

WALKS USING THE KESWICK LAUNCH

For launch timetables visit <http://www.keswick-launch.co.uk>

Keswick Landings to Ashness Gate

Time: 1- 2 hours | *Grading:* Easy

From the Keswick boat landings follow the water's edge with the lake on your right side. Follow the woodland trail to Friars Crag then bear left and through a gate to an area of grassland. Continue along the path.

After the grassland is another gate which heads again through a woodland trail. Cross the small footbridge and go to the end of this path where you meet a gate heading onto a rough road. Go right along this road and follow the lakeside path past a wooded headland and the National Trust centenary stone (a large stone cut in half on the lakeshore) at Calfclose Bay.

Continue on the lakeshore path until you reach Ashness Gate and take the launch back to Keswick.

Hawse End to Lodore Landings

Time: 2 hours | *Grading:* Easy

Derwentwater's most popular walk, combining a lakeside walk with the chance of a good meal and a spectacular waterfall.

Take the Keswick Launch across to Hawse End. From the jetty turn left and follow the lakeside path through Brandelhow Park, a varied area of woodland, fields and delightful lakeshore habitats, until you pass two large gravel banks. Take the narrow road that leads into the woods and turn left at Warren House.

After a number of little wooden boardwalks (invaluable in wet weather) the path stops at a gate in a dry stone wall, from here you can see the raised wooden walkway.

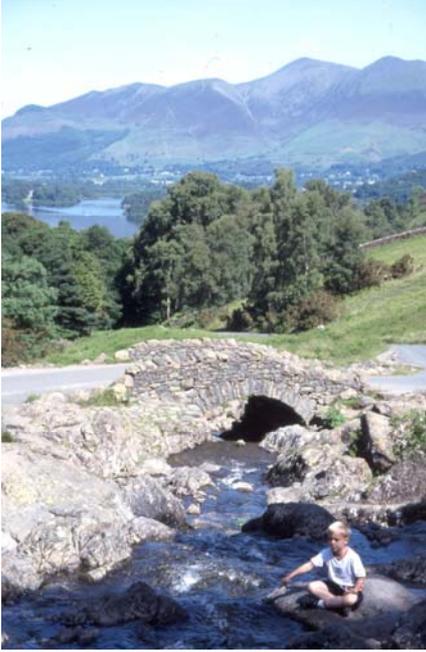
Follow the walkway, cross the "Chinese Bridge", and walk onto the Borrowdale road. Take a left turn and you will soon arrive at the Lodore Hotel, behind which are the Lodore Falls.

Opposite the hotel is a track leading down to the waters edge and the ferry pick up point back to Keswick. Half way down the track you can see the Mary Mount Hotel through the trees. Both the Lodore and the Mary Mount offer excellent lunches and teas.



Ashness Bridge & Surprise View

Time: 2 hours | *Grading:* Medium



Catch the launch to the start of the walk at Ashness Gate, and head up the narrow road that leads up the hill. This road passes both Ashness Bridge and Surprise View before ending at the remote hamlet of Watendlath and Watendlath Tarn.

Ashness Bridge is an excellent example of a packhorse bridge, and has one of the Lake District's most famous views looking north to Derwentwater, Whinlatter and Skiddaw (see image on right)

Continuing on up the road to Surprise View will reward you with an even better vista - From here you can see the whole of Derwentwater, Borrowdale to the South, and on a clear day Bassenthwaite Lake to the North. It's the perfect spot to have a rest before retracing your steps to Ashness Gate and returning via launch to Keswick

Rosthwaite - Watendlath - Keswick

Time: 4 hours | *Grading:* Difficult

This walk involves a climb, so sturdy footwear is advised.

Rosthwaite is a hamlet in Borrowdale Valley and is accessible from Keswick by the **Borrowdale Bus**. When you arrive at Rosthwaite you can stock up at the Village Store and Post Office with those things you forgot before following the path by Hazel Bank rising to the east of the village.

After a while there is a gate in the stone wall on the left but keep going on upwards until the top of the rise where the path levels out.

The hamlet of Watendlath soon comes in to view below. Hugh Walpole set his novel Judith Paris here. This is an excellent place to stop for a cup of tea and jam scones with cream!

Suitably refreshed, you can continue by going back over the packhorse bridge but instead of following the road, take the path the other side of the stream. This gently descends through this hanging valley. When you come to a wooden footbridge descend down past the waterfalls to Lodore and catch the launch back to Keswick.



Hawse End to High Brandelhow via Catbells

Time: 3-4 hours | *Grading:* Difficult

This stunning Lake District walk involves a stiff climb but the views make it well worth it. Ensure you are wearing adequate footwear and carry a waterproof.

Take the boat to Hawse End (the 10-30 a.m. from Keswick Landings is a good one if you're in Keswick). Walk through the wood away from the landing stage and out onto the road at the metal gateway. Slightly to your right, cross the road (by the metal fence) and follow the stone wall up to the next road. Follow the road uphill, over the cattle grid, for fifty yards where the "end" of Catbells is visible. Follow the signs directing one to the footpath for Catbells. (The preferred initial route changes sometimes to prevent erosion.)



A steady climb takes you up the ridge, but stop every now and then to look backwards at the opening vista below. You will have noticed that there are two summits on Catbells, and just before you reach the lower, there is a memorial tablet set in the rock to Thomas Arthur Leonard. (Who's he? Well, you'll find out!)

Once on the first summit, the main summit is clearly visible to the south and after a walk through the intervening dip, this can be reached. This is at a height of 1481 feet (451 metres). This is an excellent place to eat one's packed lunch, (about 1 p.m. given the timings suggested) but beware, the sheep on Catbells are not at all shy and are very partial to sandwiches!

If one looks to the west, the side away from the lake, one is gazing into Newlands Valley and the hamlet of Little Town, familiar to Beatrix Potter readers as the territory of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle.

Continue south to the depression of Hause Gate, usually marked by a low cairn and turn left (East) i.e. towards the lake. The path is well worn and descends by a series of zigzags with occasional rails against which one may pause to enjoy a whole new series of perspectives of Derwentwater and lower Borrowdale.

Coming to the road at the bottom turn left and in a few yards is the track which takes you down to the lake shore at High Brandelhow, (approximately 3-30p.m.) where one may relax among the trees or splash about in the lake.

For kids of all ages, there is a certain tree there, near the water's edge, which is extremely climbable right to the top in the way its branches are laid out like a spiral staircase - just the way to draw off any remaining energy while waiting for one's boat back across the lake.

