

# Dramatic Natural Landscape and Views

Vast shining intertidal sands are carved by constantly shifting channels and the endless rhythm of the tides. The headlands offer spectacular views of sea and sky. The islands, mudflats and sands, woods, rivers, wetlands and grasslands are home to a rich variety of wildlife. At the heart of the bay is Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - the jewel in the crown and a place famous for its amazing wildlife, stunning scenery, and superb walks.

Tell your visitors about the sunrises and sunsets, people think they are particularly spectacular here. When asked what makes them special, many locals referred to the colours of the skyscape and landscape. Don't forget to point this out to visitors interested in photography and art. Morecambe Bay is the perfect place for skywatching and cloud spotting.

**Help your visitors to enjoy the dramatic natural landscape of Morecambe Bay. You could share with them:**

- interesting facts about our diverse landscape
- our captivating views
- your favourite view points
- photos to show the magnificent colours
- up to date weather and tidal information



## TOOL KIT

### Photographs

Why not use photos from the toolkit's image library. These are available free of charge (subject to conditions of use) on [www.morecambebaynature.org.uk/gallery](http://www.morecambebaynature.org.uk/gallery)

## DESTINATION CASE STUDY

### Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

At the heart of Morecambe Bay lies a very special area that was designated in 1972 for its scenic views, valuable wildlife, habitats, geology and cultural heritage. Here you will find stunning limestone pavements, ancient woodlands, an intimate landscape of meadows and rich wetlands, all topped off by an impressive coastline of hidden bays and cliffs and magnificent views.

The AONB is managed by a partnership of local authorities, national agencies, landowners, voluntary organisations and local communities, working together to conserve and enhance the area. A variety of guides and suggested walking and cycling routes are available and events take place throughout the year. Visitors can also join the Landscape Trust to keep in touch with the area and help do their bit to enjoy and care for the landscape.

For more information copy this hyperlink onto your website so your visitors can get the most out of the landscape too. <http://www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk> or contact the AONB office for copies of the guides for your visitors 01524 761034 or [info@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk](mailto:info@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk)

## Interesting Facts About the Bay's Geology and landscape

1. The Bay itself is a unique geological feature, created by a deeply faulted structure, into which four large estuaries flow, forming vast intertidal sands.
2. Walney Island is a barrier island formed by longshore drift reworking boulder clays and glacial deposits laid down as the ice-sheets retreated from high lands of Cumbria.
3. Trowbarrow Quarry in the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a great place for geologists. The bedding planes are vertical and reveal excellent examples of trace fossils in the floor of the Carboniferous seas of 330 million years ago.
4. Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve has the best example of lowland limestone pavement in Britain.
5. Drumlins forming rather elegant landforms around Cartmel, and Low Newton and further ice age 'kame' features (irregular mounds of glacial till) can be seen at Bardsea and Humphrey Head.
6. Nationally protected limestone pavements occur on fells and in woodlands around Grange, Whitbarrow and Farleton Knott.
7. Much of Furness's industrial heritage derives from rich seams of haematite – the richest form of iron ore.

## Captivating Views

You'd be hard pushed to think about Morecambe Bay without imagining the view out across the sea and sands. When we asked locals to describe the special nature of the bay, "view" was the most commonly used word of all. We're not the first people to be inspired and captivated by the views here - Victorian holidaymakers would use mirrors to get a better look around the bay.

But everywhere has a view, so what is so special about ours? All of our interviewees seemed to agree that the views here are captivating, and are linked to the bay's spectacular scale and grandeur and its connection with coastline, woodlands and fells.

*Here are some words you could use to describe the views and landscape to your visitors, they all come from local people*

beautiful	sublime	breathtaking
dramatic	stunning	spectacular
amazing		

*The landscape was also described as open, and used words like*

expanse	scale	massive
vast	big	grandeur
space		

The space created by the massive vistas provides visitors with a chance to reflect and contemplate. Indeed, spirituality and inspiration have played a significant part in the culture and heritage of the area. It is no coincidence that there are several ancient spiritual sites scattered around the coastline, given the space for contemplation that a view can create.

*Use words like these to describe the inspirational feelings the views create*

escape	healing	freedom
rest	forget all your cares	mystery
spiritual	liberating	wellbeing
relax	magical	

## **Our Favourite Viewpoints**

Why not encourage your visitors to check out our top 10 viewpoints. Don't forget to tell them about your favourite too...

1. West Shore Beach, Walney Island - views out to the Irish Sea.
2. Birkrigg Common, near Ulverston - fantastic views over the Bay from the site of bronze age stone circle.
3. Humphrey Head, near Grange - one of the many places in Britain that claims to be where the last wolf was shot.
4. Hampsfell, near Cartmel, the short hike from Cartmel or Grange - well worth it for the panoramic views across the bay and the lakeland fells.
5. Helsington Church, near Sizergh - with dramatic views over the Lyth Valley to Whitbarrow and across to Sandside and beyond.
6. Warton Crag - the highest point in Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty topped with the remains of an Iron Age fort and exhilarating views.
7. Jack Scout Giant's Seat, near Silverdale, - the perfect place to look out to sea and watch a spectacular sunset.
8. The Promenade, Morecambe - loved by many for the stunning views of the Lakeland Fells on clear days.
9. St Patricks Chapel, Heysham - an atmospheric place with a long history of spiritual significance and settlement, and great views from the headland.
10. Rossall Point Observatory - the new tower offers a protection and views to the Irish Sea, Isle of Man and across the Bay's extensive sands to Walney.

**“I love to take the train around Morecambe Bay, sit back and watch the views go by”**

## A Changing Landscape

Morecambe Bay has one of the highest tidal ranges in the world – and second highest in Britain, after the Bristol Channel. It is the largest inter-tidal area in Britain. This simple fact means that the way we use the Bay is unique and special. As the tide ebbs, it opens a route for travel, celebrated now with cross Bay walks, echoing the trade routes of old. Fishermen follow these retreating tides, gathering cockles and shrimps on foot and with tractors now, yet, into the 1960s this was with horse and cart.

When the sea goes out, it goes out for miles revealing vast shining sands; the feeding grounds for internationally important numbers of wildfowl and waders. All this makes for a dynamic landscape – with constantly shifting channels as well as the ebb and flow of the tides. This means that the Bay is never the same from day to day, month to month, or season to season.

This change is linked to the dynamic nature of the weather and tides. For up to date weather information refer to the Met Office, and for tide times visit [tidetimes.org.uk](http://tidetimes.org.uk). The spring tides are a great time to see the dynamic nature of the bay and push some of the birds that live around the bay closer to shore for brilliant viewing.

**“the seascape and skyscape are constantly changing to create an infinite number of views”**

### FASCINATING FACTS

Morecambe Bay is one of less than a dozen places in Britain where there are tidal bores. The tidal bore results from a combination of the high tidal range and the shape of the bay as it narrows into the Kent Estuary at Arnside. The water enters the tapering estuary and the rising waters become confined which results in a distinct wave developing, which can be anything from a few centimetres to almost a metre high on full spring tides. Predicted tides of 9.5m or more are needed before it is likely that a full bore will rise and even then the bore is inconsistent and sometimes doesn't really develop at all.



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