



Coniston Water is the third largest lake in the English Lake District and one of the most beautiful, surrounded as it is by spectacular, unspoilt mountain scenery.

- It is famous for its association with attempts at breaking the world water speed record and in 1939 Sir Malcom Campbell established a record 141 miles per hour. His son Donald Campbell set four further records but crashed and died in 1967. His body and the remains of the boat were recovered from the lake in 2001.
- A Coniston Powerboat speed week is held each year – normally in early November, but for the rest of the year large, noisy, power boats are discouraged and the speed limit of 10 mph is strictly enforced. The Lake District National Park encourage electric launches and has these for hire, besides a fleet of canoes and sit on tops.
- The restored steam yacht 'Gondola' tours the lake in the summer months and makes a very colourful and evocative sight as it steams up and down the lake.
- 'Swallows and Amazons' is a well known children's adventure book by Arthur Ransome which was based here on Coniston Water.

About Coniston Water

Suggested Canoe Trails

If you have a whole day then we suggest that the best trip is to paddle the whole length of the lake stopping off at Peel Island and other places of interest en route.

If you start at one of the launching sites at the South end of the Lake then going north has the advantage that you can build in a visit to one of the cafes. If you start in the North and head south then you can visit Peel Island and then perhaps picnic at the quiet and more beautiful southern end of the lake - a great picnic site is near Blawith Common at GR 289904 just north of the narrows – there are great views looking back up the lake from this point.

Rivers

Yewdale Beck, Church Beck and Torver Beck flow into Coniston Water. All of these are small steep 'creek runs' only paddled by expert kayakers when they have sufficient water - normally in winter months. See the 'White Water Lake District' guidebook for more information.

The River Crake flows from Coniston Water to the sea. This is a grade 3 (difficult) paddle with 7 weirs. Tree lined banks make stopping and rescues difficult so it is more serious than the grade indicates. Signs refer to a historic voluntary agreement that asks people to paddle outside the fishing season - please refer to the Cumbria Canoeists website for the current situation.

www.cumbriacanoeists.org.uk

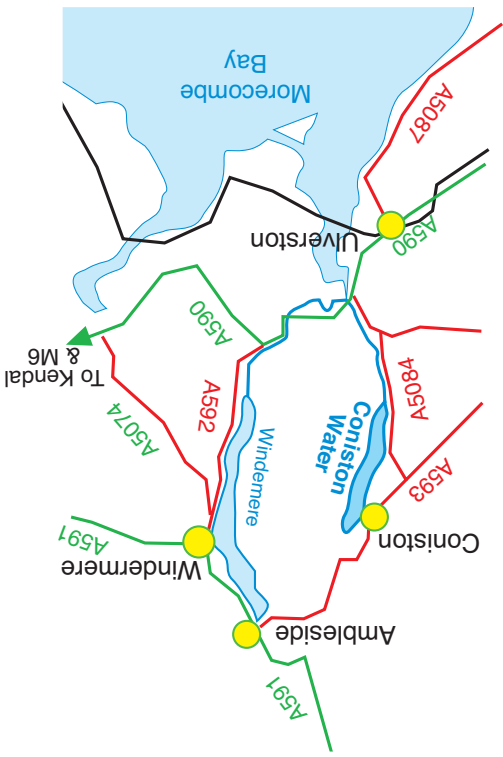
Disclaimer

Information in this leaflet is intended for guidance only – it was written in good faith however rivers and natural features change and information may by out of date or misleading. Canoeing can be dangerous (just like road journeys) - if you choose to canoe on a river or a lake then the risk assessment is yours, the decision to go canoeing is yours, and the consequences arising from that decision are yours and yours alone. Any mention of lakes and rivers in this leaflet does not give you a right to paddle.

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notes:





Coniston Water

A guide for canoes, kayaks and sit on tops

Pier Cottage Caravan Park

Small site for touring caravans and camper vans only. 100m walk to lake and easy launching for those staying here. Tel: 015394 41252

Coniston Boating Centre

Large pay and display car park. Toilets. Café. Easy launching from a slipway. Small launching charge. Canoe and kayak hire. Tel 015394 41366. www.lakedistrict.gov.uk

Coniston Hall

A 16th century house noteworthy for its massive chimneys. It is owned by the National Trust - part of it is now ruined, part is used as a farmhouse, and another part is used by the sailing club. A nearby privy has a grade II listing.

Coniston Hall Campsite

Very large campsite for tents and camper vans only. Possible to drive to the lake shore and easy launching but only for those camping here. Tel: 015394 41223

Park Coppice Caravan Club Site

Large site run by the Caravan Club. Touring caravans, camper vans and tents. 100m walk to lake and then easy launching for those staying here. Tel: 015394 41555 www.caravanclub.co.uk

Coniston Hall to Sunny Bank

This middle section of the lake feels the most remote and wild with grand vistas of lake, forest and mountains!

Hoathwaite Farm Campsite

A basic campsite owned by the National Trust. (Bring your own toilet) Open to caravans, camper vans and tents. Easy launching for those staying here. 015394 63862. www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

Sunny Bank

A westerly wind often funnels across the lake here and the wind can be 3 times as strong as it is at Brown Howe.

Bass Crag

Roadside parking for about 20 cars overlooking the lake. However boats will need to be lowered 6m down the cliff using a rope. Only recommended for those seeking a physical challenge! Ice cream van is often here in the summer.

Brown Howe

Pay and display gravel parking for about 30 cars. Toilets. Reasonable access for minibus and trailers. Easy launching following a 80m level walk. Popular with whitewater paddlers who are setting out for a trip down the river Crake

Blawith Common

Two small free parking spots for maybe 7 cars each. Then a long 250m walk along winding narrow paths to the lake.

Allan Tarn

A small quiet tarn which is believed to be the 'Octopus Lagoon' in 'Swallows and Amazons'.

River Crake

Please see canoeing notes on the reverse.

Monk Coniston Bay

A shallow bay that is popular with learning groups.

Monk Coniston

Pay and display tarmac parking for about 35 cars. Toilets. Good access for minibus and trailers. Easy launching with a 30m flat walk. Popular and recommended for beginners and organised groups but can get full on busy summer days.

Bank Ground Farm Tea Room

This old farm house does delicious home made lunches and teas open on summer weekends and school holidays. Land to the right of the 3 boat houses, follow the hedge up and then bear left for the tea room. www.bankground.com Tel: 01539 441264

Brantwood

An interesting country house that overlooks the lake and was the home of John Ruskin. The house and grounds are administered by a charitable trust and it is a popular place to visit. We recommend landing on the beach here and walking up to eat at 'Jumping Jenny's' which is the café in the old stable block next to the house.

Machell Coppice

Free gravel car parking for about 30 cars. Easy launching with a 40m walk. Popular with windsurfers.

Fir Island

A boggy island which is usually joined to the shore unless the lake level is very high. It is home to a colony of cormorants.

Bailiff Wood

Free gravel car park for about 16 cars. 30m rough track to the lake. Popular with sub aqua divers.

Dodgson Wood

Free gravel car park for about 8 cars. 30m flat carry to the lake.

Dodgson Wood Campsite

Basic campsite hired to groups only. 100m walk to the lake & easy launching for those staying here. Tel: 01229 885663. www.discoverthelakes.co.uk

Parkmoor

Free gravel car park for about 20 cars. 30m carry to the lake and slightly awkward move through a wall.

Peel Island

This small island belongs to the National Trust and is most famous for being the inspiration for Wild Cat Island in Arthur Ransome's book 'Swallows and Amazons' (including the secret harbour). Today it is a popular tourist destination and picnic spot. Strictly no fires or camping.

Low Peel Neav

Roadside parking for perhaps 5 cars alongside the lake.

South End of Coniston Water

This is much quieter than the rest of the lake and very beautiful.

Nibthwaite Quay

This is a private quay which goes back to the 17th century. Copper Ore was transported down Coniston Water from a quay at Coniston Hall to Nibthwaite Quay where it was loaded into carts, taken to the coast, and then by ship to St Helens for smelting.

-  Canoe access & launch point
-  Private shore - no landing
-  Public accessible shore
-  Wildfowl area (please avoid)
-  Cycle path
-  Footpath

A Canoe England Publication

Coniston Water - what you need to know

One of the most beautiful English lakes and deservedly popular for canoeing -

- Just the right size to explore in a day - 9km long by 1km wide
- Easy launching and parking.
- Surrounded by magnificent mountain scenery.
- Relatively quiet.
- Lots of public shoreline and beaches for landing and picnics.
- Clean water.
- Quality canoe hire and tuition available.
- No permits needed.
- Speed limit of 10 m.p.h and only a few motor boats.

Special Points

- Scheduled launch service – mainly in the North of the lake
 - Keep well clear, especially close to the landing stages
- Danger of sudden gusts of wind off the mountains
- Coniston Water is cold and deep – over 50m!

