

# Welcome

Windermere is a wonderful lake and this guide should help you make the most of it. We want you to enjoy the lake safely and responsibly.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable time on the lake.

## Conservation

- Please avoid boating and landing in the wildlife refuge areas shown on the map. These are havens for nesting birds and wintering wild fowl. Wetland and reed bed areas are also very fragile.
- Keep at least 50 metres from the shore where possible. Avoid damage to the shoreline by keeping wash to a minimum.
- Take care when refuelling. Any significant pollution spills should be reported immediately to the Lake Patrol Team.
- The Environment Agency require all craft to operate sealed boat toilets. Waste must not be emptied directly into the lake.
- All of the wildlife on Windermere depends on the quality of the lake water. Please avoid polluting it, by using sealed toilets and taking all your litter home or using a bin.
- Follow the Country Code.



## Public access

- Please launch and land at recognised sites.
- As most of the shore is privately owned, check where you can land before setting off.
- The National Trust, which owns much of the lake shore, does not permit the launching or landing of powered craft; the exception being from Fell Foot Park but NOT personal water craft or speed boats, unless of 5hp or less. Small non-powered craft are permitted to launch and land.
- You can land and picnic but please do not camp.



## Crime prevention

Boats and equipment are tempting targets for thieves.

Cumbria Police operate a Marine Watch scheme in conjunction with us to protect your boat, engine and equipment.



Lake District National Park

## Lake District National Park

With its world renowned landscape, the National Park is for everyone to enjoy, now and in the future.

It needs a prosperous economy, world class visitor experiences and vibrant communities, which sustain the spectacular landscape.

Everyone involved in running England's largest and much loved National Park is committed to:

- respecting the past
- caring for the present
- planning for the future

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Lake District National Park

# Windermere

## Lake users' guide



[www.lakedistrict.gov.uk](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk)

## If you are boating

**All craft must not exceed the 6 mph and 10 mph speed limits**

- All powered craft must be registered for use on Windermere. Register at Ferry Nab.
- Power driven vessels must correctly display registration numbers and an annual mark.
- It is the boat driver's responsibility to be aware of the boat's speed.
- Power gives way to sail. Be aware that many users have little or no experience.
- Any sail boat while using its engine is classed as a powered craft, and should give way to sail or rowing craft.
- Be aware of larger vessels that may occasionally have difficulties in manoeuvring. Always pass two ferry lengths to the rear of the car ferry.
- Always wear a CE approved life jacket or recognised buoyancy aid.
- Watch out for swimmers, divers, small boats and buoyed areas. Waterfowl are also difficult to see on the lake.
- Be aware of sudden wind changes caused by local mountains.
- Canoeists - do not canoe alone. Beginners should keep close to the shore.
- Sudden immersion, even on warm days, can easily lead to hypothermia. Be aware of wind chill - the combination of air temperature and wind speed. Wear warm clothing. Wet suits and dry suits are often invaluable. Carry spare clothing.
- Inflatable devices may not be towed.



## If you are diving

- Do not dive near jetties or moorings.
- Log your dive details with the Lake Rangers.
- Always display a 'diving in progress' flag and a surface marker buoy.
- Operate a safety boat.

## If you are swimming or paddling

- If you see anyone in difficulties contact the Coastguard at once. Phone 999.
- While some areas of shallow water may be warm, deeper water is cold, so stay close to the shore.
- Beware of broken glass and sharp objects underfoot and in the water.

## If you are fishing

- You must have an Environment Agency rod licence, available from information centres, most post offices, online at [www.postoffice.co.uk](http://www.postoffice.co.uk) or call 0844 800 5386.
- Please use sea fish dead bait or artificial lures - fresh water live and dead bait are banned.
- All current EA byelaws apply.
- Landowners' permission should be obtained for access to private shorelines, see map overleaf.
- Clean boats and equipment to avoid the spread of invasive weeds.



## Lake information

Power driven vessels must be registered before being driven on the lake.

## Boat registration

LDNPA headquarters 01539 724555

## Moorings and public slipway

SLDC Lake Warden 015394 42753

## General lake information

Lake Rangers LDNP 01539 724555 or 0844 225 2922  
Lake Wardens SLDC 015394 42753

## Information centres

Bowness Bay 015394 42895  
Windermere 015394 46499

## Public transport

Traveline 0871 200 22 33  
Windermere Lake Cruises 015394 43360  
Information also available from tourist information centres

## Weather

Forecast available on Weatherline 0844 846 2444  
www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/weatherline

Windermere Lake User Forum www.windemerelakeuserforum.org.uk

## KEY

Private shore restricted landing	Youth hostel
National Trust protected shore. No access for speed boats or personal water craft	National Trust
National Park & other access land	Wildfowl area Please avoid this area
Car ferry	Car park
Brockhole cruise	Information centre
Half lake cruises Bowness - Ambleside cruise	Toilets
Half lake cruises Bowness - Lakeside cruise	Restaurants / Cafe
The island cruise	Limited public launching
B4 route	Water sports training area
Public rights of way and public footpaths	Campsite
Limited mobility access	Caravan site
Steamer and launch piers and jetties	Fuel
Public jetty 2hrs max. waiting	Woodland
Speed limit - 6 nautical mph	Motor boat hire
Speed limit - 10 nautical mph	Sailing boat hire
Speed limit buoy Flashing white light at night	Rowing boat hire
	Canoe hire
	Slipway
	Chandlery

## Ask for local guidance

Fairway buoy	'A' flag Shown on a boat or buoy when diving or swimming taking place
Organised racing buoy	No liability can be claimed as a result of collision with unmarked dangers not shown on this map
Danger buoy	
Reef marker	

Lake rescue services are available by dialing **999** and informing the coastguard

It is the responsibility of every lake user to read and understand the Lake Windermere Byelaws. Copies are available at the information centres, the Lake Wardens Office at Ferry Nab and also on display at all public and some private launching sites and at [www.lakedistrict.gov.uk](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk)

**ALL CRAFT TO KEEP TO THE 6 MPH AND 10 MPH SPEED LIMIT**

PLEASE NOTE MAP NOT TO SCALE  
Please use an Ordnance Survey map in conjunction with this leaflet.

# Windermere

The lake is almost 17 kilometres long and 1.6 kilometres at its widest point. It is 67 metres at its deepest point.



**Please note**  
New Registration Byelaws.  
For full details visit:  
[www.lakedistrict.gov.uk](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk)

## Who provides what on the Lake

We provide a lake patrol ranger team who:

- enforce the byelaws
- provide help, advice and information
- are part of the lake rescue services

SLDC's Lake Wardens provide:

- boat registration
- a public slipway at Ferry Nab
- floating moorings (permanent and holiday)
- help, advice and information
- part of the lake rescue services

## Reporting byelaw offences

To report anyone breaking the Windermere byelaws please ring 0844 225 2922 straight away or email [lakepatrol@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:lakepatrol@lakedistrict.gov.uk)



0 1 2  
Approximate Scale  
Kilometres

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