

LAKE DISTRICT

"BEATRIX POTTER HAD MANY HAPPY CHILDHOOD DAYS IN THE AREA, AND HER BIOPIC WAS FILMED IN KESWICK"

YOU MAY THINK THE **LAKE DISTRICT** IS A SLEEPY HAVEN OF TRANQUILITY, BUT ITS BEAUTY HAS ATTRACTED FILM CREWS AND HOLLYWOOD STARS FOR YEARS. AS A PRIME LOCATION FOR PLOT LINES AS DIVERSE AS BEATRIX POTTER'S LIFE STORY, FORBIDDEN LOVE AND RABID ZOMBIES FLEEING A DISEASE-RAVAGED LONDON, IT MUST BE WORTH A VISIT

Swallows and Amazons

The classic 1974 children's adventure film was based on a novel by Arthur Ransome, who grew up in the Lake District. Its silver screen adaptation, starring Virginia McKenna as Mrs Walker and Ronald Fraser as Uncle Jim, was filmed in Coniston, and numerous locals were used as extras. Discover the locations that Ransome mentions throughout his stories by taking a Swallows and Amazons Cruise (adults £8.90, children £5.00). As you float past, look out for the steam yacht, Gondola, the oldest of its kind in the north of England.

BASICS

EAT Jumping Jenny

Nestled in the grounds of Brantwood (home of writer John Ruskin) is the curiously named Jumping Jenny. Overlooking Coniston Water, it is popular for afternoon tea or a relaxed evening meal. There's a terrace with fantastic views and a log fire in the main room for when it's nippy.

DRINK Shepherds Arms

This popular bar was included in the *Good Pub Guide* and is part of the Shepherds Arms Hotel. There's a roaring log fire in winter, comfy seats and an extensive menu of home-cooked local produce, not to mention a wide range of real ales to wash it all down with.



(Clockwise from left) Renée Zellweger's agent is about to get fired - he definitely said 'Harry Potter'... didn't he?; go messing about in boats on a Magical Miss Potter Break; Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson snatch a few moments of happiness in *Brief Encounter*; relax at the Shepherds Arms

Miss Potter

Beatrix Potter spent many happy childhood days in the Lake District, and her biopic, starring Renée Zellweger, was filmed mainly in Keswick. Immerse yourself in the world of Peter Rabbit and the gang by going on a Magical Miss Potter Break (from £139 including dinner, bed and breakfast). These comprehensive tours include a visit to the World Of Beatrix Potter attraction in Bowness-on-Windermere, boat trips to key locations and a visit to the award-winning Beatrix Potter Gallery in Hawkshead. You'll also stop off in Keswick itself, where you can indulge in some serious retail therapy or escape to one of the many country pubs there.

Brief Encounter

Starring Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard, *Brief Encounter* is a story of forbidden love on a steamy platform at 'Milford Junction'. This timeless 1945 classic was filmed at Carnforth station - which lies between Preston and Lancaster - and now has a visitor centre offering a wealth of free activities

including film workshops, teddy bear-making classes, craft fairs and, of course, screenings of the classic film that made it famous. Enjoy a brief encounter of your own by posing dramatically under the famous Carnforth station clock, which is the original featured in the film - and that's all before you've even left the station...

28 Days Later

When Cillian Murphy's character fled a deserted London in this Danny Boyle sci-fi horror flick, Ennerdale Water was his refuge. The closing sequences of *28 Days Later* were filmed in the area, and include a sweeping panoramic shot of the lake. Its remote location has left the spot relatively untouched, and its beauty makes it a popular destination for hikers and cyclists. But if that all sounds a bit too strenuous, head to the tiny village of Ennerdale Bridge, which lies to the west of the lake. It offers little more than a shop and a couple of cosy pubs, but if the film proves prophetic and London does fall victim to a plague of deranged zombies, it's a great place to hide.



CONTACTS

Swallows & Amazons Cruise

operated by Coniston Launch, Tel: 01539 436 216

Magical Miss

Potter Break operated by Regent Lakes, Tel: 01539 432 254, www.regentlakes.co.uk

Carnforth

Station Visitor Centre Warton Road, Carnforth Tel: 01524 735

165 Jumping Jenny Coffee

House Brantwood, Coniston Tel: 01539 441 715

Shepherds Arms Shepherds Arms Hotel, Ennerdale Bridge, Lake District National Park, Cumbria Tel: 01946 861 249

Highfield Hotel The Heads, Keswick Tel: 01768 772 508

STAY Highfield Hotel

This award-winning hotel has spacious bedrooms and magnificent lake views, perfect for relaxing in after a hard day's hiking (or shopping). It's just a few minutes' walk from the town centre and the ever-popular Theatre by the Lake, so you can grab a bit of culture while you're at it.