Keswick was a small market town situated on the northern end of Derwentwater in the north of the Lake District National Park, within the Allerdale District of Cumbria. www.visitcumbria.com

Keswick Today
• The Pencil Factory is the second largest employer in Keswick
• Tourism is the main employment in Keswick
• The Moot Hall is a LDNPA Tourist Information Centre
• Keswick is one of the most popular destinations for visitors to the Lake District
• Keswick won top spot in World Travel Market Awards in November 2003. Voted best place for a ‘rural getaway’
• The weekly market is still held in the town centre
• The current population of Keswick is 5322 (2394 households)

Future in Keswick
Keswick to Penrith Railway
In 1865 the Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith Railway Company built a line to exploit the growing coal and steel industry, routing it through Keswick to capitalise on the tourist trade. In 1865 75,000 third class tickets were sold. By 1882 this had risen to 225,000. However, due to losses of £50,000 per year in the 1950s, the whole line was closed completely in 1972, in spite of a storm of protest from local people to keep it open. Today 85% of visitors come to the Lake District by car, causing problems of congestion and pollution. The Lake District Transport Strategy is a partnership project between some of the major stakeholders in the area. It develops strategies to tackle traffic and transport issues in the National Park. One of their aims is to provide alternative modes of transport to the car. The only railway link into the National Park is the line from Oxenholme to Windermere. Therefore the Cumbria Tourist Board forecasts that an unbranded service would attract up to 410,000 passengers each year, in addition to local demand for this service. CKP Railways plc is raising £1.9 million scheme for improvement schemes.

Keswick School
With 2950 pupils, the school has achieved specialist ‘Science School Status’, which has benefits for the wider community. You can obtain live weather data from: www.keswickweather.co.uk

Cumbrian Pencil Museum
‘Home of the World’s First Pencils’, following the discovery of graphite at Seathwaite in Borrowdale in the 1500s. www.pencils.co.uk

The Moot Hall
The Grade 2 listed building has a prominent one-handed clock. In 1999 it had a major refurbishment to provide a well equipped Tourist Information Centre for Keswick. On average it receives over 400,000 visitors per year.

Tourist Accommodation
The streets of Keswick are lined with hotels, guest houses, bed & breakfasts, holiday flats and timeshare apartments. There are two Youth Hostels and three camping and caravan sites. www.keswick.org www.dokeswick.com

Public Transport
For information on bus routes, timetables and fares in the area: www.stagecoachbus.com/northwest www.traveline.org.uk

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Any updates in the future will be available on the LDNPA website: www.lakedistrict.gov.uk
Lake District National Park Authority Education Service, Brockhole, Windermere, Cumbria LA22 1LJ Copyright withheld for use after 2005.
Whinlatter Forest
The Forestry Commission own this mountain forest. It has a Visitor Centre offering a wide range of events throughout the year and a video link to the ospreys at Bassenthwaite between May and September.
www.whinlatterforestpark.co.uk
www.ospreywatch.co.uk

River Derwent
Flows out near Portinscale village, into Bassenthwaite, onto Cockermouth then Workington and onto the sea. It is one of the longest rivers in England, stretching about 48km from the source.

Bassenthwaite Lake
The LDNPA have owned the lake and areas of the shoreline since 1979. It was designated a National Nature Reserve in 1993 due to its high conservation value. It supports a diverse range of species including the rare fish vendace and the nationally scarce floating water plantain. In 2001 the first pair of ospreys to nest in northern England for 150 years bred near the shoreline. It is 1 km wide, 5 km long and 19 m at its deepest point.

Path Erosion
The main path on the very popular summit of Skiddaw had eroded away to about 20 metres wide. It was visible from the valley floor up to ten miles away. Repairs have been carried out on the path to reduce its width to about 2 metres and encourage the nationally endangered heather on either side of the path to regenerate.
www.fixthefells.co.uk

Skiddaw
931 metres
Third highest mountain in the Lake District.

Fell Running Events
• Four Peaks Challenge
• Skiddaw Fell Race
• Borrowdale and Latrigg Fell Races
Keswick Athletic Club:
www.keswick-ac.org.uk

Keswick
Launch
The company offer cruises around Derwentwater throughout the year from the Keswick Boat Landings, stopping at seven jetties around the lakeshore.
www.keswick-launch.co.uk

National Trust
All the islands on Derwentwater are owned by the National Trust. They also own the bed of the lake and much of the shoreline.

Great Wood
Semi-natural woodland, managed by the National Trust, who allow natural regeneration. It contains rare lichens, the netted carpet moth and the alder leaf beetle.

Farming
The surrounding rural area is used largely for agriculture with hill farms specialising predominantly in sheep rearing.

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Climate
Keswick has 1554 mm of rainfall per year on average.

Keswick Average Weather Statistics by Month

Grisedale Pike
791 metres

Catbells
451 metres
www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

Mountain Safety
The LDNPA produces a leaflet ‘Safety on the Fells’, which has a comprehensive ‘Safety Checklist’ for the general public to follow prior to a walk in the area. However, there are still 400 reported accidents each year involving the Mountain Rescue Teams. Keswick Mountain Rescue:
www.keswickmrt.org.uk

River Derwent
Flows from near Scafell Pike, past Seathwaite village in Borrowdale, the wettest settlement in England, with over 3,000 mm rain per year, into Derwentwater.

Derwentwater
Fed by River Derwent catchment area in high fells at head of Borrowdale. It has been designated SSSI status and is the widest lake in England:
• 1.6 km wide
• 4.8 km long
• 22 m at deepest point
• 4 large islands – Derwent Island, Saint Herbert’s Isle, Lord’s Island, Rampsholme Island.

Wildlife In & Around the Lake
• Fish – vendace, trout, perch, pike
• Birds – mallard, greylag geese, pochard, goldeneye, sandpiper, yellow wagtail, snipe
• Mammals – red squirrel, badger, deer

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Castlerigg Stone Circle
Probably built around 3000 BC, making this stone circle one of the earliest in Britain. It is believed it was used for ceremonial or religious purposes.

Theatre by the Lake
Purpose built in 1999, offering arts and entertainment throughout the year for Cumbria.
www.theatrebythelake.com

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