

Derwentwater

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1. Start from the Moot Hall in the centre of Keswick. Head downhill and follow the B5289 out of town for one mile, turning left onto the "no through road" which leads you over a footbridge and into Portinscale. At the junction, turn left onto the road through the village. This will take you past two marinas, both very welcoming and with shop and cafe.
2. After a mile, bear left, keeping to the road parallel with the lake. A short climb will bring you to the slopes of Catbells and soon the lake will appear in all its splendour. Time for a sandwich whilst you take in the view across the lake and down towards Borrowdale. This is an area where Hugh Walpole enjoyed walking and featured in his "Herries" novels. He is buried at St John's Church in Keswick.
3. Three more miles downhill and you reach Grange, passing the Borrowdale Gates Hotel, famous for its fine fayre. In Grange, there are cafes and a small shop selling big ice creams.
4. As you leave the village, idle a moment to enjoy the quaint little bridge over the River Derwent (much photographed and painted) before crossing it and turning left at the B5289 to return to Keswick. Turn right here for a short detour to marvel at the "Bowder Stone", a huge boulder, fallen from the slopes above - a ladder gives access to the top.
5. The B5289 is narrow in parts and can get busy so be careful. There are paths you can use but you can miss them. If there is a lot of traffic, turn around and go back the way you came or, as a relaxing alternative, take the launch from the Lodore Landing Stage. For this, turn left after the bridge at Grange onto the B5289 for 1.5 miles (walking if busy) when you will see the Lodore Hotel on your right. There is a spectacular waterfall behind the hotel, made famous by the Lakes poet, Robert Southey in "The Cataract of Lodore". The launch is signposted a little further on past the hotel.
6. In summer, there are two launches running, one clockwise, one anti-clockwise. If you want to go straight back to Keswick, take the anti-clockwise launch which drops you off near the Theatre. However, if you fancy a little more cycling you could take the clockwise launch for a couple of stops, rejoining your original route to return to Keswick



