YOUR GUIDE TO KIELDER WATER & FOREST PARK

KIELDER WATERSIDE

With panoramic views of the reservoir, this is the ideal base to recharge and refresh or take part in an action packed day of activities.

Facilities are open to both day visitors and staying guests. Opening times are seasonal, please call before you arrive or check online at www.kielderwaterside.com.

Come here to:
• Have a meal and drink in the onsite pub, the Boat Inn.
• Enjoy a seasonal meal in The Hide, brand new for 2017.
• Go to the Kielder Water Birds of Prey Centre.
• Enjoy Go Active activities including fencing, Sea Scooters, Water Walkerz, archery, crossbow and more (pre-booking essential).
• Board the Osprey ferry (subject to pre-booking and timetable - the timetable can be downloaded from www.visitkielder.com).
• Start a walk or bike ride along the Lakeside Way.
• Unwind in the sauna or swim in the heated indoor pool (pre booking required).
• Play miniature golf or try out the children’s play area.
• Visit the red squirrel hide.
• Shop for souvenirs and essentials in our onsite shop.
• Hire pleasure boats (seasonal) and fishing boats (pre-booking essential).
• Purchase fishing permits.
• Stay in a luxury lodge as part of a Go Active break.
• Bike hire available from April 2017.

Facilities include: Luxury four and five star self catering lodges, parking, W/C, disabled access

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Relax at Kielder Waterside

Can you spot a red squirrel?
DARKER KIELDER

A stargazers heaven! Kielder Water & Forest Park makes up one of the largest expanses of protected night sky in Europe.

Northumberland International Dark Sky Park was unveiled in December 2013. At nearly 580 square miles it covers Kielder Water & Forest Park and Northumberland National Park and is one of the largest Dark Sky Parks in the world.

Due to its pristine skies it was awarded gold tier designation by the International Dark Skies Association, making it the best place in England for people to view the heavens.

Star trails over Kielder campsite

Photo credit: Mike Dickson

There are lots of other great places to enjoy the night sky in Kielder Water & Forest Park. Some have 24 hour toilets and there are places to eat and stay located close to most of them.

If you want to enjoy a star-studded show, here is a selection of some of the top sites to discover the skies in Kielder Water & Forest Park:

• Tower Knowe Visitor Centre.
• Hawkhope car park.
• Kielder Castle and Kielder Campsite.
• Elf Kirk view point.
• Birsay, Falstone, Stonehaugh, Rochester and Lanehead villages.
• Observatory at Batlstoeds Hotel, Wark.

Some of these places have been designated as ‘Dark Sky Discovery Sites’ because they are especially dark. See www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk or www.visithumberland.com/dark-skies for more information on stargazing in Northumberland International Dark Sky Park.

KIELDER OBSERVATORY

Kielder Observatory is located in the heart of Northumberland International Dark Sky Park.

Come here to:
• Learn about the night sky and use the powerful telescopes.
• Meet experienced astronomers from Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society (KOAS) and learn how to take stunning photographs of distant objects in the Universe.
• Experience meteor showers (shooting stars) and other celestial events.

Those wishing to enjoy the panoramic views from the Observatory during the day (when the facility is closed) can park off the C200 in the lower car park for Skyspace and walk up the hill (50 minutes).

KOAS hosts events all year round - go to www.kielderobservatory.org to book onto an event to enjoy the full Observatory experience.

WHERE TO EAT AND STAY

PLACES TO EAT

Northumberland is famed for its home-grown seasonal produce, from lamb, beef and game to treats such as beers and ice creams.

Away from the visitor centres there’s a whole host of places to tantalise your taste buds, the difficult decision is choosing where. Are you looking for a restaurant? Perhaps a tea room or cafe, or what about a traditional English pub? If you’re thinking of bringing a picnic, you could even stock up at a local farm shop or village shop. Kielder Water & Forest Park has it all nearby.

PLACES TO STAY

There are many welcoming places to stay in and around Kielder Water & Forest Park in addition to the visitor centres. From B&Bs, cozy cottages and award-winning luxury lodges to caravan parks, campsites and glamping, there’s something for everyone. Bellingham, Byness, Falstone, Kielder, Otterburn and Stonehaugh are the nearest villages - to search for accommodation go to www.visithumberland.com.

For more information about dining or staying in Kielder Water & Forest Park, see www.visithumberland.com or call 0845 155 0236. You can also contact Bellingham Tourist Information Centre on 01434 220616.
**KIELDER CASTLE VISITOR CENTRE**

Best for: Cycling, mountain biking, walking and forest activities.

Formerly the hunting lodge for the Duke of Northumberland, the castle is now home to a variety of exhibitions. It is also the centre for cycling within the Park.

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**CALVERT TRUST KIELDER**

Challenging outdoor activities for people of all abilities.

- Self-catering accommodation in Scandinavian chalets, the luxurious Straker Chalet and George Clarke’s famous Sky Den.
- Activity Drop In days are available throughout the year and offer the perfect opportunity to try something new.
- Full and half day sessions can be booked in advance.
- **Come and try:**
  - Zip Wire and King Swing.
  - Indoor and outdoor climbing walls.
  - High and low ropes courses.
  - Canoeing, sailing and motor boating.
  - Orienteering and archery.
  - Laser clay shooting.
  - Relax in the hydrotherapy pool, infra-red sauna and sensory room.

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**TOWER KNOWE VISITOR CENTRE**

A great place to discover the area’s rich history - check out the interactive exhibition in the Explore Centre. It’s also a good way to find out what you can do and where.

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**Kielder Castle**

- **Come here to:**
  - Test your mountain biking skills or start a singletrack trail (buy mtb trail maps here too).
  - Hire, repair or purchase bicycles.
  - Enjoy light snacks and hearty warming meals at Kielder Castle Café.
  - Enjoy the Minotaur Maze and children’s play area.
  - Drive along the longest forest drive in the UK (toll road).
  - Start a walk or bike ride along the Lakeside Way.
  - Discover the lifecycle of the salmon at the Kielder Salmon Centre.
  - Visit the red squirrel room and great viewing hide.
  - Get **FREE** entry to the Forest and Dark Skies exhibition.

- **Facilities include:** Parking, W/C, disabled access, bike hire (nearby)

- Forestry Commission Ranger Service: 01434 250 209 or kieldercastle@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

- Opening times are seasonal, please call before you arrive or check online at www.visitkielder.com.

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**Tower Knowe Visitor Centre**

- **Come here to:**
  - Have coffee or lunch at Café on the water.
  - Visit the Explore Centre.
  - Take in beautiful views over Kielder Water.
  - Start a walk or bike ride along the Lakeside Way.
  - Board the Osprey ferry (subject to pre-booking and timetable, which can be downloaded from www.visitkielder.com).
  - Buy a fishing starter pack.
  - Shop for souvenirs, fishing tackle and outdoor wear.
  - Walk to Kielder Dam or Northumberland Wildlife Trust’s nature reserve at Falstone Moss.
  - Visit Kielder Water Sailing Club (new members welcome).
  - Visit the gift and homeware shop.

- Opening times are seasonal, please call before you arrive or check online at www.kielderwaterside.com.

- **Facilities include:** Parking, W/C, disabled access

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**Straker Chalet**

Opening times are seasonal, please call before you arrive or check online at www.visitkielder.com.

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KIELDER SALMON CENTRE

The incredible and unique life cycle of the salmon starts here! You can see how the Environment Agency raises thousands of young salmon to stock the River Tyne – the country’s most thriving Salmon River. It’s the largest conservation salmon hatchery in England and Wales, but that’s not all you’ll see here. Fresh water pearl mussels, one of the UK’s most endangered species are reared here.

Come here to:
• Take a free tour of the visitor centre to find out more about the fascinating life cycle of the Atlantic salmon and work of the salmon centre.
• See thousands of young salmon being grown for restocking to the River Tyne.
• Talk to our experts about their unique work and the secrets to breeding salmon.
• See fresh water pearl mussels, one of the UK’s most endangered species, being grown in artificial streams.
• Groups of four or more people can experience a free behind-the-scenes tour of the facilities and meet the people who carry out the vital conservation work (booking required).
• Enjoy a school or club visit (booking required).

Facilities include: disabled access and disabled parking on site, parking is also available at the nearby Kielder Castle.

Opening times are seasonal, please call before you arrive or check online at www.visitkielder.com.
A great way to experience the Park is from the trail that follows the 26 mile shoreline of Kielder Water. Hire a bike, walk or bring your horse.

Do a section and use the ferry for your return journey (don’t forget to check timetables and purchase tickets first) or complete the whole 26 miles. Whichever way you choose to travel the Lakeside Way, this handy guide below can tell you the distance before you set off. The map to the right shows the locations.

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* Distance can be reduced by 1½ miles by taking the Bull Crag shortcut.
NS North Shore route (Dam = Kielder Castle).
The average person walks non stop at around 2½ miles per hour.
**VILLAGES**

**KIELDER**
Close to the Scottish border, Kielder village is home to Kielder Castle Visitor Centre, Kielder Cycle Centre, accommodation, a pub, petrol station and village shop with cash facility and post office. You can access the 12 mile scenic Forest Drive from here.

**BELLINGHAM**
The main village of North Tynedale, Bellingham is a famous stopping point on the Pennine Way trail. It is home to the award-winning Heritage Centre, a range of accommodation, shops and eating places and a petrol station. Close by is Hauxley Linn; a superb family walk up to the spectacular 30 feet waterfall at the end of the gorge.

**BYRNES**
This small community lies on the edge of Kielder Water & Forest Park, only 5 miles from the Scottish border at Carter Bar. The Pennine Way passes through the village, which offers accommodation and refreshments for weary walkers.

**STONEHAUGH**
Stonehaugh lies in the south-east corner of Kielder Water & Forest Park, about 5 miles west of Yark. The Yarksburn Trail with its distinctive totem poles starts just outside the village. You will find toilets and a picnic area here and nearby are the Stargazing Pavilion and a campsite.

**FALSTONE**
Falstone is situated about a mile from the mighty Kielder water dam. There is a tea room, play area and a variety of accommodation both in and near the village. Every summer, the traditional Falstone Border Shepherds Show is held here. The Scell artwork lies a short walk from the village.

**GREENHAUGH**
A picturesque village with a pub nestling in the Tarset Valley. Enjoy a walk beside wildlife-rich hay meadows or along The Bistie Trail.

**FISHING**
If you’re new to fishing:
- Head to Tower Knowe or Kielder Waterside visitor centres where you can pick up a detailed Go Fishing guide and the required permits or buy a fishing starter pack.
- Go to www.nmwatersideparks.com for all the information you’ll need and also for weekly fishing reports.
- Tokens are required to fish on the burns, wild brown trout fishing can be booked via www.fishytyme.co.uk or 01573 470 612.

![Image of fishing at Kielder Water & Forest Park](image)

**BEST VIEWS**
You’ll see gorgeous scenery everywhere you go but here are some hidden treasures away from the main visitor centres. Don’t forget the Park is 250 square miles in total so plan how long it will take to get there and back.

- **Elffirk (NY 604861)**
  A beautiful view over Whitchope inlet and the dam.

- **Patterson’s Pause at Lewisburn Inlet (NY 642902)**
  A beautiful, secluded valley with unique suspension bridge.

- **Hindhope Linn waterfall (NY 783990)**
  A memorable waterfall, gorge and scenery. Please note this walk starts 12 miles north east of Kielder Castle on the Forest Drive toll road at the Bakehopeburn picnic site.

- **Bakethin Weir (NY 643911)**
  A Northumberland Wildlife Trust conservation area for local plants, birds and other wildlife including otters.

Map references relate to OS Explorer: Map OL42.

**TRAVEL INFORMATION**

Kielder Water & Forest Park is:
- 30 miles (50 min drive) from Hexham.
- 52 miles (80 min drive) from Newcastle.
- 40 miles (90 min drive) from Carlisle.
- 30 miles (60 min drive) from Jedburgh.

Check the ‘Know before you go’ page of www.visithkielder.com for handy tips and hints.

![Map of Kielder Water & Forest Park](image)

There is an unmanned, community run petrol station that accepts card payments only in Kielder Village.

Note the distance between the visitor centres and sites and plan enough time for your return journeys. Please respect any closures and restrictions. Parking tickets must be purchased but you can use your ticket at all car parks during the day so you only have to buy a ticket once.

The Forest Drive is recommended for 4 wheel drive vehicles (passable for 2 wheel drive driven with care) and subject to closure during bad weather.

Always check ferry timetables before setting off.
EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

With over 600 square kilometres of forest and 26 miles of shoreline to choose from, there’s definitely a trail for you.

Choose from:
- Leisurely family strolls, starting from one of the visitor centres.
- Challenging long distance trails (such as completing the Lakeside Way in one go).
- Or an extensive network of off-road tracks.

The rugged wilderness is also mountain biking heaven. Head to Kielder Castle visitor centre where England’s largest network of mtb trails start. There is everything from family friendly trails to hardcore single-track trails:
- Green trails such as Borderline are easy – they are suitable for beginner and novice cyclists.
- Blue trails such as The Osprey are moderate – they are suitable for intermediate cyclists and mountain bikers.
- Red trails such as Lonesome Pine are difficult – they are suitable for proficient mountain bikers.
- Black trails such as Deadwater black are severe – they are suitable only for expert mountain bikers.

To discover the right walking, cycling or horse riding trail for you, purchase a copy of the Trails Guide in any visitor centre or download it free from www.visitlet_kielder.com. More detailed mountain biking routes can also be downloaded from the mountain bike page on the website or are available to purchase at Kielder Castle.

Bike hire is available from Kielder Cycle Centre in Kielder Village, near the castle. The Cycle Centre offers cycle hire, cycle sales and accessories, as well as a wide range of electric bikes for hire or purchase. Call 01434 250 457.

Horse riders can bring their own horses. Riding is permitted on all forest roads. For up to date trail information contact the Forestry Commission on 0300 067 4200.

WIN A STAY IN A LUXURY LODGE!

Enjoy a 4 night break from the Woodland range of lodges at Kielder Waterside (new for 2017).

Set within the heart of Kielder Water & Forest Park enjoy the darkest skies in England, the largest working forest in England and the largest man-made lake in northern Europe, there is truly nowhere else like it.

To enter you can go online at www.visitletkielder.com/KG17 or fill the form out below and send it to us at KWFPDT, Tyne House, Horsley, NE15 0PA.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Postcode: __________________________
Email: ____________________________
Tel no: ____________________________
Where did you get this leaflet? __________________________

Terms and conditions apply. Please see www.visitletkielder.com/KG17 for full terms and conditions.

KIELDER WATER & FOREST PARK

Welcome to the greater outdoors. Crowned England’s number one visitor experience*, Kielder Water & Forest Park brings you nature on a grander scale.

We’re home to the biggest man-made lake in northern Europe, the biggest working forest in England and, along with Northumberland National Park, we are part of one of the largest International Dark Sky Parks in the world.

At over 250 square miles, if you haven’t been before, the best way to explore the Park is to start at one of our three main visitor centres (Tower Knowe, Kielder Waterside and Kielder Castle).

In this guide you’ll find out what there is to do and where to go to do it. Don’t forget, visitor centre staff have great local knowledge and are on hand to help with any questions.

More detailed information about Kielder Water & Forest Park can be found on www.visitletkielder.com or call 0845 155 0236.

Enjoy your greater outdoors!

Find us on facebook – www.facebook.com/kielder
Follow us on Twitter – @visitletkielder
Follow us on Instagram – visitletkielder
Follow us on Pinterest – pinterest.com/visitletkielder

All details were accurate as the time of going to print in February 2017. Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust accepts no responsibility for inaccuracies that may be printed in this guide. Please refer to www.visitletkielder.com for regular information updates.

* As voted by VisitEngland 2013.

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