

Visit Lake District, Cumbria

Culture in South Lakes - Bowness-on-Windermere

On the shores of Windermere, the town of Bowness-on-Windermere is packed with arts and culture attractions just waiting to be explored.

From architectural gems to modern museums, there's plenty to discover. A rich hub of arts and [culture in the South Lakes](#), join us as we take a trip through Bowness on Windermere and explore its heritage attractions.

Bowness-on-Windermere can be reached by car via the B2584; the A592; the A5074; and the A591 via Windermere village. Windermere train station is a short drive or bus journey away, with Stagecoach buses 599 and 755 serving the town.

1 - Blackwell - The Arts & Crafts House



First up is a visit to [Blackwell – the Arts & Crafts house](#). A stunning architectural gem with sweeping views across Windermere towards the Coniston fells, this impressive Grade I listed building was designed by noted architect Mackay Hugh Baillie Scot.

Marvel at the impressive arts and crafts architecture and learn more about the arts and crafts story as you walk through the house. There are decorative features which reflect the arts and crafts movement, furniture by Morris & Co, and metalwork by William Arthur Smith Benson; while the gardens were laid out by arts & crafts garden designed Thomas Mawson.

Once you've explored the house and grounds, relax with coffee and cake in the Tea Room, located in the house's old kitchen and scullery.

Keep an eye out for regular events, including children's activities during school holidays. There's also a varied programme of exhibitions running throughout the year. Currently on display until June 4th 2023 is "Unearthed": a large scale paper installation by Kendal-based visual artist Amy Williams. This uplifting installation features vibrant, oversized paper wildflowers, representing ten extraordinary women from Cumbrian history. Accompanying the exhibition is a series of paper craft workshops lead by Amy Williams.

Open hours: daily, 10am – 4pm from November – March; 10am – 5pm from April - October

An on-site car park is available for those travelling by car. There is a 5-mile circular walking trail from Bowness-on-Windermere to Blackwell.

2 - Windermere Jetty Museum

Enjoying a stunning location on the shores of Windermere, the [Windermere Jetty Museum](#) tells the story of England's largest lake: its boats, people, and rich history. A modern, family-friendly attraction, there's plenty for all to enjoy.

Discover interactive displays, arts exhibitions, workshops and more. The galleries and boathouse are home to a wide range of water vessels, from steam launches and motorboats to sailing yachts and record-breaking speed boats. Learn the story behind each one, before visiting the conservation workshop to see expert boatbuilders at work.



Photo: Windermere Jetty Museum / Tom Arran

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Outside, there's a model boating pond; while the Lakeshore Café offers indoor and outdoor seating, both with stunning lake views thanks to the floor to ceiling glass windows and outside table area.

If you want to get even closer to the water, heritage boat tours are available on board fully restored Edwardian launches.

From March 4th – June 4th 2023, the striking Forty Farms photography exhibition will be exhibited at the Windermere Jetty Museum. It offers an insight into the everyday lives, fears and hopes of 40 extraordinary farmers, with their stories told through photography, film and words for a truly immersive experience.

Open hours: daily, 10am – 4pm from November – March; 10am – 5pm from April - October.

An on-site car park is available for those travelling by car. Parking is free for visitors to the museum, café and gift shop for up to four hours. The museum is accessible by bus then on foot via a short walk from Bowness-on-Windermere's town centre. Selected Windermere Lake Cruises services also stop at the museum, with timetables varying throughout the year.

Please check ahead before travelling.

3 - The Old Laundry Theatre



Photo: The Old Laundry Theatre

Located in the heart of Bowness, [The Old Laundry Theatre](#) is a theatre in the round hosting a varied programme of shows and events. From theatre to comedy, music to film, there's plenty to discover. British playwright Sir Alan Ayckbourn supported the theatre's establishment, and continues to send a play a year to be performed on its stage.

There is also a bistro, The Old Laundry Studio – Laundrama, which offers Dine Out Tickets including a two course meal and theatre ticket; and hosts smaller cabaret style events and dining experiences.

Parking is available in Bowness-on-Windermere; the closest car parks are Rayrigg Road Car Park and Quarry Mount Car Park.

4 - The World of Beatrix Potter

Next to the Old Laundry Theatre, the [World of Beatrix Potter](#) offers a fun day out for all the family. Discover the author's illustrated tales through a series of interactive exhibits, including Peter Rabbit's garden and Miss Tiggy-Winkle's kitchen.

Open hours: daily, 10am – 4:30pm

Parking is available in Bowness-on-Windermere; the closest car parks are Rayrigg Road Car Park and Quarry Mount Car Park.



We hope you've had a great time visiting just a few of South Lakeland's attractions. Searching for inspiration on where to visit next? Download more cultural itineraries [visitlakedistrict.com/cultureinsouthlakes](https://www.visitlakedistrict.com/cultureinsouthlakes)

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