

Appleby Horse Fair Visitor Information

2009 DATES

Thursday 4th-Wednesday 10th June
Main days Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Appleby Horse Fair is one of the largest in Europe and takes place early every June. It is held in a field commonly known as Fair Hill, less than a mile from the town centre.

The dates of the fair are determined by the second Wednesday in June which was once the main horse dealing day but is now a winding down day. Travellers are allowed onto the hill the previous Thursday and prior to this can be seen encamped in the surrounding area.

Appleby Fair is not formally organised but has developed over the years from an agricultural sale to a major cultural event for the travelling community. It is, however, overseen by a strategic group of district and county councils, Cumbria constabulary, the RSPCA and other statutory agencies, who aim to ensure the fair's smooth running to provide a memorable event for visitors with minimal disruption for local residents.

Tourists usually start visiting from Thursday but the atmosphere really begins on Saturday. The main road from Appleby to Brampton is closed to allow sellers to display horses to potential buyers by trotting them back and forth along the roadway. Each day during the fair, horses are led down to the River Eden, near the town centre, to be washed and groomed ready for the day's trading.

Of course horses are not the only commodity available



for sale and for centuries other goods have been sold at the fair. There are at least a hundred stalls in the field next to Fair Hill selling saddlery, clothing, pottery, books, footwear and various souvenirs - most of these trading stalls are open from Friday morning until Sunday or Monday evening.

Appleby Fair is well worth a visit, there is no entrance fee and a whole day can easily be spent visiting the fair and exploring the town. Many visitors stay for a whole week and spend time exploring the surrounding Eden valley, England's green and pleasant land.

We ask that you please bear in mind:

- There will be horses on the road, and you have to be aware of where to walk along the access routes - use your eyes and ears! Follow police instructions as regards road closures.
- Appleby gets very crowded - a town of 3000 is visited by up to fifty thousand on the busiest days so roads are congested and shops busy.
- It may well be wet, there is not much shelter in Appleby and Fair Hill can quickly become muddy. Be equipped for the weather and bring good walking shoes to walk up to a mile from a car park - high heels are not recommended.
- Please don't leave rubbish behind.

**PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF FOR
ADVICE ON HOW TO GET HERE**

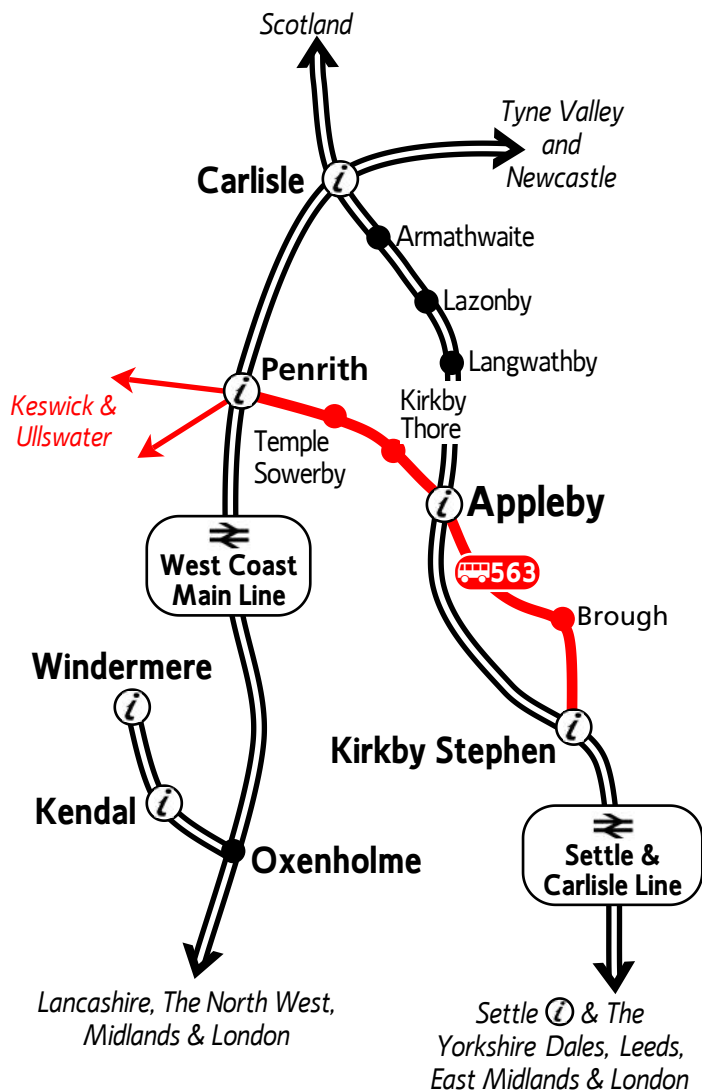
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If you have any further enquiries please don't hesitate to get in touch:
APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE
The Moot Hall, Boroughgate, Appleby-in-Westmorland CA16 6XE
Phone 017683 51177 • E-mail tic@applebytown.org.uk • www.applebytown.org.uk
and when you come to the fair please pop by and visit us!

Getting to Appleby

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT



You can avoid traffic and parking problems by arriving at the fair by public transport. The Settle & Carlisle railway line is the easiest way, this stops in Appleby and runs a regular service 7 days a week. You can find out more at www.settle-carlisle.co.uk or by calling National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50. Good connections are available at Leeds and Carlisle with trains from other parts of the country.

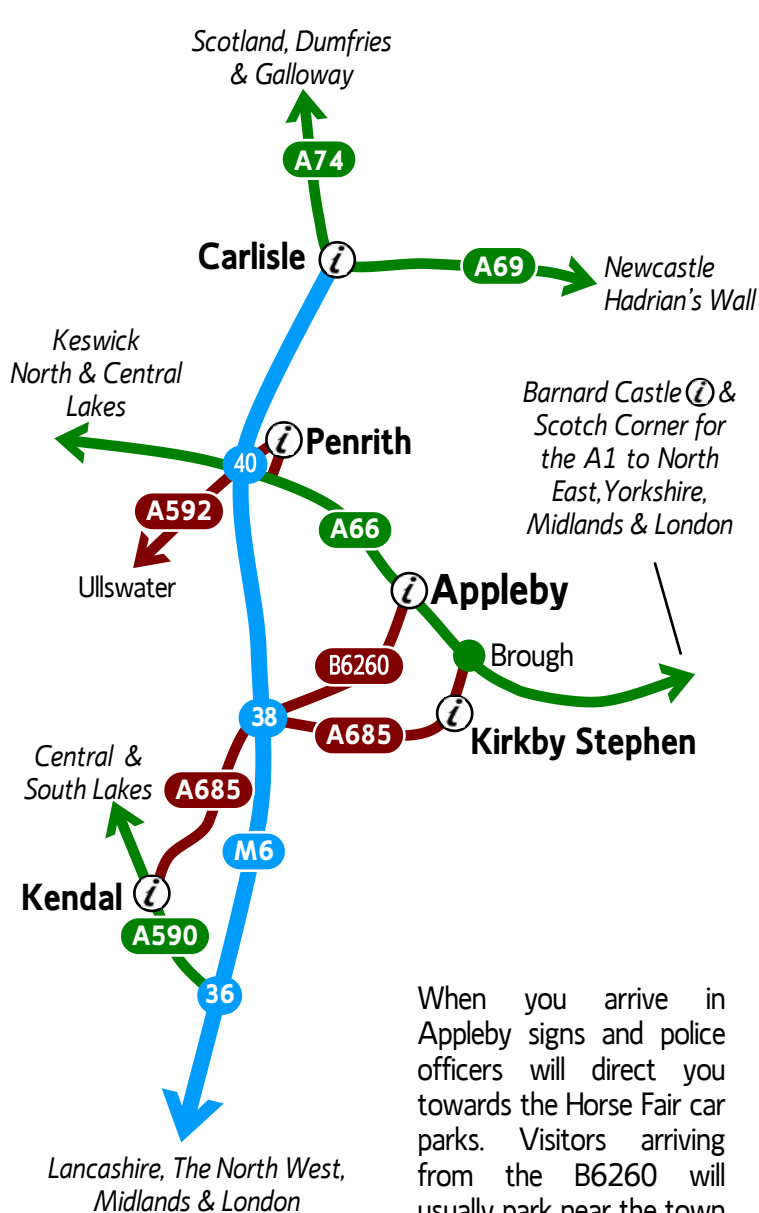
It may be more convenient to travel to/from Penrith station which is located on the West Coast Mainline with direct trains about every two hours each from Manchester, Birmingham and London. There is a bus from the station forecourt from Appleby, numbered 563, running about every two or three hours. Timetables are available from traveline - 0871 200 22 33. If calling from outside Cumbria dial 874 when you hear the welcome message to reach the cumbrian call centre straight away.

Buses to villages away from the A66 are poor, so if you are arriving by bus or rail and staying outside of the town you may wish to call a taxi:

Appleby Cars 017683 53645, JVR 017683 52382, Morris Minor 017683 52772, Ron's 017683 61682.

There is also a taxi rank at Penrith station.

BY CAR



When you arrive in Appleby signs and police officers will direct you towards the Horse Fair car parks. Visitors arriving from the B6260 will usually park near the town centre, about 10 minutes

walk from the fair hill. Those arriving from the A66 will usually park nearer the hill but further from the town centre. Expect traffic congestion. There is only very limited disabled parking in the town centre and none at all in the fields opened up specially for parking, so you may wish to arrive early.

Find us by sat-nav: the nearest post code to the hill is **CA16 6XX**. Local road closures and restrictions may mean that you will need to follow special traffic signs rather than the usual route.

Accommodation nearest Appleby is usually all booked by the Spring, so you will need to try further afield:

Nearby Tourist Info' Centres: Barnard Castle 01833 690909, Carlisle 01228 625600, Kendal 01539 725758, Kirkby Stephen 017683 71199, Penrith 01768 867466, Settle 01729 825192.

You can also find information at www.visiteden.co.uk, www.golakes.co.uk