

Culture in South Lakes - Grasmere's Arts & Culture

Nestled amidst Lakeland fells, in the heart of the Lake District National Park, Grasmere boasts a rich arts and culture heritage.

Poet William Wordsworth once called this Lakeland village his home, and there's plenty to discover – from interactive experiences to exhibitions; modern museums to traditional Lakeland cottages.

Discover [culture in the South Lakes](#) with a visit to these fantastic arts and culture venues in Grasmere.

Grasmere is accessible by road via the A591; or by bus with Stagecoach (the 599 and 555 buses serve the village).

1 - Wordsworth Grasmere



*Image: G Gardner,
Wordsworth Grasmere*

For your first stop, it's time to discover the former home of William and Dorothy Wordsworth at [Wordsworth Grasmere](#). Here, you can visit Dove Cottage: left as it would have been when the Wordsworths lived here, with recreations of moments taken from their poems, journals and letters helping to tell the story of their life here.

Stroll through the garden-orchard behind the cottage, and explore the woodland to immerse yourself in the very nature which inspired Wordsworth.

Then, it's just a few steps to the modern Museum – which tells the story of Wordsworth's radical and creative life.

The permanent collection includes handwritten manuscripts, letters, published poetry and personal items; while there is also a regular programme of temporary exhibitions. Currently showing until 30 December 2023 is 'To The Lakes!' which looks at how visitors experienced the Lake District 200 years ago.

There are plenty of hands on activities to enjoy for all ages – kids will find lots to enjoy, from arts and crafts to a nature trail. Don't forget to grab a brew and cake at the on site café.

Plus, admission tickets are valid for 12 months and can be used as many times as you like. That means you can get access for a year, for the price of one ticket!

Winter open hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 4pm.

There is an on-site car park, while Stagecoach buses 555 and 599 stop right outside.

Visit Lake District, Cumbria

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2 - Allan Bank

The National Trust's [Allan Bank](#) was once home to National Trust co-founder Canon Rawnsley and poet William Wordsworth. Overlooking Grasmere's lake and fells, it sits in a stunning location and offers plenty for visitors to discover.

Enjoy woodland walks in the garden, where if you're lucky you may even spot a red squirrel! Picnics are welcome both outdoors and, in the house, where free hot drinks are available. There's a fire to keep you warm as you explore the historic villa: don't miss a visit to the recently restored Billiard Room, and the art room – where visitors are encouraged try their hand at creating their own artwork.



Allan Bank Image:
Annapurna Mellor / National Trust

Allan Bank is usually open Tuesday – Thursday; and Sunday.

Allan Bank is open on selected Saturdays – please see their website for more information.

Their winter opening hours are 11am – 3:30pm; in spring, they are open 10am – 4:30pm.

Allan Bank is accessible by foot from Grasmere Village; limited Blue Badge parking only is available on-site.

3 - Rydal Mount



Located just a stone's throw from Grasmere village stands [Rydal Mount](#): Wordsworth's family home, where he lived from 1813 until his death in 1850. Still owned by the Wordsworth family, today the house is open for visitors to discover the life and works of the famous poet. There are a number of items which belonged to Wordsworth himself on display; and guided tours are available.

Open hours: Daily, 10:30am – 4pm. Please check ahead before visiting.

There is an on-site car park, which is free of charge for the duration of your visit.

Additional parking is available to book online.

4 - Heaton Cooper

Back in Grasmere village, the [Heaton Cooper Studio](#) offers exhibitions, demonstrations and workshops; as well as a shop and popular café.

Established by landscape painter Alfred Heaton Cooper in 1905, today you'll find paintings, sculpture and books in display; as well as a children's table for kids to get creative.



Open hours: The gallery is open between 9am – 5pm.

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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