



27 CUMBRIA GREAT GABLE & HIGH STILE

▶ Distance: 10 miles/16km ▶ Time: 6-7 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging    



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FEATURE
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A GREAT DAY OUT



CHOSEN BY... **JULIE ROYLE**

This 10-mile linear route from Honister Hause to Buttermere is a magnificent walk which crosses several summits, including the iconic Great Gable. It's unusual to combine Gable with the High Stile range, but it's enormously rewarding, and the High Stile ridge is short and mostly easy walking. It's a steep climb up there, however, when you've already crossed

Grey Knotts, Brandreth, Green Gable and Great Gable, followed by another climb up to Scarth Gap. But starting at Honister Hause (330m) gives you an initial leg up, and easier alternatives come into play once you reach Scarth Gap. If you don't feel like completing the walk at that point, you could simply go straight down to Gatesgarth to pick up the bus. Or you might descend to Gatesgarth then enjoy a lakeside stroll to Buttermere village to get the

bus there. Or you could turn it into a circular walk by crossing Hay Stacks to Honister Hause. Hay Stacks isn't much of a climb from Scarth Gap, but it might still feel like too much. If so, you could go down to Gatesgarth and turn right by the road to Honister Hause. But none of these options compare with the walk described here; if you're feeling fit on reaching Scarth Gap, the High Stile range makes a spectacular end to a fabulous walk. ➡

PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE

Gamlin End and High Crag from Seat.



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► OS Explorer map OL4 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop



1 Start
Stile at rear of car park L of YHA gives access to footpath which climbs L of fence up Grey Knotts. It changes to other side of fence at stile. Keep climbing then turn R in fence corner near top of Grey Knotts. Cross next stile and turn R, still by fence. Stay with it as it turns L, dodge sizeable pool and ignore stile. When fence turns R don't go with it but go forward to top of Brandreth. Proceed in roughly same direction then descend to pools at Gillercomb Head then take wide path up Green Gable.

2 2½ miles/4km
Pass stone shelters on top then follow cairns to Windy Gap, descending on loose scree, then ascending path SW up to summit of Great Gable. Head NW from summit to find path descending to Beck Head, where paths converge. Turn R

on good path which descends east to cross nascent River Liza then follow river L downhill. Pass footbridge, climb away from river, pass Black Sail Hut and proceed to junction. Fork R uphill to top of pass at Scarth Gap, marked by cairn and iron gate remains.

3 6 miles/9.5km
Scarth Gap: decision time. For a shorter walk, you could follow the path ahead down to Gatesgarth to hail a bus, or for a circular, turn R over Hay Stacks. To complete full walk, take path L over knobby Seat. There's a brief descent then steep zig-zag up Gamlin End to High Crag. On top, it's easy walking on ridge passing numerous large cairns to High Stile. Bear L to follow old iron fence posts to summit. Continue west downhill, then NW up to Red Pike summit/

DON'T MISS...



Buttermere's Fish Inn was once home to Mary Robinson. In 1802 she unwittingly married a bigamist, who was later executed for other crimes. Wordsworth and Coleridge wrote about her and so did Melvyn Bragg in *The Maid of Buttermere*.

shelter. Descend scree path from Red Pike ENE towards Buttermere, skirting R of Dodd then down to Bleaberry Tarn. Follow bridle path L, zagging down through Burtness Wood. At bottom, take bridleway ahead over gill, and Buttermere Dubs, through fields to Buttermere. [CW](#)



Grasmoor above Buttermere, seen from Scarth Gap.

PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE



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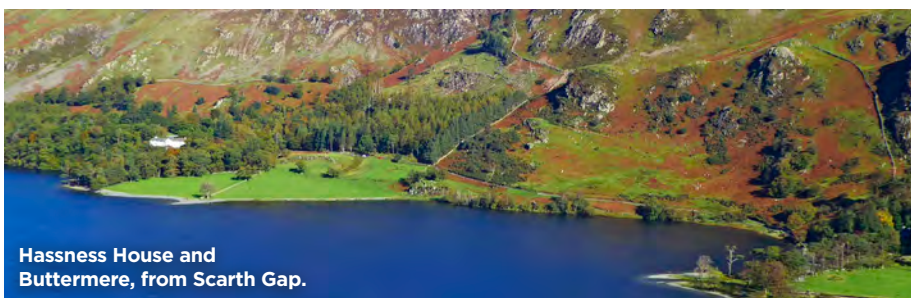
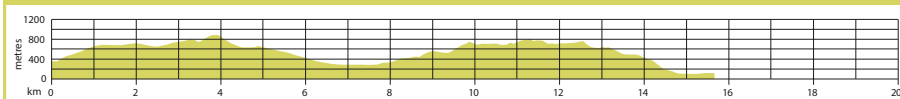


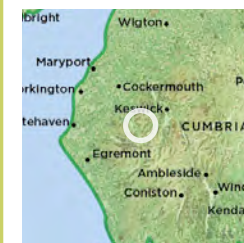
PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE

Hassness House and Buttermere, from Scarth Gap.

GRADIENT PROFILE



PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Honister Hause (buses stop at YHA), grid ref NY225135, CA12 5XN. Honister Slate Mine car parks at start, plus NT car park at end
Is it for me? High mountains, steep ascents/descents, scree, boggy patches; confusion likely in mist/low cloud; for fit, capable walkers only
Stiles 3

PLANNING

Nearest town Keswick
Refreshments Buttermere
Public toilets Buttermere
Public transport Seasonal 77/77A 'Honister Rambler' circular bus routes from Keswick link end and start (daily, usually Easter-Oct; cumbria.gov.uk/buses/77)
Map OS Explorer OL4; Landranger 90

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

TIME TAKEN
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

YOUR RATING
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○