

KENDAL



Culture guide

Whatever you love about culture, we know you'll find it in Kendal.

Read this leaflet to get a feel for the arts, festivals, attractions and taste sensations that make our town's cultural landscape so special and memorable.

visit-kendal.co.uk/culture

Ready to explore?

Welcome to Kendal's cultural scene. Our town is home to renowned art galleries, exhibitions and events, international festivals and a year-round calendar of live music, comedy and outstanding entertainment.



Our streets hide all manner of hidden gems - unique shopping, great food and creative communities.



There's so much to explore in our unique market town - small enough to explore at your own pace, vibrant enough to rival a city break.

Whether you're dropping by for a day of discovery, dreaming up a whole holiday of eclectic experiences or looking to delve deep into our town's history, heritage and vibrant culture - we can't wait to welcome you.



In this leaflet:

Kendal's Key Attractions

Kendal's Hidden Gems

Kendal's Festivals and Events



Top tips for embracing our culture

Soak it up on foot – even in just one day you can explore our unique shopping streets, taste great local food, take in some fabulous art and immerse yourself in our Kendal life.

Plan your trip around a festival or event – Kendal's famous for its festivals and we love to welcome visitors to celebrate with us.

Look out for child-friendly activities – our key attractions have plenty and all our festivals cater for families.

Take your time – Kendal is a place where you can slow down and stroll around, you'll be surprised at what you find.

Images:

Left: Screen Printing at the Factory, Lakes Alive, Kendal Museum
Right: Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Quaker Tapestry and Kendal Mint Cake

Kendal's key cultural attractions

Kendal's key attractions are renowned far and wide. From Abbot Hall Art Gallery's inspiring exhibitions, to The Factory's amazing creative spaces.

Every one has something for the whole family to enjoy.



Key Attractions

[Brewery Arts Centre](#)

[Abbot Hall Gallery](#)

[Museum of Lakeland
Life and Industry](#)

[K Shoes Heritage Centre](#)

[Quaker Tapestry Museum](#)

[Kendal Museum](#)

[The Factory](#)

Images:

Left: Lakes Alive Festival,
Brewery Arts Centre.
Right: Abbot Hall Art Gallery,
Museum of Lakeland
Life and Industry

Brewery Arts Centre 122A Highgate, LA9 4HE

Home to thought-provoking theatre, magic music, dramatic dance, side-splitting comedy and exciting exhibitions, the Brewery Arts Centre is the cultural hub of South Lakeland.

From humble beginnings in a disused brewhouse in the early 70s, The Brewery has grown into one of the North's leading multi-arts venues with a year round-programme of quality arts and entertainment events.

The Brewery boasts mainstream and arthouse cinemas, real-ale pub, pizza restaurant, vibrant café and beautiful gardens making it Kendal's number one entertainment destination and is bound to have something for you to enjoy whilst visiting Kendal.

Abbot Hall Art Gallery Kirkland, LA9 5AL

Abbot Hall Gallery has a national reputation for showing contemporary and historical works of art. Conveniently located in Kendal town centre, Abbot Hall is a stone's throw from the riverside, leafy Abbot Hall Park and Kendal Parish Church, it makes for an inspiring day out for all.

On permanent display is an impressive collection of eighteenth and nineteenth-century art. In the elegant period rooms visitors will discover works by Cumbrian born artist George Romney, one of the greatest eighteenth-century portrait painters.

Abbot Hall is also well known for showing an ambitious programme of temporary exhibitions by internationally renowned artists including Claude Monet, Auguste Rodin, Grayson Perry and Elisabeth Frink.



Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry Kirkland, LA9 5AL

Step back in time to see how the people of Cumbria lived, played and worked.

This quirky collection brings history to life through exhibitions, period rooms and a chance to wander down a Victorian Street Scene to explore a chemist and toy shop.

Galleries tell the story of the Arts and Crafts Movement, the industrial history of the Lake District and Kendal and Arthur Ransome, author of *Swallows and Amazons*.

The Museum of Lakeland Life & Industry is a must see for anyone interested in the history of this beautiful area.

Kendal's key cultural attractions

K Shoes Heritage Centre

1 Riverside Place,
LA9 7FH

Famously, for over 160 years high quality shoes and boots were manufactured at Kendal's 'K' Shoe Factory.

This unique heritage is displayed at K Village Heritage Centre, telling the story of shoe making in Kendal. A fabulous picture is painted of what it was like to live, work and play within a stones throw of the factory gates.



Quaker Tapestry Museum Stramongate, LA9 4BH

350 years of social history and fascinating human stories are brought to life in over 40 vibrant embroidered panels at the award-winning Quaker Tapestry Museum in Kendal.

Journey through the Quaker influence on the modern world: explore the industrial revolution, developments in science and medicine, astronomy, the abolition of slavery, social reform, and ecology; delight in the detail of the stunning needlework and the craftsmanship involved in its creation; and admire the historic 200 year old Georgian Meeting House.

With interactive displays, films, audio guides and children's activities there's something for visitors of all ages.

Images:
K Shoes Heritage Centre,
Quaker Tapestry Museum



The Factory

Aynam Rd, LA9 7DE

Breathing life into one of Kendal's most impressive post-industrial sites, The Factory Kendal is a dynamic collection of creative workspaces.

The Factory is a home for some of the North West's most exciting artists and creative businesses. Expect the unexpected, be inspired, diverted and delighted – and even head home with some unique artwork of your own.

The professional artists often welcome visitors during Open Studio Weekends (see visit-kendal.co.uk for dates) to feast your eyes on a huge range of creative activity from fine art, screen printing, textiles, sculpture, ceramics, furniture, glass design, weaving and much, much more.



Kendal Museum Station Rd, LA9 6BT

Founded in 1796, Kendal Museum is one of the oldest in the UK. This accredited museum has permanent collections of Natural History, Archaeology and Social History and has one of the largest taxidermy collections in Europe.

The collections are of national and international significance and are used by researchers worldwide.

There are three public galleries and an exhibition gallery, which houses various temporary exhibitions throughout the year.

Images:
The Factory,
Kendal Museum

Kendal's hidden gems

You can't beat a day of leisurely browsing with great food and inspiring company - and with so many special areas to explore, what better way to delve into Kendal's unique and quirky culture?

You'll be surprised what you find when you explore our town - unique independent shopping, vintage treats, creative communities open to enjoy, unforgettable food and so much more.



Independent Shopping

New Shambles Finkle Street, LA9 4AB

Linking the shopping streets of Market Place and Finkle Street this ancient path was once home to 12 butcher shops and known locally as 'Stinking Lane' due to the lack of drainage (which has since been improved!).

Vintage Quarter Dockray Hall Industrial Estate, LA9 4RU

Also enjoy a river stroll towards Dockray Hall, Kendal's emerging Vintage Quarter home to a fantastic selection of independent antique and upcycling stalls across three shops.

Images:

Left: Branthwaite Brow, New Shambles.
Right: Cross Lane Projects, Kendal Town Hall, Abbot Hall Art Gallery



To discover more hidden gems in Kendal's Yards and from our beautiful scenic spots follow Kendal's Cultural Trail. Pick up a Trails leaflet or head to:

visit-kendal.co.uk/culture

In addition to Kendal's famous Abbot Hall Art Gallery, we recommend exploring some of our smaller galleries including Cross Lane Projects which brings new contemporary art to Cumbria in a former Mint Cake Factory. The space presents a curated programme of three exhibitions a year by local, international and British artists with accompanying talks and events.

It's also worth visiting Wildman Street near the Train Station for Castle Dairy's own unique gallery and Kendal College's Wildman Street Studio's which hosts various exhibitions. There are several galleries on Highgate, explore them on your way to The Brewery Arts Centre, home to regular exhibitions at the Sugar Store Gallery, then finish in Kirkland at Youdells Art Gallery which features some of the best Lake District based artists.



Kendal's festivals and events

Food & Drink

Monthly farmers markets
Last Friday of each month.

**Westmorland Beer
& Cider Festival**
October/November.
camrawestmorland.org



Performance

**Monthly Comedy Club
at The Brewery**
breweryarts.co.uk

**Theatre performances
at The Brewery & The Box**
breweryarts.co.uk

**Freerange
Comedy Festival**
May.
breweryarts.co.uk

Lakes Alive Festival
A family friendly festival of
spectacular happenings.
September.
lakesalive.co.uk



Music

Midday Concert Club
Classical performances
every 2nd Wednesday.
Kendal Town Hall.
kendalmiddayconcertclub.org

Gigs at the Brewery
The Brewery Kendal
boasts an impressive
monthly line up.

**Mary Wakefield
Westmorland Festival**
Biannual event.
mwwf.org.uk

**Lake District Summer
Music Festival**
Series of classical concerts
held in Kendal across
fabulous venues including
Kendal Town Hall,
St Thomas' Church and
Kendal Parish Church.
August.
ldsm.org.uk

Rural / Agriculture Shows / Festivals

Country Fest
June.
westmorlandshow.co.uk

**Westmorland
County Show**
September.
westmorlandshow.co.uk

Kendal Wool Gathering
October.
kendalwoolgathering.co.uk



Local Festivals

Kendal Torchlight
September.
kendaltorchlightcarnival.co.uk

**Kendal Christmas
Lights Switch on**
November.



International Festivals hosted in Kendal

**The Lakes International
Comic Art Festival**
October.
comicartfestival.com

Kendal Mountain Festival
November.
mountainfest.co.uk



Images:
Left: Lakes Alive, LDSM Festival
Right: Kendal Torchlight, The Lakes
International Comic Art Festival,
Westmorland County Show

KENDAL



Welcome to Kendal!

We're more than a market town on the edge of the Lakes.

There's always something to do - whatever the weather.

Come and enjoy our national culture, arts and ambitious events along with quality shopping and spectacular surroundings that make our town unforgettable.

We hope you enjoy your time in Kendal.

Pick up our other leaflets:

Welcome to our town

Have a read of this leaflet to get a sense of Kendal.

Walking Trails

Experience the best of Kendal on foot.

visit-kendal.co.uk

