

The Lakeland Loop

In January The 106 Bus Partnership launched a new bus timetable on Tuesdays and Fridays which opens-up a multitude of new route options for days out around Cumbria. The most spectacular of which is a journey known as The Lakeland Loop. This is a full day bus trip traveling through the iconic Lake District landscape with time to stop-off and enjoy attractions along the way. The journey begins at 9.30am in Tebay and can be joined at any stop along the 106 bus route North of Tebay. Alternatively it can start at Penrith as the return 106 bus from Kendal will bring you back to Penrith on its last run of the day.

The 106 Bus will take you to Penrith Bus Station where you have a 45minute layover before joining the X5 service to Keswick. Alternatively you can alight the 106 at Penrith Railway Station and grab an ice cream at McDonalds and take a saunter around Penrith Castle before joining the X5 back at the railway station for your onwards journey at 11.20 (giving 55minutes layover). The X5 bus will take you along the A66, past the foothills of the iconic Saddleback Mountain and into Keswick with stunning views of Bassenthwaite and Derwentwater with the majestic Skiddaw and Grisedale Pike rising beyond.

The X5 service terminates at Keswick Bus Station which is outside Booths. There is a half-hour wait to join the 555 bus to Kendal, which gives you plenty of time to pick up a sandwich. Alternatively you can layover for an hour in Keswick and join the 555 bus an hour later. Both the X5 and 555 buses are double deckers so you can get up higher to enjoy the views, they are also furnished with very comfortable coach seats and USB charging points.

Your journey on the 555 gives you an hour to play with along the route to Kendal (unless you take that hour in Keswick). You can get off at any point along the route for an hour and join the later bus which arrives in Kendal at 15.02, giving you plenty of time to join the last 106 bus home from Kendal which leaves at 15.30. There are so many options it would be impossible to list in just one article, however you could choose to spend a hour at Castlerigg Stone Circle, Hayes Garden Centre in Ambleside, Lakeland Limited in Windermere, or have a walk around Grasmere village and pick up some gingerbread. This route leads you through globally celebrated landscape, most famously captured by William Wordsworth, indeed you may alight at Dove Cottage for an hour if you wish.

The full adult ticket price for the route is quite expensive at £30.30 but pensioners bus card holders travel free of charge to the passenger. However the operator will receive 58% of that ticket price back from the Local Authority. This means that taking The Lakeland Loop with your bus pass will provide £17.57 per person towards the cost of keeping these bus routes on the road. £6.96 will go directly to support the 106 bus route which is commissioned by a local charitable organisation, The 106 Bus Partnership.

The journey highlighted above was undertaken in February and timetables are subject to change so do check the bus timetables online before you travel or call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 (charges apply) if you don't have access to the internet. It is worth noting that there are public toilets available at Penrith Bus Station, inside Booths in Keswick and at Westmorland Shopping Centre which is just behind the bus station in Kendal.

There is a video log of the journey on YouTube here <https://youtu.be/VgYPYP4-Xkl> (approximately 19 minutes) for travellers wanting to know more about the route. Bus timetables can be found online here <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/buses/>