

# ROTHAY MANOR



*Local Guide*

# WELCOME

*Welcome to Rothay Manor, where local knowledge meets boutique luxury. Our local guide is your key to unlocking the charm of Ambleside and its surroundings. Inside, you'll find handpicked recommendations for shops and cafés, and a curated list of must-see sites and museums. Let us be your compass as you embark on a journey to discover the hidden gems of our beloved Lake District.*



# AMBLESIDE

*Our home, the lovely town of Ambleside, is famous for its walks (and England's largest natural lake) but did you know it is also steeped in a history that spans back to ancient times, with the very first evidence of recorded history dating back to the Roman era.*

*The Roman 'Galava' Ruins, thought to have originally been a fort that held over 500 soldiers, dates back to the 2nd Century AD. Later, Ambleside became a trade hub for local wool in the middle ages and, in the 17th century, the town was given the charter to hold a market. Some extremely famous figures have links to the Lake District including social theorist Harriet Martineau, who lived at The Knoll in Ambleside; poet Wordsworth; art critic John Ruskin and story writer Beatrix Potter*

## OUR FAVOURITE SHOPS & DELI'S

### *Deli's*

The Rattle Ghyll Deli is the perfect spot to pick up local produce to take home with you and has an impressive, locally distilled gin collection.

### *Cafés*

Our favourite café's are The Apple Pie Café and Bakery (of course famous for it's apple pie), The Copper Pot (delicious cakes) and Mr H's Tearoom (fresh scones and the friendliest service).

### *Boutique shops*

Herby Jack's and The Bath House (the local toiletries in your bedrooms) are both lovely boutiques for gifts and treats.

### *Clothing shops*

A trip to The Lake's isn't complete without ensuring you go on a little (or long) ramble. We have lots of Hunter wellies for you to borrow in our boot room and in case you've forgotten anything (or like us.. can never have enough outdoor kit), our favourite clothing shops are The Climber's Shop, Adventure Peaks and Epic Centre – all in Ambleside and walking distance from the hotel.

## SITES TO SEE

### *The Bridge House*

Possibly the most photographed building in the Lake District, and a popular subject for many artists, including Turner.

### *Skelghyll*

A large, beautifully untamed woodland just a short walk from the centre of Ambleside, you could spend a whole day here wandering the trails (this is one of our recommended Rothay Rambles which includes Stag Shaw Gardens and Jenkins Crag).

### *Stock Ghyll Force*

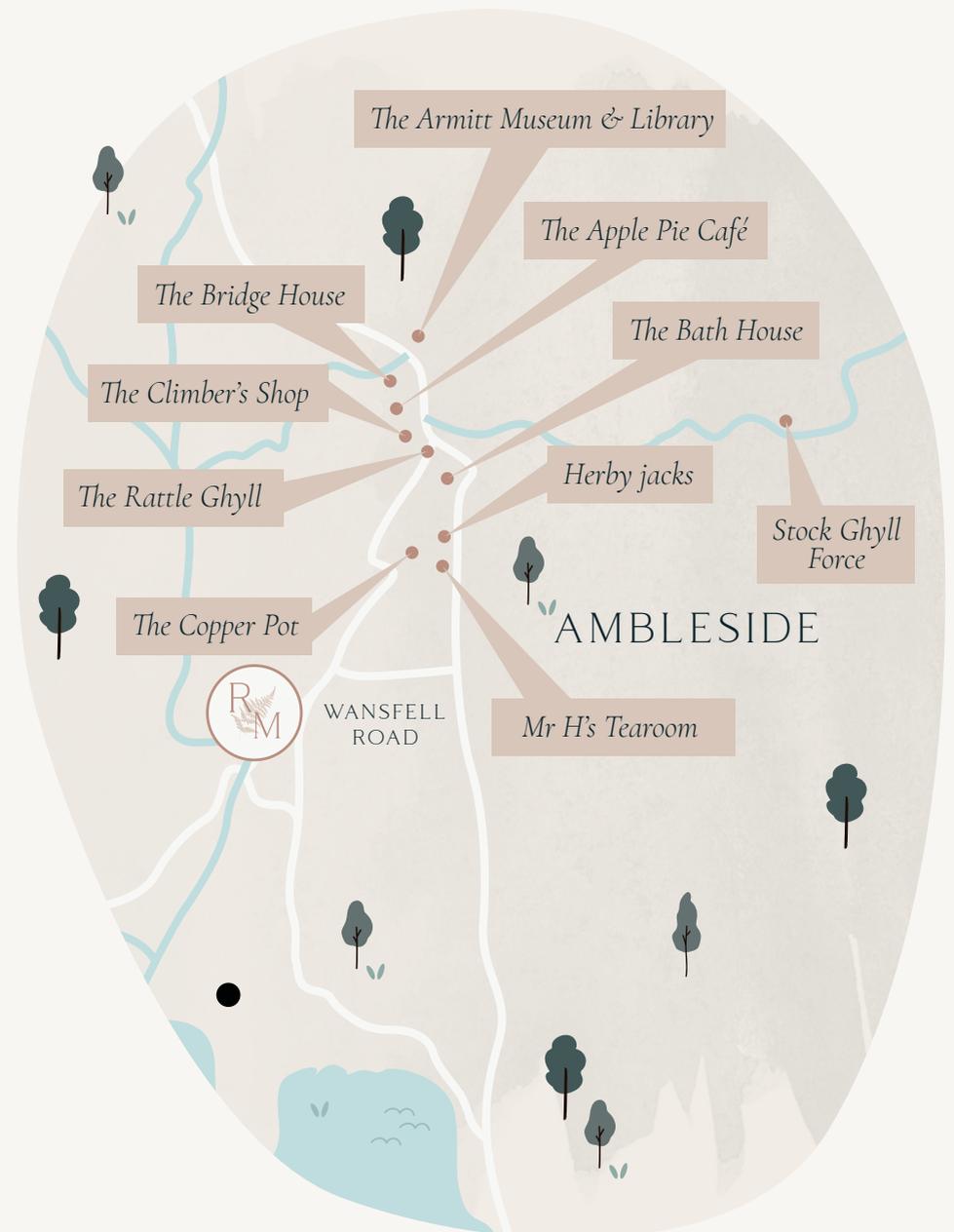
A spectacular 70ft waterfall, located in scenic woodlands.

### *'Galava' Roman Ruins*

Dating all the way back to 2nd Century AD.

### *The Armit Museum & Library*

Full of interesting objects telling the history of Ambleside.



# THE LAKES & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

*Surrounded by the serene beauty of the Lake District, Ambleside is a gateway to picturesque villages like Hawkshead and Grasmere. Each village exudes charm with cobbled streets and historic cottages. Nearby, the majestic waters of Windermere Lake and Ullswater offer stunning vistas and tranquil boating experiences. The lush, rolling hills and sparkling lakes create a perfect backdrop for exploring local heritage, immersing in nature, and finding quintessential British countryside charm.*

## ON THE WATER

### *Windermere Lake Cruise*

Take to the water to truly experience our beautiful surroundings. There are different routes available and you can hop on and off at your favourite attractions, or just sit back and relax, and watch the mountains, woodlands and islands unfold before you.

### *Ullswater Steamers*

The cruises connect to some of the most famous and iconic walking routes in the Lake District. One of our favourite routes is to take the boat from Glenridding Pier House and either jump off at Howtown or Aira Force Waterfall.

### *The National Trust's Steam Yacht Gondola & Tarn Hows in Coniston*

Enjoy the charm of luxury travel once experienced by wealthy Victorians aboard the oldest gondola in Northern England. You can disembark the Victorian vessel at Brantwood House & Garden, the former home of John Ruskin, the 19th century writer, artist and social reformer, to explore its 250 acres of beautiful gardens complete with its own restaurant. Or make a day of it by combining a trip to the beautiful Tarn Hows, and enjoy an easy, circular walk around the lake (approx. 2 miles on level paths). Trumper all terrain scooters are available to borrow so visitors who are less mobile can keep pace with walking companions.

## VILLAGES

### *Hawkshead – 15 minute drive.*

This honeypot village was originally part of the Furness Abbey estate, with the monks residing at Hawkshead Hall just outside the village. Now, only the National Trust-owned Hawkshead Courthouse remains - an ancient monument and the only one of its kind in the Lakes. The village is worth a visit alone for the wonderful ice cream shop, but from here you can also take a scenic 45 minute walk to Hill Top at Far Sawrey, the home of Beatrix Potter. For the more adventurous, combine this with a Segway tour of Grizedale forest.

### *Grasmere - 10 minute drive.*

We highly recommend walking here on a lovely day along the 'coffin route' (they used to carry the dead from Ambleside to the consecrated grounds at St Oswalds church in Grasmere – and you can still see the resting places). The route passes Rydal Mount and Dove Cottage (former homes of William Wordsworth) and the caves along the shore of Rydal Water.

This beautiful village is charmed with cute cottages, shops, pubs and cafes and home to the "famous" gingerbread (still sold in the original cottage where Victorian chef Sarah Nelson once lived and created this delicious treat in 1854).



# HOUSES & MUSEUMS

*The Lakes region boasts an abundance of captivating historical attractions that beckon travellers with their timeless allure. From ancient ruins steeped in mystery to grand estates echoing with the whispers of bygone eras, the array of choices is as vast as the horizon. Amidst the landscapes, each site holds a unique tale waiting to be discovered. So, when the clouds gather and raindrops appear, wanderers find solace in these historic havens, where the past intertwines with the present, creating moments of enchantment and wonder. Here, amidst the gentle patter of rain, visitors can immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of history, tracing the footsteps of those who came before. Whether exploring medieval castles or strolling through quaint villages, every corner of the Lakes reveals a story, and a glimpse into the past.*

# HOUSES & MUSEUMS

## *Brantwood House & Garden*

The home of John Ruskin, the 19th century writer, artist and social reformer.

## *Blackwell*

The Arts & Crafts house is a rare architectural gem in the heart of the Lake District and offers a perfectly preserved snapshot of early 20th-century living.

## *Honistor slate mine*

For the more adventurous! This is England's last working slate mine and outdoor activity centre. Join guided mine tours, to explore deep underground and learn about the fascinating world of slate mining, or try heart-racing adrenaline activities like Via Ferrata and Canyoning.

## *Townend*

The preserved family home of the Browne's, farmers who lived here for 400 years.

## *Windermere Jetty Museum*

A vibrant, family-friendly visitor attraction dedicated to the boats, people and rich history of Windermere - England's largest natural lake.

## *The World of Beatrix Potter*

A magical indoor attraction that brings to life all 23 Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit tales.

