

a sense of place

The beautiful market town of Kirkby Lonsdale on the banks of the River Lune is ideally located on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales and within easy reach of the Lake District; its attractive setting is epitomised by the glorious view up the Lune Valley from Ruskin's View.

The centre is a pleasing mix of elegant 18th century buildings and stone cottages huddled around cobbled courtyards and narrow alleyways with evocative names such as Salt Pie Lane and Jingly Lane. Traditional butchers, bakers and 'the best independent cheese shop in the UK' (2007) jostle alongside designer jewellery, fashion and home décor outlets.

Surrounding the town is a rolling landscape of winding lanes and green fields bordered by high hedges and dry stone walls. The broad valley of the Lune contains **Casterton**, 'the settlement by a Roman fort', dominated by a prestigious public school. To the north is **Barbon**, a cluster of houses next to a tumbling beck and the venue for car and motorcycle hill climbs. Further up the Lune Valley is **Middleton**, a scattered community with an ancient hall in its midst. To the west is rolling farmland around **Lupton**, **Mansergh** and **Old Town** leading up to the prominent limestone outcrops of **Hutton Roof**.

Kirkby Lonsdale developed at a crossing point over the **River Lune** where several drovers and packhorse routes converged and is one of the few Cumbrian towns mentioned in the Domesday Book, where it is described as Cherchibi (village with a church). The earlier church was wholly rebuilt by the Normans, who also erected an artificial mound or motte on nearby glebe land. In later years, the mound was used for cockfighting, hence the current name of **Cockpit Hill**.

In 1227, the town gained a **market charter** and the right to hold an annual fair every September. Every week, stallholders would gather on Market Street to sell their wares, with horse traders in the Horsemarket and pig sellers in the Swinemarket. By the early nineteenth century, the old market area was becoming too congested, so a **new marketplace** was built in 1822. The weekly market and daily throughput of drovers and packhorse carriers created a bustling town with a surprisingly large number of **inns and ale houses** to cater for thirsty travellers and traders – some 29 in total, of which six still function as licensed premises.

Today Kirkby Lonsdale is developing a fast-growing reputation for quality local food and home décor. The town is a hive of activity hosting a great calendar of local events, a weekly market and monthly farmers' market where you can pick up fabulous locally grown and sourced produce. Traditional coffee shops and tearooms nestle between stylish shops and vintage antique dealers; award-winning bars and restaurants sit alongside tempting delis – all within the stunning landscape of the Lune Valley.

Cover image: **Devil's Bridge**

Getting around

By Bus

Service 567 – Kendal to Kirkby Lonsdale.

Mon–Sat service excluding public holidays.

Service 80 (Lune Villager) – Lancaster to Ingleton (via Kirkby Lonsdale).

Mon–Sat only excluding public holidays.

Services 81a and b – Lancaster to Kirkby Lonsdale.

Frequent service every day.

By Train

The nearest mainline railway stations are at Oxenholme The Lake District (11 miles/18 km) and Lancaster (14 miles/23 km) with direct rail services to the Midlands, London and Scotland.

For more information on all bus, rail and ferry timetables and fares, contact **Traveline** on **0871 200 22 33** or **www.traveline.org.uk**

By Cycle

There are a number of short cycling routes around Kirkby Lonsdale.

For more information on cycling in Cumbria generally, go to

www.cyclingcumbria.co.uk

On Foot

The Limestone Link. A 13-mile (21 km) walk through the limestone country of south Cumbria from Arnside to Kirkby Lonsdale via the limestone fells of Clawthorpe and Hutton Roof.

Leaflets showing a series of shorter walks in the local area are available from Tourist Information Centres. Other walking routes in the area can be downloaded from **www.lakedistrictoutdoors.co.uk**

For advice on local events, where to eat, where to stay and what to do in Kirkby Lonsdale, please call or visit:

Windermere Tourist Information Centre, Victoria Street, Windermere

LA23 1AD Tel: 015394 46499 Email: windermeretic@southlakeland.gov.uk

See website for opening times. **www.southlakeland.gov.uk/tourism**

For more information, visit **www.kirkbylonsdale.co.uk**

Alternatively you can check availability or book accommodation on **www.golakes.co.uk**

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Published by South Lakes Tourism Action Group and Cumbria Tourism

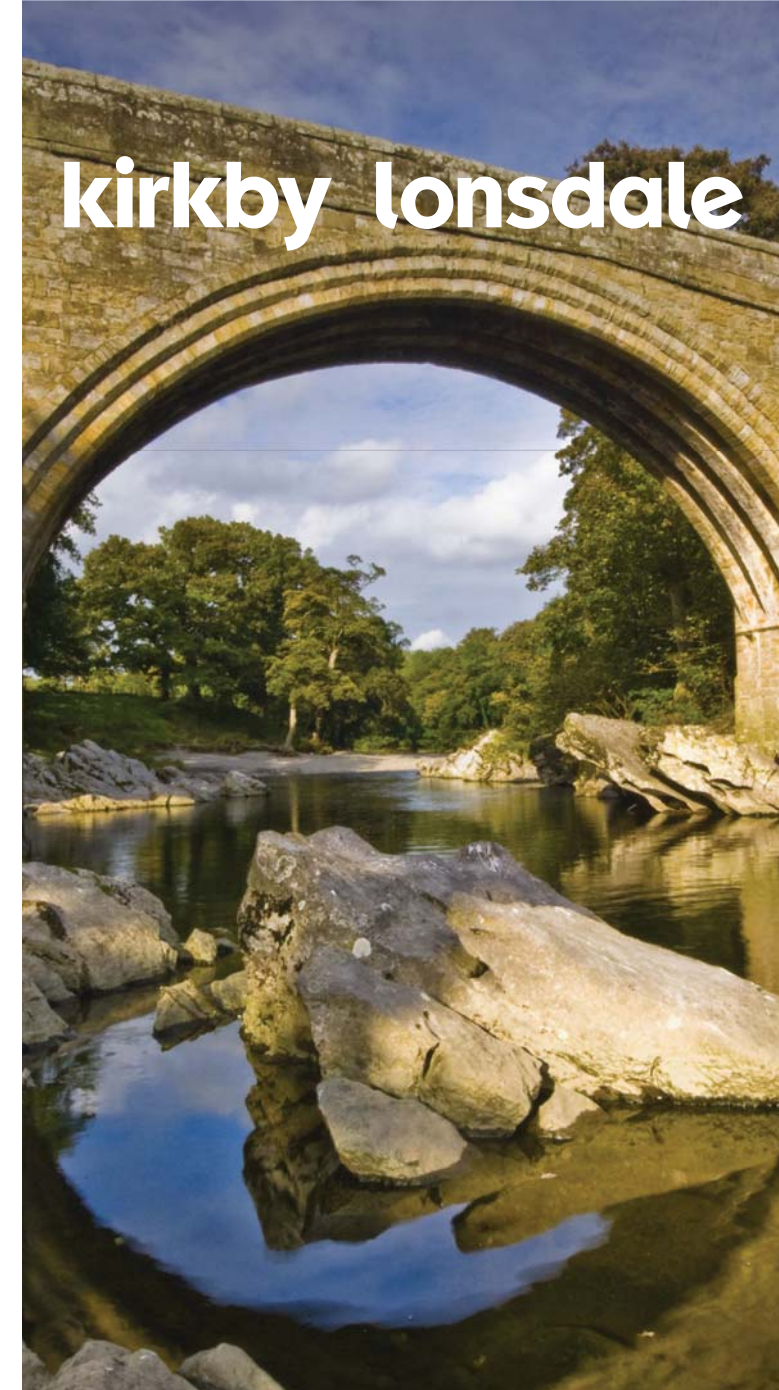
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the lake district
Cumbria

www.golakes.co.uk

experience
englandsnorthwest





St Mary's Church



Churchmouse Cheeses



Parma Violet

Must Sees

No visit to Kirkby Lonsdale would be complete without taking in these stunning sights. From the heavenly Ruskin's View and St Mary's Church with its beautiful churchyard to the legend of Devil's Bridge.

1 Ruskin's View (SD 611 790)

Church Brow, a promenade on the north side of the churchyard, opens up to a famous view over the Lune Valley – a view that was painted by the artist JMW Turner and much admired by the 19th century writer and philosopher John Ruskin, who described it as 'one of the loveliest scenes in England'. A flight of steps descends to the Lune and a pleasant riverside walk to Devil's Bridge.

2 Devil's Bridge (SD 616 783)

This medieval bridge spanning the River Lune on three graceful arches has a legend attached. Long ago, before there was a bridge in Kirkby Lonsdale, an old woman lived on the banks of the Lune. One night her cow strayed across to the other side of the river and would not come back. In response to her predicament, the Devil appeared and promised to build a bridge by morning in exchange for a soul – the first to cross the bridge, thinking that it would be the woman herself. By morning the bridge was complete and the old woman agreed to fulfil her part of the bargain. She delved into her bag and threw a bun across the bridge, whereupon her small dog ran over to retrieve it. The Devil, in a fit of rage at being thwarted, howled in anger and vanished leaving behind a smell of burning brimstone. Some say the Devil left a handprint which can still be seen on the bridge today.

3 St Mary's Church (SD 611 788)

The oldest parts of this Norman church are three columns in the nave, two of which are carved with unusual diamond motif patterns. The plain-looking font was rescued from a neighbouring farm where it had been used as a cattle trough. Outside in the churchyard is a memorial to five maids who were 'hurried into eternity' after a disastrous fire at the Rose and Crown Hotel in the Market Square in 1820.

www.kirkbylonsdaleparish.co.uk

Food and Drink

Locally sourced food and drink is available in many of the restaurants, shops, bakeries and delis around the town. Come and tuck in!

4 Sun Inn

6 Market Street, LA6 2AU

The Sun Inn offers a luxury blend of old and new. As well as 5 star B&B, the 17th century inn has an award-winning restaurant which prides itself on using high quality regional and seasonal produce from local suppliers. The atmosphere is informal and intimate and the décor stylish and contemporary.

Tel: 015242 71965 www.sun-inn.info

5 Churchmouse Cheeses

4 Market Street, LA6 2AU

Voted Best Independent Cheese Shop in Britain in 2007, this shop is an Aladdin's cave of local, British and continental fine cheeses. It also sells a range of other Cumbrian fare and local produce, and an astounding array of jams, chutneys and pickles. An excellent pianist in a corner of the shop entertains at weekends!

Tel: 015242 73005 www.churchmousecheeses.com

6 Plato's

2 Mill Brow, LA6 2AT

Plato's offers a hint of city chic in the countryside - boutique hotel with a touch of luxury, restaurant serving fresh and locally sourced food and stylish bar complete with comfy leather sofas.

Tel: 015242 74180 www.platoskirkbylonsdale.co.uk

7 Chocolat

3 New Road, LA6 2AB

Selling delicious handmade speciality chocolates and ice creams. There is also a Malt Whisky and Leaf Tea Cellar.

Tel: 015242 72830 www.chocolatmine.co.uk

8 Avanti

57 Main Street, LA6 2AH

From coffee and croissants in the morning and crêpes during the day to a mouth-watering dinner menu in the evening, Avanti offers a distinctive, continental atmosphere. Enjoy a glass of chilled wine in the enclosed garden.

Tel: 015242 73500 www.baravanti.com

Stylish Shopping

Kirkby Lonsdale offers a unique shopping experience. With irresistible boutique shops selling everything from Emma Bridgewater pottery to vintage throws, designer clothing to stylish furniture and antiques.

9 Bijou Blue

9 Market Street, LA6 2AU

A stylish boutique selling a range of womenswear, lingerie and beachwear. A second shop across the road sells shoes, bags and accessories to complete your look.

Tel: 015242 71294

10 Amulet Jewellery

20 Market Street, LA6 2AU

Classical and contemporary fine and fashion jewellery, gemstones, Celtic silver, bridal jewellery and special occasion gifts.

Tel: 015242 72008 www.amulettjewellery.com

11 Bath House Shop

1 New Road, LA6 2DP

Lifestyle shop selling bathing and bodycare products and fragrances, along with cookware, linen, ceramics, glassware and cards.

Tel: 015242 73189 www.thebathhouseshop.co.uk

12 Carr & Bleasdale

28 Main Street, LA6 2AE

A warren of wonderful and stylish rooms displaying beautiful furniture, fabrics and linens.

Tel: 015242 71261

13 Parma Violet

45 Main Street, LA6 2AH

Discover an eclectic mix of gifts, toys and homewares. From funky to rustic, quirky to vintage, Parma Violet is bursting with style and inspiration.

Tel: 015242 72585 www.parmaviolet.co.uk

14 La Maison

51 Main Street, LA6 2AH

Two floors of inspirational ideas for the home, from furniture to tableware.

Tel: 015242 71223 www.lamaison.co.uk

what to see & do...



Ruskin's View



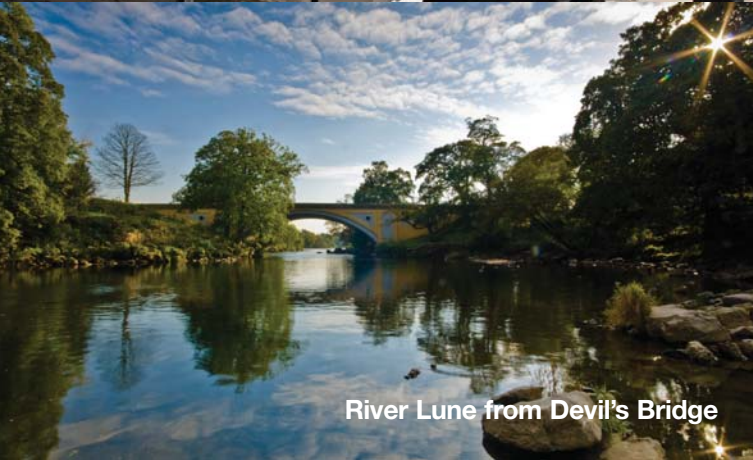
The Sun Inn



Fine Dining



Relaxed Shopping



River Lune from Devil's Bridge



Market Square



Other places to see

15 Andy Goldsworthy Sheepfolds (SD 635 811 to SD 636 785)

The highest concentration of restored sheepfolds in Cumbria can be seen in the Casterton area. Along a rough track (Fellfoot Road) are 16 small square folds, each containing a large boulder. Another restored sheepfold, Jack's Fold, can be seen beside the fell road in Barbondale (SD 647 826).
www.sheepfoldscumbria.co.uk

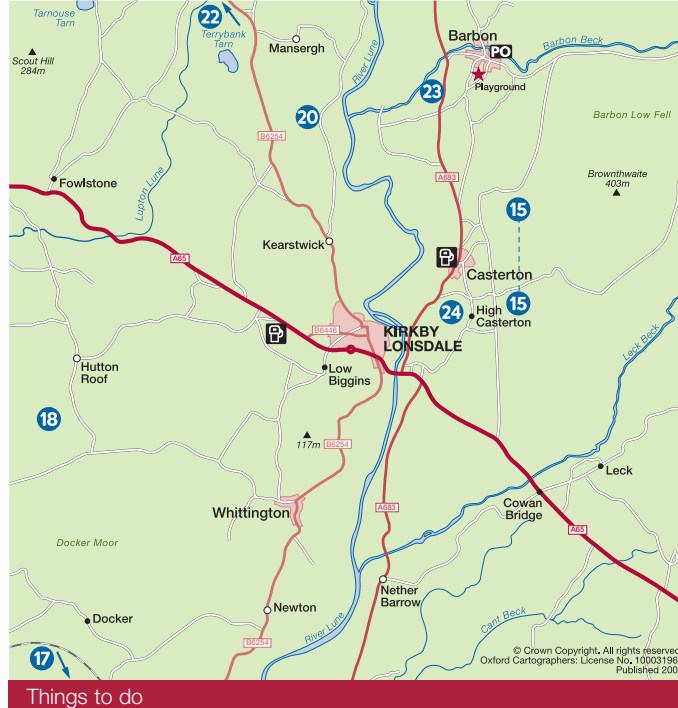
**16 The Enchanted Chocolate Mine
Beneath Chocolat, 3 New Road, Kirkby Lonsdale, LA6 2AB**

Not a lot of people know that there is a source of naturally occurring chocolate beneath Kirkby Lonsdale and a team of faeries with specialist mining skills are employed to extract it! From the chocolate shop you can glimpse the entrance to the mine and hear the faery miners hammering and blasting the seam. Admission is free. Open Mon & Wed, 12.00–5.00pm, Tue, Thu, Fri & Sat, 10.00–5.00, Sun, 11.00–5.00.
 Tel: 015242 72830 www.chocolatemine.co.uk

**17 Docker Park Farm Visitor Centre (SD 571 738)
Arkholve, near Carnforth, LA6 1AR**

Enjoy a day out on the farm. See traditional farm animals (and feed lambs in the spring and early summer) and play with the rabbits and guinea pigs. There's an indoor play area, nature trail, pony rides, tractor rides and special events throughout the year. Tearoom. Mid-February to end of October, open daily, 10.30–5.00. November and mid-February, open weekends only, 10.30–4.00. Closed between Christmas and New Year.
 Tel: 015242 21331 www.dockerparkfarm.co.uk

18 Hutton Roof Crags
Some of the best examples of limestone pavement in Britain can be found here. The habitat mosaic of limestone pavement, woodland, scrub, grassland and heath supports a wealth of unusual plants and animals, in particular fritillary butterflies. Access from Hutton Roof village or via footpaths on the Clawthorpe Road (at SD 543 783 and SD 552 788), with two waymarked trails. The site includes **Park Wood National Nature Reserve (SD 565 777)** – a rare example of northern calcareous ash woodland with hazel, wych elm and field maple. Access by footpath from Hutton Roof.
www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk



Things to do

19 Finestra Gallery (SD 612 785)

12 Main Street, Kirkby Lonsdale, LA6 2AE
Gallery run by William Jones who displays not only his own paintings of landscapes and seascapes but showcases work by other local artists – paintings, sculpture, ceramics, glassware, jewellery and furniture. Open Mon–Sat, 10.00–5.00; Sun, 11.00–5.00.
 Tel: 015242 73747 www.finestragallery.co.uk

**20 Mansergh Hall Farm Shop (SD 606 817)
LA6 2EN**

This long-established, family-run farm shop sells organic meat from the farm, along with chicken, milk, eggs and vegetables from other Cumbrian producers. Open all year, Fri 9.00–5.00, Sat 9.00–12.00.
 Tel: 015242 71397 www.manserghhall.co.uk

**21 Pottery Art and Crafts (SD 629 774)
The Station House, Kirkby Lonsdale, LA6 2HP**

Pottery workshop where you can create your own ceramic masterpiece. Tearoom with outdoor seating area. Open 10.00–5.00 every day except Tue. Closed for 4 weeks over Christmas and New Year. Free admission.
 Tel: 015242 72847 www.stationhousepottery.co.uk

**22 Kitriding Farm Shop (SD 581 839)
Lupton, Kirkby Lonsdale, LA6 2QA**

The 'shop on the farm' where a whole range of local produce can be found – from farm-reared meat to home baking. Rustic tearoom with outdoor seating area. Open Fri–Sun, 10.00–5.00.
 Tel: 015395 67484 www.kitriding.co.uk

**23 Kirkby Lonsdale Golf Club (SD 619 818)
Scaleber Lane, Barbon LA6 2LJ**

Challenging 18-hole golf course in parkland on the banks of the River Lune. Spectacular views over the Lune Valley to the Barbon and Howgill Fells. Visiting golfers welcome.
 Tel: 015242 76365 www.kirkbylonsdalegolf.co.uk

**24 Casterton Golf Course (SD 621 790)
LA6 2LA**

Scenic 9-hole course set in beautiful countryside with far-reaching views to the Yorkshire Dales and Lakeland Fells. Visiting golfers welcome.
 Tel: 015242 71592 www.castertongolf.co.uk



Local facilities

PO Post Office – New Road, Kirkby Lonsdale. Barbon.

★ Parks and Play Areas – Play area and skateboard park behind New Road car park (access from Tram Lane). Jubilee Field, recreation field beside Devil's Bridge with picnic tables. Barbon (next to village hall).

P Car Parks – Market Square, Devil's Bridge, New Road (1 & 2) and Booths Supermarket.

WC Public Toilets – Devil's Bridge and Jingling Lane*. **Disabled – RADAR-key operated.*

PS Petrol Stations – On A65 one mile west of Kirkby Lonsdale and at Casterton.

Did you know?

The **Brontë** sisters attended a school for clergymen's daughters at Cowan Bridge in 1824–25 (the school later moved to Casterton in 1833 and became Casterton School). In Jane Eyre, written by Charlotte Brontë, the village school was the setting for 'Lowood' and Kirkby Lonsdale became 'Lowton'.

Peter Pan author JM Barrie was a regular visitor to Kirkby Lonsdale at the end of the nineteenth century and based the characters in the story on the vicar's family.

The **Radical Steps** were named after the liberal views of a Dr Pearson, who had them built around 1830.

In 1093, Ivo de Taillebois, (the Baron of Kendal), gifted the church at Kirkby Lonsdale to St Mary's Abbey in York, who held it until the Dissolution. Thereafter, the Abbey and all its possessions, including St Mary's Church at Kirkby Lonsdale, were granted to Trinity College, Cambridge which retains patronage to this day.

The steep incline of Mill Brow with its fast-flowing (now culverted) stream was the 'industrial heart' of Kirkby Lonsdale, with several mills utilising water to power processes such as grinding corn, bark and bone, carding wool, manufacturing snuff, making bobbins, fulling cloth and sawing timber.