



itinerary

In the footsteps of Beatrix Potter (from Coniston)

Enjoy the tale of Beatrix Potter by visiting Hill Top, owned by the National Trust. Full of her favourite things, this house appears as if Beatrix had just stepped out for a walk. Every room contains a reference to a picture in a 'tale'. The lovely cottage garden is a haphazard mix of flowers, herbs, fruit and vegetables. Make your way up the garden path to the front door and see for yourself why Beatrix loved this place. Bought in 1905 with proceeds from her first book, the Tale of Peter Rabbit, she used Hill Top itself and the surrounding countryside as inspiration for many of her subsequent books. Hill Top is a small house and a timed-ticket system is in operation to avoid overcrowding and to protect the interior. Hill Top can be very busy and visitors may sometimes have to wait to enter the house. Sunday 3 November will be your last chance to see inside the house this year before they close for the winter; however, the shop and garden will remain open until 24 December. They re-open on Saturday 15 February.

Morning

Catch the 10:22am Stagecoach 505 bus service from Coniston to Hawkshead. At Hawkshead jump straight onto the connecting Mountain Goat (Cross Lakes Experience) link that will be waiting at the bus stop (departs 10:40am). This will whisk you through the countryside to Hill Top, the former home of Beatrix Potter. Catch the bus back to Hawkshead at 11:47.



Hill Top, Beatrix Potter's Cottage



Cross Lakes Experience

Lunch

Enjoy lunch and a browse around the shops in Hawkshead. There is a range of cafes, tea shops and pubs to tempt everyone.



Hawkshead Car Park at Hawkshead

Afternoon

Catch the Mountain Goat X30 service to Wray Castle at 13:20 where you can enjoy the magnificent and unique, mock Gothic, family-friendly castle beside Windermere, cared for by the National Trust. Beatrix Potter stayed here with her parents. The return bus leaves Wray Castle at 15:40 and arrives in Hawkshead in time to catch the 16:02 back to Coniston.



Wray Castle

Morning: Hill Top, Beatrix Potter's Cottage



Address

Near Sawrey
Ambleside
Cumbria
LA22 0LF

Contact Details

Tel: 015394 36269

Hill Top is a time capsule of this amazing woman's life. Full of her favourite things, the cottage appears as if Beatrix had just stepped out for a walk. Every room contains a reference to a picture in a 'Tale'. Beatrix used Hill Top and its surroundings as inspiration for many of her 'little books' - you'll recognise the rhubarb patch where Jemima Puddle-Duck laid her egg and the garden where Tom Kitten and his sisters played! Hill Top is a small house with a timed ticket entry system in place to avoid overcrowding and to protect the fragile interior. It can get very busy and visitors may sometimes have to wait to enter the house. Early sell-outs are possible, especially during school holidays. For further information visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hilltop

Directions

By Bus: Bus is probably one of the easiest ways to get to Hill Top. There is also a regular service (505) from Coniston, or Ambleside, with some buses going on to Windermere. If you are coming from Windermere or Bowness you can cruise or catch the Ferry across the Lake then the seasonal bus link (from the beginning of April through to the end of October) between Ferry House and Hill Top.

By Boat: The Windermere ferry between Bowness and Ferry House offers a low-cost, frequent and scenic link to Hill Top for visitors based in the Bowness and Windermere area. The footpath from Ferry House to Hill Top is comprehensively signed. The Cross Lakes Experience provides a package via Windermere Lake Cruises from Bowness to Hill Top using boat and bus.

By Bike: Hill Top is a short and relatively quiet ride down country lanes from Hawkshead, where cycle hire is available from the village post office or via bridleways from Ferry house. There are cycle parking racks near the visitor ticket office.

On Foot: There are numerous footpaths and bridleways in the vicinity for you to explore including a direct off-road link from Ferry House.

By Car: B5286 and B5285 from Ambleside, 6 miles, B5285 from Coniston, 7 miles. The roads are narrow and can be very busy, please allow extra time to park during peak times.

Prices and opening

Adults £10.00, child £5.00, family £25.00. National Trust members free.

No discount to Hill Top for groups.

Opening details

Season Dates	Opening Hours
Notes	Last admission 30 minutes before closing.

Morning: Cross Lakes Experience



Address

-

-

Contact Details

Tel: 015395 31188

Cross Lakes Experience gives you the freedom and flexibility to explore Windermere, Coniston Water, and the breath-taking countryside tucked in between England's two most famous lakes. Create your own adventure around a stunning landscape of whitewashed villages, idyllic beauty spots, and huge forests that are havens for wildlife and heaven for outdoor enthusiasts. Your one-day ticket allows you to: * Cross England's largest lake, Windermere, from Pier 3 at Bowness Bay to Ferry House * Enjoy a leisurely cruise on Coniston Water, sailing on Coniston Launch * Take the Mountain Goat minibus between Ferry House and Hawkshead village on a scenic tour taking in Beatrix Potter's house at Hill Top * Catch the Stagecoach bus between Hawkshead and the historic attractions of Coniston Water * Board the bus for a return trip from Hawkshead * Board the bus to Wray Castle, great discounts if you arrive by bus or boat How you put together your Cross Lakes Experience is totally up to you - the day is yours, the Lakes are your oyster. For further information visit: <https://www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk/cruises-fares/bowness-to-ferry-house/>

Prices and opening

Tickets are available to all locations from Windermere Lake Cruises ticket office at Bowness Pier or on any Mountain Goat bus service, Stagecoach bus service or Coniston Launch.

Lunch: Hawkshead Car Park at Hawkshead

Address

Cumbria

-

Contact Details

Capacity: 183 spaces. 5 Coach Spaces. 11 Disabled spaces. Tariff Type: Multi Tariff. Pay by mobile phone reference: 7259 - <https://paybyphone.co.uk/>. You can also pay by credit card as well as in cash. For further information visit: paybyphone.co.uk/

Prices and opening

Up to 1 hour £1.80, Up to 2 hours £3.00, Up to 4 hours £5.00, All day £7.00, Week £28.00

Afternoon: Wray Castle



Address

Low Wray
Ambleside
Cumbria
LA22 0JA

Contact Details

Tel: 015394 33250

Wray Castle came to us without its contents so you will not see a 'typical' National Trust house full of paintings, furniture and antiques with an accompanying owner-family history through the ages. What you will see is a tired but fascinating building with hints of its 'grand' past and plenty of signs of its varied history (a history that shows in its fixtures and fittings right up to the 1990s, including numbers on room doors and institutional paint-schemes). Make sure you join one of our free tours to get its full life story. If you've children to entertain you'll be pleased to know the rooms may be empty of grand possessions but full of kids having fun in our dressing up and story-telling spaces, perfect for a wet day in the Lakes! Our pop-up café offers light refreshments. Why not come here by boat, and make the journey part of your visit? Windermere Lakes Cruises offer a boat service to Wray Castle jetty - check the Windermere Lake Cruises website for details - www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk. Parking available, charges apply for non-National Trust members. This is a newly opened National Trust property, so please check the website for more information. Please ask at reception for the accessible drop off point and accessible entrance. Disabled access to ground floor only, many steps to first floor rooms. For further information visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wraycastle

Directions

Easy access by Windermere Lake Cruises boat from Ambleside and Brockhole- www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk.

From Ambleside (3.5 miles) B5286 and unnamed road (signed Wray). From Bowness vehicle ferry (6 miles) B5285 and unnamed road (right at Colthouse signed Wray).

Prices and opening

Adult £8.00, Child £4.00, Family £20.00. All prices include a voluntary 10% Gift Aid donation. Visitors can, however, choose to pay the standard admission prices which are displayed at the properties. National Trust members free.

Opening details

Season Dates	Opening Hours
Notes	Last admission 30 minutes before closing. Check website for special opening and events.