

The National Trust curate this intimate home as though she's just popped out for a walk.



Photo by Tony West

Clockwise from above: Lake District Summer Music Festival, Beatrix Potter and Hill Top.



HAWKSHEAD & AMBLESIDE



The life and work of a remarkable woman.

If you haven't been there yet, you should drop into Beatrix Potter's world-famous Hill Top farmhouse near Hawkshead. She bought it from the proceedings of her first book, the Tale of Peter Rabbit.

On her instructions, the National Trust curate this intimate home as though she's just popped out for a walk. You'll recognise some of the interiors from her later books and there are original illustrations in each room.

Hill Top is small and in demand, with visitors coming from across the world. You can sit by the fire in the sweet little pub at Near Sawry – or take a stroll down the lane to the quieter western shore of Windermere – while you're waiting for your timed slot.

On the drive to Ambleside stop by the Beatrix Potter Gallery to complete your Beatrix Potter morning, then on to the Lake District's first gastro pub – the Drunken Duck – for a leisurely lunch.

Then it's on to the busy little town at the top of Windermere. If the morning's visit has piqued your interest, the permanent 'Image & Reality' exhibition at Ambleside's Armitage Museum will satisfy you.

This is Beatrix Potter's remarkable story told through her own words and images and through a great wealth of archival material.

There are first editions of her "little books", plus exquisite botanical drawings and watercolours that are both scientifically accurate, and beautiful works of art. Image & Reality is a portrait of an extraordinarily rich life lived during a period of great social upheaval. As well as an artist and storyteller, Beatrix Potter was a naturalist, farmer and businesswoman who played such an important role in preserving England's best-loved landscape.

This cultural day could be rounded off with an orchestral concert in the town hall or church – during the Lake District Summer Music festival there are top names, premieres and one-off collaborations. Or perhaps a well-deserved G&T while watching a live-streamed performance of opera or ballet, or a classic movie, at Fellini's cinema?

USEFUL POSTCODES

Hill Top - LA22 0LF
Beatrix Potter Gallery -
LA22 0NS
The Drunken Duck - LA22 0NG
Armitage Museum - LA22 9BL
Fellini's - LA22 0BT