The Skiddaw Loop

The Borrowdale Bash

The Old Railway Line and Castlerigg Stone Circle

Lonscale Fell and the Gallesden Valley

This is an ideal mountain bike route if you have limited time. It begins by following the Old Railway Line but then climbs out of the Glenderaterra Valley for breathtaking views of the valley below. Old mine workings can be seen below as the ride heads up into the valley, then crosses a track before continuing through Lonscale Fell. The scenery is very dramatic, with only a few lanes for safety and the descents from the hills to Keswick will leave you wanting more.

Start at the Tourist Information Centre in Keswick, take the A66 south for 1km, then turn R at the sign to Keswick, follow the A66 south. Continue for 2km, pass the Derwent Hotel and cross a footbridge. A steep road descent of 1km (0.5m) brings you to the Cumbria Way. Big drop offs present negotiating natural rock steps following a bridle gate (GR NY314248) onto a branch road which leads to the A66, turn R through the Latrigg car park (GR NY269185) and heads 1A climbing into the mountains.

The Borrowdale Bash

Some of Britain’s most famous landscapes lie to the south of Keswick. It is around Borrowdale and the Borrowdale Valley that various Lake District settlers including Wordsworth, Byron and Coleridge spent much of their time trying to capture what they saw in poetry and paint. Others such as the outdoor Victorian eccentric, Milbanke, were based here running the car race and find a challenge in a new sport called rock climbing!

Avoid the first turning to Wescoe and continue past the next sign to Castlerigg (route number) back up to the Latrigg car park (GR NY269185). The bridleway has some steep working and pronounced twists. Suitable for mountain bikes only. Take the exit from Market Square (enquire about conditions before you set off) (GR NY266234).

The Old Railway Line and Castlerigg Stone Circle

Until the 1960s, Keswick had its own railway station and a daily rail service. These days, the Old Railway Line has been turned into a popular car-free walking and cycling route between Keswick and Threlkeld. The route includes beautiful secluded river scenes which open out into dramatic views of the surrounding hills, with many areas for the historic facilities car park area. Follow the extension to visit Castlerigg Stone Circle, one of Britain’s most iconic monuments in an inspirational setting.

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