



Rydal Mount Experience Pack

Rydal Mount and Gardens - The Home of William Wordsworth





Rydal Mount is an elegant country house dating back to the 16th century in the midst of the Lake District fells. It was the home of the greatest of the English Romantic poets, William Wordsworth, for the last 37 years of his life and it was from here that he published the most famous poem in the English Language, 'I wandered lonely as a cloud'.

He lived here with his wife, Mary, his children, and sister, Dorothy. The house is still owned by the Wordsworth family and they welcome visitors to their home throughout the year.

Rydal Mount is a destination of literary pilgrimage, containing a treasure trove of books and manuscripts, paintings and furniture, belonging to Wordsworth. The five-acre garden, with terraces, rock pools, ancient trees and shrubs, and views of two lakes, is one of the most beautiful and spectacular in the Lake District. Wordsworth was a keen landscape gardener, and the grounds have been restored according to his plans.

The Wordsworth Family is keen to offer access to Rydal Mount and its gardens for more bespoke and special experiences. When Wordsworth lived at Rydal Mount it was one of the most resonant addresses and locations in early Victorian Britain and was a centre for culture and local Cumbrian activity. Over the following pages we outline a number of options that are available for visitors who are looking for more than a traditional visit to a historic house. Throughout the year there will be special 'one off' events, so we recommend checking our website and social media.







## Guided Walks

### Option 1: A Poet's walk

(£14 per person - approx 90 minutes)

Follow in Wordsworth's footsteps. A Romanticism expert will take visitors on a walk curated for the seasons. In spring, expect daffodils and bluebells along the poet's well-loved Rydal lake shore. In autumn, expect sweeping views of the valley in russet red.

Along the way our guide will offer insight into the way the landscape informed Wordsworth's poetry, and the notable events and people that he happened across during his walks in the area. The tour will end with a self-guided visit to the house and gardens.

### Option 2: A Rydal walk

(£15 per person - approx 120 minutes)

A walk around Rydal village taking in the natural garden of Rydal Mount designed by William Wordsworth, the wildness of Dora's Field, a tour of the Rydal Church and churchyard and finishing with a tour of the formal John Mawson garden at Rydal Hall.

The guide will detail life in Rydal and the famous visitors both to Rydal Mount and Rydal Hall.







**Poetry tour with wine and gingerbread  
(£23-30 per person - approx 90 minutes)**

An expert guide will show visitors around the garden with curated poetry readings, followed by an introduction to the house and a final reading in Wordsworth's library. Grasmere Gingerbread and wine is then served, with plenty of non-alcoholic alternatives, and visitors will have exclusive use of the house for the remainder of their time, with a guide on-hand for any questions. The ticket includes an information booklet and a souvenir copy of 'Daffodils'. This has been our most successful tour option for 2022. You may book this option outside of our opening times, at a cost of £30 per person. When the Wordsworth family is in residence you may be able to hear them joining in with the readings.

**Manuscript Workshop  
(£25 per person - approx 90 minutes)**

A rare opportunity to delve into the Rydal Mount collection, currently unavailable to the general public. Start with an optional guided tour of the gardens, followed by a workshop in the drawing room with a chance to handle artefacts from William Wordsworth's personal library. The experience will finish with a self-guided tour of the house. The entire tour is hosted by one of our expert guides who will illustrate the Wordsworths' 46 years of life here at the house and gardens. Mainly aimed at our academic group visits the maximum group size is 25.







### **A Literary 'Sleepover'** **(£350 per night for two)**

A unique opportunity to stay overnight in William and Mary Wordsworth's bedroom, eat in their dining room and sit in their drawing room. In conjunction with Rydal Lodge, the B&B at the bottom of Rydal Hill, guests will arrive at Rydal Mount at 5pm. They will receive a guided tour of the house and garden and then left alone to soak up the atmosphere. Hampers of local produce can be provided by 'A Days Walk', a company that deals solely in Cumbrian food and drink. If guests prefer they can walk to the local pub at the bottom of the hill. In the summer, dinner and drinks can be taken in the beautiful garden. In the winter, the fires can be lit and you can be transported back to earlier times. In the morning a full english breakfast awaits down at Rydal Lodge. Dorothy and Dora Wordsworth's bedrooms, both with single beds, may also be available for larger groups. The food hampers must be ordered in advance.

### **An Unforgettable Dinner** **(Price is menu dependant)**

The Rydal Mount dining room is the most atmospheric room in the house and has hosted the most famous figures in romantic literature during Wordsworth's lifetime. We can arrange exclusive dinners for 8-10 people, with the possibility for another 8-10 scattered from the library for larger or corporate groups. Drinks and canapés will be served in the Library, with dinner in the Dining Room and coffee and a poetry reading served in the Drawing Room. We work with top local chefs who create imaginative dinners using local Cumbrian produce, and offering you their best choice of wines, for a truly distinctive experience unlike any other. We have worked with a high calibre of chef, including the michelin starred. This option requires booking in advance so that menus and pricing can be confirmed.

Past events, including champagne and wine, have been in the £150-200 per person range.







## The Rydal Wedding (Price range on request)

"Come grow old with me. The best is yet to be." William Wordsworth

Rydal Mount and its garden offers a unique venue for a smaller wedding. The house has a wedding licence which will also allow ceremonies to also take place in the garden. So from small intimate weddings of 10 people to larger weddings of up to 80 people the house and gardens are a flexible venue.

We work exclusively with the wedding consultant, Annabel Candler, and she will take away all the stress of the day assisting you with choosing the best local suppliers.

The marriage party will be able to get ready in Wordsworth's bedroom and all other flexibility is available on discussion with Annabel Candler. A separate 'wedding brochure' is available on request to: [weddings@rydalmount.co.uk](mailto:weddings@rydalmount.co.uk)







## Price Guide

Experience	Min - Max People	Price
A Poet's Walk	8 - 30	£14 per person
A Rydal Walk	8 - 30	£15 per person
Poetry Tour: During Opening	8 - 30	£23 per person
Poetry Tour: After Hours	6 - 25	£30 per person
Manuscript Workshop	8 - 25	£25 per person
Wordsworth Sleepover	2 - 4	£350 - £600
Rydal Mount Dinner	8 - 20	£150 - £200
Rydal Mount Wedding	4 - 80	£2,600 - £3,400

Note: The prices for the Wordsworth Sleepover and Rydal Mount Dinner are guide prices and will be altered according to numbers and menu choices. The price range for the Rydal Mount Wedding represents the cost of the hire of the venue and there is greater flexibility here that should be discussed with our wedding planner