The English Lake District is one of the most beautiful and dramatic walking areas in this country. A compact area of mountainsides, summits and ridges, lakes and lakeside paths.

**HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Hassness Country House’s legendary hospitality and stunning lake views - refurbished in 2018
- Choose between more walking experiences than you can shake a trekking pole at!
- Discover the well known walks and lesser visited Western Lakes
- Magnificent Lake District mountainscape scenery
- Lake Buttermere walking trails - as featured in ITV’s Britain’s Top 100 favourite walks
- Alfred Wainwright’s ashes are scattered by Innominate Tarn - visible from Hassness Country House
The English Lake District is one of the most beautiful and dramatic walking areas in this country. A compact area of rugged mountainsides, high summits and open ridges, lakes and lakeside paths, it provides a great variety of wonderful walks for everyone. It caters for both the gentle rambler simply seeking beautiful days out alongside the lakes and on gentler valley paths as well as energetic and adventurous high peak hiker seeking a real challenge. You'll be walking amongst the Wainwrights, the 214 fells listed in the iconic pictorial guides to the hills and mountains of the Lake District written by the great Alfred Wainwright to document his experiences in the hills and to encourage others to discover the landscape for themselves.

You'll visit some of the more quintessential mountains but also those off the well worn path. Peaks with intriguing names can be reached from the house and are often the more memorable experiences of the walking programme. You won't run out of incredible walking options, magnificent views or panoramic skylines. On some dates throughout the season, we organise leisurely walks at the easier end of our holiday grades scale, whilst on other dates we focus on higher grades of walking.

There are gentle strolls around the valley floor and its three lakes, Buttermere, Crummock Water and Loweswater, as well as some more strenuous and exhilarating days on the summits and ridges of the Western Fells. You'll get to some of the well-known places, see or ascend the famous peaks, walk the valley floors or high ridges, wander the lakesides and discover hidden tarns.

All holidays are based at Hassness Country House, a welcoming and authentic lakeland retreat, from which to venture into the fells at the walking grade of your choice.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- Breakfast each day.
- Lunches on walking days.
- Home cooked three course evening meals (except Tuesday).
- Renowned Hassness House hospitality.
- (Local transport is *not* included on this holiday).

**HOLIDAY GRADE**

Our programme of grade 4 walks is designed to take in many of the most famous areas in the northwestern Lakes, including Haystacks, for example, on terrain which presents few challenges in fine weather. There may be occasional steep or rough sections, but these can be taken slowly. Note however that in the spring and autumn icy patches can be encountered and after heavy rain at any time of year streams or rivers may break their banks and some paths will become slipperier and muddy. The walks range in distance between 6 to 11 miles with ascents and descents normally in the range of 300m to 500m. Where ascents and descents are higher, the length of the walk will normally be shorter, and vice versa.
Proposed Itinerary

Our bottom line is happy travellers, and to that end we trust our tour leaders to use the itinerary below as a basis for providing you with a great holiday. We expect our leaders to make adjustments to the itinerary if the weather, group ability or other local conditions make that necessary. There are normally more options available to our leaders than those listed below and one or more of these options may well be chosen. All distances, heights & timings are approximate.

Key to Meals:
B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner.

Day: 1 - Buttermere (D) We wish you a very warm welcome to Hassness Country House. Your hosts Debbie and Laurie will be there to welcome you and ensure your stay is as comfortable as possible. Your holiday starts upon arrival at Hassness Country House in Buttermere where you are welcome to arrive from 3pm. Your evening meal will be served at 7pm. If you anticipate arriving after this time, we kindly request that you telephone Hassness Country House to confirm your expected arrival time.

Day: 2 to 4 - Buttermere (B,L,D) Your holiday includes three days of guided walking with all meals included in the beautiful English Lake District. Debbie and Laurie take a well earned rest on Tuesday, therefore no evening meal is included in your holiday on this day.

Below is a selection of walking trails commonly experienced on our Hassness Country House holidays. This will give you an indication of the nature of the walking terrain and the format for your chosen holiday. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and other walks are available depending on the local weather conditions at the time.

Grade 4 Walks

Buttermere and Rannerdale Knotts - the well trodden track round Buttermere is a superb introduction to the delights of the valley. It's likely that the local Herdwick sheep will be dotting the hillside and red squirrels can often be seen in the woods. Many bird species can be seen and heard in the area. Behind us the imposing ridge of Fleetwith Pike separates the deep gash of Honister Pass from the meandering river and tumbling waterfalls in Warnscale Bottom. Ahead of us the looming mass of Grasmoor is a backdrop to the green ridge leading down from Whiteless Pike to Buttermere Village below. We cross the bridge over Combe Beck and enter the quieter Burtness Wood, finally reaching Buttermere Village for a refreshment stop. We may look into the church to see the Wainwright Memorial, in a window framing a view of Haystacks in the distance. Then our path winds towards Crummock Water where we turn up a steep stone staircase to the viewpoint of Rannerdale Knotts (355m). Turning south east we traverse the ridge to the head of Rannerdale before descending back to Buttermere Village and the short shore-side walk back to Hassness. Total distance covered: 8.1 miles (390m ascent).
**Haystacks from Honister** - this walk takes us to the top of Haystacks, favourite fell of Alfred Wainwright, and the resting place for his ashes. Starting from Honister Pass we ascend the track of an old mining tramway to the Drumhouse, then follow the quaintly named Moses Trot, here part of the Coast to Coast long distance footpath, onto the side of Brandreth and Grey Knotts. We see Haystacks over to our right, and hopefully enjoy views over Buttermere and Crummock Water to the Solway Coast and beyond to Scotland. Turning down below Great Round How we pass the sheltered Blackbeck Tarn, and then Innominate Tarn where Wainwright's ashes are scattered. The summit of Haystacks (597m) soon follows where we can admire the views below. Retracing our steps past the tarns we cross Warnscale Beck and come to Dubs Hut, recently renovated with financial assistance from Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust. After inspecting the Hut, we follow the Miners Road back down to Honister. Total distance covered: 6.2 miles (525m ascent).

**Crummock Water and Loweswater Village** - no trip to the valley would be complete without a circuit of Crummock Water, taking in the site of the fabled Battle of Rannerdale, and a visit to the little village of Loweswater. We start in Buttermere Village and make our way to the shores of Crummock Water and Hause Point. Descending to the road we enter lower Rannerdale, where bluebells grow in profusion in May. At all times of the year the hills are a patchwork of greens and browns with the grey of the rock and boulders and the white tumbling water of the Rannerdale Beck. Crossing the footbridge we make our way back to Crummock Water where the path follows the shore through woodland and pastures to the end of the lake. Crossing the river we follow footpaths up to Loweswater Village and the famous Kirkstile Inn. We may take lunch here or in the quiet churchyard. After lunch we head back southwards along the western shore of Crummock Water. When we come to footbridges over Scale Beck, which flows down from Scale Force waterfall, the highest in the Lake District, it may be possible to walk up to inspect the Falls if time allows. The improving track then takes us to Scale Bridge and a lane leading back to Buttermere Village. Total distance covered: 9.5 miles (245m ascent).

**Watendlath and Derwentwater** - this walk may not literally scale the heights but it is full of interest, even when the clouds cover the high tops. We start in the village of Rosthwaite and follow a well engineered bridleway east, up through woods and then open fell, to Puddingstone Bank. Then we descend to the tarn and Farm at Watendlath and its welcome tearoom. Following the Watendlath Beck north our route takes us down into more oak woodland before Surprise View presents magnificent photo opportunities over Derwentwater. Further on the ancient stonework of Ashness Bridge provides another photo stop before the path contours round above the eastern side of Derwentwater then down to the shore at Great Wood. We follow the shore line paths to Keswick, and optional retail therapy, before catching the regular bus service back on Rosthwaite. Total distance covered: 8.4 miles (335m ascent).

**Borrowdale** - the Borrowdale Valley is one of the most beautiful in the Lake District. This walk takes in many of the best views and points of interest. We start at Seatoller and ascend gently into the ancient oaks in Johnny Wood before dropping down to cross the River Derwent. We then follow footpaths through the fields ove ice age moraines to Rosthwaite, where we will have time to walk round the village. We cross New Bridge and follow the Cumbria Way downstream stopping to explore the cave of the eccentric Millican Dalton under the shadow of Castle Crag. Continuing north we loop round to Swanesty How before approaching the village of Grange from the north. After stopping in Grange we follow the Allerdale Ramble footpath up past Castle Crag, with the option of tackling the winding footpath to the top, before our route contours round above the tree line affording us open views of the Upper Borrowdale Fells and then drops us back down to our starting place in Seatoller. Total distance covered: 8.4 miles (420m ascent).

**Meals**

All meals are included except for dinner on Tuesday evening. There are two nearby pubs in Buttermere Village which both serve food and sell an assortment of drinks and ales.

**Day: 5 - (B)** After a hearty breakfast, Debbie and Laurie wave you goodbye when you'll leave with memories from your Lake District experience. We hope you enjoyed your stay and we look forward to welcoming you again soon.
Optional Excursions
A range of local excursions and activities may be available to book at your destination through a local operator. We have no involvement in such activities or excursions which are not run, supervised or controlled in any way by us. Your contract will be with the local activity supplier and we accept no responsibility for their actions or omissions.

Leaders Evening Briefing
Each evening, your tour leader will discuss with you the programme for the following day. If you do not wish to join the organised group programme, please let the leader know.

Local Transport Costs
To reduce local costs in getting to and from the walks, we may ask those taking their cars to Hassness Country House to assist in transportation and to offer their walking companions a lift to and from the trailheads. You need to bring your motor insurance policy certificate with you and accept that any use by your travelling companions is for social purposes only for which you will not be able to receive any payment. You may travel by public bus on some days therefore if you have a bus pass please bring this with you.

Personal Expenditure

Budgeting for Extras
When budgeting for your holiday, you will need to consider drinks, any meals not included in the holiday price, non-included entrance fees, optional excursions you may choose to participate in locally and any souvenirs or additional services such as laundry. A general guideline for lunches and drinks is £10-£20 per person per day.

Small Groups
Coming from all walks of life your fellow travelling companions will share your desire to discover great things and have a wonderful holiday. Enjoy their infectious enthusiasm, camaraderie and great dinner conversation.

These small-group guided holidays usually have a group size of 10 - 22 people for walks up to grade 4.

Tour Leaders
Your tour leader makes the world of difference to your holiday and ours are as passionate about discovering the world on foot as you are. They’re resourceful, organised and widely travelled. They will handle all the local administration and other needs that might arise to ensure that you don’t have to worry about planning your days and you can enjoy your holiday. Although leading group holidays, they won't forget that every group is made up of individuals. Each tour leader has their own individual style, talents and professional backgrounds and all are trained, qualified, experienced and dedicated to making your holiday as enjoyable, interesting and inspiring as possible.
Travel Details

To reach Hassness House

By car: from Preston (M6) leave the motorway at junction 40 to join the A66 to just beyond Keswick and continue on the minor road following Newlands Valley via Stair and Keskadale to Buttermere. Reaching the edge of Buttermere village, turn left on to the B5289 and continue for approximately 1¼ miles and Hassness estate is on the right. Please note this route is not suitable for nervous drivers.

Alternatively take the B5289 from Keswick via Grange, Borrowdale and Gatesgarth direct to Hassness and the estate will be on your left.

By rail and coach: the nearest railway station to Hassness is Penrith. You will need to take a bus from Penrith railway station to Keswick bus station. Once here a taxi (check the price first) or 50 minute bus ride will take you to Hassness House.

There are several buses a day from Keswick to Hassness (just beyond Buttermere Village towards the Honister Pass) usually departing from about 09.20. Please check the timetables before departing. The journey takes about an hour. Alternatively, a taxi should cost about £20 but we do advise you to get a quote before you travel. Unfortunately Hassness is not reachable by public bus in the winter months (from November to Easter).

Alternatively, you could stay overnight in Penrith or Keswick – they’re only half an hour apart (although Keswick is probably the nicer base). Contact Keswick Tourist Information Centre for hotel and guesthouse information (www.keswick.org).

Travel information contact details:
- UK rail information: www.nationalrail.co.uk
- Local bus services between Penrith and Keswick (Services X4 or X5):
- Local bus services between Keswick and Buttermere (Services 77 or 77A): Tel: 0870 608 2608
- Keswick Tourist Information Office: www.visitcumbria.com/kes/kestic.htm
- Davies taxis - Tel: 017687 72676
- Keswick Taxis - Tel: 017687 75585

You may also wish to look at the following website for advice on the best way to travel to the accommodation;
- www.rome2rio.com
- The AA and RAC both offer free and detailed on-line route planning facilities on their websites which may help you find our hotels. Details can be found at: www.theaa.co.uk or www.rac.co.uk

Meeting your tour leader:

Please aim to be in the lounge at 6.30pm - half an hour before dinner - for an introduction to your tour leader, an outline of the planned programme for your holiday and the chance to get together with your holiday companions.
Accommodation

Hassness Country House
Hassness House
Buttermere
Cockermouth
CA13 9XA
United Kingdom

Phone: 01768 770227
Web: www.hassness.co.uk
Email: info@ramblersholidays.co.uk

Our popular and beautiful Lake District country house, Hassness, stands in its own grounds above Buttermere in some of the loveliest country in the Western Fells. It’s far away from the main tourist gateways of Keswick and Windermere, so this is a quieter part of the Lake District with dramatic and tranquil scenery.

Located just over a mile from Buttermere village on the eastern shore of the lake, Hassness has amazing views of Buttermere and the fells behind.

Please note that there is no mobile phone coverage at Hassness House but there is access to a pay phone. Just to ensure that you really get away from it all, Hassness doesn't have TV. There is however Wi-Fi access throughout the house.

We would also like to make you aware that there are no cash machines or cash back facilities in Buttermere. There are also no fuel stations in the Buttermere area, so if you are arriving by car, please ensure you have sufficient fuel for your journey. The nearest fuel stations are at Keswick and Cockermouth.

Check in on arrival is from 3pm.

Dinner is served at 7pm.

The facilities include:

- A full English style breakfast (a cold buffet breakfast will be provided on Tuesday morning)
- A large comfortable lounge and dining room
- Car parking
- A drying room
- Free Wi-Fi throughout the house
- Towels are provided in the bathrooms

We provide breakfast and dinner each day, with the exception of dinner on Tuesday evening, but this can be taken in either of Buttermere's historic village pubs. A cold buffet breakfast is also only available on Tuesday and cooked breakfasts are available on other days. Picnic lunches are included on days including a guided walk.

Free tea and coffee is available at all times to enjoy in the spacious and comfortable lounge overlooking the lake. Please note as shopping opportunities are extremely limited you may wish to bring some favourite snacks or dried fruit or nuts to add to your packed lunches. There is a guest kitchen with a large fridge for storage – all complimentary.
Refurbished in 2018, accommodation is in twins, doubles and single rooms, accommodating 21 people in total. There is only one single room however twins and doubles for sole occupancy are available at an appropriate supplement. All bedrooms are lakeside with many overlooking the lake and fells beyond. Some of the rooms have a garden view. All rooms are very comfortable, either with en suite facilities or sharing high powered modern shower rooms and toilets, which are located across the hall. All rooms with shared facilities each have a hand basin the bedroom.

From time to time, local events are held in the field nearby to Hassness House. Whilst this is ultimately out of our control, we will endeavor to advise customers in advance should we be made aware.

**Licensed bar**

New to Hassness Country House is a selection of red and white wines, beer and a small assortment of spirits at reasonable prices. Please note that the bar works on an honesty system and will be tallied up on your final day. It is important that you settle your bar bill prior to leaving (card payments accepted only).

There are two local pubs just over a mile away named The Bridge and the Fish Inn. Please take a torch with you if you intend to walk to either pub at night as there are no street lights and the road surface is uneven in places.

**Recycling**

There are recycling bins in the kitchen at Hassness Country House. The managers are diligent in separating waste and disposing of this correctly. Sandwiches on your walking days will be provided in cardboard packaging and at times pasta will be provided in Tupperware containers. We endeavour to avoid as much plastic packaging as possible.

**Local suppliers**

At Hassness Country House, we use a combination of natural and local sourced food suppliers. In some cases, our deliveries come from nearby Cockermouth but where possible, we do source our food from the smaller establishments surrounding Hassness Country House.
Footwear

Good quality waterproof walking boots with a moulded sole and deep tread and which provide good ankle support are essential for the walking programme on this holiday.

Kit List

Outdoor activities are always more enjoyable if you are prepared. The following list is a basic guideline that will enhance your experience. Please don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

A basic kit list is likely to include:
- Waterproof jacket (Goretex or similar) and trousers
- Lightweight, quick drying trousers
- Several polo shirts, T-shirts or specialist walking shirts
- Fleece jacket
- Comfortable walking socks
- Warm hat and gloves (if appropriate)
- Sun hat, sunglasses, lip salve and high SPF sun block
- Swimwear (if appropriate)
- Day sack (25 litre capacity) to comfortably carry the kit you’ll take out for the day
- Strong polythene bags to keep the contents of your daypack dry
- Water bottle(s) - at least 1 litre capacity
- Basic first aid kit (plasters, blister treatment, antiseptic etc)
- Insect repellent
- Plastic container and reusable cutlery for your picnic lunches
- Walking/trekking poles (if applicable)

Survival Bags

On this, as on all grade 7 and above holidays, we strongly recommend that all group members carry a simple orange plastic survival bag. In the event of you being injured it will keep you warm and dry whilst waiting for the emergency services to arrive. It is cheap and lightweight and doubles as a mat to sit on. These are widely available online or from outdoor equipment shops.

Trekking Poles

Many of our clients find walking poles hugely beneficial when walking. They can both reduce stress on the knees and aid confidence.

Water-to-Go

An alternative to bottled water from single-use sealed water bottles is filtered water from a refillable bottle containing its own water filter such as a Water-to-go bottle available from www.watertogo.eu. Just fill up from any water source and save the environment from disposable plastic bottles.

We have negotiated an exclusive 15% discount with our partners Water-to-Go for you as a thank you for helping the environment. Please go to their website at www.watertogo.eu and enter the code RWH17 when ordering. In addition, Water-to-Go will match the discount with a donation to our charity, Heart & Sole, which will allow us to continue to make a difference in the countries you visit on our holidays.
National Trust & English Heritage: If you're a member of either of these organisations don't forget to bring your membership cards as you may wish to visit sites along the way.

Maps, Guidebooks & Advice
The walks we have mentioned are covered by the following maps and guidebooks:

Ordnance Survey. Outdoor Leisure series (1:25,000):

Map no 4:
English Lakes - North Western area

Map no 6:
English Lakes - South Western area

'Wainwright' Guide books:
Book 6 - 'The North Western Fells'
Book 7 - 'The Western Fells'

Maps and guidebooks relating to your holiday may be obtained before departure from:
The Map Shop (www.themapshop.co.uk)

Weather and Climate
Visit the following websites for an idea of the climate in your destination:

Weather2 www.myweather2.com
BBC Weather www.bbc.co.uk/weather
Health
Health requirements can change at any time. It is your own responsibility to ensure that you inform yourself from a professionally qualified source on, and comply with, such requirements at least 6 to 8 weeks before departure. Advice on vaccinations is available from your GP.

Further Travel Health Advice
For further advice please visit:

- The National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) travel health website at www.travelhealthpro.org.uk
- The NHS ‘Fit for travel’ website at www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk
- The Foreign Office Office Travel Advice Website at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice.
- Or a local travel health clinic.

You might wish to take a small bottle of antibacterial hand gel with you for times when you’re unable to wash your hands.

Personal Safety
The UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office provides up to date information on security and local laws for travellers, together with current passport and visa information, at www.gov.uk/travelaware. Please take a few minutes to look at the current advice on your planned destination.

Please be aware of what’s going on around you, take sensible precautions with your credit cards and passport and avoid displays of wealth such as wearing expensive jewellery or watches. Do not carry more cash on you than you will need for each day, and we recommend that a money belt is used.

Cultural Awareness

Responsible Travel
We're committed to ethical tourism in all our destinations. Our holidays are designed for you to discover the essence of the country you are visiting. Travelling in small groups not only gives you an up close and personal experience of your destination, but minimises your impact on the immediate environment. We feel that the most important starting point to protect the environment is to be out in it. For more details visit our website.

Heart & Sole
We appreciate that we are in a fortunate position to be able to use our profits to help make a difference to people's lives. Heart & Sole is a venture managed by our office staff, whose aim is to reach the heart of the communities in the countries we visit. Through Heart & Sole, we hope to make more of a long term, direct impact to these communities, particularly in less developed countries where even a small amount goes a long way. See our website for more information and details of some of the projects we support.
Communication

Mobile Phones
Please do provide us with a mobile phone contact number. We will only use this to contact you with important information relating to your holiday arrangements.

As a matter of courtesy, please switch off your mobile phone during walks, or endeavour to minimise its use. Please also try to minimise the use of mobile devices during group meals.

Feedback

We welcome all comments about our holidays and value ideas for the future. If you have provided us with an email address we will invite you to complete an online questionnaire or to add feedback to our page on independent review site ‘Feefo’.

Important Information

Please note that this Holiday Information sheet may be periodically updated and reissued.

In most cases the revisions will be minor and the overall nature of the holiday will remain unchanged. Should we make a major change to your holiday arrangements between you booking your holiday and your date of travel we will notify you to specifically draw your attention to any significant change.

You may wish to review the latest version of this Holiday Information Sheet online prior to travel.

Please note that any advertised offers, benefits or initiatives may be discontinued at any time.

Contact Us

Ramblers Walking Holidays
- Tel: UK +44 (0)1707 331133
- Email: info@ramblersholidays.co.uk
- Web: www.ramblersholidays.co.uk

Our office is open and our Sales & Reservations team available to speak to you from:

- 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday
- 9.15am to Midday on Saturdays
- 9.15am to 3pm on Saturdays in January & February only

Please quote your Booking Reference number and Tour Code whenever contacting us.

We wish you an enjoyable holiday!