



## WALK TO AMBLESIDE VIA JENKINS CRAG

DISTANCE: 3 Miles

TIME: 2 HOURS Plus return

REFRESHMENTS: Plenty in Ambleside

### Overview of Walk:

This walk is a very easy as a family **walk**, on the lower slopes of Wansfell, with wonderful views of Lake Windermere. The walk starts from the **Cottage** and ends in **Waterhead, Ambleside** – the return to Brockhole opposite the cottage is achieved through a frequent bus service on the main road through the Lake District or, for the more adventurous, through a 40 minute lake cruise from Waterhead, Ambleside.

DANGER NOTE: There are some very brief sections of road walking on quiet minor roads. There is an opportunity to go onto Jenkyn Crag but care should be taken if there are children in your group. Dogs can be let off the lead in Skeghyll woods

### Cottage to Ambleside Walk Description:

From the cottage go through the gate and turn left and follow the path into the woods behind the cottage gardens. Continue on the path until you cross over a beck and enter a surfaced road. Turn left here and very shortly the footpath becomes a loose stone path as it rises steeply uphill, with your first decent glimpse of Lake Windermere on your right. Continue upwards and immediately after passing through the buildings at Castle Syke Farm you enter a surfaced road, known as Holbeck Lane. Turn left and, after 100 metres or so, leave Holbeck Lane by turning right onto a private tarmac road, Skelghyll Lane, which is also a public footpath/right of way. You pass several houses and head down towards a gate. Go through it and head uphill steeply, which is thankfully short lived. After a further uphill section the way to Ambleside is eventually signposted. For those wishing to do a circular walk back to the cottage, there is the option here to head back via Low Wood and along the pavement next to the A591. However, if you do this you will miss the best views which are enjoyed after you pass through the gates at High Skelghyll Farm. Assuming you have stuck with the planned walk, a little further on from High Skelghyll there are two benches where you can sit, relax and enjoy the fine views over Lake Windermere and Blelham Tarn. Beyond the benches there is the option of a short diversion onto Jenkins Crag, a Victorian viewpoint now partly obscured by trees – for obvious safety reasons, children need to be kept under control here.

Returning to the main path head on towards Ambleside through Skelghyll Wood. Whilst in the woods you can always follow the **The Champion Tree Trail**. This is a 45-minute circular route through Skelghyll Woods. Just follow the tree symbols along the way and discover some of the tallest trees in England. For more info:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ambleside/trails/ambleside-champion-tree-trail>

The path eventually splits in two for a short distance and a gentler descent can be made on the path on the right. Both paths rejoin each other after a short distance and you will soon have another option of two paths. Again, take the one on the right crossing over Stencher Beck. Bear right again when you are presented with further alternative routes further down the path.

The footpath becomes a tarmac path, eventually with dry stone walls on both sides. Soon Hayes Garden World comes into view. For those wishing to take a 40 minute lake cruise back to Brockhole take the path on the left signposted, "Beware this public footpath exits into a blind bend", just before Hayes Garden Centre is seen (best avoided if you are wearing shorts as it can be overgrown with nettles in summer). For those returning on the bus continue on past the mountain rescue station and the bus stop is next to the Fisherbeck Guest House. However, why return straight away when you can enjoy a walk around Ambleside, which has a superb family park.

The 555 and 559 bus service from Ambleside to Brockhole is frequent and stops outside the gates at the Brockhole Visitor Centre. If there is more than one adult in the group, a money saving tip is for the car driver to take the 5 minute bus journey back to Brockhole, returning to Ambleside in the car to pick up the other passengers in your group. Bus times can be found at [www.travelline.org.uk](http://www.travelline.org.uk).

Similarly, the lake cruises from Waterhead to Brockhole, via Wray Castle, run frequently in the high season. Times and prices can be found on [www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk](http://www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk).

