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Honister opens up underground tunnel not seen for more than 40 years

A section of underground tunnel not seen since the 1970s will be officially opened up to the public next month, as part of [Honister Slate Mine's](#) newly extended guided tours.

The attraction near Keswick is famed as England's last working slate mine and has a vast maze of underground tunnels which wend their way through the 900 year old mine deep in the heart of a volcanic mountain that is Fleetwith Pike.



Daily guided tours already take in an array of narrow passages and cathedral-like caverns, but now, bosses at the popular attraction are opening up a new section of this archaeological time capsule, which will enable visitors to go even deeper into the original mine. The so-called 'black area' would have been used by miners in days gone by, but has never been explored by members of the public before.

The newly-revealed section of mine workings will become an official part of the 90 minute Kimberley Mine Tours **from Saturday 22 October**, to co-incide with autumn half-term.

Honister tour guide, Roland Thomson, says, "*The history and heritage of England's last surviving slate mine is immense and opening up the mine even further will give visitors a unique insight into an underground world that has been hidden from public view for centuries. This extended tour definitely has the 'wow' factor and I can't wait to see people's reactions as they step ever deeper into this mighty Lake District mountain.*"

Mine tours run three times daily throughout October and November (and once a day in December and January). Prices start from £7.50 per child and £12.50 for an adult. Family discounts are available [online](#).

Tours take around 90 minutes, and safety helmets and lamps are provided.

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Notes to Editors:

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