

Views along the Furness Line



MORECAMBE BAY
PARTNERSHIP



Welcome to the Furness Line

The Furness Line links Lancaster to Barrow-in-Furness by rail. Rich industrialists paid for the Furness Line railway to be built in the 1850s. They wanted easy access to the mineral wealth of South Cumbria.

Before the railway people had to either sail around Morecambe Bay, or negotiate their way across its treacherous sands at low tide. The railway's impressive engineering connected the once-isolated places of Morecambe Bay.

Today the route offers spectacular seascape views across the tidal sands and passes places rich in history and wildlife.

Board the train on the Furness Line and discover one of the most beautiful coastlines in Britain.



Looking for landmarks – can you spot these Bay landmarks from the train? Look out for the binoculars and tick off the landmarks as you spot them.



LANCASTER

Lancaster is the ancient county town of Lancashire. Its medieval castle sits high above the railway on the site of a Roman fort.

The Furness Line follows the West Coast Main line north, high above the River Lune on the **Carlisle Viaduct**. Lancaster was once a major port. Look out for the 18th century quayside with its warehouses and Custom House.

Passing very close to the west coast at Hest Bank, you'll see the sea if the tide is in. The vast sands stretching into the distance provide food and homes for wildlife, including hundreds of thousands of birds.



LANCASTER

CARNFORTH

Steam locomotives still depart for many excursions from Carnforth Station. The two towers you can see were for storing coal and ash. They are the only ones left in Europe.

At 890ft long, Carnforth Station's platform canopy is the longest unsupported single piece concrete roof in Britain.

The Furness Line turns west here, and heads along the Cumbrian coast.



Carnforth Heritage Centre is the home of Brief Encounter. The film's famous clock hangs above the platform.

Warton Crag is rich in rare butterflies, and the cliffs are a regular breeding site for peregrine falcons. Once used as a beacon to warn of invaders, the crag has a mysterious prehistoric past.



In the distance on the horizon, an enigmatic chimney stack, once used for smelting mineral ores, sits at Jenny Brown's Point below Jack Scout, a rocky coastal headland with plenty of excellent walks and views.

The train crosses the RSPB Leighton Moss Nature Reserve on its way around Warton Crag. Over 100,000 wading birds and 16,000 wildfowl come from as far away as Canada and the Arctic to stay over winter on the coastal marshes and salt flats around here.



SILVERDALE

Silverdale Station is a short walk from the spectacular nature reserves in this part of Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The station was originally built for the 'Ulverstone and Lancaster Railway Company' in the 1850s. The company chose Lancaster architects Paley and Austin to design and build the waiting room in the 1860s.

ARNSIDE

The signalman operating the signal box just after leaving Arnside Station is said to have the best view in England. Arnside did not exist before the railway arrived.

50 piers carry the railway along the Kent Viaduct that crosses the Kent Channel. When spring tides are channelled into this narrow estuary they create a large rare wave called a tidal bore.

When the railway arrived the small fishing village of Grange-over-Sands became a popular seaside resort. The Cumbria Grand Hotel, the first of the large hotels as you approach the town, was built in 1880 by the Furness Railway.



CARNFORTH

SILVERDALE

ARNSIDE

GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

Grange-over-Sands Station was designed by Lancaster architect Edward Paley for the Furness Railway Company.

As well as stations, Paley designed a huge number of buildings in the North, including Lancaster Cathedral, churches, schools and public buildings.

Grange Promenade that runs alongside the railway line was built in 1904.



Grange Lido was built 1932.

Leaving Grange-over-Sands for Kents Bank, you'll see an impressive red building on the hillside, which opened as a Working Men's Club and Institute Union Convalescent Home, in 1914.



Extra points if you can see the **red squirrels** at Grange station



KENTS BANK

The delightful Kents Bank Station garden is looked after by volunteers. The station welcomes thousands of 'Cross Bay' walkers who hike across the Sands with the Queen's Guide in specially organised events for charity.



WARNING!

Never attempt to cross the Bay without a guide.

A long finger of land sticks out into Morecambe Bay at **Humphrey Head**. It is home to special plants and birds like the shelduck, curlew and redshank.



The line passes by the small traditional fishing village of **Flookburgh** with a market square only a short walk from Cark Station.



CARK

Cark Station was built for Holker Hall, the home of Lord Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire, a major Furness Line investor.

Alight here for beautiful **Cartmel**, its medieval Priory, independent shops and sticky toffee pudding. Monks built a chapel out on **Chapel Island** in the Leven Estuary in the 14th century for travellers using the ancient path that crossed the Bay from Cartmel to Conishead.

Beyond the River Leven, on the outskirts of Ulverston at the top of Hoad Hill, is the **Sir John Barrow monument**. It is a replica of the third Eddystone lighthouse, erected in 1850, and commemorates the Ulverston-born founding member of the Royal Geographical Society.



ULVERSTON

Ulverston is a fine market town with many old buildings and a labyrinth of cobbled streets. As the birthplace of actor **Stan Laurel**, it is home to the world-famous **Laurel and Hardy Museum**

On the approach to town's station, the Furness Line crosses the Ulverston Canal. Completed in 1796, it was claimed to be the deepest, widest and straightest canal in Britain. Ulverston prospered thanks to this waterway.



GRANGE-OVER-SANDS



KENTS BANK



CARK



ULVERSTON

DALTON

The 14th-century tower known as Dalton Castle provided refuge against Scottish raiders for the monks of nearby Furness Abbey.



The short tunnel at Dalton Junction is where the locals say, "the living go under the dead", as the line passes beneath Dalton cemetery.

The red soil seen around here is caused by iron-rich deposits, a reminder of the once huge iron industry in this area.

ROOSE

Furness Abbey is found between Dalton and Roose, in the Vale of the Deadly Nightshade.

The once-wealthy Furness Abbey was one of the most powerful Cistercian monasteries in Britain.

Until 1950 you could take the train from Roose Station straight to Furness Abbey Station. The station opened in 1846 to serve the abbey and the Furness Railway Company-owned Furness Abbey Hotel.



DALTON

ROOSE

BARROW-IN-FURNESS

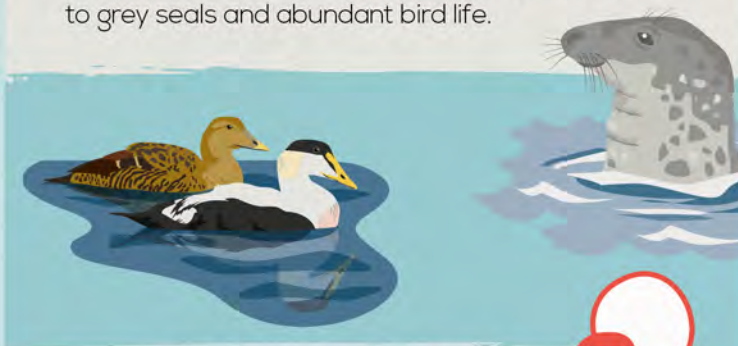
Barrow grew from a small farming hamlet into a large ship-building and steel town because of the Furness Line.

By the late 19th century, Barrow was home to the world's largest steelworks, owned by the Barrow Hematite Steel Company. By the 1980s many industries had closed, but ship and nuclear submarine building still continue.

Explore Barrow's past at **The Dock Museum**.

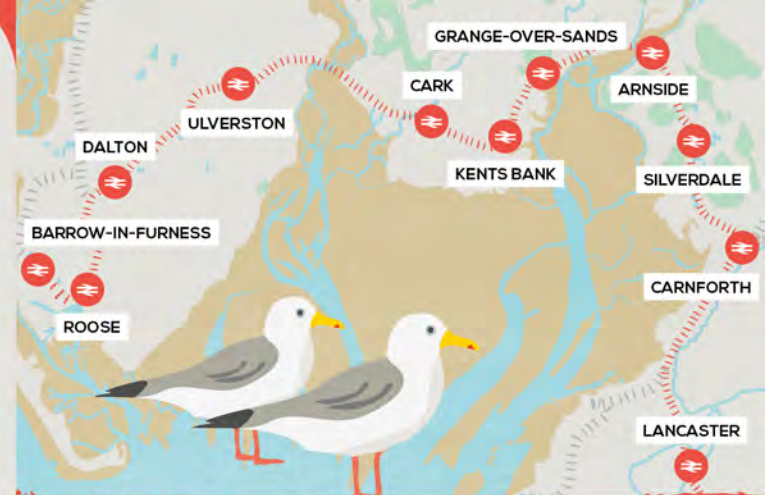


Walney Island marks the west corner of Morecambe Bay, a place of fresh air and home to grey seals and abundant bird life.



Glimpse some of the UK and Europe's largest offshore wind farms in the distance – part of the Bay's 'Energy Coast'.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS



Community Rail Cumbria (CRC) works in partnership with community groups, funding partners, local authorities and the private sector to support the use and improvement of local railway stations in Cumbria. CRC is greatly helped by community volunteers and supports local communities to adopt their local station and encourage station development. CRC has a strong focus on promotion and marketing of local rail services.

communityrailcumbria.co.uk

Morecambe Bay Partnership celebrates and conserves the things that make the Bay special. Your gift can protect the Bay's wildlife, historic sites and special places so that they can be enjoyed for years to come. Your gift could improve disabled access, create new cycle routes and share the stories of the Bay.

Our supporters volunteer time, share skills and donate. Join in at:

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