The Skiddaw Loop

One of the Lakehead classics, bikers have been enjoying this route since the days of cycling. A cycling club called 'The Rough Stuff Fellowship' was formed following this route in the 1970s on their many touring bikes. The route is still popular today for its relative straightforwardness, but does enjoy some of the wildest corners of the Northern Pennines. The Skiddaw Loop starts from Keswick, with a route width of 4km (2.5 miles) and a climb of 650m (2165ft). It is a pleasant one-day route for beginners.

The Borrowdale Bath

Some of Britain's most famous landscapes lie to the south of Keswick. It is around Borrowdale and the Borrowdale Valley that various Lakehead exploits, including Mardale, the Borrowdale and Castlerigg routes, are found. The Borrowdale Circuit is a delightful ride suitable for all levels.

Lonscale Fell and the Glenderaterra 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 Threlkeld into the Glenderaterra Valley for beautiful views over to Keswick. Old mine workings can be seen below as the ride heads up into the valley, then crosses a bridge before continuing up onto Lonscale Fell. The scenery is very dramatic, with only a few roads for company, and the descent from Lonscale Fell will keep you wanting more!

The Old Railway Line and Castlerigg Stone Circle

Until the 1960s, Keswick had its own railway station and a daily coach 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 spots for a picnic and a swim.

Route to Castlerigg Stone Circle

Not suitable for very young children; some ascents and cycling along narrow car-free country lanes.

1. Leaving Keswick, follow the old railway line for 11km (7 miles) to an ascent towards Walla Crag. The river meanders back and forth as it meanders through the valley.
2. Cross the bridge on to the A66. Take care on a short slippery bridge crossing of the A66. The road levels out and after 1km (0.5m) passes through a metal cattle grid and on to a narrow tarmac road.
3. Continue for another 0.5km (0.3m) to Naddle Bridge. Cycle over the metal bridge and on to a narrow tarmac road. The road continues across a metal cattle grid and up a narrow stone section under Castle Crag.
4. Return to Keswick.