PRINTABLE TRIP ITINERARY

Lake District for £120 Per Person

Train from Edinburgh, private hostel room, Windermere, trekking and Grasmere.

3 nights	£120 pp	Train	4 days
TRIP	BUDGET	DURATION	GUIDE

What this guide includes

Actual or planned costs, a readable day-by-day itinerary, practical food and accommodation notes, and public transport station pairs where available.

Important: Historical costs are budgeting references. Verify current prices, route numbers, opening times and entry rules before travel.

Budget and transport

Expense	Cost per person
Edinburgh Waverley ↔ Oxenholme return train	£18
Private room in a youth hostel — 3 nights	£50
Bus to Windermere	£6
Hostel breakfast	£5
Grasmere Gingerbread	£20
3 handmade soaps	£8
Trekking / walking	£0
Most food	Brought from home
Other local spending	About £13
Total trip budget	£120

Bus, train, tram and ferry route card

Mode	Service	Board at	Get down at	Approx. fare	Note
Train	Avanti/TransPennine/ScotRail connection	Edinburgh Waverley	Oxenholme Lake District	Check advance rail fare	Change at Oxenholme for Windermere unless the booked service is through.
Train	Windermere branch line	Oxenholme Lake District	Windermere	Usually included in through Windermere rail ticket	Main rail gateway for the central Lakes.
Bus	Stagecoach 599	Windermere rail station	Bowness, Ambleside or Grasmere	About £3-7 single or day-ticket coverage	Choose the named stop closest to the day’s walk.
Bus	Stagecoach 555	Windermere / Ambleside corridor	Grasmere or Keswick	About £4-10 single or day-ticket coverage	Check seasonal frequency and last return service.

Checked October 2026: confirm live schedules and disruptions in the official operator planner.

Day-by-day itinerary and practical notes

Three nights, a private hostel room, return train from Edinburgh, Windermere, a day of trekking, Grasmere Gingerbread and local souvenirs — all for around £120 per person.

Prices are historical rather than live quotations. Use them as a budgeting reference and verify current fares, entry fees and booking conditions before travelling.

The Lake District can easily become an expensive UK break once you add train fares, accommodation, eating out and activities. We approached it differently. We booked our rail tickets early, stayed in a private room in a youth hostel, carried most of our food from home and spent a lot of the trip doing what the Lake District is best for: walking.

Is the Lake District expensive to visit?

It can be, but it does not have to be. Our completed three-night Lake District trip cost £120 per person. We kept the total down by booking transport early, sharing a private hostel room, bringing most food from home and choosing walking routes and viewpoints instead of paid attractions.

Accommodation, last-minute rail fares and eating out are the costs most likely to make a Lake District break expensive. Travelling outside peak weekends and comparing the full journey cost before booking can make the biggest difference.

Our Lake District budget

How to replicate this Lake District trip

This trip worked because we booked train and accommodation early, kept food costs low and spent most of the time walking rather than buying activities.

We paid £18 return per person when booked together.

Our private room cost about £50 per person for three nights.

Walking, trekking and exploring Windermere and Grasmere kept activity costs very low.

Getting there: Edinburgh to Oxenholme

We travelled from Edinburgh Waverley to Oxenholme Lake District on TransPennine Express. A single ticket was around £11, but by booking the outward and return journey together we paid about £18 return per person.

We reached the Lake District in the afternoon, made our way to the youth hostel and settled in. We had deliberately chosen a private room, proving that using a hostel does not necessarily mean staying in a dormitory.

Food: another big saving

As with our London trip, we carried much of our own food from home. That kept restaurant spending low and left more of the £120 budget available for getting around and enjoying the trip. On one morning we chose to have breakfast at the hostel for £5 per person.

Day 1: Windermere

Our first full day was about Windermere. The bus cost around £6 per person. Once there, we spent our time exploring rather than paying for a packed schedule of tours and attractions.

One of the best things about the area is that the scenery itself is the experience. We could wander, enjoy the lake and take our time without needing to buy a ticket every hour.

Day 2: Trekking and exploring on foot

Our second full day was the most straightforward budget day of the trip: we walked. We went on a trek in the Lake District and then explored the nearby town and local area on foot.

That meant no expensive guided activity and almost no sightseeing cost. Fresh air, mountain views, lakes and a long day on our feet were some of the best memories of the trip.

Day 3: Grasmere Gingerbread and local shopping

Our train back to Edinburgh was in the afternoon, so we used the morning for a relaxed final outing and some local shopping.

We visited the famous Grasmere Gingerbread shop and bought a pack for around £20. We also browsed for local products including homemade jams and pure honey.

We bought three handmade soaps for £8. Even these treats and souvenirs were included in our overall £120-per-person budget.

How we kept food costs low in the Lake District

We carried our own food for most of the trip. We did pay £5 for a hostel breakfast, but the rest of the trip was not built around restaurant spending.

Read our food-saving guide →

Why this trip worked on £120

- We booked the return train early for about £18.
- We used a private hostel room rather than a conventional hotel.
- We carried most of our food from home.
- We used a low-cost local bus for Windermere.
- Much of our sightseeing was walking and trekking.
- We still left room in the budget for breakfast, gingerbread and local souvenirs.

Would we travel this way again?

Absolutely. What made the trip memorable wasn't an expensive hotel or a long list of ticketed attractions. It was the scenery, the walks, Windermere, the local shops and having enough flexibility to enjoy the destination at our own pace.

Budget traveller's quick summary

Route: Edinburgh Waverley → Oxenholme Lake District

Length: 3 nights / 2 full days, plus arrival afternoon and departure morning

Train: TransPennine Express, about £18 return per person when booked together

Accommodation: private room in a youth hostel, booked via Booking.com

Accommodation cost: £50 per person for 3 nights

Highlights: Windermere, trekking, local exploration, Grasmere Gingerbread and local shopping

Total: about £120 per person

Practical guides behind this budget

More real UK budget trips

Our walking-trip gear

For walking-heavy UK trips, this is the kind of kit we rely on. Prices are what we paid, not today's retail prices.

We used our normal UK mobile plan rather than buying a separate travel SIM.

Our trekking footwear for trails and rougher walking routes.

Our regular rain layer; we normally rely on the jacket instead of carrying an umbrella.

Carried on all our trips for long days away from a socket.

We use both walking and thermal pairs depending on the conditions.

A lightweight item we regularly carry for walking, hostel and outdoor trips.

See our complete travel kit →

Before you travel

Reconfirm every fare, stop, timetable, visa or entry requirement, baggage rule and food-import restriction with the responsible provider.