



Events throughout Cumbria 2008

Apr - May Muncaster Castle, Riot of Rhododendrons	20 Jul Coniston Country Fair
Mid Apr - Mid May . Muncaster Castle, Bluebell Bonanza	24 - 27 Jul Festival of Ideas, Sedbergh
25 Apr - 31 Aug . . Raptors! Exhibition, Tullie House	25 - 27 Jul Ambleside Flower & Crafts Show
03 May Georgian Fayre, Cockermouth	25 Jul - 9 Aug . . . Summer Buddhist Festival, Ulverston
03 - 18 May Ulverston Flag Fortnight	25, 26, 27 Jul . . . Appleby Jazz Festival (tbc)
04 May Spinning a Yarn, Sizergh Castle, Kendal	25 - 28 Jul Maryport Blues
04 May Georgian Cookery Day, Cockermouth	25 - 27 Jul Potfest in the Park, Hutton in the Forest, near Penrith
05 May Penrith May Day	26 - 27 Jul Cumbria Steam Gathering, Flookburgh
5 May Museum Welcome Day, Tullie House	26 - 27 Jul Windermere Air Show
07 - 11 May Keswick Film Festival	30 Jul Ulverston & North Lonsdale Agricultural Show
09 May Muncaster Castle, Variety is the spice of life, garden tour.	31 Jul Ambleside Traditional Lakeland Sports
10 May - 13 Jul . . . No Such Thing as Society, Tullie House Art Gallery	01 - 17 Aug Lake District Summer Music Festival
10 - 18 May Ullswater Walking Festival	06 Aug Cartmel Agricultural Show
14 - 18 May Keswick Mountain Festival	07 Aug Lake District Sheep Dog Trials, Near Windermere
17 May Night at the Museum, Tullie House	08, 09, 10 Aug . . . Lowther Horse Driving Trials and Country Fair, Lowther
17 May Sedbergh Gala	08 - 10 Aug Potfest in the Pens, Penrith
18 May International Museum Day, Wordsworth House, Cockermouth	14 Aug Rydal Sheep Dog Trials
24 May Muncaster Castle, Cabaret @ The Castle.	16 Aug National Garden Scheme, Sizergh Castle, Kendal
25 May Shetland Pony & Panto Horse Grand National, Ford Park, Ulverston	16 Aug Rusland Valley Horticultural Show
25 - 29 May Muncaster Festival of Fools	16 Aug National Garden Scheme, Sizergh Castle, Kendal
24, 26 & 28 May . . . Cartmel Races	17 Aug Lakeland Country Fair Coniston
31 May Penrith Flower Festival	19 Aug Hawkshead Show
30, 31 May & 01 Jun . Holker Festival Holker Hall, Cark-in-Cartmel	22 - 25 Aug Food Fair & Continental Market, Carlisle City Centre
30 May - 07 Jun . . . Ulverston International Music Festival, Coronation Hall	23 - 24 Aug Solfest, Silloth
06 - 08 Jun Windermere on Water (WOW)	23 & 25 Aug Cartmel Races
07 - 08 Jun Barrow Festival of the Sea, Barrow-in-Furness	24 Aug Grasmere Lakeland Sports & Show
14 Jun Spectacle on The Glebe, Bowness-on-Windermere (WOW)	25 Aug Keswick Agricultural Show
14 Jun Edwardian Festival, Grange-over-Sands	25 Aug Silloth Carnival
14 - 15 Jun North West Fine Food Lovers Festival County Showfield, Crooklands, Near Kendal (tbc)	29 - 31 Aug Mintfest: Kendal International Street Arts Festival
20 - 21 Jun Book Fair Brewery Arts Centre, Highgate, Kendal	30 Aug Millom & Broughton Agricultural Show
21 - 22 Jun National Gardens Scheme Open Weekend, Tullie House	04 - 07 Sept Silloth Beer Festival
27 - 29 Jun Dent Folk Festival	06 Sept Alston Agricultural Show
28 - 29 Jun 800 Year Celebrations, Muncaster Castle	06 - 07 Sept Kirkby Lonsdale Victorian Fair
05 Jul Alston Gala Day	06 - 20 Sept Ulverston Charter Festival
05 Jul Ambleside Rushbearing	6 - 21 Sept Sedbergh Festival of Books & Drama and Fringe Weekend
05 Jul Ulverston Carnival Day	11 Sept Westmorland County Show, Kendal
06 Jul Walney Island Carnival	12 - 14 Sept Appleby Classical Music Festival
11 - 13 Jul Furness Tradition Festival Weekend	13 Sept Kendal Torchlight Carnival
12 Jul Appleby Carnival	20 Sept Ulverston Lantern Procession
12 - 13 Jul Lakeland Rose Show, Near Kendal	20 Sept Nature Paintings - Keith Tyson Exhibition, Carlisle
17 Jul Cartmel Races	29 Sept Autumn Colours, Sizergh Castle, Kendal
19 Jul Grasmere Rushbearing	10 Oct National Hunt Race Meeting, Carlisle Racecourse
19 Jul - 14 Sep . . . Abram Games, Tullie House Art Gallery	11 Oct Wasdale Head Shepherds Meet & Show
	13 & 18 Oct The Play's The Thing, West Walls Theatre, Carlisle
	23 - Oct National Hunt Race Meeting, Carlisle Racecourse
	25 Oct & 31 Oct . . . Ghosts & Ghastly Story Tours - Guided tour of Carlisle Castle
	26 Oct - 2 Nov . . . Halloween Week, Muncaster Castle

If you would like a free booklet with over 100 Cumbrian events and festivals listed for 2008, please email your request to the Help Desk's email at the bottom of the page or log on to www.cumbria4coaches.com for a complete events listing.



Welcome

Welcome to the 2008 Spring edition of Signpost, the Group Travel newsletter from Cumbria - The Lake District.

Spring has finally arrived! Daffodils are in full bloom, lambs playfully frolic in the fields and the latest edition of 'Signpost' full of fresh ideas for your tours arrives on your desk. Why not a visit a local brewery on an Ale Trail, explore Wordsworth's life and discover more about his best loved poems, or follow a delightful visual chronicle of Quaker life through the centuries. There is something for everyone.

Your tour would not be complete without sampling what culinary delights Cumbria has to offer including scenic refreshment stops and appealing lunch destinations.

Our dedicated groups' website www.cumbria4coaches.com is also full of itinerary suggestions, attraction and accommodation ideas, as well as the latest news.

Finally we would like to thank everyone who visited our new look Cumbria Aisle at BTTF.

Happy Touring!

Group Travel Help Desk, Cumbria Tourism



year of adventure 08
the lakedistrict
Cumbria



Coming to the Lakes in 2008 for at least 2 nights?

Fancy a FREE day's Blue Badge Guiding as part of your tour?



Well good news then, as Cumbria - The Lake District's Free Blue Badge Guide promotion is still going strong.



This promotion has been hugely popular to date, so if you've never taken advantage of it, here's your chance. Your tour will get something extra to help sell it and your customers will get a little something extra and return home with happy memories! To qualify you must be staying two nights in the county and not have used the offer before!

For more details call 01539 822222.

CLAIM YOUR FREE BLUE BADGE GUIDE TODAY!

the lakedistrict
Cumbria

An invaluable aid to group travel planning - see our new, eye-catching Group Guides for CUMBRIA AND THE LAKE DISTRICT.



A family of Group Guides in full colour, available in the following titles:

- Eden
- Carlisle & Hadrian's Wall Country
- Keswick & the Western Lake District
- Kendal, Windermere & the South Lakes
- Coniston & the Lake District Peninsulas

Why not order a full set by calling the Group Travel Help Desk on 01539 822222 or by email at groupravel@cumbriatourism.org

Visit the official Cumbria Group Travel website www.cumbria4coaches.com

Take a Leisurely Pint to Pint Tour with Mountain Goat



For the ultimate country pub crawl, join Mountain Goat on an ale trail through the spectacular fells and dales of the Lake District.

Drink in the views on this leisurely tour that offers the chance to sample some of the finest real ales in the county and visit some of its best-loved pubs.

How about a Ploughman's and a pint of Tag Lag in the beer garden of the legendary Drunken Duck Inn? A warming glass of Grasmoor Dark Ale in front of the roaring open fire at the Kirkstile Inn? Or a fruity pint of Damson Beer in the Mason's Arms overlooking the glorious Lyth Valley?

The tours are available for group bookings and guests can design their own Lakeland itineraries.

As well as the best of the breweries, Mountain Goat is happy to arrange walks, trips to attractions and accommodation - all tailored to suit your needs.

It can be arranged for the Mountain Goat minibuses to collect your group, so all you need to do is sit back, relax and enjoy the ride.

Some of the many breweries and pubs around the Lake District include:

Hawkshead Brewery and Staveley Beer Hall
Offering a range of ales brewed with the best Maris Otter malted barley, favourites include Lakeland Gold, Brodie's Prime and the festive Jingle Fells.

Cumbrian Legendary Ales Brewery at Hawkshead

Sitting on the shores of Esthwaite Water at the southern edge of Hawkshead, there couldn't be a more idyllic setting for a brewery than this. Sample the coppery bitter Wicked Jimmy or Buttermere Beauty, a golden pilsner style real ale.

Coniston Brewery at Coniston

Home of the famed Bluebird Bitter, the award-winning Coniston Brewery uses water from high up on the fells that tower over Coniston village. Visit too the popular Black Bull Inn with its lengthy guest beers list.

Hesket Market Brewery at Hesket Newmarket

This thriving microbrewery is a real gem, selling award-winning beers such as Pigs Might Fly and Doris' 90th birthday.

Barnegates Brewery near Ambleside

Home of Tag Lag, a golden ale with a fresh and spicy hop aroma, as well as beers like Catnap and Westmorland Gold. The brewery is based at the renowned Drunken Duck Inn.

Jennings Brewery in Cockermouth

It's possible to see the whole brewing process at the Jennings Brewery, which was founded in 1828. And of course you'll be able to sample beers like Cumberland Ale, Sneek Lifter and Cocker Hoop.

For some added adventure, popular walks to choose from range from a leg-burning ascent of the Old Man of Coniston to a gentle ramble around Beatrix Potter's beloved Tam Hows.

For more information call 015394 45161 or email info@mountain-goat.com.



BTTF 2008 Prize Draw Winners

A big thank you to everyone who visited our super, new Cumbria Aisle at BTTF and especially to those who took part in our Prize Draw. We are pleased to announce the following winners have won three great prizes!

Simone Thackray, Travelstyle Tours - 2 Night Romantic Break at Whitewater Hotel & Leisure Club

Fay Skinner, Skinners of Oxted - Cream Tea for 2 at Lindeth Howe Country House Hotel

Alun Jones, Jones Holiday Tours - Free Full Day Tour Tickets with Mountain Goat Holidays & Tours

Food, Glorious Food

If you are looking for somewhere interesting and scenic for your group to take a break for refreshments and meal stops there are two new leaflets full of inspirational ideas especially for groups.

'Food, Glorious, Food' lists ideas on lunch and refreshment stops from a number of attractions and hotels within Cumbria who cater for groups.

For a copy - visit www.cumbria4coaches.com to download, email grouptravel@cumbriatourism.org, call the Group Travel Help Desk on 01539 822222.

'Brew with a View' is a special guide to some of the restaurants and cafes in stunning locations in Kendal, Windermere and South Lakes area that cater for larger groups and coach parties.

For a copy - visit www.cumbria4coaches.com to download, email tourism@southlakeland.gov.uk, call 01539 717389.



Quaker Tapestry Exhibition Centre & Tearooms, Kendal

"Weapons of the Spirit" The Quaker Response to Conflict is a new display which reveals the differences in individual Quaker responses to conflict and explores the variety of ways in which Quakers have become involved in conflict issues from the 17th century to the present day. At its centre are the words and stories of individuals, tales of bravery, sadness and even humour.

A new interactive CD-ROM "These Houses Hold Secrets" also shines a light into the dark years of the Second World War to reveal the efforts made by Dutch Quakers in the Netherlands to save the lives of Jewish children and families. Within the CD-ROM's digital pages, there are opportunities to explore personal narratives through word, sound and image.

The Quaker Tapestry took its Exhibition Roadshow (selected tapestry panels) to Chester Cathedral for 6 weeks in February. They had an extremely successful time with thousands of visitors coming to see the exhibition.

For further information call 01539 722975 email info@quaker-tapestry.co.uk or visit www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk



News update

Muncaster Castle have a new group brochure. The Gardens are home to one of the largest collections of Rhododendron's in Europe spread across 77 acres of woodland gardens, and also home to the World Owl Centre (with more than 200 birds on display). Tailor made visits can be arranged to include a private guided tour of the castle or gardens as well as the option to have tea/coffee on arrival in the castle or even afternoon tea! Contact info@muncaster.co.uk or call 01229 717614.

The Rheged Centre, just off the M6 (J.40) near Penrith has launched a new Groups brochure, which is full of new ideas for day tours in the North Lakes as well as a wealth of catering ideas for coach operators, social groups and coach drivers. It has introduced a number of new groups packages which link in with other local attractions including Dalemmain Historic House, Ullswater Steamers, Keswick's nationally acclaimed Theatre by the Lake and Gretna Green. For more information call 01768 860019, email groupsvisits@rheged.com or visit www.rheged.com.

Lindeth Howe Country House Hotel, Windermere is offering fantastic lunches and fabulous afternoon teas for groups. For more information call 015394 45759.

The World Famous Old Blacksmith's Shop Centre at Gretna Green continues to develop. It has expanded the whisky experience and introduced special whisky demonstration for groups. The climax of the demonstration is a nosings and tastings session at the tasting bar. **Another exciting new feature for 2008 is The Courtship Maze; a wonderful feature to view as your coach arrives.** Drivers and tour managers can also use the new registration point. For more information contact Groups at Gretna Green on 01461 337893, email groups@gretnagreen.com or visit www.gretnagreen.com.

Kendal Coach Parking - Groups wishing to spend time visiting Kendal attractions should contact K Village Outlet Centre to book in to their dedicated coach parking space, currently available at Lakes Leisure sports centre on the edge of the town. Coaches can drop off at The Shakespeare pub on Highgate, where they will be met by K Village staff with discount vouchers for Outlet Centre brands. The Centre is currently sited at 20 Stricklandgate, right in the centre of town, pending the redevelopment of K Village, scheduled for opening in late 2009. Coach drivers will then be given instructions on how to park up at Lakes Leisure

whilst their visitors can enjoy visiting other attractions in the town including the Quaker Tapestry, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal Museum, The Museum of Lakeland Life and the Brewery Arts Centre. They can also enjoy the wide variety of shops and eating places in the town centre. For further information, contact K Village on 01539 732363 or info@kvillage.co.uk.

J.38 Services just off the M6, will be holding Car Boot sales every 1st Sunday in the month during the summer season, giving coach passengers the chance to pick up a boot sale bargain while they stop for refreshments. The car boot sales are from 10am - 2pm and all proceeds from the stall booking fees are donated to local community projects. In 2007 J.38 underwent a £500,000 refurbishment programme. For more information call 01539 711305.

Holker Festival of gardens and food, 30 & 31 May, 1 June 2008. This annual celebration of horticulture and food takes place in the grounds of the spectacular Holker Hall. The best show garden of all is Holkers own, providing plenty of activities for all the family. With falconry, Cossack horse displays and other arena events Holker Festival is the perfect day out. Check out the new website www.holker.co.uk and buy tickets at an advance reduced rate or telephone 015395 58838.



New Wordsworth Tour

A new Wordsworth tour which takes in the three main houses where the poet lived in the Lake District has just been launched.

The tour can be booked with one phone call and includes visits to Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum & Art Gallery as well as Wordsworth House, the poet's birth place, and Rydal Mount and Gardens where he lived until his death.

It costs just £14.90 for entry to all three attractions with lunch options available for between £8.50 and £10.

"These are three of the leading attractions in the Lake District and visitors will benefit by being able to follow Wordsworth's life and discover more about his best loved poems," said Paul Kleian, Marketing Manager for Dove Cottage.

The tour is available for prebooked groups of ten or more people with other options available, including visits to Dove Cottage alone or the cottage plus one other attraction.

More information from 015394 35544 or www.wordsworth.org.uk.