

KENDAL

Welcome Guide

We think Kendal will surprise you – it's no ordinary market town.

From exhilarating scenery to exciting festivals, international arts to intriguing history – we can't wait to show you around.

Includes town centre map.

visit-kendal.co.uk

Ready to explore?



Use this leaflet to discover Kendal's:

Arts and Cultural Scene

Shopping and Hidden Gems

Town Centre Map

Events and Festivals

Sense of Adventure

History and Heritage

Food and Drink

Cover Image:

Courtesy of The Herdy Company Ltd

Images:

The River Kent, Kendal Town Hall,
Kendal Castle

Kendal's a small town with big ideas.

Our streets are alive with arts, events and culture, packed with intriguing history and renowned for great shopping.

Our green spaces, woodland paths and spectacular surrounding fells give every visitor a sense of adventure.

Kendal is beautiful inside and out – we can't wait to show you around.

Read this leaflet for inspiration and go to visit-kendal.co.uk and [@visitkendal](https://twitter.com/visitkendal) for lots more.

We'll see you soon!



Images:

Romney's Kendal Mint Cake,
Abbot Hall Art Gallery



Kendal's arts and culture scene

Welcome to Kendal's cultural scene. With renowned art galleries, museums, international festivals and a year-round calendar of live entertainment, there's so much to discover. The town is small enough to explore at your own pace, yet vibrant enough to rival a city break.

Top tips for embracing our culture...

Soak it up on foot. Even in just one day you can explore our local and internationally important attractions, taste great local food, take in some fabulous art and immerse yourself in Kendal life.

Plan your trip around a festival or event. Kendal's famous for its festivals and we love to welcome visitors to celebrate with us.

Look out for child-friendly activities. Our key attractions have plenty and all our festivals cater for families.

Take your time as Kendal is a place where you can slow down and stroll around. You'll be surprised at what you find.

Key Attractions

[Brewery Arts](#)

[Abbot Hall Gallery](#)

[Quaker Tapestry Museum](#)

[Kendal Museum](#)

[The Factory](#)



Best for kids

Check out Kendal Museum – kids love meeting the polar bear!

Hit the Brewery Arts for cinema, kids shows or food in the spacious garden

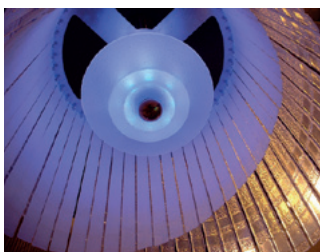
Dress up and enjoy fun activities and interactive displays at the Quaker Tapestry Museum

Lose yourself...

Delve into the incredible programme of live comedy, theatre, dance, music and cinema at our ever-eclectic **Brewery Arts** – there's always something brilliant going on.

Experience award-winning **Abbot Hall Art Gallery**, set in Kendal's finest historic house, with ever changing exhibitions showcasing works by world-renowned artists.

Journey through 350 years of social history brought to life in over 40 vibrant and stunning embroidered panels at the remarkable **Quaker Tapestry Museum**.



Discover **Kendal Museum**, one of the oldest museums in the UK and home to one of the largest taxidermy collections in Europe and much more to surprise and delight you.



The Factory is home to artists, brewers and well-being gurus! Amongst the creatives sit two pubs, a café and Westmorland Crossfit and The Studio, well worth a visit for a workout, yoga class or massage.

Images:

Left: Brewery Arts,
Kendal Museum

Right: The Wellness Mill,
Abbot Hall (image: Robin Zahler),
Jo Vincent Glass Art at The Factory



Kendal's key cultural attractions



Quaker Tapestry Museum Stramongate, LA9 4BH

350 years of social history and fascinating human stories are brought to life in over 40 vibrant embroidered panels at the award-winning Quaker Tapestry Museum in Kendal.

Journey through the Quaker influence on the modern world: explore the industrial revolution, developments in science and medicine, astronomy, the abolition of slavery, social reform, and ecology; delight in the detail of the stunning needlework and the craftsmanship involved in its creation; and admire the historic 200 year old Georgian Meeting House.

With interactive displays, a vegan cafe and children's activities there's something for everyone.

Brewery Arts

122A Highgate, LA9 4HE

Brewery Arts is a thriving arts organisation delivering inspirational cultural events, festivals and creative learning courses.

The venue is a historic building, full of charm, in beautiful surroundings hosting world famous festivals including Kendal Mountain Festival.

Brewery Arts includes a 260 seat theatre, a 420 standing capacity music venue, two cinemas, a digital lounge, galleries, gardens, bars, a restaurant and creative studios.

As Kendal's number one entertainment destination, it's bound to have something for you to enjoy whilst visiting Kendal.





Kendal Museum Station Rd, LA9 6BT

Founded in 1796, Kendal Museum is one of the oldest museums in the UK. Explore Neolithic, Roman and Victorian relics, see the Wainwright display or feast your eyes on rare and beautiful rocks and minerals. Discover a world of animals in the Wildlife Gallery which holds one of the largest taxidermy collections in Europe.

Younger visitors can explore interactive displays, dress up in the play area or get stuck in with activity packs.

This accredited museum has something to interest everyone!

Abott Hall Art Gallery Kirkland, LA9 5AL

Abbot Hall reopened in May 2023 launching a fresh direction for the gallery with a major exhibition by internationally renowned artist Julie Brook.

Abbot Hall, housed in an impressive Georgian house on the bank of the River Kent, has gained a national reputation as one of Britain's finest small art galleries. The gallery has changing exhibitions and holds an exceptional collection of historic and contemporary art. Please check the website to see which works are currently being exhibited to avoid disappointment. In addition to the exhibitions, visitors can enjoy a free digital guide, gift shop and coffee bar.



Images:

Left: Brewery Arts and Quaker Tapestry

Right: Kendal Museum and Abbott Hall



Kendal's shopping

Sometimes only a dose of retail therapy will do. But our town offers so much more than your average trawl of the shops.

Wander and roam – Kendal's high street is surrounded by side streets and pedestrian lanes full of independent shops and big brands.

Look up as you browse to take in our beautiful buildings and architecture.



Get ready to browse

Wainwright's Yard and Elephant Yard – beautiful historic yards transformed into classy shopping streets

The Westmorland Shopping Centre – high street brands and quirky finds in the indoor market

New Shambles and Blackhall Yard – eclectic local, specialist shops and fascinating heritage

Wander out of the immediate town centre to discover a host of hidden gems

Wednesdays and Saturdays it's full of traders and look out for the Farmers' Market on the last Friday of every month.

Images:

Left: Elephant Yard, Jules B
Right: Cross Lane Projects,
About Time Espresso

Kendal's hidden gems

You'll be surprised what you find when you explore our town – unique independent shopping, vintage treats, creative communities, unforgettable food and so much more.

Independent shopping

New Shambles, off Finkle Street

Linking the shopping streets of Market Place and Finkle Street, this ancient path was once home to 12 butcher's shops and known locally as 'Stinking Lane' due to its lack of drainage. Fast forward 150 years and its now home to brilliant independent shops and cafes.

Vintage Quarter, Dockray Hall Industrial Estate

Enjoy a riverside stroll towards Dockray Hall, home to a fantastic selection of independent antique and upcycling stalls across two large units.

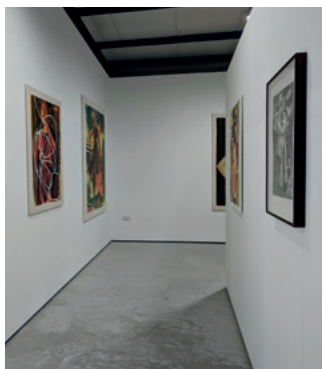


Kirkland and lower Highgate

Kirkland is one of our town entrances and home to a collection of lovely shops and galleries incorporating antiques, furnishing, gifts and art.

Wildman Street

It's also worth a visit to Kendal College's Wildman Street Studios and The Box, a stunning performance space used throughout the year.





Kendal's events and festivals

What makes Kendal a festival town?

Maybe it's our passion for celebrating what we love and welcoming the world to enjoy it with us.

From the very best of local food and drink to internationally renowned outdoor adventure to traditional craft and rural traditions, Kendal's festivals are a great way to experience the best of our unique culture.

Midday Concert Club
Every second Wednesday
Classical performances
in Kendal Town Hall

Kendal Farmers Market
Last Friday of each month
Housed in Kendal's Market Place and packed full of local produce

Kendal Walking Festival
Summer

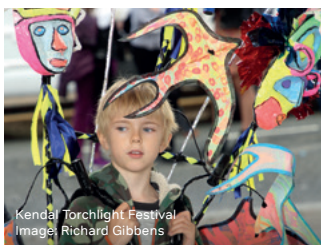
A weekend of guided walks in inspirational landscapes

Country Fest
May/June

Guaranteed family fun in a huge field – countryside activities, demos, food and drink



Kendal Mountain Literature Festival



Kendal Torchlight Festival
Image: Richard Gibbens



Lakes International Music Festival



Country Fest Crooklands



Westmorland County Show



Kendal Unity Festival June

A family fun event celebrating equality and diversity

Lake District Summer Music August

Inspirational classical concerts performed by international musicians in atmospheric venues



Kendal Torchlight Gathering September

A fabulous family friendly carnival in Kendal's streets

Westmorland County Show September

Cumbria's largest agricultural show

Kendal Wool Gathering October

A mix of demonstrations, fun activities and displays, all connected to the cloth on which the town's wealth was built



Kendal Mountain Festival November

A stunning four-day celebration of outdoor culture with films, speakers, literature and art



Kendal Cycling Festival

This festival celebrates and promotes cycling thanks to funding from Kendal BID who support multiple events and festivals throughout the town



Go to visit-kendal.co.uk for details and event listings



Kendal's sense of adventure

There's something about our town that inspires adventure in everyone.

Whether that means taking the scenic route around town, roaming Kendal's surrounding fells, hitting refresh in our green spaces and parks or trying a new activity – there's always something to inspire you.

Kendal Walking Trails

There's so much to explore in our beautiful town, so we've mapped out walking trails to help you find your way around. Download the Trails leaflet from our website or pick up a copy from the Town Hall. We also have an Alphabet Sculpture Trail and Nature Trail in Serpentine woods and a new Nature Area at Beeson Fields.

No visit to Kendal is complete without taking in the views from the top of Scout Scar. Head towards Underbarrow Road via Greenside Road to find the Lake District National Park Car Park.



Images:

Kendal Cycling Club,
Kendal Mountain Festival
10k Trail Run, Scout Scar



Images:
Lakeland Climbing Centre,
Serpentine Woods,
Kendal Leisure Centre

Get the feeling

Stride up Castle Hill and gaze out to the fells

Practice your putting skills on our putting green or visit one of our golf courses and driving ranges

Try rock climbing and Europe's first indoor Via Ferrata at Kendal Wall

Enjoy a picnic in one of our green spaces or play places

Let off some steam at Kendal Leisure Centre or visit one of the many health and fitness studios around the town

For local cycle rides, download 'Cycling From Kendal' from golakes.co.uk

Try skiing or snowboarding at Kendal Snowsports Club



Discover Kendal's Story

To truly discover Kendal's story pick up the Kendal Walking Trail leaflet and explore the Woodland, Cultural and Historical Trails.

Uncover the history of our spectacular churches and the importance of our wool trade. There are so many ways for all the family to discover Kendal's story.



Did you know?

John Cunliffe's Postman Pat books were based on the former post office at Greenside

Kendal's most famous woollen cloth was noted by Shakespeare in his play, Henry IV

Alfred Wainwright, writer of the famous Lakeland fell pictorial guides, was treasurer at Kendal Borough Council for 19 years

The artist George Romney was born at Dalton-in-Furness and served his apprenticeship in Kendal

Cumbria is the birthplace of Quakers, the Religious Society of Friends, many fascinating examples of Quaker roots can be found in Kendal today

Discover Kendal's story

The ruins of **Kendal Castle** take a spectacular position looking over the town to the fells beyond. Worth a trip for the view alone.

Explore the unique features of **Kendal Unitarian Chapel**, built in 1720, and tucked behind the shops and cobbles of Branthwaite Brow.

Farrer's on Stricklandgate are one of the oldest coffee roasting and blending shops in the country and is still packed with original features.



The impressive 13th century **Kendal Parish Church** has one of the widest naves in the UK

To delve even further back in time, Kendal's fascinating natural heritage is brought to life via the Kendal Legendary Landscape Trail. Look out for the Fern planters and displays throughout town to discover Kendal's changing landscape across the ages.

Images:

Left: Kendal Parish Church,
Kendal's Historic Ginnels
Kendal War Memorial
Right: Farrer's Tea & Coffee
Merchants, Kendal Castle,
Kendal Unitarian Chapel



Kendal's food and drink

We love good food and drink in Kendal, and you'll find so many interesting places to enjoy. Cosy coffee shops and delicatessens, international restaurants and award-winning fine dining, plus traditional pubs, local breweries and cocktail bars.

Look out for great local produce including artisan bread, cakes and sweet treats and locally brewed beers. Don't forget to pick up a bar of our world famous Kendal Mint Cake!

Discover the best local produce just out of town at Low Sizergh Barn Shop and Plumgarth's Farm Shop, or visit the local farmers' market on the last Friday of each month.



Bakery at No.4



Marra on Branthwaite Brow

Top tips for eating and drinking

We're rightly proud of our world famous Kendal Mint Cake! A pocket essential as you take to the trails

Be tantalised by the sights and smells at 1657 Chocolate House, our oldest chocolate shop!

Absorb Kendal's evening atmosphere as our restaurants, pubs and bars come to life with something for every taste

Plan your visit

Kendal is well-connected and really easy to get to.

Oxenholme – The Lake District railway station

is Kendal's closest mainline train station. Once you're there, hop on a quick Lakes Line connection to **Kendal Station** and you'll arrive right in the centre of town in just a few minutes.

Kendal Bus Station is on Blackhall Road, right in the centre of town behind Westmorland Shopping Centre and the bustling high street.



There is plenty of pay and display parking in Kendal town centre. Look out for the blue signs as you enter the town.



Kendal Cycle Hub is on the ground floor of Westmorland Shopping Centre multi-storey car park and offers dedicated changing rooms, cycle parking, maintenance stand and lockers free of charge.

For more on where to stay, group travel information and to download visitor guides visit our website visit-kendal.co.uk/plan-your-visit

KENDAL



Welcome to Kendal!

We're more than a market town on the edge of the Lake District. There's always something to do – whatever the weather. Visit Kendal to enjoy our heritage,

culture, arts and ambitious events along with quality shopping and spectacular surroundings that make our town unforgettable.

Pick up our Walking, Sculpture and Nature trail leaflets to experience the best of Kendal on foot.



See our Courtesy Toilet Scheme leaflet or look out for the symbol to find a loo.

[visit-kendal.co.uk](https://www.visit-kendal.co.uk)

