

Craft Cottage

Your home in the Lakes

***Available from April to October
+ Christmas / New Year and Easter***

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Description



Croft Cottage nestles on the lower slopes of Catbells in the tiny hamlet of Little Town, just four and a half miles from Keswick. It was here that Beatrix Potter set her children's classic "Mrs Tiggy-winkle" and dedicated it to Lucie of Little Town, the local vicar's daughter.

The hamlet has eight houses, one of which is a working hill farm with Herdwick sheep and some cattle. Down the hill from Little Town lies the picturesque Newlands Church which still serves the valley as its place of worship.

The Cottage is an extended barn conversion on a traditional Lakeland building dating back several hundred years. It once accommodated both farm labourers and animals for the adjacent Croft House farm (now a private dwelling). The major conversion took place in 1968 and retained the slate pitched roof with a vaulted beamed ceiling, giving a light and airy appearance to the large lounge.

Croft Cottage achieved the four star grade awarded by Visit Britain in 2007.

Situation

Views of the surrounding fells from the Cottage show the wealth of unspoilt countryside in which it is set. The picture window in the lounge gives uninterrupted views of Catbells, whilst the front of the Cottage faces Causey Pike across the valley. From the garden many of the fells that form the Newlands Round can be seen by looking up the valley, whilst Skiddaw dominates the picture in the opposite direction.

For anyone keen to walk the fells, the Cottage is ideally placed for numerous expeditions. Copies of maps and Wainwrights are all available for you to use. For those wanting less strenuous exercise there are also several suggestions of low-level, easier walks to do from the Cottage. If the weather is suitable for swimming, the shores of Derwentwater can be reached in a little over half an hour's walk, or a five-minute drive. Water sports tuition and equipment are available at several locations on the Lake.

If you are happy to drive even the smallest distance, the whole of the North Lakes area is very accessible, holding attractions that vary from the host of specialist outdoor clothing shops in Keswick to the grandeur of the top of England's highest peak at Scafell Pike. Nearby Bassenthwaite Lake normally plays host to the famous ospreys who nest on the slopes above.

Keswick has an excellent Tourist Information Office in the Market Square but you will find details of many local attractions amongst our collection of leaflets in the Cottage. The famous Cumberland Pencil Museum and the becoming –famous Cars of the Stars Museum are both in Keswick. For excellent entertainment there is the magnificent Theatre by the Lake, which has a varied summer season with a professional company in residence.



Pubs, shops, transport!

There is a vast array of excellent eating-places in the area, as you might expect. (See the local information file for the ten places we enjoy eating at.) The closest of them is the valley pub at the Swinside. This is a lovely summer evening's stroll, but the one and a half mile walk back may be too much for some! There is ample parking, however, at the pub.

Although there is a small village shop in Braithwaite three miles away at the end of the valley, the place to shop is definitely Keswick, which has an excellent food store called Booth's. There is a varied market on Saturdays in Keswick and often a local Farmers' Market on Thursdays. George Fisher's shop is world famous for outdoor equipment of all kinds, together with walking maps and guides and hire of walking boots if needed.

Obviously due to its remote location, Little Town is not on a public transport route; however, Stagecoach do run a seasonal service which passes the lake end of Catbells – a walk of about 30 minutes from the Cottage. This service runs in both directions from Keswick through Borrowdale and Buttermere over Honister and Whinlatter passes. Both the bus service and the launch service on Derwentwater link in well with fell and valley walks. Good bus services run from Keswick to Penrith station, which is on the West coast main rail line.



Accommodation

The Cottage sleeps six in three bedrooms; a double room and two with twin beds. The rooms are fully equipped and contain the following:-

Front Porch

- log basket with supply of logs for stove
- hooks for outdoor clothing
- framed One Inch OS map of the Lake District

Cloakroom

- toilet and washbasin
- books

Lounge

- settee and armchairs
- nest of tables
- wood-burning stove
- satellite television
- DVD and video player
- radio, cassette and CD player
- maps and tourist information
- boardgames, playing cards and some prerecorded videos and CDs



Kitchen

Fully fitted with limed-oak units and integrated kitchen appliances

- 4 ring ceramic hob
- eye level oven and grill; second fan oven
- microwave
- refrigerator
- dishwasher
- electric toaster and kettle
- Kenwood mixer/blender
- two sets of crockery for six
- electric carving knife
- cookery books
- sets of glass tumblers, wine and sherry glasses
- mugs
- spare crockery and glasses
- numerous stainless steel saucepans and casseroles
- various cooking utensils, serving dishes, baking trays, etc.
- a selection of herbs for your use



Dining Room

- table and chairs
- sideboard with table mats, etc
- cutlery
- electric slow-cooker
- cafetieres
- fondue set
- wok
- radio/cassette player

Utility Room

- freezer
- washing machine and tumble drier (combined)
- extra sink
- steam iron and ironing board
- clothes drying racks
- cleaning materials
- shoe cleaning kit
- sewing kit
- first aid kit
- hooks for outdoor clothing
- spare light bulbs, emergency torch and candles
- hairdryer

Hallway

- vacuum cleaner

Bathroom

- bath
- separate shower cubicle with power shower
- toilet and washbasin
- wall mirror and light
- towel rails
- shaver point
- linen box
- wall-mounted electric fanheater

Master Bedroom

- kingsize bed
- tea making facilities
- wall-mounted television

Second Bedroom

- two single beds
- Wainwright's guides to the Lake District fells & maps
- A varied selection of books

Third Bedroom

- two single beds

All bedrooms have wardrobes, drawers and bedside tables plus spotlights for each bed.

The Garden

There is plenty of room to sit out on the front or back lawns and enjoy the peace of the surrounding fells. The washing line at the back of the Cottage enjoys one of the best views you could wish for! There are mature flowerbeds and small trees in all directions with a secluded paved area at the rear of the cottage, overlooked by no one except those on the summit of Catbells!

- chairs
- table
- small BBQ



Included in the overall cost are:-

electricity

oil for central heating

logs for wood stove

tea towels

bed linen

initial supplies of toilet rolls and dishwasher tablets

travel cot (Please let us know in advance if required)

waterproof mattress cover (Please let us know in advance if required)

Please note:-

- water is from a shared private supply, sterilised by chemical-free ultra-violet treatment
- the cottage is centrally-heated but the wood-burning stove in the lounge may be especially appreciated on cooler evenings!
- hot water is by immersion heater or by oil boiler
- private parking space is available for two cars
- smoke alarms are fitted and there is a fireblanket in the kitchen

Regretfully we do not accept dogs or other pets in the Cottage.

Smoking is not permitted in the Cottage.



What some of our 2009 guests had to say...

Perfect cottage for a winter holiday – snow on the fells, rust-coloured bracken, full becks and falls – we saw another dimension to the Lakes

Your cottage is by far the best we have ever stayed in in the UK – extremely clean, comfy and complete with all the facilities/utensils you could wish for

The scenery is spectacular and the ambience is something special

We have really enjoyed the cottage – it feels comfortable, spacious and very welcoming

A really exemplary cottage in a most peaceful and tranquil setting

Just perfect: good facilities and location, location, location!!

Lovely cottage, lovely views, lovely walks! Need we say more...

Don't just take their word for it –
come and see for yourselves!

Making a booking

- All our bookings are being handled by Cumbrian Cottages.
- Please telephone 01228 599960 to check availability and make a reservation.
- Alternatively you may visit their website and book online by clicking on this link <http://www.cumbrian-cottages.co.uk/property-details.aspx?productid=202623>

Arrival and Departure

Changeover day for the Cottage is Saturday.

Please do not arrive before 3.00pm

On departure day please vacate the property by 10.00am.

If there is anything else you need to know, please contact us as below and we will do our best to help.

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Craft Cottage

Directions

The Cottage is opposite the entrance to Little Town Farm.

From the M6

- Turn off at junction 40 (Penrith). Follow signs to Keswick on the A66. Ignore signs off the A66 for Keswick, continuing towards Cockermouth, until you see the turn off left through Portinscale, signposted Newlands Valley. Stay on this road until a RIGHT fork, signposted Newlands Valley and Buttermere. Pass the Swinside pub and continue down the hill to Stair. Follow the signpost straight ahead on bend to Little Town.

OR

- Turn off at junction 36 and follow the A590 and A591 through Windermere and Ambleside until you reach Keswick. Drive straight through the town, heading for the A66 towards Cockermouth and then follow the instructions above from the left turn for Portinscale.



Craft Cottage

Tariff 2009 - 2010

Commencing Saturday...	Rate per week £
Dec 20	700
Dec 28	1030
Mar 27	630
April 3	710
April 10	630
April 17 – May 22	600
May 29	790
June 5 – July 10	650
July 17 – August 21	810
August 28	730
Sept 4 – October 9	640
October 16 – October 23	870
December 20	720
December 28	1060

**Prices are inclusive of fuel (oil, wood, electricity)
and bed linen**