



IN FOX'S FOOTSTEPS:
PLANNING 1652 COUNTRY
QUAKER PILGRIMAGES



Why come
on a
Quaker
pilgrimage?

“If you are new to Quakerism, there can be no better place to begin to explore what it may mean for us than the place in which it began.

Go to the beautiful Meeting houses one finds dotted throughout the Westmorland and Cumbrian countryside and spend time in them, soaking in the atmosphere of peace and calm, and you will feel refreshed. Worship with Quakers there and you may begin to feel changed by the experience.

What you will find is a place where people took the demands of faith seriously and were transformed by the experience. In letting themselves be changed, they helped make possible some of the great changes that happened to the world between the sixteenth and the eighteenth centuries.”

Roy Stephenson, extracts from
'1652 Country: a land steeped in our faith',
The Friend, 8 October 2010.



Being part of an organised 'open' pilgrimage

Swarthmoor Hall organises two 5-day pilgrimages every year in May/June and August, which are open to individuals, couples or groups of Friends. The pilgrimages visit most of the early Quaker sites and allow individuals to become part of an organised pilgrimage and worshipping group as the pilgrimage unfolds. A minibus is used to travel to the different sites.

Each pilgrimage has an experienced Pilgrimage Leader. These pilgrimages are full board in ensuite accommodation.



Swarthmoor Hall

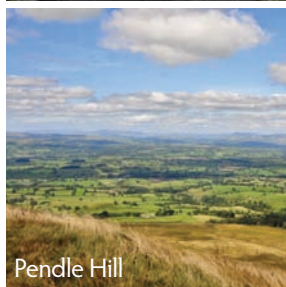
Planning your own pilgrimage

Many meetings and smaller groups choose to arrange their own pilgrimage with the support of the pilgrimage coordination provided by Swarthmoor Hall, on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting. In doing so each group needs to consider a number of questions:

- How many people will be in our party?
- Who is the main organiser/ contact person?
- What style of accommodation would work best for the needs of the group?
- Do we need catering?
- What is our budget?
- How many days can we spend doing the pilgrimage?
- Are there any particular sites or places we wish to include in the pilgrimage?
- Do we need transport?



Marsh Grange



Pendle Hill

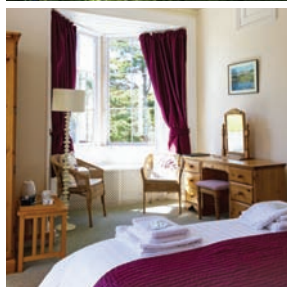
For more detailed information regarding options please see pages 4 and 5.

Venues

There are a number of Quaker centres that offer a range of styles of accommodation, from budget self-catering bunkhouse to catered ensuite. Many of these centres provide accessible accommodation.



Glenthorne Guest House and Conference Centre is a long established guest house and meeting place in Grasmere. There is accommodation for up to 46 people including some newly built ground-floor accommodation for disabled visitors and well-appointed single and double rooms (mostly ensuite) in the main house and adjacent Bankside. Most rooms have access to free WiFi. There is a light and sunny conference room located in its gardens, with seating for up to 45. Visit www.glenthorne.org for more information.



2018 prices:

Standard rooms per person

1 night B&B £51 | Dinner B&B £71.50 | Full board* £77

2+ nights B&B £46.50 | Dinner B&B £67 | Full board* £73

Ensuite rooms per person

1 night B&B £60 | Dinner B&B £80 | Full board* £86

2+ nights B&B £55 | Dinner B&B £75.50 | Full board * £81

(* packed lunch)



Rookhow Quaker Meeting House was built in around 1725.

It is beautifully situated in the Rusland Valley of South Lakeland near Grizedale Forest Park and has its own 12-acre 'Quakers Wood'.

The meeting house stables have been converted to provide comfortable bunkhouse style accommodation with 17 pine beds (plus 3 bed settees and camping). The accommodation has electric heating and a wood-burning stove, 4 showers, 2 WCs, with self-catering facilities for over 20 people. BBQ available and fire-pit in 'Quakers Wood'. The historic meeting house is available for communal activities. Visit www.rookhowcentre.co.uk for more information.



2018 prices:

£18 per person per night, half price under 16s, half price for camping.

Minimum price for exclusive use group bookings £216 per night.



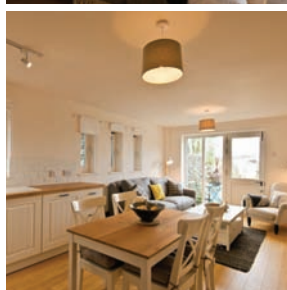
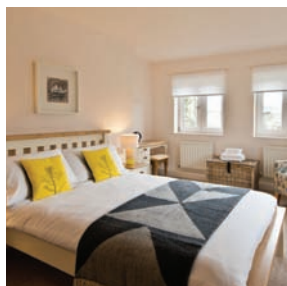
Swarthmoor Hall is the cradle of the Quaker movement, home of Margaret Fell and later George Fox. Early Friends met here to worship and they returned for hospitality and spiritual renewal. This tradition remains today. It offers accommodation for up to 26 Friends in ensuite accommodation, which includes single, twin and double rooms. A number of rooms are accessible.

Accommodation can be booked on a self-catering or catered basis. Visit www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk for more information.

2018 prices:

Single rooms are from £52 per night on a room-only basis.

For pilgrimage groups full board is from £86.95 per person per day.



Yealand Old School is about to undergo a refurbishment programme that will create: 1 x two-bed ensuite room, 2 x three-bed ensuite rooms (one wheelchair accessible) and mattress accommodation for groups of 20 plus.

The accommodation is self-catering with an excellent well equipped kitchen and is within walking distance of the newly reopened village pub.

Email yealandwarden@lancsquakers.org.uk for more information.

2018 prices:

TBC

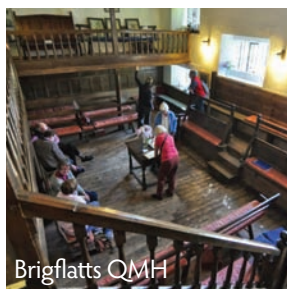


Typical 1652 Country Pilgrimage itineraries

See below for suggested 2, 3, 4 and 5-day options, based at each of the four residential Quaker centres (the itineraries assume that on the first day of the pilgrimage Friends will arrive late afternoon and leave at midday on the final day of the pilgrimage):

2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS	5 DAYS
Pendle Hill and Brigflatts Quaker Meeting House (QMH)	Pendle Hill and Clitheroe QMH (with talk on early Quaker history), Quaker Tapestry Kendal or Lancaster Castle	Pendle Hill and Clitheroe QMH (with talk on early Quaker history), Settle QMH	Pendle Hill and Clitheroe QMH (with talk on early Quaker history), Settle QMH
Swarthmoor Hall, Swarthmoor QMH, Sunbrick Burial Ground	Brigflatts QMH, Firbank Fell, Swarthmoor Hall, Sunbrick Burial Ground	Brigflatts QMH, Firbank Fell, Quaker Tapestry Kendal or Lancaster Castle	Brigflatts QMH, Firbank Fell
From Glenthorne and Yealand Old School	Quaker Tapestry Kendal or Lancaster Castle	Swarthmoor Hall, Marsh Grange, Sunbrick Burial Ground	Lancaster Castle and Yealand QMH
		Quaker Tapestry Kendal or Lancaster Castle	Swarthmoor Hall, Marsh Grange, Sunbrick Burial Ground
			Quaker Tapestry Kendal

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Pendle Hill and Brigflatts QMH	Pendle Hill and Clitheroe QMH (with talk on early Quaker history)	Pendle Hill and Clitheroe QMH (with talk on early Quaker history)	Pendle Hill and Clitheroe QMH (with talk on early Quaker history)
Swarthmoor Hall, Swarthmoor QMH, Sunbrick Burial Ground	Brigflatts QMH, Firbank Fell, Quaker Tapestry Kendal	Brigflatts QMH, Firbank Fell, Quaker Tapestry Kendal	Brigflatts QMH, Firbank Fell, Quaker Tapestry Kendal
From Swarthmoor Hall and Rookhow	Swarthmoor Hall, Swarthmoor QMH, Sunbrick Burial Ground	Swarthmoor Hall, Lancaster Castle	Lancaster Castle and Yealand QMH
		Swarthmoor QMH, Sunbrick Burial Ground	Swarthmoor Hall, Marsh Grange, Sunbrick Burial Ground
			Swarthmoor QMH



Brigflatts QMH



Firbank Fell



Quaker Tapestry



Furness Abbey



Lake District

Entry charges and suggested donations

- **Brigflatts Quaker Meeting House** – built in 1675 (suggested donation £4 per person)
- **Firbank Fell** – on Sunday 13 June 1652 George Fox was invited to preach to the Seekers there and from a rock on the open fellside preached to 'above a thousand people' (there is no charge for entry to this site)
- **Lancaster Meeting House donation** – dating from 1708 (donation appreciated but not expected)
- **Tour of Lancaster Castle with guide** – many early Friends were imprisoned here including George Fox and Margaret Fell (the tour takes 1.5 hours at a cost of £8 per person)
- **Swarthmoor Hall** – see 'Venues' for more information (Group or audio tours £6.50 for adults and £4.40 for children)
- **Quaker Tapestry** – journey through the Quaker influence on the modern world and delight in the detail of the stunning needlework and the craftsmanship involved in its creation (£7 for adults, children free and groups of 15 people or more for a discounted rate of £5.50 per person)

Other options / add-ons

For Friends returning to the area new pilgrimage routes can be planned to include less frequently visited sites. With all pilgrimages there are other options or add-ons that can be included in a tour depending on the interests and ages of a group.

- **Walking / outdoor** – Gummars How, Tarn Hows, Beacon Tarn, High Dam, mountain biking in Grizedale Forest, canoeing on Conistown Water, Go Ape rope course in Grizedale Forest
- **Trips** – Ferry/ launch from Conistown to Brantwood (John Ruskin's home), Dove Cottage (Wordsworth's home)
- **Spiritual sites** – Furness Abbey, Swinside Stone Circle, Cartmel Fell church, Conishead Priory (Buddhist centre and temple)
- **Stops** – Ice Cream (Hudsons)
- **Shopping** – Sedburgh, Kendal, Ulverston, and visiting towns on market days
- **Quaker contemporary witness** – Trident submarine building yard and BAE systems armament works
- **Historic Quaker meeting houses** – Ayrton QMH, Colthouse QMH, Height Burial Ground, Preston Patrick QMH, Rookhow QMH and Quakers Wood, Skipton QMH, Settle QMH

Leaders and tour guides

Friends in 1652 Country enjoy sharing their experience and love of 1652 Country with visitors to the area. Some will offer their time in a voluntary capacity to help with Quaker pilgrimages, including as tour guides and pilgrimage leaders.

Transport

Many of the roads which lead to the historic sites are narrow country lanes that can be difficult and tiring to navigate, especially for Friends who are unfamiliar with the area. It may be worth considering a guide or driver for your pilgrimage. They are also able to estimate the average journey times to Quaker sites – often much longer than one might anticipate. Options include:

- **For small groups**
 - Self-drive – car or minibus
 - Self-drive, with local Friend as tour guide (needs to be booked)
- **For larger groups**
 - Community minibus hire, with a local Friend as a volunteer driver (this option needs to be booked well in advance)
 - Other minibus hire
 - Coach hire – needs to be booked well in advance

What do we do next?

Please get in touch. On behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting, Swarthmoor Hall organises 1652 Quaker Pilgrimages for Friends visiting the area. It does so with the support and involvement of a wide group of Friends in the region, other residential centres and historic meeting sites.

Pilgrimage admin fee £15 per person. Please contact the 'Pilgrimage Coordinator' at Swarthmoor Hall on 01229 583294 or email info@swarthmoorhall.co.uk.

There is limited capacity in the region to offer these services and so to avoid disappointment we strongly recommend that Friends make arrangements well in advance. Please note for groups requesting a leader or driver there may be additional charges for their accommodation and B&B costs.

Further reading

Arthur Kincaid, *The cradle of Quakerism: Exploring Quaker Roots in North West England*, Quaker Books, 2011
David and Anthea Boulton, *In Fox's Footsteps: a journey through three centuries*, DHM, 1998

SWARTHMOOR HALL

Swarthmoor Hall Lane, Ulverston, Cumbria. LA12 0JQ

t: 01229 583204 e: info@swarthmoorhall.co.uk   [swarthmoorhall](https://www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk) www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk

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Visit www.quaker.org.uk for more information about Quakers in Britain.