

Across the Lakes

Ravenglass to Windermere

from weekwalks.co.uk/walks.htm.

There is a [video](#) illustrating this walk.

1. Walking days and practicalities

This is an exhilarating four day hike from one railway station to another. It's not the same as Wainwright's route except for day 3. Distances are not long, but each day involves crossing a pass to the next valley, and the weather can make a big difference to the experience - there is no cover or refreshment once you are on the hills. Taking a tent would give extra flexibility; all the places we stayed at were camper-friendly.

2. Getting there and away

Arrive at Ravenglass station, probably coming up the day before (Ravenglass is a delightfully relaxed place, we stayed on the seafront at [Rosegarth Guest House](#)). Leave from Windermere station, on the trail; a few hours takes you back to most parts of Britain.

3. Navigation

We had the OL6 and OL7 (1:25,000) maps for the beginning and end of the route, and Landranger 90 (1:50,000) for the middle bit. All worked OK. Our inspiration was *Footpath Touring - the Best of Lakeland* by Ken Ward (out of print, but you can get it on the net). He gives lots of details, including route maps. We didn't get on with these very well, and used it more as background.

4. The Route:

Day 1: Ravenglass to Wasdale Head (Steam train plus 6 miles, 4 hours - stats from Ken Ward).

We took the delightful miniature [Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway](#) to Dalegarth (8½ miles, 40 minutes). It's also a good walk (we tried some of it the day before). Then walk through Boot, soon taking a path to the right (footpath sign on the gate). This takes you slowly up to Burnmoor Tarn; a little further on there is the view pictured below. Then down and on to the [Wasdale Head Inn](#).

Day 2: Wasdale Head to Borrowdale (7 miles, 5 hours).

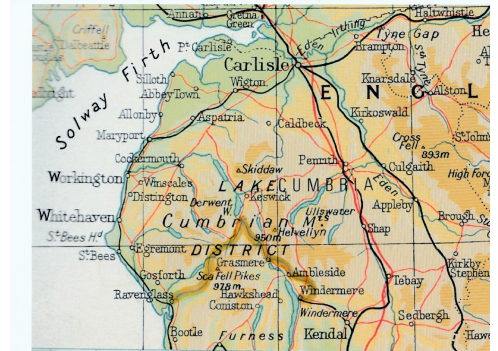
We started behind the Inn, taking the path through Burnthwaite and on to Sty Head (the main path is the upper, more gentle one, though there is one small scramble). Then on, passing to the left of Styhead Tarn, keeping to the main (rather rocky) path which slowly bears right and down to Stockley Bridge. At Seathwaite take a right and left (marked) to avoid the road. When that path reaches the B5289, cross over and continue over the Derwent, to go up to the [Youth Hostel](#) and Borrowdale.

Day 3: Borrowdale to Grasmere (8 miles, 6½ hours plus 1 hour if you doing the ridge walk).

Cross Stonethwaite Beck to pick up a path going south east, and stay on it all the way up to Greenup Edge (there is some scrambling at Lining Crag). Take the rightmost path coming down (there are cairns) to a pass where you can either go on down Easedale Gill to Grasmere, or up and to your left along a fine ridge walk and then down from Helm Crag. (We stayed at the [Youth Hostel](#).)

Day 4: Grasmere to Windermere (8 miles, 6½ hours).

From Town End, pick up the little road going past Dove Cottage, which becomes an old 'Corpse Road' to Rydal. Continue past the Hall and into Rydal Park; there is then a footpath along the A591 to Ambleside. Follow signs to the Waterfall and stay on this road; later there is a footpath sign to Wansfell Pike. After the top, carry on down to pick up Nanny Lane into Troutbeck. There are many paths wandering down this attractive valley to the station (Ken Ward's book has details of one).



First view of the Big Beasts and Wast Water (day 1)