



24 DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY GREY MARE'S TAIL & LOCH SKEEN

▶ Distance: 5¼ miles/9.4km ▶ Time: 3 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



SEE
FEATURE
ON PAGE 28



Mid Craig above Loch Skeen.

PHOTO: TOM BAILEY

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking

Car park on the A708, 10 miles NE of Moffat, grid ref NT186145

Is it for me? A long climb into lonely country: some trackless sections over boggy/tussocky terrain.

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Moffat

Refreshments None

Public toilets None

Public transport

None to start

Maps OS Explorer 330; Landranger 79



CHOSEN BY...

JENNY WALTERS

In 2014 Scottish Natural Heritage

published a map of the nation's wild lands: places of natural and rugged terrain, far from roads, where the views roam free of development. Much of the wildest land is up in the Highlands, but this explores a bewitching pocket in the borderlands near Moffat, circling the high uplands that cradle Loch Skeen and skylining through a panorama that sails across a sea of rolling hills. And on your way into the wilderness you'll pass the spectacular – and popular – viewpoint to the 200-foot waterfall of the Grey Mare's Tail.

1 Start

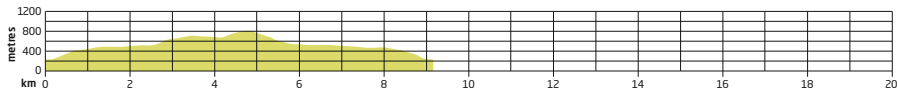
Take the footpath at the rear of the car park, forking R to cross the footbridge and reach the circular wall with information boards. Go up the steps and follow the flagged path bearing round to L to climb steeply up the side of the glen, with Tail Burn burbling down to the L and gorgeous views to Grey Mare's Tail, where the stream tumbles 200 feet into the gorge. You'll step across a number of tiny tributaries on the way up. Keep going on the path with the burn to L, crossing more streamlets, to reach the outflow of Loch Skeen.

2 1½ miles/2.4km

Turn R to follow the path

along the loch shore past a small headland and then soon bear R away from the shore, angling across the peat and heather on a faint to non-existent path to meet a wall. Turn L to walk uphill beside it (wall on R). The gradient eases when you reach the corner: →

GRADIENT PROFILE



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► OS Explorer map 330 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop



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turn L to continue climbing beside the wall to the top of the hill and gate. Turn L here to reach the cairn on the edge of the scarp, with views down to Loch Skeen.

3 **2¼ miles/4.6km**
From the cairn, turn R (west) to walk along the edge above the loch. Keep ahead to dip down into a shallow col – boggly in places and paths are faint – and then curve gently L and up towards the

end of the scarp that runs above the western shore of Loch Skeen. You meet a mainer track on the far side of the col: turn L on this and follow it all the way along the top of the ridgeline above the loch and then on down the hill, bearing L with it towards the loch shore and outflow. Again, this can be very boggy underfoot.

4 **4½ miles/7.3km**
Cross the outflow on the stones and turn R to follow

the clear, rocky path you had taken earlier – retracing your steps all the way back down to the car park. **CW**

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lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OS MAPS



Ordnance Survey

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