



17 CUMBRIA CROSS FELL

▶ Distance: 11¼ miles /18km ▶ Time: 8 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



The Lakeland Fells from Wildboar Scar.

PHOTO: ROGER BUTLER



CHOSEN BY...

ROGER BUTLER

Cross Fell is the highest point of

the Pennines (2930 ft/893m) and a visit to its broad summit plateau is a memorable walk. On a clear day the views extend west to the Lake District, north to the Solway Firth and east over lonely moors towards the wild headwaters of the River Tees.

1 Start

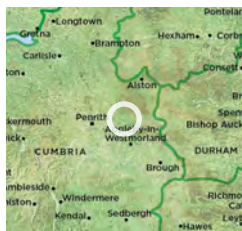
Go through a gate at the eastern end of the long village green and head north-east on a bridleway track through patches of gorse. Continue over rough ground (a long sliver of Open Access land) and pass the isolated house

at Wythwaite. Walk east, go through a pair of gates at a sheepfold and keep ahead to step over Littleedale Beck. A quad track continues up the valley but now veer R along the little ridge over Grumpy Hill.

2 2¼ miles/3.5km

Now keep ahead to join a path which turns L, uphill, across the stony slopes of Wildboar Scar. This bends R over the promontory known as Sturba Nook and continues, sometimes narrow and through swathes of bilberry, for 1¼ miles/2km with the head of Greatdale on R. The path meets the Pennine Way on the watershed at Tees Head, from where a wild view looks north into Upper Teesdale and east

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking By Blencarn village green, grid ref NY638312, nearest postcode CA10 1TX

Is it for me? A long walk over high lonely moorland – straightforward in good weather. Avoid otherwise
Stiles None

PLANNING

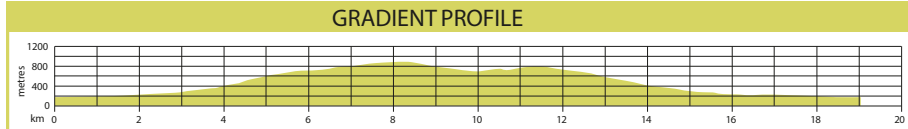
Nearest town Penrith
Refreshments Pubs and cafés in Penrith & Dufton
Public toilets None
Public transport None viable. Nearest station Penrith – taxi to Blencarn
Maps Explorer OL31; Landranger 91

to the spherical radar station on Great Dun Fell.

3 ¾ miles/7km

Turn L on the Pennine Way, partly paved with flagstones to prevent erosion on the boggy ground, and head towards a

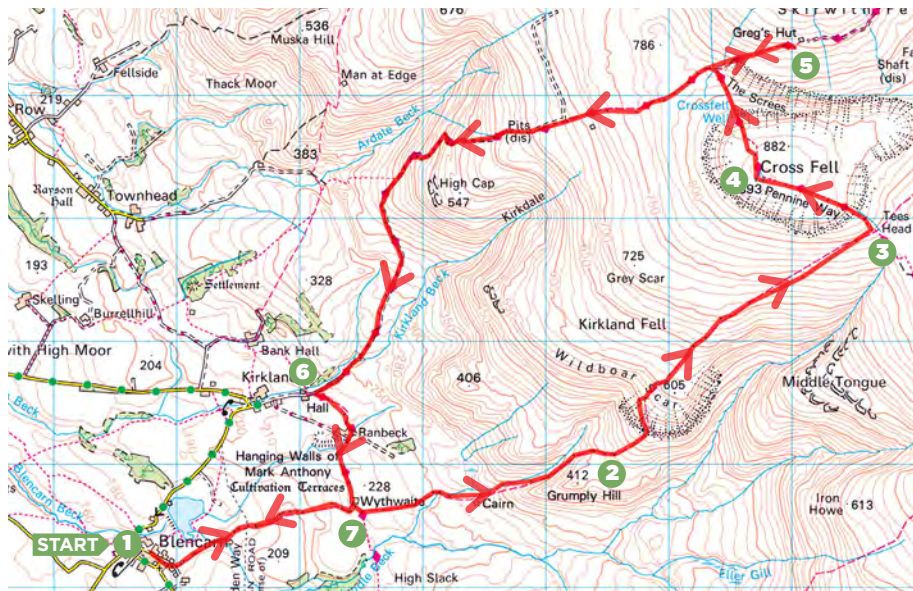
GRADIENT PROFILE



17 CUMBRIA CROSS FELL

► OS Explorer map OL31 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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tall cairn which marks the beginning of the summit plateau. Walk north-west from here for almost ½ mile/700m to reach the trig point and large stone shelter.

4 5 miles/8km

From the summit, a series of small cairns lead north as the Pennine Way dips past a spring (Crossfell Well) to descend the northern flanks of the fell. Looking east, lonely Greg's Hut comes into view but don't be tempted to veer off the path because there are steep scree slopes on R. Descend to a clear junction of paths and turn R for ½ mile/700m to the bothy.

5 6 miles/9.5km

Leave bothy and walk west on the line of the Pennine Way. Keep ahead on the good path over the moor, past a scattering of shake holes, and continue as the path twists down the south side of Ardale Beck. The path levels out and becomes a track which bends south through a couple of gates to a bridge over youthful Kirkland Beck. Keep ahead, through another gate, for ½ mile/500m.

6 9½ miles/15.25km

Just before the buildings, turn L on a bridleway through fields to a gate by the farm at Ranbeck. Follow a short section of cobbled track, go R by an old building

and go through two more gates. Turn L on a tarmac track – look R to see ancient cultivation terraces marked on the map as the 'Hanging Walls of Mark Anthony'. Pass through another gate and continue south to return to the house at Wythwaite.

7 10¼ miles/16.5km

Go through a gate and turn R to return to Blencarn. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



**Ordnance
Survey**

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

