

GUIDE FOR GROUPS

MORECAMBE BAY



MAP

Images

Front Cover - Leighton Hall

Inside Spread (L to R) - Cross Bay Walks, Brief Encounter, Heysham, Piel Island, Furness Abbey, Ulverston, and Morecambe.



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WELCOME

Explore Morecambe Bay – a great place to experience amazing sunsets and discover natural landscapes.

Morecambe Bay stretches from the south west coast of **Cumbria** to **Fleetwood** in Lancashire, taking in some great traditional coastal towns such as **Morecambe** and **Grange Over Sands**.

At the heart of the Bay is **Morecambe**, a town which offers an excellent base to explore the wider area. **Morecambe** also provides a great traditional day out with the chance to bask in fresh sea air. With over five miles of promenade featuring the award winning **TERN Art Project**, attractive stone jetty, sand and pebble beaches and the ever popular **Eric Morecambe statue**, groups can take in the seaside air at a leisurely pace.

Just to the south lies the historic village of **Heysham**, home to **St Patrick's Chapel and St Peter's Church**, some of the finest Anglo-Saxon and Vikings sites in the Northwest. North of Morecambe is **Carnforth**, made famous by the 1945 David Lean film 'Brief Encounter.' Groups can experience the recreated **Refreshment Room** as part of a visit to the **Carnforth Heritage Centre**. The centre still shows the film today whilst displaying a wealth of railway memorabilia.

Back towards the coast is **Leighton Hall**. Renowned as a hidden gem set amongst the **Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)** this historic house presents fascinating tours and breathtaking displays by birds of prey.

The Bay also offers opportunities for a range of amazing wildlife experiences for groups, like watching the wildlife at **Leighton Moss RSPB Nature Reserve** (which has been host to BBC Autumn Watch). Leighton Moss features five birdwatching hides overlooking shallow meres with fascinating wildlife – from bearded tits and bitterns to marsh harriers and red deer.

On the northern **Cumbrian** side of the Bay groups are spoilt for choice with a strong selection of destinations and attractions worthy of a group visit. Historic houses like **Levens Hall** and **Holker Hall** provide exceptional group visits whilst the stunning ruins of **Furness Abbey** in Barrow were once one of the richest Cistercian monasteries in England. Head towards **Piel Island and Castle** by ferry for spotting seals lazing around the southern tip of **Walney Island**.

Many of Morecambe's larger hotels offer stunning views across the Bay to the Lakeland Fells beyond.

Suggested itineraries are provided opposite and you can download some **Free Images** from www.flickr.com/photos/exploremorecambebay for your own promotions.

For further enquiries call (01524) 582808 (Morecambe Visitor Information Centre) or visit www.exploremorecambebay.org.uk.

ITINERARY SUGGESTIONS

Itinerary 1: Discover Morecambe Bay's Hidden Treasures

Morning – Discover local history and heritage at **Carnforth Station Heritage Centre**.

Lunch – Stay to dine at Carnforth Station's **Brief Encounter Refreshment Rooms**.

Afternoon – Head through to **Morecambe** to browse the **Festival Market** (open Tues, Thurs, Sat, Sun plus summer Bank Holidays).

Alternatively visit the picturesque village of **Heysham** with its fascinating Viking landmarks and spectacular coastline.

Afternoon – Visit Morecambe's **Art Deco Midland Hotel** for an indulgent Cream Tea.

Itinerary 2: Explore Nature's Amphitheatre

Morning – Start at **RSPB Leighton Moss** and search for water and wading birds, deer, butterflies and otters.

Lunch – Enjoy delicious hot and cold food and locally-baked cakes at **Leighton Moss Visitor Centre Café**.

Afternoon – Take a tour of **Leighton Hall**, enjoying its stunning gothic architecture and sumptuous gardens. Birds of prey are flown every afternoon during the summer season.

Alternatively, head through to Morecambe to take a stroll along the promenade and discover the artworks, sculptures and stone carvings of the **TERN Trail**.

Evening – Take in a show at **The Platform**, Morecambe's music and entertainment venue.

Events or Activities to consider for groups:

- Experience the ultimate Morecambe Bay Experience – a **Cross Bay Walk** with the Queen's Official Guide (May to Sept).
- Enjoy the ever popular **Catch the Wind Kite Festival** (Early Summer) or the **Brass Bands concerts in Happy Mount Park** (Sundays May – Sept).
- **Heysham Viking Festival** promises re-enactments, stalls, food and music (July).
- **Morecambe Carnival** returns bigger and better every year (August).
- Wayne Hemingway's **Vintage by the Sea Festival** offers a spectacular weekend (Sept).

These itineraries are only suggestions.

Call **Morecambe Visitor Information Centre (01524) 582808** for more assistance in planning your ideal visit.

Details correct at time of print.

