



“For sheer landscape and culinary excellence, it’s hard for anywhere in the UK to match the famously scenic Lake District”

DINING OUT

We have many very good restaurants in the area, from Michelin stars to gastro pubs and everything in between. Here we have listed some of the most popular, many of which are our personal favourites, and others we have received consistently good feedback from our guests. They can be very busy and we recommend you book your restaurant at the same time as you book your room with us, to avoid disappointment. Do let us know if we can help.

Our categories:

- **Michelin stars**
- **Hotel restaurants & Fine dining**
- **Traditional Lakeland Gastro pubs in the countryside**
- **Restaurants in the towns of Bowness, Windermere, Grasmere, Ambleside**
- **Lunch & Coffee outings**

Michelin Star restaurants

In the 2020 guide, Cumbria’s tally of Michelin stars almost doubled overnight to an incredible 8 stars in 7 restaurants. Such excellence in food and drink further cements the Lake District’s well-earned reputation as being among the very best destinations for culinary excellence. We have now created a whole new category for our favourite local shining stars!

Hrishi, at Gilpin Hotel ~ (Crook)

Tel: 015394 88818

There is also Gilpin Spice restaurant listed later in this guide.

As you would expect from this award-winning country house hotel, excellent service and superb food in sophisticated surroundings. Executive Head chef Hrishikesh produces modern British cuisine with a twist, using great Lake District produce and Classic methods to deliver unbelievable textures and flavours.

10-minute drive

<http://thegilpin.co.uk/gilpin-restaurant>

The Old Stamp House ~ (Ambleside)

Tel: 015394 32775

Open for lunch Wed ~ Sat, & dinner Tues ~ Sat, closed Sunday & Monday.

This excellent restaurant in the center of Ambleside has long been one of our favourites and we are delighted they have been awarded a Michelin star. The chef/owner produces innovative seasonal menus inspired by all things Cumbrian, including local rare breed meats and locally foraged goods. Delightful, intimate, traditional building dates back to 1700.

20-minute drive from Lindeth Fell.

<http://www.oldstamphouse.com>

Forest side Hotel and restaurant ~ (Grasmere)

Tel 015394 35250

This superb restaurant in Grasmere is scooping up all the awards, including a Michelin star and an entry in the Good Food Guide’s Top 50 restaurants in UK. Very good food in elegant contemporary surroundings. Extensive kitchen gardens where most produce is home grown. Also, large range of home flavoured gins.

30-minute drive from Lindeth Fell.

<http://www.theforestside.com>

L'Enclume ~ (Cartmel)

Tel: 015395 36362

Open for lunch & dinner Tues ~ Sun, closed Monday.

Officially the UK's Best restaurant in 2020! Two Michelin Stars, 5 AA rosettes and now back at the "Number 1 in the UK" spot in the Good Food Guide. The finest of cutting-edge dining with a truly amazing tasting menu using totally Cumbrian produce. Since opening his business in Cartmel Simon Rogan has earned himself an impeccable reputation both internationally and locally. Stunning ~ we love it!

30-minute drive from Lindeth Fell.<http://www.lenclume.co.uk>**The Cottage in the Wood ~ (Whinlatter)**

Tel: 017687 78409.

A gourmet retreat nestled among the trees of the Whinlatter mountains. Delicious food and warm ambiance. The dining room looks on to red squirrels feeding and the forest beyond. The six-course Taste Cumbria menu is £70 with wine pairings from £45, it is available in the evenings Tuesday – Saturday. The restaurant is open for lunches Thursday to Saturday offering a superb £30 three-course menu. The furthest away of all our recommendations, but perfect for lunch with a lovely scenic drive there and back.

1 hours drive.<http://www.thecottageinthewood.co.uk>

Hotel restaurants & Fine Dining

Gilpin Spice at Gilpin Hotel ~ (Crook)

Tel: 015394 88818

One of our favourites, Gilpin Spice is the more informal restaurant at The Gilpin Hotel. Modern décor, an open kitchen and a menu of sharing dishes from countries along the spice trail, from the Indian sub-continent to Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan and China. Reasonably priced and well worth a visit.

10-minute drive<http://thegilpin.co.uk/gilpin-restaurant>**Henrock at Linthwaite House Hotel**

Telephone 015394 88600

A new, informally elegant restaurant by Simon Rogan. True to the Simon Rogan's ethos, the focus lies on beautiful local ingredients, including produce from his own farm located just a few miles away in the Cartmel Valley. Henrock's à la carte menu features small plates and sharing dishes that are influenced by techniques and produce discovered on the chefs travels around the world. Henrock is open for dinner in the restaurant or lunch & afternoon tea in the Bar / conservatory.

3 minute drive<https://www.henrock.co.uk/>**Storrs Hall Hotel ~ (Bowness)**

Tel: 01539447111

Grade 11 listed mansion with an elegant AA 2 rosette restaurant. Plenty of choice on the menu, delicious food and friendly efficient service. The dining room looks onto well-tended gardens, and lawns rolling down to the lake in the distance.

5-minute drive from Lindeth Fell<http://www.storrshall.com>

.....and two super restaurants just bubbling under the Michelin star recognition:

Lake Road Kitchen ~ (Ambleside)

Tel: 015394 22012

Open for dinner Wed ~ Sun, closed Monday & Tuesday.

A superb, extremely innovative restaurant in the centre of Ambleside, with simple Scandi inspired décor. The five, eight & twelve course tasting menus with optional wine pairings change frequently. The 'Noma' trained head chef explores the food of the North, and his menus are of course full of locally sourced and foraged ingredients.

20 minutes' drive from Lindeth Fell.<http://lakeroadkitchen.co.uk/>

The Samling ~ (Ambleside)

Tel: 015394 31922

An impressive new glass and slate restaurant with wonderful views over Lake Windermere and the surrounding countryside. Superb food, currently 3 AA rosette. A panoramic terrace for drinks in summer, and stylish lounges. Offers a truly indulgent gastronomic experience. Perfect for a celebration meal.

5 miles, 13-minute drive from Lindeth Fell

<https://www.thesamlinghotel.co.uk>

Traditional Lakeland Gastro pubs in the countryside**Brown Horse ~ (Winster).**

Tel: 015394 43443

Open every day lunch 12 – 2 (3pm w/e) and dinner 6 – 9pm.

Convenient and consistently good. One of our favourites. A charming, typical Lakeland village pub and restaurant, serving reasonably priced and good pub meals in traditional surroundings. Much of their produce is home grown and reared and they have their own micro-brewery on site.

They now also offer our guests a 10% discount on food (ask at our reception for the discount card you will need to take with you.)

7-minute drive from Lindeth Fell.

<http://www.thebrownhorseinn.co.uk>

Punchbowl Inn ~ (Crosthwaite)

Tel: 015395 68237

Open daily Lunch 12 – 5.30 Dinner 5.30 – 9pm

This award-winning country inn has a deserved reputation for excellent food and good service. The restaurant is a blend of contemporary and traditional style with flagged stone floors, faded rugs and fashionably muted colour schemes.

12-minute drive from Lindeth Fell.

<http://www.the-punchbowl.co.uk>

Drunken Duck ~ (Brathay, Ambleside.)

Tel: 015394 36347

Open every day lunch and dinner.

Long standing gastro pub/restaurant with great character. The most well-known of the good pubs in the area Stylish décor and a good menu, but further away!

23 minutes' drive from Lindeth Fell.

<http://drunkenduckinn.co.uk>

The Mason's Arms ~ (Strawberry Bank)

Tel: 015395 68486

Formerly a 17th-century farmhouse, this traditional Lakeland pub has sensational sweeping views over the gentle Winster valley. Cosy snugs, toasty fires, flagged floors, low-beamed ceilings, plus handsome cooking and decent ales. Upstairs, there are two smarter, more intimate dining areas. Food is above average pub classics, done with style and confidence.

12 minutes' drive from Lindeth Fell.

www.masonsarmsstrawberrybank.co.uk

The Queens Head ~ (Troutbeck)

Tel: 015394 32404

The Queens Head is perched high on a hill above the stunning Troutbeck Valley, on the way to the Kirkstone Pass. This traditional stone and slate 17th Century Inn has been completely restored following a fire in 2014. Now there is light oak flooring, exposed beams and open fires. Serving generous but unpretentious pub food, catering for walkers.

15 minutes' drive from Lindeth Fell.

The Wild Boar Inn ~ (Crook)

Tel : 015394 45225

This former coaching Inn stands out from the crowd with its own grill and smokehouse restaurant. Hearty meals including excellent steaks. Traditional décor and antique furniture. Also has its own micro brewery with smoked beer!

5 minute drive from Lindeth Fell

Restaurants in the surrounding towns

Heft ~ High Newton

Tel: 015395 30017

Heft is a former 17th Century coaching Inn in the village of High Newton, formerly The Crown Inn, owned by Cumbrian husband and wife team Kevin and Nicola. Chef patron Kevin Tickle spent almost a decade at Cartmel's two Michelin star [L'Enclume](#) and later opened Grasmere's one Michelin star [Forest Side](#). After a year long refurbishing, the Inn has a contemporary bar area serving quality beers and carefully selected wines, and a 28 cover fine-dining restaurant. Kevin serves modern British food, using a wealth of locally reared and farmed produce in his dishes.

20 minute drive from Lindeth Fell

<http://www.hefthighnewton.co.uk>

Kysty ~ Ambleside

Tel : 015394 33647

This is an intimate bistro with a cosy homely feel. A stone's throw from sister restaurant, The Old Stamp House, Chef Ryan Blackburn has decided, during the current Covid situation, to offer a simplified version of the Old Stamp House menu at Kysty. The seasonal menu is brim full of dishes inspired by the Cumbrian landscape that surrounds us. In January 2021 awarded a Michelin plate for excellent food.

20-minute drive

Villa Positano ~ (Bowness)

Tel: 015394 45663

Open Thursday ~ Monday 5pm ~ 9pm. Closed Tuesday & Wednesday.

Authentic Italian through and through from the owners, to the food, the friendly waiters, the music and the atmosphere. A lovely Trattoria with a very good reputation. Booking essential.

5-minute drive from Lindeth Fell

No web site.

Café Italia ~ (Windermere)

Tel: 015394 46228

Open daily 8am ~ 11pm

Lively, casual Italian restaurant on 3 floors, also a balcony at the top and patio seating with heaters. Buzzing, popular and friendly with excellent pizzas, pasta, sandwiches & salads. Sit outside & watch the world go by in Mediterranean café style! Spotlessly clean, pleasant décor, cheerful, friendly, hardworking staff. Highly recommended.

No reservations taken, walk in only. Cash only, no cards

Zeffirelli's ~ (Ambleside), and Fellini's ~ (Ambleside)

Tel :015394 33845 / 32487

Open daily till 10 pm

Two extremely good sister restaurants in Ambleside serving delicious vegetarian menus with great flair, in elegant surroundings.

They both have excellent small independent cinemas attached and also offer a double bill of dinner and a movie.

20-minute drive

<http://www.zeffirellis.com/restaurant>

Porto ~ (Bowness)

Tel: 015394 48242

Closed Tuesday Lunch 12 – 2.00 Dinner 6.00 till late

Popular restaurant serving a mix of classic and contemporary European dishes.

5-minute drive from Lindeth Fell

<http://www.porto-restaurant.co.uk>

Hooked ~ (Windermere)

Tel: 015394 48443

Closed Monday. Dinner 5.30 – 9pm

This is a small casual fish restaurant in Windermere. Very simple décor with wooden tables serving only seafood.

10 minute drive.

<http://www.hookedwindermere.co.uk>

Francines ~ (Windermere)

Tel 015394 44088

Opens 6pm, closed Mondays.

Cosy, bistro style neighbourhood restaurant. Relaxed, friendly and very popular with the locals. A la carte menu and a specials board.

10 minute drive from Lindeth Fell<http://www.francinesrestaurantwindermere.co.uk>**LUNCH & COFFEE OUTINGS...plus a little shopping on site!****Yew Tree Barn ~ (Low Newton)**

Tel: 01539531498

Our favourite lunchtime / shopping outing!

Set within white washed walls and original beams, Yew Tree is a show case for design led crafts, a great selection of local food and drink, antiques, contemporary art, and the foremost reclamation yard in the Northwest. Our gatepost stags came from here. A delightful café serves freshly made local produce.

30 minutes' drive.<http://www.yewtreebarn.co.uk/>**Chester's ~ (Skelwith Bridge)**

Tel: 015394 34711

Interiors and gift shop with a lovely vegetarian bakery and café attached, tucked away in a superb location at the start of the Langdale Valley. Sit outside next to the River Brathay with coffee and a cake, or a delicious light lunch. Perfect stop on a circular drive round the top of the lake.

25-minute drive.<http://www.chestersbytheriver.co.uk/>**The Lakeland Farm Visitor Centre. ~ (Ings)**

Tel: 01539 756577

This new farm visitor experience is situated in the nearby village of Ings.

It offers an insight in to the traditional farming methods used in the Lake District, and also why so many farms now need to diversify to survive. Lots of activities including daily livestock shows, wool spinning and dry-stone walling experiences.

The café is open 9.30 to 5pm for breakfast, lunch, tea, also delicious cakes and coffee, and is getting excellent reviews.

Food is home made and home reared. Service is friendly and the surroundings bright and cheerful with stunning architecture and panoramic views over the surrounding countryside.

Very good gift shop, and their own butchers' shop which offers cookery courses, classes and advice.

14 minutes' drive.<https://www.lakelandfarmvisitorcentre.co.uk/>**Home ground café and kitchen ~ Windermere**

015394 44863

Boutique coffee house in Windermere town, serving excellent speciality coffees and super brunch options. Great for a browse round the shops. No reservations. Open for food 9am to 3 pm.

<http://www.homegroundcafe.co.uk/>**The Café in the Courtyard ~ Claife viewing station**

Easily accessed if you take the car/foot passenger ferry across the lake. Situated in a traditional Lakeland cottage, with tables both inside and outside in a courtyard. This is a great place to start a walk along the west shore of Windermere. They serve tea and scones, coffee, freshly baked cakes and the very popular ferryman's lunch, a sort of Ploughmans. Great take away sandwiches, pork pies and pic nic items. Nearest toilets are 4 minutes walk back to the ferry landing.