

## Quick overview

Windermere, Ullswater, Coniston and Thirlmere are free to fish. You will still need a standard environment agency rod license (under 16s free) for these and any other waters in this guide. Tickets must be bought for all other lakes. Some tickets cover 2 or 3 lakes at a time. Each lake is detailed below:

## Bassenthwaite

Pike, perch, roach, dace, chub, minnow, ruffe. A few brown trout, very occasional salmon and sea trout. Eels are also making a comeback here. permits can be bought online from the national park website. 2024 prices are: 1 day: £7, 7 days: £20, 3 months: £40, 12 months: £50

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**The National Trust day permit** covers 3 lakes – Crummock, Buttermere & Loweswater. Day permits are available to buy from the machines in the National Trust car parks in Buttermere (sat nav CA13 9UZ) and Crummock Water (CA13 0RT). These machines only take coins!

It's therefore easier to buy a permit through the **pay by phone app**. To do this, you must first download the app to your phone and enter the **code 804483** when prompted. You can buy day, week and annual tickets.

£5 per day per craft for boating, payable at the car park machine or through the pay by phone app as described above.

- £65 per year for annual boating permits (January to December or pro rata for rest of year)
- £10 per day for fishing, payable at the car park machine or through the pay by phone app as described above.
- £100 per year for annual fishing permits (January to December or pro rata for rest of year)

## ----- Crummock Water

A very few pike and perch. Some decent brown trout & char.

## Loweswater

Good pike and perch and some decent brown trout. National Trust day permit as described above.

**Ennerdale**

Char and brown trout, now free fishing.

**Wast Water**

No fishing according to the National Trust, but some anglers still sneak on from time to time.

**Thirlmere**

Free fishing for pike, perch & brown trout plus stunted char. Access is difficult.

**Grasmere**

Good for pike, perch and roach. Underfished for roach and perch with fish often in the 2-3lb range. W.A.D.A.A. Day permits required £3-£12 from WADAA website or from Barney's newsagent in Grasmere.

**Rydal Water** – same tickets / rules as Grasmere as under WADAA.

**Ullswater**

Free fishing for brown trout, perch, schelley (also known as gwyniad – rare dace-like fish once fished in great numbers in the lakes).

**Haweswater**

schelley, brown trout & perch, free fishing

**Windermere**

Difficult access in places. West shore best but parking obv difficult. Free fishing for big pike, perch, brown trout, char, bream, roach and even occasional tench and carp. Very small no. of salmon and sea trout towards the end of the year. Sadly pollution problem with algae blooms affect water quality.

**Coniston**

Free fishing & good access and parking. Pike, perch, brown trout and good numbers of char. Occasional sea trout and salmon run up the river crake from the estuary near barrow into the lake.

**Elterwater**

No fishing allowed but plenty of pike and big perch. Tough access.

### **Esthwaite**

Commercial fishery, but natural lake with big pike, perch, roach and bream. Stocked with brown trout in the summer months. Very expensive ticket prices.

### **Derwentwater**

Good perch on lob worm right under the hire boats near the shore early or late after the tourists. Best fished from a boat for the numerous small pike and perch. Some good larger brown trout, roach, dace and ruffe here too. Day tickets from the tourist information centre in Keswick town centre (issued on Keswick Anglers Association). Prices are similar to bassenthwaite £7 per day, £20 for 7 days.

Keswick Anglers have a very informative website, with detailed maps showing where its members can fish on the Rivers Greta and Derwent (above and below Keswick) - <https://www.keswickanglers.co.uk/resources/maps/>

### **Other locations**

Windermere Anglers have a fantastic mixed course water at Ratherheath Tarn. Private and secluded woodland setting just a couple of miles from Kendal. Good wheelchair access. Koi, grass, mirror and crucian carp, roach, crucian carp, bream, tench, perch, gudgeon, eels. The roach and bream fishing can be superb with plenty of skimmers and larger bream in the 5lb – 7lb range. Carp top out around the twenty-five pound mark but there are large numbers in the low to mid teens.

### **Brothers Water**

Eastern Lakes - Located at the bottom of the Kirkstone Pass on the Ullswater side, free fishing for a few pike, perch and lots of brown trout.

### **Mirehouse Pond**

South Whitehaven, on the route towards St Bees from the main hospital road. Day ticket from the 2 tackle shops in Whitehaven or mirehouse post office. Common and mirror, F1 and crucian carp. Eels, roach, rudd, tench and gudgeon.

### **River Eden**

Plenty of grayling and chub opportunities on the river eden in winter. Carlisle AA have a very cheap winter ticket which covers from the motorway down to Rockcliffe – a total of 4.5 miles! Warwick Hall Estate is another great beat –

day tickets must be booked in advance. Lazonby Parish water permits can be bought from the post office which opens at 8.30 for game and course fishing.

### **Blenham Tarn**

Another Windermere Anglers Association water with some difficult access but good pike perch and roach.

### **Loughrigg Tarn**

Permits from Tarnfoot Farm, where you can also park. Good for pike, perch, roach and tench. This water is located in the Langdale valley, and well worth a visit.

### **Ulverston Canal**

Permits from the warden on the bankside. Pike, roach and some big tench.

### **Killington Lake**

Day tickets from the loch-keeper's cottage for pike, roach, perch and stocked trout.

### **Kendal/Lancaster Canal**

Kendal Anglers issue permits for the Cumbria stretch. Lots of small pike, roach and perch.

### **Ellerbeck Course Fishery, Brigham**

A great little water, stuffed with fish. Just start fishing and the owner will collect your money from the bankside. Some very big common, mirror and crucian carp. Rudd, perch, tench, bream, roach and hybrids on the bigger pond. The smaller quarry pond behind is packed with crucians, rudd roach, bream and the occasional tench and mirror carp.

### **Cogra Moss**

Cockermouth Angling Association sell a day ticket permit for stocked rainbow trout. Watch the Ospreys dip across from Bassenthwaite for a free lunch during spring. Fly fishing only here.

### **River Peterill**

Free fishing out of Carlisle by the motorway. Surprisingly good grayling and brown trout on this stretch.

### **Lonsdale Lake complex**

South east of Carlisle, a total of 7 waters stocked with specimen fish. Expensive permits.

## **Mountain Tarns**

There are many mountain tarns across the Lakes which are free to fish, mainly for stunted brown trout. Harrop, Grizedale, Bleaberry, Blea, Sprinkling, styhead, and Angle Tarns are just a selection. Many more are worth a dabble.

**Winderemere Ambleside and District Angling Association** have a grand total of 20 waters for coarse and game. This is a very well run and active club and well worth joining. Check [www.lakedistrictfishing.co.uk](http://www.lakedistrictfishing.co.uk) for a comprehensive overview of the club and its waters and how to join its annual waiting list.

Angling information collated by LDC Aquarium, South Quay, Maryport, Cumbria, CA15 8AB, 01900 814774. We hope it is useful for new anglers.

Please forward catch images to [info@coastaquarium.co.uk](mailto:info@coastaquarium.co.uk)

Why not visit our tackle shop, which sells love bait for sea anlocated inside the aquarium at Maryport.