



Bowderstone Bunkhouse – Local Information

October 2018

The following information may provide you with a little more information that you may find useful whilst staying at the Bowderstone Bunkhouse. An internet search, or a chat with the Tourist Information Office in Keswick (0845 901 0845) will give you more information and many more ideas but as a starting point you may find the following useful.

Location:

The Bunkhouse is located 5½ miles south of Keswick, in the heart of the Borrowdale valley. Keswick, a thriving market town has many pubs and hotel bars, eateries, outdoor shops, a cinema, and a good Tourist Information office so is the best place to stock up on supplies. Attractions in the town include Keswick climbing wall, Theatre by the Lake, Puzzling Place and Keswick Leisure Pool and gym. There is a Booths (the largest supermarket), and a Co-op near the town centre, with many other food providers nearby.

Walks:

The valley is interlaced with footpaths and bridleways to explore. Favourite short, and relatively easy walks (typically 5-8 miles) include nearby fells such as Castle Crag, Catbells and Kings Howe and the walk round Derwentwater offers ever changing views and plenty of opportunity for stops. There are pleasant valley walks along the River Derwent.

There are a host of walks (typically 10 miles+); favourites including the higher fells of Scafell (from Seathwaite), Great Gable, Glaramara and Skiddaw.

Head over to Buttermere, Crummock Water or Loweswater (via Honister, Newlands or Whinlatter passes) and explore the other Lakeland valleys and fells from there. They are very different from Borrowdale, each with their individual personality.

Biking:

There are a number of bridleways for mountain bikers in and around the valley, with a mountain bike route going right past the Bunkhouse; the Borrowdale Bash Mountain Bike Route (approx. 17 miles). The Tour of Skiddaw is a tough 19-mile route that opens up into the wilderness around the back of Skiddaw. Be sure to not to use footpaths, as these are for walkers only! There is a mountain bike trail centre up at Whinlatter Forest (top of Whinlatter Pass), which is free to use (pay to park) and popular for mountain bikers of all abilities.

For the road cyclists, there are the mountain passes of Honister, Whinlatter and Newlands to conquer; not for the faint hearted, but flatter routes are a plenty, including a circular ride around Derwentwater (approx. 11 miles) and further afield out towards Cockermouth and Penrith.

Climbing:

Many climbers head to the local crags above the valley of Borrowdale and there are some well-established routes many of them. For experienced climbers we can suggest the following:

The Bowderstone itself is a great for bouldering for intermediates to experts. Just north from the Bunkhouse (towards the National Trust car park) is Woburns Face which has easy climbing, good for groups on a single pitch. Just up from the Bowderstone National Trust car park is Quay Foot Buttress, VS to E2 graded climbing. Shepherds Crags just above High Lodore Farm Café offers great routes for the novice, with single and multi-pitch climbs. These range from V Diff to E7 and offer great views over the lake. Goat Crag is nearby, on the Catbells side of the valley offering good summer shaded climbing on the (few!) hot days in the Lakes. Great End Crag, and Black Crag, just above Grange have pitches varying from V Diff to E4.

Swimming:

In the summer months Derwentwater is popular for a dip; wear a wet suit for some great wild swimming. Just 150m down the path from the Bunkhouse (head south and cross the road) is a favourite spot for a dip in the river; be sure only to enter any water according to your own ability.

Travel:

Bus: There is a bus stop only 400m from the Bunkhouse, on the Keswick-Borrowdale road; the bus route 77/77A or 78 stops here. The service runs the length of the valley and over Honister to Buttermere so it is worth grabbing a copy of the timetable (although there is a timetable at the bus stop). At the time of writing, the bus runs every other hour to and from Keswick.

Keswick Launch: The Keswick Launch (017687 72263) is the ferry service that stops to drop off and pick up at 8 various points around Derwentwater. The closest launch stop to the Bunkhouse is the Lodore Jetty just over 2 miles away. It provides a useful method of transport around the lake as need be, or is simply an enjoyable circular trip around the lake as it is!

Taxi: Taxi services are based in Keswick, including Davies Taxis (017687 72676) and Derwent Taxis (017687 75585).

Maps:

The best map for walking in the Borrowdale area is the OS 1:25000, OL4 (North Western area); the most suitable for biking is probably the OS Landranger 90, Penrith and Keswick 1:50000.

Eating and Drinking:

The best selection of pubs and eateries can be found in Keswick, however the Scafell Hotel (017687 77208) in Rosthwaite is popular. It is only a 1½ mile walk away, mostly along footpaths or a short drive down the valley. (If walking, head south along the footpath from the Bunkhouse until you reach the road. Continue

along the road for approx. 500m until you get to a large layby on your left. Go through the gate, and turn immediately right, and follow a delightful footpath along to Rosthwaite). The small hamlet of Grange has a tearoom, and do not miss Sheps Café (High Lodore Farm) just below Shepherd Crag; a peaceful place to sit down after a day's walking or climbing, with plenty of outdoor seating. Please note these are generally closed in the low season.

There are other pubs and tea rooms in the valley including Mary's Mount Hotel and bar, overlooking Derwentwater, and Langstrath Country Inn in Stonethwaite.

Other:

For the fishermen, there is the peaceful tarn of Watendlath, above Ashness Bridge, which is fly-fishing only; Go-Ape, a high ropes course up at Whinlatter Pass (01603 895500); there are a couple of canoe hire centres (Platty+ 017687 76572 and Nichol End 017687 73082) and outdoor activity centres such as Keswick Extreme (0800 001 6201), Newlands Activity Centre (017687 78463) or Keswick Adventure Centre (017687 75687). Honister Slate Mine (017687 77230), at the top of Honister pass is well worth a visit, including a via ferrata up a cliff-face overlooking the stunning Buttermere valley.

For more information or bookings, please contact the Calvert Trust:

phone: 017687 72255

email: bookings@calvertlakes.org.uk