

Friar's Crag

Friar's Crag is a viewpoint looking over Derwentwater towards the Jaws of Borrowdale. According to Ruskin it has one of the three or four most beautiful views in Europe. Friar's Crag is so called because it is believed to be the embarkation point for monks making the pilgrimage to St Herbert's Island.



Time - one hour or less

1. Start from the Moot Hall, Market Square, Keswick and head between Gregg's Bakery and Keswick Lodge into St John's Street.
2. Turn right. You will pass on the left the former Keswick Library dated 1849. Turn right into the lane that leads in front of St John's Church. In the church yard is the grave of Sir Hugh Walpole, author of 'The Herries Chronicles'. Follow the lane down to Borrowdale Road.
3. Turn left. Cross the road before reaching the mini roundabout to take the signed footpath over the road, past the Theatre by the Lake and down to the boat landings.
4. A short walk along the lakeshore brings you to the viewpoint at Friar's Crag, one of the most popular places in Keswick for photographs. A memorial to Ruskin stands on the crag, a slab of rock with a bronze portrait medallion. It is a fitting place for a memorial to John Ruskin, the artist and author who had many associations with the area. From Friar's Crag look right to Derwent Island. The house is owned by the National Trust and is open on certain days of the year. The other islands can also be seen from here - Lord's Island, once the seat of the Earls of Derwentwater and St Herbert's Island where the saint is said to have lived and also the fictional home of Old Brown in Beatrix Potter's Squirrel Nutkin. Rampsholme, the smallest island is carpeted with wild garlic. All the islands are owned by the National Trust.
5. Retrace your steps back to the boat landings from where you can stroll back to Keswick through the beautiful formal gardens of Hope Park. Leaving the park the underpass takes you into Lake Road and back into the town centre.

