhouse at the heart of the community. It hosts a wide array of acts including live music, family shows, touring productions and comedy.

www

Carnegie Theatre & Arts Centre, Workington

Finkle St, Workington CA14 2BD

This award-winning venue offers a year-round programme of concerts, plays and shows. Previous performers have included Psychic Sally, Francis Rossi and The Ladyboys of Bangkok.

www

© Market Place Print Studio

© National Trust Images - Paul Harris

DAY 3

3 Cockermouth

Spend a day in Cockermouth: see where Wordsworth was born, and visit independent galleries.

Wordsworth House

Main St, Cockermouth CA13 9RX

Discover the birthplace of William and Dorothy Wordsworth. Inside, explore the house's rooms and discover interactive activities; outside, the peaceful garden must surely have inspired Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy's love of the natural world. Advance group bookings enjoy a free 10 minute welcome talk.

(public) WWW

Kirkgate Arts Centre

Kirkgate, Cockermouth CA13 9PJ

Hosting live theatre and music, and weekly cinema screenings, the Kirkgate Arts Centre is at the heart of the local community. Cockermouth Heritage Group are also based at the centre and regularly host exhibitions. Private film screenings can be arranged for groups.

WWW

SAVE THE DATE: **Cockermouth Live is a free festival held in July every year, with, with live music, art trails, and rare access to the grounds of Cockermouth Castle.**

Group Travel

Wordsworth House

Group Size: Flexible - contact venue.

Open: Closed November to March.

Parking Facilities: Short walk from central Cockermouth car parks.

Accessibility: Lift to ground floor, first floor accessible only by stairs. Free audio tour for visitors unable to access first floor.

Languages: English.

Rate Information: National Trust members receive free entry.

Kirkgate Arts Centre

Group Size: Up to 120 people.

Open: All year.

Parking Facilities: Short walk from central Cockermouth car parks.

Food & Drink: Option to add food to private screenings; please book ahead.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible venue.

Languages: English, Mandarin Chinese, German, Portugese.

TOP TIP: **For smaller groups of up to 4, the Market Place Print Studio offers an authentic printmaking experience in a characterful studio. Participants leave with their own artworks, designed and printed themselves.**

DAY 4

4 Maryport

Head east to Maryport, where you'll find a burgeoning arts scene in the town which inspired some of LS Lowry's works.

The Shipping Brow Gallery

1 Senhouse St, Maryport CA15 6AB

This community art gallery, housed in a brightly coloured building by the River Ellen, showcases the work of local artists including Percy Kelly and William Mitchell, alongside present-day local artists.

www

Walk the Lowry Trail

Artist L S Lowry often visited Maryport, spending time with local artist Percy Kelly and producing paintings and drawings of the town. A 2021 project saw local primary school children draw their own versions of Lowry's pictures; these are displayed at key sites including the Market Steps, the Shipping Brow and along the harbour.

Where to Eat

Carlisle Cathedral Cafe
Carlisle Cathedral, Carlisle CA3 8TZ
A modern cafe set in the grounds of Carlisle Cathedral.
www

The Lakeside Cafe & Restaurant at Theatre by the Lake
30A Lake Rd, Keswick CA12 5DG
Open daily, and until 7pm on show nights, offering pre performance dining on the shores of Derwentwater.
www

Aspava
64 Main St, Cockermouth CA13 9LU
Authentic, family run Turkish restaurant and patisserie.
www

Marina View Cafe
Marina, Marine Rd, Maryport CA15 8AY
Harbour views and homemade comfort food.
www

Silecroft Beach Cafe
Silecroft, Millom LA18 4NY
Modern beach cafe overlooking the Irish Sea. New externally accessed toilets include a Changing Places facility for visitors with additional needs.

★ Did you know? The building's bespoke shutters were designed by Turner Prize winner, Martin Boyce.

DAY 5

The Western Lake District and Coast

Cumbria's coast is home to a rich industrial heritage, as well as the birthplaces of renowned artists and an exciting modern arts scene. Begin the day in Egremont, before heading down the coast to Millom.

5 Florence Arts Centre

Florence Mine, Egremont CA22 2NR

Once the last working deep iron ore mine in Europe, Florence Mine is a fantastic hub for the arts, with regular events and a gallery featuring a changing programme of exhibitions from local artists. For groups, a range of experiences are available including an Iron Ore heritage talk & tour, paintmaking demonstrations, and meet the maker experiences. Advance booking is essential, to allow the venue to tailor experiences to suit your group.

www

GOOD TO KNOW: The on-site printmakers shop sells art materials made using natural Cumbrian earth pigments.

Group Travel

Florence Arts Centre

Group Size: 6 - 20 people.

Open: All year.

Parking Facilities: Car and coach parking on site.

Food & Drink: Small on-site cafe serving light refreshments.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible venue.

Languages: English.

GOOD TO KNOW: Keep a lookout throughout the year for various vibrant contemporary art installations to inspire people along the coast.

6 Millom Heritage & Arts Centre

Station Buildings, Station Rd, Millom LA18 5AA

Millom was the home of renowned 20th century poet Norman Nicholson OBE. Discover his work at Poets Corner in the Millom Heritage and Arts Centre. Located in a beautifully restored railway station and with a strong emphasis on visual arts, the centre is home to exhibitions about the town's history and heritage from as early as the Bronze Age. Group bookings are welcome; please get in touch to arrange your visit.

www

The Sculptures of Josefina de Vasconcellos

The late sculptor Josefina de Vasconcellos MBE is responsible for 14 stunning stone carvings in Cumbria, at locations including Keswick, Maryport, Workington, St Bees, and Haverigg - where you'll find 'Escape to Light' by the beach.

Where To Stay

Armathwaite Hall

B5291, Bassenthwaite Lake, Keswick CA12 4RE

AA 4★ £££ WWW

Group Size: Up to 20 people/ 42 rooms.

Nights: 2 night minimum stay *at weekends.

Parking: Free car and coach parking.

Food & Drink: Fine dining Lake View Restaurant or Courtyard Bar & Brasserie. Group catering available, pre-orders required.

Accessibility: Accessible room available subject to availability.

Languages: English.

Embleton Spa Hotel

Embleton, Cockermouth CA13 9XU

£-££ WWW

Group Size: Up to 16 people / 12 rooms.

Nights: 2 night minimum stay on weekends.

Parking: Car parking available on site.

Food & Drink: For groups, food is available to pre order from the restaurant menu.

Languages: English.

Rates: FIT Rate available. Group rates available.

The Halston Hotel, Carlisle

Embleton, Cockermouth CA13 9XU

(public) ££ WWW

Rooms: 22 self catering apartments.

Nights: No minimum stay.

Parking: Parking available at nearby Pay & Display car parks.

Food & Drink: dining available at the on-site bar / restaurants. Event spaces cater to large groups and events.

Languages: English.

The Melbreak Hotel

Winscales Road, Great Clifton, Workington CA14 1XS

££ WWW

Group Size: Up to 30 people / 37 rooms.

Nights: No minimum stay.

Parking: Large car park, 6 EVC points.

Food & Drink: Restaurant and bar offering lunch and dinner.

Accessibility: Not fully accessible.

Languages: English.

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Funded by UK Government

Cumberland Council

Sellafield Ltd