Visit Allerdale

Your guide to the area and its main towns

ASPATRIA • COCKERMOUTH • KESWICK
MARYPORT • SILLOTH • WIGTON • WORKINGTON
Welcome to Allerdale

Welcome to West Cumbria and, more specifically, the borough of Allerdale. We think it’s pretty special – with stunning scenery, an amazing coastline, the loveliest of lakes and a wealth of places to visit, all within a short distance of each other. And that’s what makes this area so appealing - you can find something new at every turn. Whether that’s complete solitude on the fells or entertainment and nightlife in our towns, there are loads of places for people of all ages to enjoy. We have culture and history, as well as amazing food, art, literature and music festivals, museums, galleries and some of the quirkiest tourist attractions in the country.

If you love the great outdoors, you’ll easily find some of the best walking, cycling, climbing and watersports activities in the UK. If you want to escape and relax, we have award-winning accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets. And speaking of tastes, did we mention our huge array of restaurants, pubs and cafes, not to mention the producers who proudly showcase some of the best food in the world. This county hasn’t been called ‘The Taste District’ for nothing!

Allerdale is a great place to do business too. We have a world-class knowledge base, unique skills and expertise, and are home to companies of all shapes and sizes with international reputations. We hope this guide gives you just enough of a taste of each town and their surrounding areas to make you explore Allerdale for yourselves.
Visit Aspatria

Famed Cumbrian artist Sheila Fell grew up in Aspatria and her great pal LS Lowry was a regular visitor. They took inspiration from the town and its surrounding villages - the beauty of those places still exists today. Cheese is something else this town is becoming increasingly famous for, with the award-winning Lake District Dairy Co. becoming one of the biggest brands in the UK. Rugby and music are big reasons for people to visit. The Aspatria Hornets RLFC is based in the town, which is also home to the popular Aspatria Music Festival.

Did you know?

The painter LS Lowry used to travel by taxi from London to Aspatria while wearing carpet slippers to stay at the family home of his protégée, local artist Sheila Fell

Why I love my town

By Alan Reay, Town Mayor of Aspatria

Town Mayor Alan Reay describes himself as a youthful 74 year old. He’s involved in everything from the town’s gala to its parks and allotments and, as he’s born and bred here, he knows every inch of the town.

What are the best things about Aspatria?
It’s a people’s town where everyone makes time to make you feel welcome.

What are your favourite places to eat and drink, visit and shop?
We may be small but we’ve got a good retail range – there’s the everyday groceries, to fancier things like gifts and crafts. All the shops and places to eat and drink provide something different – so I’d say you have to go and explore!

What does Aspatria offer visitors?
There’s free car parking, for starters! We’re in one of the most scenic parts of West Cumbria, and we’ve got loads of history and heritage – from Vikings and farming, to parks and interesting buildings.

Where is your favourite place in town?
We’ve got loads of hidden gems, but one of my favourites is St Kentigern Church and its grounds. Not far from there is Memorial Park, and that’s certainly worth a visit.

What do you recommend in the wider area?
We’ve got really easy access to the Lake District if you want hills and lakes, then you could visit the shops in Workington, or head north to the Victorian seaside town of Silloth. If you’re looking for family activities, head for the beach at Allonby or try indoor climbing or caving at the Wave Centre in Maryport.

Did you know?

The painter LS Lowry used to travel by taxi from London to Aspatria while wearing carpet slippers to stay at the family home of his protégée, local artist Sheila Fell

“`We’re in one of the most scenic parts of West Cumbria, and we’ve got loads of history and heritage”`
Aspatria has a fantastic selection of events taking place throughout the year ranging from carnivals to festivals. Things to look out for so far are:

**JULY**
Aspatria Music Festival  
www.aspatriamusicfestival.co.uk

**AUGUST**
Solfest  
www.solfest.org.uk

**DECEMBER**
Christmas Festival & lights switch-on day

---

Did you know?

The British Museum houses the almost complete skeleton of a Viking chief which was found in Aspatria

Months above are given as a guide. Check website for exact dates and further details  
www.allerdale.gov.uk
Visit Cockermouth

Set at the point where the rivers Cocker and Derwent meet, Cockermouth is, arguably, one of the prettiest Cumbrian towns. The poet William Wordsworth was born here, and his former home is now owned by the National Trust. The range of independent shops — which locals liken to a department store within a town — is enviable, as is the range of eateries and pubs. Beer lovers should try the tour of Jennings Brewery, while gadget fans can seek out the tiny museum at the rear of JB Banks’ hardware store. For more recent history, look for the flood markers on the buildings on Main Street.

Did you know?

Eaglesfield, near Cockermouth, was the birthplace of John Dalton and nuclear science.
Why I love my town

By John Dent
Secretary of Cockermouth & District Civic Trust

Architecture, motor sports and fell walking are John Dent’s three passions – and Cockermouth makes the perfect place to enjoy all three. It’s home to M-Sport, the world-renowned rally car business, is surrounded by mountains and has quirky buildings galore.

What are the best things about living here?
The friendliness of the people, the individual shops, the many and varied places to eat, the coffee shops, the architecture and the general feeling of being ‘at home’. I think a visit to Cockermouth is a unique experience combining individual shops selling everything anyone might need, with the ambience of a genuine market town with attractive buildings and loads of history.

Where would you recommend people visit in town?
Take the riverside walk from Memorial Gardens, and go and see the murals on the electricity substation in Lowther Went. Visitors and locals alike can follow the Town Trail created by Cockermouth Civic Trust to learn more about the history and geography of the town. You can get copies from the Tourist Information Centre in Kings Arms Lane. There are loads of places on the Trail where you can stop to eat, drink and shop too.

Where should people explore in the surrounding area?
Get out of town and into the countryside and choose any of the walks in the Buttermere and Loweswater areas. They are peaceful and beautiful all the year round. I’d particularly recommend a picnic at ‘Roy’s Seat’ on the lower slopes of Burnbank Fell, overlooking Loweswater. The scenery and tranquillity is stunning.

“Individual shops selling everything anyone might need, with the ambience of a genuine market town”
COMING SOON

Cockermouth has a fantastic selection of events taking place throughout the year ranging from carnivals to festivals. Things to look out for so far are:

MAY
Spring Fair
Georgian Fair - www.cockermouth.org.uk/georgianfair
Touch a Truck - www.cockermouth.org.uk/touchatruck

JUNE
Woolfest - www.woolfest.co.uk
Cockermouth Live - www.cockermouthfestival.org

AUGUST
Cockermouth Agricultural Show
www.cockermouthshow.co.uk
Northbound Festival - www.northboundfestival.co.uk

SEPTEMBER
Taste Cumbria - www.tastecumbria.com

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
Fireworks Display
Christmas lights switch-on
Taste Cumbria Christmas
www.tastecumbria.com
Cockermouth by Candlelight
www.cockermouthbycandlelight.co.uk

Months above are given as a guide. Check website for exact dates and further details.

www.allerdale.gov.uk
Did you know?

Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley, one of the founders of the National Trust, and former Poet Laureate Robert Southey are buried in the churchyard at Crosthwaite, on the outskirts of Keswick.

Visit Keswick

Known as the Lake District’s adventure capital, Keswick is a haven for anyone who loves the outdoors. It’s surrounded by mountains so cyclists, fell walkers, runners and climbers head here from all over the world. If all that sounds a little too energetic, admire the stunning scenery from the lake on a boat across Derwentwater, or browse the large range of shops, then head to the cinema or one of the many pubs or restaurants for dinner. Theatre by the Lake is also hugely popular with tourists and visitors alike, as is the newly refurbished Keswick Museum, and there’s even a museum dedicated solely to pencils!
Why I love my town

By Lorraine Taylor
Mayor of Keswick

Lorraine Taylor fell in love with Keswick the first time she visited in the 1970s and it was top of her list as a place to live when she returned to the UK after living in America.

What’s so special about living in Keswick?
I am never bored living here because there is such a variety of things to do. We have a number of big events throughout the year - Words by the Water and jazz, film and mountain festivals that bring something new into the town. The stunning views change with the seasons and I love living near the lake. The scenery is so spectacular I often take time to stop and appreciate it.

What’s the town’s appeal to visitors?
Because of tourism, Keswick has a variety of activities available, choice of many places to eat and drink, a theatre and a cinema. There’s just not enough time available to fit everything in! My perfect day would involve a wander around the shops and market on a Saturday, meet up with family for lunch, then walk to Friars Crag to check on the view. It would finish with a visit to the cinema in the evening and maybe a drink in the pub on the way home.

Where would you send people out of town?
Whinlatter Forest has a range of activities for all ages. Do the Gruffalo trail while, in the trees above, people do Go Ape zip wiring. Mountain bikers enjoy the forest trails there too. At Honister Slate Mine you can try the Via Ferrata for real thrills and visit the working mine. Silloth is a lovely Victorian seaside town or go further up the coast to the Solway Firth for the start of Hadrian’s Wall.
KESWICK MARKET

Voted best in the UK!

Keswick Market was voted best in the UK at a prestigious industry awards ceremony in January 2015.

Managed by Geraud Markets Ltd on behalf of Allerdale Borough Council, it won the Best Large Outdoor Market category at the Great British Market Awards, where the judges praised the twice-weekly event for being a vital part of the community and town centre, and a tourist attraction in its own right.

This award is well deserved. Markets have played a huge part in town life for generations and still have an important role today. Not only do they draw locals and visitors alike into the town centres to benefit the local economy, they also provide a livelihood for so many small businesses from across the county.

At Keswick Market, 75% of the traders are Cumbrian-based, with many coming from Keswick itself, and a lot of effort has gone into ensuring there’s a mix of core market staples, as well as more unusual products. They’re selling everything from cheese, vegetables and 50 types of honey to local slate signs and even wooden sculptures created with a chainsaw.

There’s such a buzz in the town on market days – and that’s something we aspire to all at our markets across Allerdale.

Keswick has a market that has the flavour of being a local attraction with a national or even international draw. This award is a fitting tribute to those hard working and dedicated men and women who ply their trade, week in and week out, offering quality products at reasonable prices.

The ingredients that make up a successful market are all there with Keswick - quality traders, a responsible and supportive council, professional operator, incredible customers and last, but not least, a dedicated hard working market manager.

Every Thursday & Saturday in Keswick Market Square

---

COMING SOON

Keswick has a fantastic selection of events taking place throughout the year ranging from carnivals to festivals. Things to look out for so far are-

FEBRUARY/MARCH
Film Festival - www.keswickfilmclub.org/kff
Words by the Water Literature Festival
www.theatrebythelake.com/words-by-the-water-festival

MAY
Jazz Festival - www.theatrebythelake.com
Mountain Festival - www.keswickmountainfestival.co.uk

JUNE
Beer Festival - www.keswickbeerfestival.co.uk
Mid-Summer Festival and Scruffs dog show

AUGUST
Keswick Agricultural Show - www.keswickshow.co.uk

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
Christmas lights switch-on
Live Advent Calendar - www.keswick.org
Victorian Fayre

Months above are given as a guide.
Check website for exact dates and further details
www.keswick.org
Visit Maryport

Eating fish and chips on a harbourside is one of life’s simple pleasures, and Maryport’s a great place to do it – particularly if you want to watch the sunset or the weather out at sea. This colourful town has a fascinating history too. It was a Roman settlement and also has an important seafaring past, with museums dedicated to both. The town’s a big destination for music fans, with the annual Blues Festival attracting thousands of people to see national international artists – even the likes of Jools Holland and Chuck Berry have graced its stages.

Did you know?

A bottlenose dolphin, which the locals named Marra, sparked a major rescue involving cranes, divers and lifeboats when it swam into Maryport Harbour and refused to leave.
Why I love my town

By Bill Barnes
Retired Surveyor

Bill Barnes is a member of the Love Maryport Town Team, and heads up one of the local residents associations, so knows loads about this lovely harbour town.

Why do you love Maryport?
Aside from its friendly character and community, I love to take a walk along the many wonderful coastal scenic routes. The sunsets across the Solway Firth are simply stunning and Maryport is the perfect place to see them.

What are the top attractions for visitors?
We can boast about some major attractions – there’s the Cave at the Wave and Clip ‘n Climb challenges at the Wave Centre, as well as the Lake District Coast Aquarium, West Coast Indoor Karting, the Senhouse Roman Museum and Maryport Maritime Museum. The added bonus is that they are great places to visit, regardless of the weather.

What else should visitors see while they’re here?
The town is full of hidden gems, from the mile-long promenade, to historic Fleming Square with its wonderful Georgian architecture. One great way to explore the town is along the Heritage Trails which include the artists LS Lowry and Percy Kelly. There’s more history at the Golden Lion Hotel where Charles Dickens stopped for lunch and George Stephenson laid out plans for the Maryport and Carlisle Railway company.

Where are your favourite places to eat, drink and shop?
That’s a tough question as there are so many places offering a wide range of cuisine, and lots of independent small and interesting shops. However, if you really want a ‘taste’ of Maryport, I would recommend heading to Elizabeth Dock. That’s where you can buy fresh locally-caught fish from The Catch, the fishing fleet’s co-operative shop.

What would you recommend further out of town?
Follow the ‘sunset coastline’ up to Allonby, home of the famous Twentymans ice cream, to Silloth. Or go south to Workington, the retail shopping centre for West Cumbria.
MARYPORT MARITIME MUSEUM

We are a family-friendly museum celebrating the maritime, industrial and social history of Maryport. Gallery dedicated to the painter William Mitchell. Resource library for research.

For further details
www.maryportmaritimemuseum.btck.co.uk

FREE ADMISSION to visitors with a CA15 postcode

1 Senhouse Street, Maryport, Cumbria CA15 6AB 01900 813738

MARYPORT CLIFF CLIMBING

Now Open
Indoor Caving Adventure

75m of Exploring, Discovering, Squeezing, Clambering, Climbing and Crawling

Challenging fun for everyone with unique themed climbs and an awesome Leap of Faith with all equipment provided

- Safe and Secure
- Children’s Parties
- Family Day Out
- Staff Social Events
- For ages 4-34!
- Group & School Visits
- Perfect Wet Weather Attraction

For more details contact The Wave Centre, Maryport
01900 811450 | caveatthewave.co.uk
COMING SOON

Maryport has a fantastic selection of events taking place throughout the year ranging from carnivals to festivals. Things to look out for so far are-

**MAY**
- Maryport Musical Mayhem
- Maryport Town Council Freedom of the Town Parade

**JUNE**
- Maryport Maritime & Trawler Race
- Ewanrigg Local Trust Fun Day

**JULY**
- Blues Festival - www.maryportblues.co.uk

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER**
- Christmas Festival & lights switch-on day
- Ewanrigg Local Trust Lantern Parade

Months above are given as a guide.
Check website for exact dates and further details.

www.allerdale.gov.uk
Why I love my town

By John Cook
Sign Maker

John Cook’s a sign maker so he’s perfectly placed to point you in the right direction in and around Silloth.

Why do you love Silloth?
My parents used to bring my brother and me here for Summer days out – that’s probably when I fell in love with Silloth. I like to sit on a bench opposite the shops on the Green on a sunny day and watch the families come into town. It’s great to see visitors enjoying themselves at our many festivals throughout the year.

What’s makes the town appealing for visitors?
The Green is at the heart of the town and links the town and its shops and cafes with the long sea front promenade. Silloth as a whole is a lovely place to come and have some quality down-time. You can have a meal or a snack in one of the many eateries, then an ice cream on the Green, and watch your children play in the very popular splash park.

We have loads of events too, when it’s time to let your hair down and join in. There’s a music and beer festival, Silloth Green Day, theatre on the Green, a vintage rally, bonfire night and the Christmas lights switch on, as well as loads of other little events too.

Where should visitors go outside the town?
We’re surrounded by an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and have some of the most attractive scenery in the country. There’s plenty to do for backpackers and bikers, and in nearby Allonby there are water sports – it’s great for windsurfing. If you like history, there are plenty of Roman historical sites down the coast as this was a frontier for the Roman Empire. Holmcultram Abbey in Abbeytown has tons of history too.

The cobbled streets and expanse of village green, next to the long promenade, show off Silloth’s history as a Victorian seaside resort, where people came to ‘take the air’ and revitalise their health. It’s still popular today with those who love the freshness of its outlook, as well as the opportunity to explore the flora and fauna of the Solway coast. This is a popular destination with families too, who can splash in the mini water park in Summer and play on the beaches which spread out from the town.

Visit Silloth

The time signal which is used for the BBC’s ‘pips’ is broadcast from Anthorn near Silloth

Did you know?

“You can have a meal or a snack in one of the many eateries, then an ice cream on the Green”

016973 32666
www.stanwix.com
Stanwix Park Holiday Centre, Silloth, Cumbria, CA7 4HH

Great days out on Silloth Green

Explore fun areas for children and families, check out refurbished heritage features, picnic areas and flower gardens, and find out about the memorable activities, events and festivals held throughout the year!

Woodland Adventure Playground
Splash Pool Pagoda BMX Track

Winner of Cumbria in Bloom Coastal Town Award

SILLOTH ON SOLWAY GOLF CLUB

Come and visit the best value golf course in Britain

Voted 100th best golf course in the world — planetgolf.com

016973 31304 | www.sillothgolfclub.co.uk | office@sillothgolfclub.co.uk

www.sillothgreen.co.uk
Silloth has a fantastic selection of events taking place throughout the year ranging from carnivals to festivals. Things to look out for so far are:

**MAY**
- Silloth Green Day - www.sillothgreen.co.uk

**JUNE**
- Vintage Rally - www.vintagerally.co.uk

**AUGUST**
- Silloth Half Marathon
- Silloth Carnival

**SEPTEMBER**
- Music & Beer Festival - sillothbeerfestival.co.uk

**NOVEMBER**
- Christmas lights switch-on

Months above are given as a guide. Check website for exact dates and further details.

www.sillothgreen.co.uk/events
The writer and broadcaster Melvyn Bragg, or Lord Bragg of Wigton, is one of the town’s most famous residents, and he has never left, keeping a house here despite his career taking him around the world. There’s a warm and friendly feel, among the narrow streets and quirky alleyways. The monument, officially called the George Moore Memorial Fountain, at the heart of the town is a key landmark. The people who live and work in the many businesses give it that welcoming ambience and visitors come back to browse its wide range of independent shops and places to eat and drink.

Did you know?
The journalist and newsreader Anna Ford went to primary school and grammar school in Wigton.
Why I love my town

By Clare Stabler
Youth worker and co-owner of Christies Sweet Shop

Clare Stabler’s a busy lady – she’s a youth worker and co-owner of Christies Sweet Shop, and involved in the town’s festivals and chamber of trade.

What do you love about Wigton?
The town’s full of small independent shops where owners go the extra mile to help their customers. Wigton’s also well situated for easy access to the coast and the Solway Firth, as well as the Lake District. They’re within an easy drive, giving us the best of both worlds.

What is there to see and do in town?
We’ve just created a history and heritage trail which picks out some real hidden gems. You can pick up a booklet from the Market Hall.

Are there any special events?
Spring Fling, or Windows Week, is not to be missed. There are theatrical performances, exhibitions and lots of activities, and all the businesses give up their windows for displays from local artists and craft people. The switch on of Wigton Christmas lights is fantastic, and is getting better every year. The carnival is great too. It’s great to see the whole community come together.

The mission of the Wigton Baths Trust is: to secure and develop the baths for the use of people of all ages in Wigton & the surrounding area.

Adult Improver Sessions now available

Improve your style, fitness, technique, train for a race or simply gain more confidence.

For further information contact:
Alan Pitcher (Chair)
Tel: 016973 45299
www.wigtonbaths.co.uk

The Kildare
Bistro & Restaurant

Quality Dining Establishment

Open for lunch and dinner
Children’s menu available

Check our website for our menu’s and monthly events

THE KILDARE, HIGH STREET, WIGTON
Tel: 016973 49930
www.kildarebistro.co.uk

WHITE HEATHER
Kirkbride Airfield, Kirkbride
Tel: 016973 51373

Wednesday Lunch Offer
2 Courses only £8.50

Sunday Lunches
Our specially
3 Courses - £16 Booking advised

We are available for
Weddings & Private Functions

For a warm friendly atmosphere choose
The White Heather
Visit Workington

Workington was West Cumbria’s industrial heartland, with mining, steel and the docks playing big parts in its heritage. Its notable history goes back much further than that, however. Mary Queen of Scots hid in Workington Hall after fleeing Scotland. The town’s also famed for its sport – rugby and speedway are hugely popular, football legend Bill Shankly once managed its football team and there’s the famous Uppies and Downies tradition. You’re spoilt for choice for things to do in Workington - whether that’s shopping, eating or drinking, examining the exhibits at the Helena Thompson Museum, being entertained at the town’s theatres or cinema, or exploring the town centre artworks or West Cumbria’s coastline.

Did you know?

The Bessemer process which revolutionised mass steel production worldwide was created in Workington

COMING SOON

Wigton has a fantastic selection of events taking place throughout the year ranging from carnivals to festivals. Things to look out for so far are-

MAY
Spring Fling

JUNE
Wigton Carnival

NOVEMBER
Christmas lights switch-on

Did you know?
The borough of Allerdale was formed on 1 April 1974 following an Act of Parliament that reformed local government in England and Wales

Months above are given as a guide. Check website for exact dates and further details www.allerdale.gov.uk
Why I love my town

By Kaylee Clark
Owner of the Purple Cherry Coffee Shop

When Kaylee Clark isn't working in her café, or baking the cakes and treats to go on the menu, she's out in the countryside riding her horse.

What are the best things about living in Workington?
It's the retail shopping capital for West Cumbria and is an up-and-coming location. The town offers a wide range of well-known high street names, as well as a good choice of independent shops, a fantastic multiplex cinema and lots of eating and drinking establishments. It's a place where people still take time to make you feel welcomed. However, it's not all about shopping.

Workington has strong heritage links, good museums, excellent public parks, arts centre and theatres.

Where are the hidden gems that people should seek out?
One of my favourites is Curwen Park, which looks stunning in the Autumn when the leaves on the trees start to change colour. Nearby is the Helena Thompson museum which is a great place to visit to learn about the heritage of the town, and you can visit its superb award-winning gardens. Then there's Portland Square which boasts a fine example of Georgian architecture and a wonderful large cobbled court area.

Where should visitors explore out while they're in the area?
Travel north along the coast road and it will bring you to Maryport, a town with many tourist attractions. Heading east along the A66 will bring you to the charming town of Cockermouth, another town supported by a range of excellent independent shops.

“It’s the retail shopping capital for West Cumbria and is an up-and-coming location”
COMING SOON

Workington has a fantastic selection of events taking place throughout the year ranging from carnivals to festivals. Things to look out for so far are-

**AUGUST**
Tribute Fest
Summer Festival under The Hub

**NOVEMBER**
Christmas lights switch-on

Months above are given as a guide. Check website for exact dates and further details

www.allerdale.gov.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

**Allerdale Borough Council**
Web: www.allerdale.gov.uk
E-mail: enquiries@allerdale.gov.uk
Telephone: 01900 702702

**Cumbria County Council**
Web: www.cumbria.gov.uk
E-mail: info@cumbria.gov.uk
Telephone: 01228 606060

**Kings Arms Lane, Cockermouth 01900 822634**
Workington Library 01900 706170
Solway Discovery Centre, Silloth 016973 31944

**Sports Centres and Swimming Pools**
Cockermouth Leisure Centre 01900 823596
Keswick Leisure Pool 017687 72760
Workington Leisure Centre 01900 617711
Wigton Swimming Pool 016973 24212
Netherhall Community Sports Centre 01900 813434
www.cultureleisurelife.com

**Tourist Information Points**
The Moot Hall, Keswick 0845 9010845
The Wave, Maryport 01900 811450
The Bamboo restaurant celebrates authentic Chinese and Thai cuisine at its finest. Enjoy this contemporary dining experience in a warm and relaxed atmosphere... Perfect for that special occasion!

Tuesday to Sunday
5.00pm to 11.30pm
Last orders 10.30pm

Last food order 10pm Licenced till 12pm

16 Market Place Cockermouth
Tel: 01900 829308