



WALK OVER WANSFELL PIKE TO AMBLESIDE VIA STOCK GHYLL FORCE

DISTANCE: 4.1 Miles

ASCENT 420m

GRADE Moderate, walking boots required

TIME: 2 1/2 - 3 HOURS Plus return

REFRESHMENTS: Plenty in Ambleside

Overview of Walk:

This walk is quite a climb over the back of Wansfell, but you are rewarded with wonderful views of Ambleside and the Langdales. You can take a brief detour just before you return to Ambleside to see **Stock Ghyll Force** a spectacular 70ft waterfall. The walk starts from the **Cottage** and ends in **Ambleside** – the return to Brockhole opposite the cottage is achieved through a frequent bus service on the main road or following the route of the walk described through Skeggyll woods

DANGER NOTE: The descent from Wansfell Pike is steep and can be slippery in wet conditions. The paths around Stock Ghyll Force can be slippery especially in Autumn when the leaves have fallen. The paths over the back of Wansfell can be difficult to find in misty conditions, do not attempt this walk in low cloud cover unless you are confident with a map and compass. **Dog walkers** : There are some steep stiles which can be a problem for arthritic old dogs !

Cottage to Wansfell Walk Description:

1. 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.
2. Continue upwards and immediately after passing through the buildings at **Castle Syke Farm** you enter a surfaced road, known as **Holbeck Lane**. Turn right up the road and after 20m turn left.
3. The footpath climbs steadily on an old green lane between two stone walls. At a T junction of paths bear left. **Robin lane** on the map.
4. Continue along this track then at a gate bear right, **Hundreds Road** on the map.
5. The path continues for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile between two stone walls, before reaching a small waterfall and the moorland at the back of Wansfell.
6. The path can be indistinct in places but runs roughly parallel to a wall your left for half a mile.
7. The path eventually meets another path from the left. Bear left over the wall and climb towards the top of Wansfell Pike for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.
8. When you reach the summit of **Wansfell** you have a wonderful 360 degree view. Starting from the south you have a clear view down Windermere, coming round to the west you can see: the Coniston fells, Crinkle Craggs, Bowfell, the Langdale hills and then the Fairfield Horseshoe. Closer to you is Red Screes. Towards the north east

the Kentmere Horseshoe fells. Over to the east you can just make out the rolling Howgills and some of the Yorkshire Dales, including on a clear day Ingleborough peak. To the south east the distant hills are the Forest of Bowland near Lancaster. Last but not least, you can see Morecambe Bay in the distance.



View from Wansfell Pike

9. The path from the summit zig zags steeply down towards Ambleside.
10. Eventually you meet a path coming in from the left with a stream on your right, continue downhill with the stream on your right until you reach a step stile over a wall to join a tarmac lane.
11. Bear left down the lane and after a clearing look out for path on your right that leads to **Stock Ghyll falls**.
12. You soon arrive at the viewing platform for the falls. Take care it can be very slippery here when wet. The path to Ambleside follows the left bank of Stock Ghyll or you could walk upstream to a bridge that crosses the stream and then follows the right bank downstream. Continuing downstream the paths meet via another bridge, the exit from the falls is on the left bank through a metal gate.
13. Rejoin the lane and walk downhill you will end up in Ambleside Near the Salutation Hotel. The bus stop is here. For those walking back via Skeggyll bear left along the main road then bear left up Old Lake Road. Before Old Lake road rejoins the main road just past a car park a Bridleway bears left to Skeggyll woods.

