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## LAKELAND LLAMA TREKS...WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO!!!!!!!!!!!!

Welcome once again llama lovers, to our latest newsletter recording the antics and experiences of the Lakeland llamas. We hope you have had the chance to go on to our wacky website and that the 'llama song' has not driven everyone crazy!

Lakeland Llamas have been causing a stir in one of England's top holiday spots- the Lake District- and I can't quite believe we have been trekking in some of the most spectacular countryside in the lake district for over 4 years now and have been privileged to share our wonderful llamas with some very excited and happy trekkers.

The llamas must be the most photographed animals in the lakes and absolutely love posing for the camera. When encountering our 'trek' most people do a double take whilst uttering universally common comments...'those are big sheep',..... 'I knew I shouldn't drink at lunchtime',..... you don't expect to see one of those on a stroll around the lake', The most common by far is 'my goodness where have they come from?' (the stock answer being PERU!)

The llamas always have a fantastic welcome and brighten the day for many, many people.

Folks from all walks of life gel together brilliantly when in the company of our hairy friends and age is no barrier. From toddlers to Grandmas, the whole family shares a memorable experience together and we have had some great moments...from Weddings and Proposals to Golden weddings and Honeymoons...the llamas sure do bring out the romantic side in everyone.

## Putting down some roots

By popular request from our trekkers, we finally took the bull by the horns (sorry, llamas by the ears) and bought a really convenient site on the A66 just outside Penrith and opened our very own visitor centre.....

## Llama Karma Kafe!



This is a great little place with lots to see....where else could you sit next to a roaring log fire with a glass of wine and while away an afternoon watching our llamas people watching....we have a great viewing gallery right alongside the windows and the llamas being the nosy creatures that they are, I love to peer in to see what is for tea!

For more information on all the creatures to see in our gardens ( yes, we really do have monkeys and giant rabbits) log on to our website [www.llamakarmakafe.co.uk](http://www.llamakarmakafe.co.uk)

## New venue and Forest Friends

During the summer months the llamas like to go on their jollies, and what better place to spend it but at nearby

### Center Parcs

Twice a week they pack up their head collars and lead ropes and head off to the wonderful forest tracks in and around Center Parcs Whinfell Forest, which is just a mile up the road from their home at **Llama Karma Kafe**.

The llamas do two sessions a day with holiday makers...Llamas and little people...leading gentle treks with children of three years upwards and their parents and for the more intrepid, a longer 'off road' experience with older children and adults. Surprisingly this trek is called 'Walking with Llamas' ( does what it says on the tin) as Llama trekking tended to get confused with pony trekking and there were some very nonplussed looking llamas when children tried to climb on their backs!

One thing the llamas are great at is walking at your pace, so one of their new found skills is to walk alongside wheelchairs and electric buggy's, enabling disabled adults and children at Center Parcs to join in with the whole family on their llama experience....Pixie, our champion chair escort, is expert at sidestepping though gateways allowing room for the wheelchair to pass through whilst still maintaining a loose contact on his

lead so the person in the chair is able to do the whole trek unaided...he's such a star.

As usual, the llamas create quite an impression on their walking companions and the holidaymakers that have fallen in Llama llove on their trek in the forest always call at **Llama Karma Kafe** on the way home for an extra glimpse of their favourite llama and to buy one of our cuddly soft toy llamas as a memento.



**Pixie's new wheels!**

## New Babies

After waiting patiently for eleven and a half months our new babies have finally arrived!

Gucci, our handsome stud male had his first experience of romance last year and had great fun with his ladies...all six of them. We assumed that he had not had favourites and that all ladies would reward his dalliance with the patter of tiny feet but to date just two little crias (baby llamas) have popped out and I think the rest of the girls have been conning us into thinking they needed to eat for two.

Here's the dilemma.....we had decided to name the new babies after gem stones and so, when our first baby girl arrived we named her Diamond ( her mums name is Lil ) we had thought Ruby Pearl and Sapphire might follow but no....next to arrive was a little boy. As we could not think of a male sounding gem stone he has been unceremoniously named..... Geeza!!!!!!!!!!!! I don't think anyone will forget that in a hurry.



**Geeza**



**Diamond**

## Train the Trainer

Llamas are great human trainers and one look from their big brown eyes sends you into cuddle mode. However, llamas are intelligent and quick to spot this weakness so if you really want to spend a lot of time with or perhaps get your own llama then a training course is the first port of call.

We can now offer a one day experience where you will cover all aspects of basic llama care, psychology and handling techniques, basic feeding, routine grooming and clipping techniques, basic medical and pregnancy information and the opportunity to join us on a short training trek with a delicious lunch and wine included. Details of these training days are to be found on our website. Incidentally, if you want to see what you can really train a llama to do then check out [Terry Crowfoots website](#).

This amazing lady not only trained her lovely llama, Mary Ann, to pull a carriage but all her llamas do amazing things such as playing football, fetching bean bags, rollover and play dead on command and much, much more....prepare to be amazed.



Teri 'The Llama Whisperer' with Inca and William

## Good things come in small packages...Who's heard of a miniature llama?

Well, although to date there are no true minis in the UK we are looking into a marvellous opportunity to import some excellent breeding stock from Canada. There have been several generations of minis bred now across the water and although there are some very strict import regulations (and huge costs) we have finally tracked down a small breeding group that will make the beginning of the UK's first mini herd.

What better place for them to come from the rockies but to the foothills of some of the most spectacular mountains in England.

A true mini llama stands no more than 38 inches high at the shoulder but is perfectly proportioned and still has the inquisitive and endearing traits of its larger counterpart. The proposed breeding programme will enable Lakeland Llama Treks to introduce these endearing little bods into England's green and pleasant land ( well not always so pleasant in the wet lake district) although I can already predict that we will not want to part with any of the new babies. Oh well!

Watch this space for further news on the patter of even tinier feet!



Photo courtesy of Millstream Miniature Llamas

## FRIENDS FOREVER

Want your very own hairy friend but no where to keep it?

Adopting a llama is the next best thing to owning one...no mucking out, feeding or pasture management necessary.

When you adopt a llama you feel a sense of belonging to an elite group of llama lovers....putting that picture in a frame by your bed brings you 'Llama Karma' and a strong desire to cuddle something warm and woolly.

Llama adoption is a fantastically unique way to show someone you have put a lot of thought into getting a gift that will always make them smile when they look at it....a soft cuddly toy llama, gift boxed with an adoption certificate, personal letter from your adopted llama and a great mug shot of the chosen llama is one present they will never forget...loved by adults and children alike. The opportunity to go on a trek with their llama is potentially on offer too subject to availability and pre booking. Maybe a trekking gift voucher could be next years present?

# Santa's Grotto

## Llama Karma Kafe

For booking details phone 01768 866776

A Christmas special treat for the kids...visit Santa in his grotto and meet Prancer, his special reindeer in her own woodland home!



Friday 11th and Saturday 12th December

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December

at 5.30pm and 7pm the Kafe is offering pre booked individual or family tickets for an hours visit to Santa!

THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL CHARITY OF LORDS HOUSE FARM PROVIDING ANIMAL THERAPY TO DISABLED AND DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

A visit to Santa and his special friend - Book early as places are limited

## Trek dates for next year

10th April, 24th April, 8th May, 22nd May, 5th June, 19th June, 10th June, 19th June, 10th July, 24th July, 7th August, 21st August, 4th September, 18th September, 2nd October, 23rd October and 29th December.

## Christmas Presents for for Llama llovers and those who thought they had everything!

Stuck for ideas this Christmas? Why not send your friends and loved ones a Llama Trekking gift voucher which can be used throughout the year. Alternatively, the next best thing to owning a llama without the feeding and mucking out has to be our annual adoption chosen by you from our website.