How to find us

BY ROAD Leave M6 J 36 and follow the signs for A590 Barrow & Ulverston.

BY BUS For timetables and fare enquiries visit **traveline.info**

BY RAIL The Furness Line, north from Lancashire or south from Carlisle is a scenic coastal journey, calling at Ulverston. Services from Manchester Airport to Barrow-in-Furness also call at Ulverston.

For details of all public transport in Cumbria visit Traveline on **traveline.info**

FURTHER INFORMATION For enquiries about visiting Ulverston, booking accommodation or events, please go to **chooseulverston.co.uk**

Produced by Ulverston Community Partnership UCP

Made possible with assistance from Ulverston BID and Ulverston Town Council

ulverstoncouncil.org.uk ulverstonbid.org.uk chooseulverston.co.uk

Photos | a big thank you to all individuals and organisations who have supplied images to promote Ulverston

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Ulverston is proud to be a Fairtrade Town

2026 festival & events

28 March
LIGHT UP HOAD
Help us to Light Up Hoad - people will line the zig-zag path at dusk, up the front of Hoad Hill, all the way to the Sir John Barrow Monument.
Ford Park & Hoad Hill | uphoad.com

31 March - 14 April
SCARECROW FESTIVAL
Scarecrow showcase created by local charities and community groups, on display in Ford Park's walled garden. Free event.
Ford Park | ford-park.org.uk/events

5 April
EASTER FUN DAY
Family fun day to celebrate Easter in Lightburn Park.
communitysolutionsulverston.co.uk

11 April
FORD PARK SPRING FAIR
Family day out at Ford Park, featuring local traders stalls, children's activities, food stalls, and live entertainment.
Ford Park | ford-park.org.uk/events

18 April
ULVERSTON ECO FAIR
FREE event for all the family featuring over 30 eco-focussed exhibitors, eco-crafts, freebies, food and drink.
The Coro | ulverstoncouncil.org.uk

25 April
ST GEORGE'S PAGEANT
A celebration of St George and the Dragon in the town centre. Shows at 11am and 1pm.
Town Centre | chooseulverston.co.uk

25 April - 4 May
ULVERSTON WALKING FESTIVAL
42 walks over 10 days in Ulverston & South Lakes with an easy, moderate and harder walk each day.
ulverstonwalkfest.com

25 April - 9 May
FLAG FESTIVAL
Decorative flags fly from the shops and businesses in the town centre to welcome Spring.
Town Centre | chooseulverston.co.uk

Flag Festival 25 April - 9 May

30 April
PAUL JARVIS MEMORIAL MILE RACE / JUNIOR FUN RUN MILE & TEAM RELAY MILE
GSK Sports Club | hoadhillharriers.co.uk

30 April - 3 May
PRINTFEST
The UK's foremost artist-led printmaking festival, offering the chance to purchase artworks, meet the artists, find out more about printmaking or have a go at one of the workshops.
The Coro | printfest.uk

3 May
CAR SHOW & ART IN THE PARK
Vintage vehicle and car show, alongside Art in the Park, where local artists display their work available for purchase. Free event.
Ford Park | ford-park.org.uk/events

16 - 17 May
MUD FEST
Ceramic festival where you can buy pottery and ceramics from talented makers, have a go yourself in the activity tents and watch demos by talented exhibitors.
Ford Park | mud-fest.co.uk

22 - 27 May
INTERNATIONAL KADAMPA SPRING FESTIVAL
Manjushri Kadampa Meditation Centre.
kadampafestivals.org/spring

29 - 31 May
VELO RETRO
The only vintage cycling festival in the North and the biggest in the UK, with a national and international audience. Based in Ulverston town centre with rides out to the Lakes and Furness Peninsulas.
veloretro.co.uk

29 - 31 May
RETRO RENDEZVOUS
A weekend of fabulous retro fun. Live music at the Sun Inn beer garden, vintage vehicles & market stalls.
Town Centre | retrorendezvous.co.uk

Velo Retro & Retro Rendezvous 29 - 31 May

29 May - 6 June
ULVERSTON INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
More than classical: celebrating its 22nd edition with jazz, flamenco, orchestral, folk, choral music, live film score & fine food.
The Coro, venues around town & S. Lakes
ulverstonmusicfestival.co.uk

June to October
ULVERSTON BLOOM SEASON
Visit the town's floral displays from summer to early autumn.
Town Centre | chooseulverston.co.uk

20 - 21 June
ULVERSTON OPEN GARDENS
Local private gardens open to the public from 10am to 4 pm each day
IncredibleEdibleUlverstoninBloom

4 July
ULVERSTON PRIDE
LGBTQ festival - a day of family fun, education and acceptance based in Ulverston town centre.
communitysolutionsulverston.co.uk

10-12 July 2026
FURNESS TRADITION FOLK FESTIVAL
Concerts, sessions, dancers, 'Makers Market', Ceilidh (Cumbrian Merry Neet), storytelling.
Town Centre | furnesstradition.org.uk

Furness Tradition Folk Festival 10 - 12 July

24 July
SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK
The Festival Players perform a Shakespeare play open air in Ford Park.
Ford Park | ford-park.org.uk/events

24 July - 8 August
INTERNATIONAL KADAMPA SUMMER FESTIVAL
Manjushri Kadampa Meditation Centre.
kadampafestivals.org/summer

29 July
NORTH LONSDALE SHOW
Traditional agricultural event for all the family at Cote Farm, Lindal.
ulverstonandnorthlonsdaleshow.com

8 August
FORD PARK'S 25TH BIRTHDAY BASH
A family friendly afternoon of live music in Ford Park, with a delicious selection of food and drinks available.
Ford Park | ford-park.org.uk/events

19 August
SUMMER 10K ROAD RACE & FUN RUN MILE
GSK Sports Club | hoadhillharriers.co.uk

6 September
FURNESS & DISTRICT TRACTOR RUN
Parade of tractor and farm yard vehicles.
FurnessandDistrictTractorRun

9 September
AUTUMN 5K ROAD RACE & FUN RUN MILE
GSK Sports Club | hoadhillharriers.co.uk

12 September
ULVERSTON CHARTER FREE FAMILY FUN DAY
Annual celebration packed with events to celebrate granting of the Town's market charter in 1280.
Town Centre | ulverstoncouncil.org.uk

19 September
ULVERSTON LANTERN FESTIVAL
One of Europe's biggest lantern festivals where a spectacular river of light surges through the town.
Town Centre | ulverstonlanternfestival.org

Ulverston Lantern Festival 19 September

3 October
APPLE DAY
Free community event celebrating all things apple! Activities include apple pressing, children's crafts, traditional games, plant and apple sales, and lots of local stalls.
Ford Park | ford-park.org.uk/events

10 October
ULVERSTON PRAISE
Organised by Ulverston Churches. A combined churches event which will cumulate at Ulverston Parish Church in the evening.
croftlandscommunitychurch.org.uk

31 October
HALLOWEEN CANDLELIT WALK
Through Gill Banks Woods. This is a ticketed event. Please book in advance.
Gill Banks Wood | candlelitwalk

28 - 29 November
DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
Probably the best Dickensian Christmas market in the country. Christmas lights switch-on, lots of fabulous shops, cosy pubs & cafés. Fun for all the family.
Town Centre | dickensianfestival.co.uk

5 December
FURNESS & DISTRICT TRACTOR RUN
Parade of Christmas-decorated vehicles.
FurnessandDistrictTractorRun

5 - 6 December
MEET SANTA
Santa has joined us for his yearly stop at Ford Park! Visit the walled garden turned winter wonderland, where children can explore, visit the elves' workshop, and receive a gift from Santa Claus.
Ford Park | ford-park.org.uk/events

6 December
CHRISTMAS 10K ROAD RACE & FUN RUN MILE
GSK Sports Club | hoadhillharriers.co.uk

12 December
CAROLS AT THE CORO
Seasonal Christmas carol concert for all the family.
The Coro | thecoro.co.uk

20 December
YOUNG FARMERS CHRISTMAS PARADE
Parade of Christmas-decorated vehicles.
Furness-Young-Farmers-Club

Visit choose ulverston. co.uk for an up to date list of events

Occasionally dates may vary from the programme - please check the various event websites. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate, we cannot accept any responsibility in respect of errors or omissions which may have occurred.

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Follow Stan's journey from his birth in Ulverston to Hollywood as one half of the world's best loved comedy duo.
Featuring Laurel and Hardy movies on the big screen all day long and one of the largest collections of memorabilia in the world.

Open 7 days a week from 10am - 5pm all year round.
Please check our website for Christmas opening times.

LAUREL AND HARDY MUSEUM
The Roxy Brogden Street Ulverston LA12 7AH
01229 582292 laurelandhardymuseum@gmail.com
www.laurel-and-hardy.co.uk

Welcome to ULVERSTON

2026 festivals, heritage & attractions

Ulverston International Music Festival 29 May - 6 June

Manjushri Kadampa Meditation Centre

Printfest 30 April - 3 May

Ulverston Charter Free Family Fun Day 13 September

Dickensian Christmas Festival 28 - 29 November

chooseulverston.co.uk

Welcome to ULVERSTON

Our fascinating South Lakeland town is just a few miles from the shores of Lake Windermere. Colourful festivals combined with an assortment of independent shops, cosy pubs, traditional markets, cultural events, historic town trails and a warm welcome, all add up to a unique visitor experience.

Where to shop

In 1280, Edward I granted Ulverston a charter to hold "a market on Thursday each week and every year a fair lasting three days". This tradition still holds and each Thursday, on the cobbled streets of Market Place and New Market Street, you can find a number of quality market stalls. In addition to this, there is an indoor Market Hall ❶ (closed Wed & Sun) offering artisan breads & cakes, delicatessen fare, gifts, handicrafts, local history books, clothing and much, much more, providing visitors with an exceptional shopping experience. Ulverston's unique selling point is its remarkable abundance of independent specialist retailers selling exclusive gifts, fashion and food. Please note that Wednesday is half-day closing.

Visit chooseulverston.co.uk Ulverston's official website. It details all the shops and facilities in the town.

Where to eat

Hungry? Choose one of Ulverston's numerous town centre eateries. You can relax and enjoy anything from morning coffee, substantial pub lunch, homemade cakes and award-winning tea. Vegetarian and vegan diets are well catered for, as is the taste for fine food from around the world. Ulverston has a wide selection of pubs, wine bars and craft beer outlets. We also have our own brewery – The Ulverston Brewing Company, who welcome pre-arranged visits.

What to see

Ulverston is an historic town with a story to tell. In the 18th Century it was a manufacturing town of some importance, the fast-flowing Gill Beck providing power for mills making cotton, paper and candles as well as supplying water for the many leather tanneries dotted about the town. The link to craftsmanship still exists today with **Cumbria Crystal** ❷, the UK's last fully working luxury crystal factory, where you can watch the blowing & cutting of exquisite crystal glassware.

By the 19th Century, Ulverston was a busy commercial port with a thriving ship building industry. **Ulverston Canal** is a legacy of that industry. It is the deepest, widest, shortest canal in England at just 1¼ miles (2km) long. There is an easy and accessible walk down the towpath from **Canal Head** ❸ to the Bay Horse at **Canal Foot** ❹ where delicious coffee and shortbread is served. This freshwater canal, is a haven for wildlife, here swans, many breeds of water fowl and even otters can be spotted.

Back in the town centre, spend a moment or two at the **War Memorial** ❺ honouring Ulverstonians who served in both World Wars, including three recipients of the Victoria Cross. Move on to **St Mary's Church** ❻. Built in 1111, this Parish Church is a great example of workmanship through the ages. Although rebuilt in Victorian times the Norman arch over the inner door and the Tudor tower at the west end stand testament to its early origins. For a more recent example of craftsmanship, head over to the Gill for the stunning **Cumbria Way Marker** ❼. This marks the start of the Cumbria Way, a 70 mile (112km) walk that runs through the central Lakes and finishes in Carlisle.

Ulverston celebrates a number of prominent former residents. The unmissable memorial on the top of Hoad Hill is the **Sir John Barrow Monument** ❽. Built in 1850 in honour of Sir John Barrow. Born 1764 at Dragley Beck in what is now known as **Sir John Barrow Cottage** ❾ (open from Easter Fri 11am-4pm & Sun, 1-5pm until the end of October) he went on to become a noted explorer and one of the founders of The Geographical in Society. In 1804 he became Second Secretary to the Admiralty until his death 40 years later. The uphill climb is well rewarded by breath-taking views over Morecambe Bay and the Lake District Fells. Access is via several footpaths from Ulverston town centre and is open to the public on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 1-5pm, Easter to the end of October, whenever the flag on the hill is flying. For more information visit ulverstoncouncil.org.uk

Within walking distance from the town centre, **Swarthmoor Hall** ❿ (an Elizabethan manor house), became the centre of the developing Quaker movement when its founder George Fox made the Hall his base from 1652 to 1654. House, garden and café are open to the public. swarthmoorhall.co.uk

The town's most famous son, legendary comedian **Stan Laurel**, was born in Argyle Street ⓫ in 1890 and was later christened Arthur Stanley Jefferson in Ulverston Parish Church. A bronze statue ⓬ immortalising the comedy genius of Laurel and Hardy stands at the front of the Coronation Hall, commissioned and paid for by The Sons of the Desert and presented as a gift to the town in 2009. The **Laurel & Hardy Museum** ⓭, a treasure trove of memorabilia, can be found in Brogden Street, behind the Coronation Hall, in the Roxy building. With classic Laurel & Hardy films showing all day in the cosy cinema, it is a treat no to be missed. laurel-and-hardy.co.uk

Entertainment

One of the principal buildings in town is the **Coronation Hall** ⓮. Affectionately known as 'The Coro' it first opened in 1918 having been commissioned by the Town council to commemorate the coronation of King George V. Today, it offers a diverse programme of entertainment - from popular music and local amateur dramatics to world class ballet and opera. thecoro.co.uk The building is also the temporary home of Ulverston Library. Behind The Coro is the **Roxy** ⓯, a traditional Art Deco cinema showing current releases, classic and art house movies. ulverston.nm-cinemas.co.uk

Ulverston also boasts a **Leisure Centre** ⓰ offering a 25m swimming pool, gym facility, Cumbria's largest tennis centre & more. better.org.uk

Exploring the outskirts

Whilst surrounded by countryside, there is lots of greenery to be found close to town centre. Gill Banks offers a leafy stroll beside fast running water and **Ford Park** ⓱, a couple of minutes' walk from the town centre, is a community run park with restaurant, walled kitchen garden, adventure playground, trails, and a programme of cultural events and family activities. It also hosts a Park Run every Saturday and offers access to the Hoad Hill. ford-park.org.uk

Also worth a diversion from the town centre is **Conishead Priory** ⓲. Home to one of the largest Buddhist communities in Europe, the Buddhist temple and historic mansion are set in 70 acres of woodlands and parkland right next to Morecambe Bay. manjushri.org

If you are feeling a bit more adventurous, head for **Birkrigg Common** ⓳. Its bracken-covered and sheep-grazed limestone upland, is home to the remains of ancient settlements, tumuli and a double stone circle known as the Druid's Temple. You are also rewarded with panoramic views of Morecambe Bay and the Lake District Fells.

Free Guided Walks

There are a series of free, guided walking leaflets, to help visitors explore not just the history of the town but also the wonderful countryside and historic landmarks on the outskirts. They are available from Booths supermarket ❷, the Market Hall ❶ and from a number of retailers, cafés and pubs around town.

To learn more of Ulverston's absorbing history, pick up a copy of **'Stan's Ulverston Town Trail'** and experience the town as Ulverston's most famous son, Stan Laurel would have known it. Or explore further afield with **'Six gentle walks around Ulverston'** each starting from the Coronation Hall, encompassing sites such as Swarthmoor Hall and Ford Park. For the more energetic, **'A tour of Ulverston from coast to hills'** is the leaflet for you. Alternatively, you can simply wander the town's streets which still retain many fine Georgian and Victorian buildings, and seek out the blue plaques telling their history.

The town website chooseulverston.co.uk also offers several trails which take you around the quirky, cobbled streets and ginnels of the town, helping you discover dog friendly shops and eateries, as well as child orientated activities.

Car Parking

There are over 400 car park spaces in 6 locations, with a variety of tariff offers. For the latest information on car parks and tariffs please visit :

chooseulverston.co.uk/parking

- STOCKBRIDGE LANE
- DALTONGATE
- THE GILL
- THEATRE ST
- BUXTON PLACE
- BREWERY ST

Car charging point

Bike Racks

Look out for the bike racks around town.

THE CRADLE OF QUAKERISM

SWARTHMOOR HALL

all are welcome

HISTORIC HOUSE • CAFÉ • GARDENS • ACCOMMODATION

swarthmoorhall.co.uk
swarthmoorhall

Swarthmoor Hall Lane
Ulverston. LA12 0JQ
t: 01229 583204

SIR JOHN BARROW MONUMENT

Breathtaking views over Morecambe Bay & the Lake District Fells

Monument open to the public on Sundays & Bank Holiday Weekends from 1pm to 5pm (Easter to the end of October), when the flag on the hill is flying. Access via several footpaths in Ulverston.

ulverstoncouncil.org.uk

Ulverston Town Council