

A small walk with huge views. with the option of nearby visitor attractions.

If you want to get away from the crowds, and the crawling traffic, we're going to recommend the southern Lake District and its coastal hills – even its beaches. Your guide is from a family who have lived in the valleys around Windermere, and the coastal estuaries, for centuries. This is real insider's knowledge.

Our first hill is nearby, and to be honest it's not that much of a secret — but it is a huge surprise if you've previously dismissed the smaller hills and a Windermere location. The view from Gummer's How summit is a vast 360 view that takes in hundreds of miles across 3 counties, (at least), and out to sea. We have a video clip of the view on our social media.

As you look at the photo follow the right hand side of the lake up from the foot of Gummer's How, and you'll meet the promontory of Storrs' wooded gardens, protruding out into the lake. You'll see how we benefit from the views along almost the entire length of lake Windermere.

To get to this notable viewpoint, turn left when you leave Storrs Hall, and follow the A592 road south to Fell Foot Park, the National Trust property at the south end of Windermere. Take a sharp left up Fell Foot Brow. This is 5.5 miles away from Storrs and should take you about a 12 minute drive.

The car park is on your right, and the start of the walk to Gummer's How is just a bit further up the hill on the opposite side of the road.

You walk through light woodland, before the path ascends the rocky summit. There is an easier path around the back of the hill bearing to the right – but it is a short walk with only a bit of steep ascent, and is popular with families. Or those in the know who want big rewards with little effort. That reward is impressive, a dizzying twirl of mountainous views edged by the sea. England's largest lake lies at your feet, fringed with some of the rarest habitat in the world – Temperate Rain Forest.

We'd always advise you dress appropriately, with suitable hill-walking footwear, and take a map with you as back up to any device you may be using. The car park does not have any facilities, but these are available nearby at Fell Foot.

This is one of the most special places in the world, a National Park and a Unesco World Heritage Site. It is left as close as possible to its natural state for your enjoyment, it is a different beast to an urban park, please do not leave rubbish behind.



Keep the kids entertained and make a day of it by also visiting...

Lakeside is home to 3 popular visitor attractions — even more popular on rainy days so we'd always advise booking tickets well in advance, a requirement anyway in our post-covid world. It's a mile to drive around the south end of the lake to Lakeside from Gummer's How.



1. THE LAKESIDE AND HAVERTHWAITE RAILWAY

A scenic 20 minutes steam locomotive ride to Haverthwaite, with a gift shop and café at the Haverthwaite terminal, (please note there are no facilities or businesses in the village itself).

Website: www.lakesiderailway.co.uk

Postcode: LA12 8AL

2. THE LAKES AQUARIUM

Provides a simulated "under the lake' experience so you can walk alongside the fish to be found in Windermere; as well as showcasing diverse exhibits from habitats around the world – including Rainforest Tree Frogs and Axolotls, Harvest Mice, and Oriental Otters. It works closely with local groups on conservation projects, to support our local wildlife and their habitats which are vulnerable to invasive species, and the effects of climate change.

Website: www.lakesaquarium.co.uk

Postcode: LA12 8AS





3. THE LAKELAND MOTOR MUSEUM

With 30,000 exhibits including a display devoted to Donal Campbell's Bluebird, (of the fatal speed record attempt), this appeals to the grown- ups too. It's housed in the old Blue Mills building with free parking.

All of the attractions have cafes on site, so finding somewhere for lunch is not a problem.

It's under 7 miles for the return journey to Storrs Hall, less than 20 minutes away, so these destinations make for an easy family friendly day out.

*Remember to pre-book your tickets.

Website: www.lakelandmotormuseum.co.uk

Postcode: LA12 8TA

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