



Westmorland  
& Furness  
Council

[westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](http://westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

# Living and Working in Westmorland and Furness



Westmorland and Furness is a new unitary authority area in Cumbria, England, formed in April 2023. It includes parts of what was once the historic counties of Westmorland, Lancashire, and Cumberland, specifically the districts of Eden, South Lakeland, and the Borough of Barrow-in-Furness.

The area is known for its scenic beauty, including parts of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. Schools and housing in Westmorland and Furness vary significantly, offering both rural and urban settings, with choices in education and housing catering to different needs.

Westmorland and Furness has a population of around 225,000 people, with key towns including Kendal, Penrith, and Barrow-in-Furness spanning approximately 1,4200 square miles, much of which is rural and includes parts of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

## Our localities in Westmorland and Furness

### Penrith

Penrith is a historic market town in Cumbria, England, on the edge of the Lake District. Known for its rich heritage, it features landmarks like Penrith Castle and St. Andrew's Church. With its lively market square and proximity to both the Lakes and Eden Valley, Penrith offers a blend of history, charm, and outdoor activities.



### Kendal

Kendal is a historic town in Cumbria, England, known as the "Gateway to the Lake District." Famous for its beautiful stone buildings, Kendal is nestled along the River Kent. Key attractions include Kendal Castle and the town's bustling market. Surrounded by scenic landscapes, Kendal offers a mix of history, culture, and outdoor activities, making it a popular base for visitors exploring the Lake District.



### Barrow-in-Furness

Barrow is a town in Cumbria, England, once part of the historic county of Westmorland. Located on the coast near Morecambe Bay, it developed as a key industrial centre in the 19th century, particularly known for shipbuilding and ironworks. Today, Barrow features a mix of historic architecture and modern developments, with attractions like the Dock Museum and nearby natural beauty spots, making it a unique blend of industrial heritage and coastal charm.



## Housing

House prices vary between our three main localities, but no matter where you live in Westmorland and Furness, you will be offered stunning natural beauty, from the iconic lakes and mountains of the Lake District and an area rich in history and culture.

### Average House Prices

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Furness               | <b>£162,994</b> |
| Eden                  | <b>£270,125</b> |
| South Lakeland        | <b>£348,010</b> |
| Westmorland & Furness | <b>£276,155</b> |

Source: Experian Data - © Experian 2024 - All rights reserved

In Westmorland and Furness, you can make your money go further when buying a house. See how Westmorland and Furness compare to other areas across the country:

### Average House Prices - National

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Lancaster       | <b>£211,000</b> |
| North Yorkshire | <b>£278,000</b> |
| Manchester      | <b>£251,000</b> |
| Cumberland      | <b>£176,000</b> |
| York            | <b>£327,000</b> |
| Northumberland  | <b>£214,000</b> |
| Cheshire        | <b>£273,000</b> |

Source: Office for National Statistics – 04 December 2024



## Education

Westmorland and Furness has over 90 primary schools and around 20 secondary schools, many of which are rated “Good” or “Outstanding” by Ofsted, including Queen Elizabeth School in Kirkby Lonsdale and Dallam School in Milnthorpe. Additionally, independent schools such as Sedbergh School are popular choices for families seeking boarding or specialised education options.



## Transport

Westmorland and Furness is well-connected by road, with the M6 motorway running nearby and access points in Penrith and Kendal, providing routes to Carlisle, Lancaster, and Manchester. The West Coast Main Line stops at Oxenholme (Kendal) and Penrith, offering links to major cities, while Barrow and Ulverston have rail connections to the Cumbrian coast. Public transport is limited in rural areas, but larger towns have more regular bus and train services.



## Life in Westmorland and Furness

Life in Westmorland and Furness offers a range of outdoor activities, with the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales nearby, providing opportunities for walking, cycling, boating, and climbing. Healthcare is well-supported by several general hospitals, including Furness General Hospital in Barrow and Westmorland General Hospital in Kendal. The area also has a strong community feel, with a variety of local festivals, farmers’ markets, and community events throughout the year.

