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Lowther Castle & Gardens, Lowther, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 2HH

- A New Day Out for Groups in the English Lake District -

The team at Lowther Castle has created a collection of experiences to enable group visitors to gain an insight into the world past & present of this magnificent estate.

Nothing will prepare you for the scale and beauty of Lowther Castle, set in a quintessential English parkland landscape. A remarkable ruined Gothic castle set in ancient Gardens – now an award-winning attraction. Your clients will leave feeling both enlightened and inspired not just by the setting of Lowther – which occupies a stunning and unspoilt corner of the Lake District National Park - but also by the story of the castle and gardens' transformation.

The restoration of Lowther Castle & Gardens is a remarkable story. In 1999, Lowther's gardens were overrun with weeds; the castle, deroofed in 1957, was derelict. Today, the castle ruins are planted as a garden while the remainder of the gardens, though still in the early stages of restoration, are winning wide acclaim in horticultural circles.

And Lowther is full of stories. Visitors interested in gardens and history will find lots to enjoy – so too will visitors interested in colourful characters. The family has lived in this spot since the 12th century and over those years, has had its fair share of eccentric and exciting moments. History, horticulture, architecture and fun. All in all, a unique attraction with a great deal to offer.

Take a look at the experiences currently available. Choose a simple visit; combine the visit with an insightful Garden tour and delightful dining; or make a day of it and book a visit to Lowther Castle & Gardens followed by a relaxing cruise on one of the Lake District's most beautiful and peaceful lakes, Ullswater.

Lowther Castle is very conveniently located - a stone's throw from Ullswater (only 5 miles away) and only 15 minutes from the M6 (J40). 30 minutes from Carlisle, with the Scottish border only 45 minutes away: a perfect place to break the journey while travelling north or south.

The team looks forward to your enquiry. They can tailor a visit to your needs and thus ensure you have a highly memorable visit to Lowther Castle & Gardens.



Please note: All prices are for the 2019 season

- Lowther Castle & Gardens Bookable Experiences -

Castle & Gardens Visit

Arrive to a warm Lowther welcome on your coach.

Take a short walk towards Lowther Castle. As you make your way downhill, the Castle is revealed in all its splendour*.

Your group will be led into the Courtyard for a 10-minute scene-setter. The guide will give a brief introductory talk on this magnificent castle's colourful life and the estate, which has been the home of the Lowther family for 850 years.

** this is a short stroll of about 5 minutes but if necessary, an alternative shorter route, through the Archway to the Courtyard is an option. The Archway also provides cover if the weather is not so good.*

Once the group has had a little insight into Lowther Castle, they can enter The Story of Lowther Exhibition, which leads to the Castle and ancient Gardens.

Everyone will receive a map of the gardens.

Admission rate to the Exhibition & Gardens is £7 per person.

This is a discounted travel trade rate, offered to companies making an advance booking for FIT and group clients. The meet and greet and introduction to Lowther Castle & Gardens is offered as an added value, optional extra at no additional charge to groups of 10 pax upwards.

DURATION: from 1hr minimum to all day, if desired

Castle & Gardens Visit, Stay for Refreshment, Lunch or Afternoon Tea

Your Meet & Greet on the coach; Courtyard introduction and entry to exhibition and gardens, followed or preceded by the catering option of your choice.

For pre-booked groups also visiting the Castle & Gardens, catering can be served in the Sculpture Gallery, which will be ready from 1 April 2019, having been beautifully refurbished by Jim Lowther's wife Vanessa. (Artist's impression right) The Sculpture Gallery has a picturesque view over the Castle ruins & Gardens.

At quieter times, the Café is available for pre-booked groups. The Café is before the pay point and overlooks the very attractive Courtyard, once the stableyard and home to a string of 50 horses.

Menu choices follow.

DURATION: minimum x 2hrs



Menu Choices

DESCRIPTION	PRICE PER PERSON
Morning coffee/tea with a tray bake	£4.00
Lunch of soup and sandwich with tea/coffee	£8.00
Afternoon coffee/tea with a cream scone	£4.50
Afternoon Tea, with a selection of finger sandwiches and savouries; scone and cake dainties, served with tea/coffee.	£15.00
A glass of bubbly is an optional extra.	£19.00
Cooked 2 or 3-course lunch - to meet with your clients' needs.	ON REQUEST

The catering options are available to groups of a minimum 10 pax and up to 60 pax

Castle & Garden Visit, with Head Gardener Tour

In addition to the Meet & Greet and Courtyard introduction to Lowther Castle, those with a particular interest in the Gardens are offered the special experience of a Garden Tour with Head Gardener, Martin Ogle.

Martin has looked after the famous 130 acres of garden for the last seven years since the very start of the restoration work. Tour highlights to include:

- the history of the rescue of Lowther Gardens from wilderness
- early intervention of international landscape designer, Dan Pearson
- design of the new Gardens including the Parterre and Garden-in-the-Ruins
- some well-chosen horticultural secrets
- free time to explore Lowther Castle ruins & The Story of Lowther Exhibition

COST: £10 (minimum 20 pax)

DURATION: minimum 1hr 45mins

(inc. Martin's tour of 45 minutes)

This is a walking tour of the gardens. As an option, a talk about the gardens with visual presentation using an extensive archive of images covering the full restoration project, can be presented within the seated venue of the Sculpture Gallery.

Castle & Gardens After Hours



Evening visit: we will open our doors for you to enjoy the peace of Lowther Castle & Gardens after hours.

A special way to enjoy a summer's evening. Dine with us or have canapés and refreshments before returning to your hotel for dinner.

Admission £7 and catering provided to your specific requirement and priced allocation. Available to groups of 20 pax upwards booking both admission and catering.

DURATION: minimum 2hrs

Please note: All prices are for the 2019 season



Lowther Castle & Gardens and Ullswater Steamers: Day Out

Combine a visit to Lowther Castle & Gardens with a lake cruise on the stunning lake Ullswater. Ullswater is an 8-mile journey from Lowther, the journey taking visitors through the chocolate box village of Askham, to Pooley Bridge or Glenridding. An 8-mile journey. Visitors can take the cruise before or after their visit to Lowther, combining a tour of the Castle & Gardens with lunch in the Sculpture Gallery or Café.

COST £14 plus your chosen lunch option at Lowther Castle & Gardens. Available to groups of 10 pax upwards.



* The route to Ullswater Steamers takes you through Lowther parkland. Notes for the tour guide are available to add interest to this journey. This includes the option of a brief stop at Lowther Castle church, which is always open. It is here you will find the final resting places of Wicked Jimmy; William the Good and the Yellow Earl.

DURATION: Full day

Tailor Made Tours

Looking for a more bespoke experience for your clients?

We will fine tune some special packages to meet the specific interest and time available for a visit with a difference.

These are special tours and activities to make a visit more unique for your clients. They include:

A Curator's Historic Tour of the Story of Lowther Exhibition. A Historic Tree Tour. A guided e-Bike Cycling Tour of the Estate or a Red Squirrel Tour with the Lowther Ranger (please note: 7am start).

For those with a very keen interest in gardens, a **Hands-on Gardening Activity** with Martin, the Head Gardener: a chance for your clients to play their part in the restoration of the ancient Gardens at Lowther.

Or the ultimate: a **Guided Tour of the Lowther Story Exhibition with Jim Lowther**, son of the 7th Earl of Lonsdale. This is a 30-minute tour, with anecdotes and secret insights from Jim himself.

Seasonal Events

Throughout the year Lowther Castle & Gardens organise various events from Christmas Markets to outdoor theatre. A full events programme is available online and information will be shared with travel trade as events develop.



Opening times:

Every day. Only closed Christmas Day

10am-5pm Summer (last entry 4pm) 10am-4pm winter (last entry 3pm)

How to get here:

FROM THE SOUTH:

M6 exit 39 Follow A6 north for 8 miles.
Follow signs to Lowther Castle

Distance: 9.5 miles

Drive time: 20 minutes

FROM THE NORTH:

M6 exit 40 Follow A66 east to next roundabout.
Follow A6 south for 3 miles
Follow signs to Lowther Castle

Distance: 6 miles

Drive time: 15 minutes

Time distance from:

Newcastle: 1 hr 45 mins

Liverpool: 2 hrs

Manchester: 1 hr 45 mins

Windermere: 50 mins

Carlisle: 15 mins

Coach Parking:

Free dedicated coach parking close to the entrance for up to 14 coaches.

Facilities:

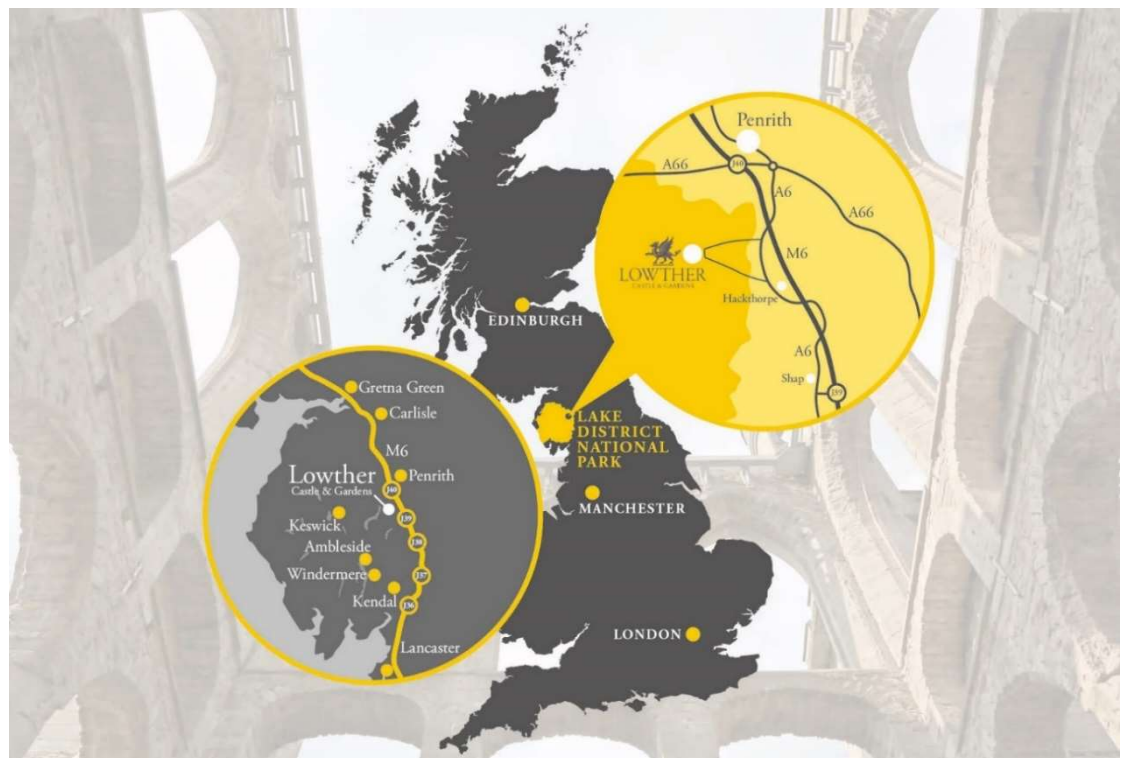
Loos: 18 in the Courtyard and a further 6 within the Gardens

Café

Free Wi-Fi

Exhibition

Castle Shops



Coach Driver & Tour Director Benefits:

Free entry for coach driver and tour director

Free meal or drink with cake for the coach driver and tour director

