The Skiddaw Loop

One of the Lake District classics. Bikers have been enjoying this route since the dawn of cycling. A cycling club called "The Skiddaw Staff Fellowship" recorded following this route in the 1920s on their trusty touring bikes. Other clubs such as the Borrowdale Bash, Lonscale Fell and the Calenderata Valley have also recorded following this route in the 1920s.

The route is best completed in a clockwise direction.

Start: At the Tourist Information Centre in the Market Square (near about 4 miles from the Old Railway Station. Car parking available at the Old Railway Station.

Distance: 26 miles (42km)

Refreshments: Keswick Leisure Centre (GR NY254228)

Parking: Car parking available at the Old Railway Station.

ROUTE

1. Start from Keswick Leisure Path (GR NY254237) and follow the railway path all the way to the village of Threlkeld (route 4).
2. Avoid the bend turning to Wastwater and continue for another 0.5km (0.3m) to the next bend (route 5).
3. A steep climb up into the Borrowdale Bash and a short stretch of permissive single track.
4. A steep climb in a small confined valley. Follow the same route for another 2km.
5. Look out for a track sharply up (route 6)

Other tracks

Byway open to all traffic

Bridleway

Footpath (no cycling)

Suitable for mountain bikes only

Grade:

Medium - Challenge.

Byway open to all traffic

Horse riders so should be ridden with care.

see the Borrowdale Bash

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 valleys converge. The Borrowdale Bash is a very city’s most iconic monuments in an inspirational setting.

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Distance: 26 miles (42km)

Refreshments: Keswick Leisure Centre (GR NY254228)

Parking: Car parking available at the Old Railway Station.

ROUTE

2. Continue on the B842 Borrowdale road to the next village of Rosthwaite.
3. Turn left on to the road signed Waterhead and use a short section of old railway (GR NY264234).
4. A steep climb now demands low gear. It is a great challenge for the Lake District bikes. This stretch offers an excellent overview of the Borrowdale. Keep left in the sharp left turn.
5. A short climb
6. After a short distance follow the track that leads to the village of Threlkeld and two miles from the Old Railway Station.
7. To return directly to Keswick, take the route back to the Grange Gate and along the old railway track.
8. To return towards Keswick, follow the route back to the Borrowdale Bash and along the old railway.

Other tracks

Byway open to all traffic

Bridleway

Footpath (no cycling)

Suitable for mountain bikes only

Grade:

Medium - Challenge.

The Old Railway Line and Castering Stone Circle

Until the 1800s, 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. The line includes beautiful wooded river scenes which open out into dramatic views of the surrounding hills and valleys. The line also passes through Keswick Mining Museum.