YOUR GUIDE TO KIELDER WATER & FOREST PARK

LANDAL 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 so 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.
• Go to the Kielder Water Birds of Prey Centre.
• Enjoy activities including mini segways, segways, tomahawk throwing, archery, water walkerz, body zorbs and more (pre-booking recommended).
• 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.
• Use Revive where you can enjoy our gym, pool, sauna, steam and treatment room. Charges apply and booking is advised for our pool and treatment room.
• 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.
• Hire a bike.
• Visit The Boat Inn and discover the soft play and outdoor bouncing pillow.

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

NE48 1BT | 01434 251 000

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.visitkielder.com for handy tips and hints.

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 residential areas within the Park. 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 open seasonally and is recommended for 4 wheel drive vehicles (passable for 2 wheel drive, driven with care).

The ferry is seasonal; always check ferry timetables before setting off.
TOWER KNOWE
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.

Come here to:
• Enjoy ‘Wafflemaster’ - experience the perfect waffle and shake.
• 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).
• Purchase fishing permits or buy a fishing starter pack.
• Shop for souvenirs, fishing tackle and outdoor wear.
• Walk along the peninsula or to Kielder Dam.
• 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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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.

Come here to:
• Follow the Gruffalo themed trail (a must for families with young children)
• 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.
• Drive along the longest forest drive in the UK (toll road - open seasonally).
• Start a walk or bike ride along the Lakeside Way.
• Discover the life cycle of the salmon at the Kielder Salmon Centre.
• Visit the great viewing hide and you might see a red squirrel.

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

Forestry England Ranger Service: 01434 250 209 or kieldercastle@forestryengland.uk.

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

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CALVERT KIELDER
Holiday activities and adventure for all

Calvert Kielder is home of the Kielder ZipCoaster, Europe’s 1st AvatarOne™. Patented technology mimics the ups, downs, twists and turns of a roller coaster and the free-flying sensation of a zip wire to give riders the ultimate experience.

Come here to:
• Zip, abseil and King Swing
• Climb indoors and out
• Swing on high ropes and low ropes
• Canoe, sail and motor cruise
• Try target archery and axe throwing
• Experience laser clay shooting
• Stay in a range of chalets
• Be inspired in George Clarke’s Amazing Spaces Sky Den
• Relax in the hydrotherapy pool, infra-red sauna and sensory room

Facilities include: Accessible accommodation and instructor-led activities.

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

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DARKER KIELDER

A stargazer’s 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.

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 viewpoint.
• Byrness, Falstone, Stonehaugh, Rochester and Lanehead villages.
• Observatory at Battlesteads 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.visitnorthumberland.com/darkskies 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 throughout the year.

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 (30 minutes).

Kielder Observatory hosts events all year round but booking in advance is essential. Go to www.kielderobservatory.org to book onto an event to enjoy the full Observatory experience including:
• Family events for all ages.
• Main observing events.
• Specialist science and astrophotography events.
• Late night weekend events.

Photo credit: Mike Dickson

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 post office. You can access the 12 mile scenic Forest Drive from here (open seasonally).

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 Hareshaw Linn; a super family walk up to the spectacular 30 feet waterfall at the end of the gorge.

BYRNESS

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 Wark. The Warksburn 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 Stell artwork lies a short walk from the village.

GREENHAUGH

A picturesque village with a pub nestled in the Tarset Valley. Enjoy a walk beside wildlife-rich hay meadows or along The Bastle Trail.
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 café, 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, Byrness, Falstone, Kielder, Otterburn and Stonehaugh are the nearest villages - to search for accommodation go to www.visitkielder.com.

For more information about dining or staying in Kielder Water & Forest Park, see www.visitkielder.com or call 0345 155 0236.

WIN A STAY IN A LUXURY LODGE!

Enjoy a four night break in one of the Woodland range of lodges at Kielder Waterside, set within the heart of Kielder Water & Forest Park.

If you would like to complete a short survey on Kielder Water & Forest Park and be entered into the prize draw for the Woodland Lodge, please go online at www.visitkielder.com/KG19 or fill out the form below and send it to: KWFPDT, Tyne House, Mill Way, Horsley, NE15 0PA.

Terms and conditions apply, please see www.visitkielder.com/KG19 for details. Prize draw closes 28 February 2021.

Please tick to be entered into the prize draw and be sent a short online survey on Kielder Water & Forest Park. ☐

Please tick if you would like us* to contact you to keep you informed of our events and activities and to improve our service to you. ☐


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.watersideparksuk.com or search for Fishing with Northumbrian Water on Facebook for all the information you’ll need and for weekly fishing reports.
• A Tyne Angling Passport is required to fish on the burns or the North Tyne. This can be booked via www.tyneriverstrust.org or 01434 636900.

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.

Elf Kirk (NY 694861)
A beautiful view over Whickhope inlet and the dam.

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

Hindhope Linn waterfall (NY 783999)
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 Blakehopeburnhaugh picnic site.

Bakethin Weir (NY 643011)
Great views across Northumberland Wildlife Trust’s nature reserve and a chance to see the Kielder Column.

Map references relate to OS Explorer Map OL42.
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.
• Download a series of new wild walks leaflets from www.visitkielder.com. Take a virtual tour guide with you by downloading the walk on the ViewRanger app. Make use of a map and directions as well as photos, wildlife facts and audio clips.
• Download our four family activity sheets from www.visitkielder.com and learn more about our wildlife.

The rugged wilderness is also mountain biking heaven. Head to Kielder Castle visitor centre where England’s largest network of mtb trails start. The map to the left shows two of the routes, however many more are available. 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 proficient cyclists and mountain riders.
• 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.visitkielder.com. More detailed mountain biking routes can also be downloaded from the mountain bike page on the website or picked up from Kielder Castle or Kielder Cycle Centre.

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 Forestry England on 0300 067 4200.

Finally, if you’re looking for something different, why not go treasure hunting? Sign up to geocaching.com and find caches and trackable creatures placed in locations throughout the Park.

THE LAKESIDE WAY

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 see the scenery for yourself, or do the whole 26 miles. Which ever 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.

To check travel times and distances do a Google search for ‘Google Maps’ and put in the details of your journey. Check the road conditions before setting off. Take care of your vehicle and remember to park sensibly.

The average person walks non stop at around 2 ½ miles per hour.

Distance in miles

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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.

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ART & ARCHITECTURE

Kielder Water & Forest Park is home to a unique collection of visual artworks and, thanks to our long running, award winning Art and Architecture programme, it has become the largest open air space in the UK to experience art and architecture.

Located at sites around the lake and within the forest, this vibrant collection of art and architecture will surprise and intrigue you. The map above shows where most of the art works are. Purchase a copy of the Trails Guide from any visitor centre or download it from www.visitkielder.com to find out how to get there and make the most of your experience. The images below are a selection of the artworks in the Park. Detailed information on each one is also available at www.kielderartandarchitecture.com.

1. Mapping Minigolf - Wolfgang Weileder
2. Cat Cairn: The Kielder Skyspace - James Turrell
3. Freya’s Cabin - Studio Weave
4. Stell - Colin Wilbourn
5. Belvedere - Softroom Architects
6. Silvas Capitalis - SIMPARCH
7. Minotaur - Nick Coombe and Shona Kitchen
8. The Nick - Newcastle University
9. Janus Chairs - Ryder Architecture
10. 55-02 - Sixteen* (Makers)
11. Wave Chamber - Chris Drury
12. The Warm Room - Newcastle University

KIELDER SALMON CENTRE

The incredible and unique life cycle of the salmon starts here! Learn about why the Environment Agency raises thousands of young salmon to be released into 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 can see here! Fresh water pearl mussels, one of the UK’s most endangered species are reared here.

Come here to:
• Take a walk around the visitor centre to find out more about the fascinating life cycle of the Atlantic salmon and the work of the salmon centre.
• See the adult fresh water pearl mussels living in our artificial stream and the trout that are a vital part of their fascinating life cycle.

Facilities include: disabled access and disabled only parking on site. Otherwise please park at Kielder Castle car park, a 5 minute walk from the Salmon Centre.

The visitor centre is open daily 10am until 4pm from 1st April to 30th September.

NE48 1HX
Email: kielder.salmon.centre@environment-agency.gov.uk
Everyone is guaranteed a wild experience at Kielder Water & Forest Park. Here you can thrive in a natural world that is more than just a treat. It’s absolutely vital to our everyday lives.

Explorers can expect to find a host of wildlife in the varied habitats throughout the Park. Amongst the many species you might see are ospreys, red squirrels, pipistrelle bats, roe deer, adder, crossbill, salmon and otters, and there is an abundance of more common wildlife throughout the whole park.

Special places to see wildlife include Kielder Waterside’s wildlife garden and Bakethin Nature Reserve, managed by Northumberland Wildlife Trust. Take a ‘wild walk’ to Bakethin Hide and try brass rubbings by the pond, relax on a beautiful carved wildlife bench or use the bug periscope in the wild clearing.

Kielder is home to the largest remaining stronghold of red squirrels in England – you might be lucky to see these inquisitive animals from the hides at Kielder Waterside and Kielder Castle.

We have an award winning programme to reintroduce 1500 water voles to the Park; the largest water vole reintroduction to one place ever undertaken in the UK.

We currently have six pairs of ospreys at Kielder and to our visitors’ delight they return every year to breed. Make sure you visit Osprey Watch during the summer months to view an osprey on the nest, or why not take a guided cruise out on the water to see if you can spot an osprey catching fish in the reservoir.

For more information about where to see wildlife or upcoming events, ask in our visitor centres or check online at www.visitkielder.com/play/go-wild.