



► Distance: 6¾ miles/10.8km ► Time: 3½ hours ► Grade: Challenging

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The rugged, ore-rich landscape is a feast for a walker's eyes.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY

## CUMBRIAN COPPERMINES



**CHOSEN BY...**  
**MATTHEW PIKE**

Walk through the extensive remains of the coppermines that once thrived in this golden valley. Expect gaping crevices where waterwheels once turned, tunnels leading deep beneath

the surface and 'inclines' leading up the hillside. Once leaving the shores of a small reservoir this walk climbs to the summit of the Old Man of Coniston with far-reaching views of the southern Lake District and as far as Blackpool Tower and the Isle of Man.

The old works date back as far as Elizabethan times.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY





► OS Explorer map OL6 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

## 1 Start

From church entrance, turn R, then first L down Hawkshead Old Road. Continue past the cemetery, briefly rejoin main road then turn L along Shepherd's Bridge Lane, cross main road then continue along lane opposite.

## 2 ½ mile/0.7km

Stay R where YHA entrance forks L. Just before row of houses follow footpath sign L up to gate. Turn L, follow wall, then turn R at lane and follow uphill until small dam where valley opens out in front of you. Take R fork uphill, passing between two spoil heaps.

## 3 1¼ miles/2km

Ignore first L towards

cottages then, when track bends sharp R, take L fork along valley side above youth hostel. Reach ruin of Old Engine Shaft with a nearby shaft to R. Cross stream and continue past ruins of New Engine Shaft. Head over watercourse then straight up the incline.

## 4 2 miles/3.2km

Three quarters of the way up is a level into which it's possible to look inside. At top of incline, a grass path leads to a ridge. Turn R towards Levers Water. Once at the outflow, turn L following lake edge, passing impressive shafts that look like volcanic vents. Path rises then bends R above lake edge.

## 5 2½ miles/4km

At the far side of the lake, just after crossing the first significant stream, path bends L, ascending steeply and aiming for the L of two cols sitting close together. After initial climb path veers slightly L, following several cairns, before the steepest section leads to the ridge. Turn L at the top and stick to the summit, resisting the temptation to take good track sidling to the R of ridge.

## 6 3¼ miles/5.1km

Ridge leads to one summit, then continues to top of The Old Man of Coniston, after which path veers L and zigzags steeply downhill. Turn R at Low Water and soon pass remains of slate quarries, spoil heaps and old machinery.

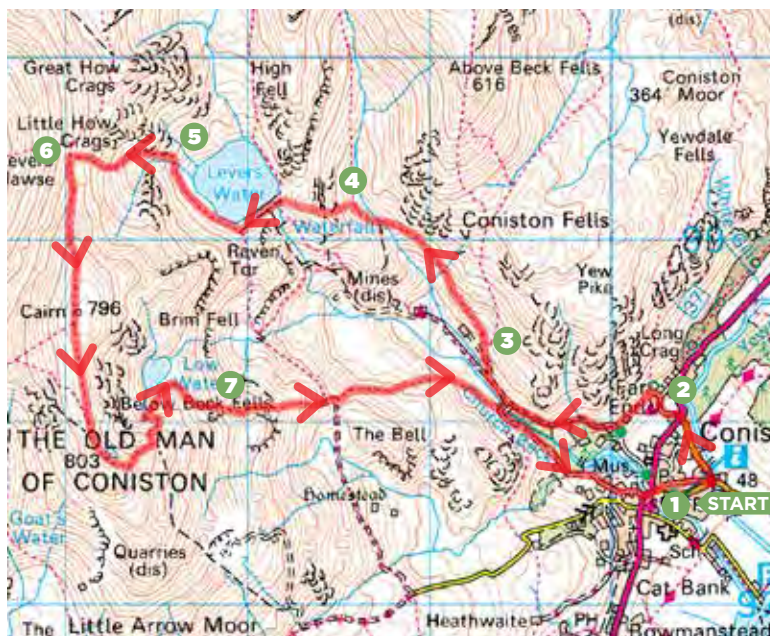
## 7 5 miles/8km

Path drops and winds between hillocks. Take second of two clear paths branching L, heading initially towards youth hostel. Path drops down to Church Beck. Continue to R of stream. Path becomes track then lane. Turn L at end, passing The Sun pub on L. Turn L again at main road, then immediately straight on when road bends L, to church. **CW**

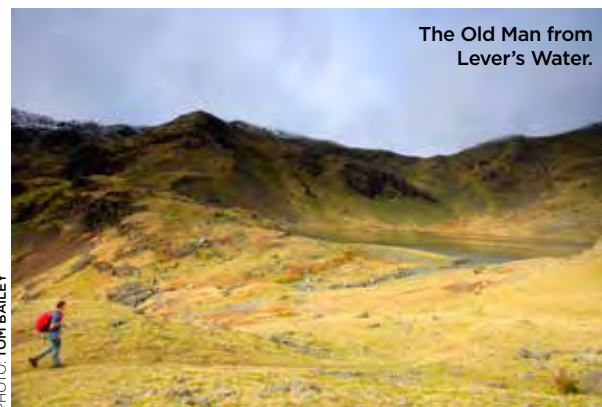


More remnants of the old coppermine works.

PHOTO: TOM BAILEY

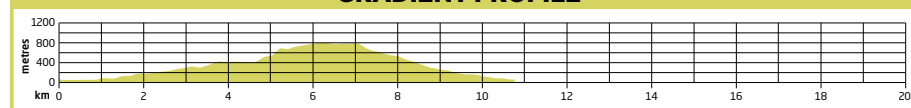


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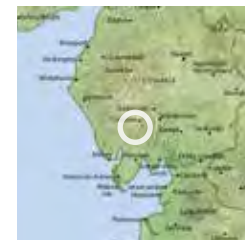


The Old Man from Levers Water.

## GRADIENT PROFILE



## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Park at Ruskin Avenue Car Park, Coniston. Start walk at St Andrew's church, B5285, grid ref SD303976

**Is it for me?** Mostly clearly marked paths and tracks, path steep close to summit on ascent and descent

**Stiles** None

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Coniston

**Refreshments**

Numerous pubs

and cafés in Coniston

**Public toilets** Ruskin

Avenue Car Park, Coniston

**Public transport**

Stagecoach Bus 505 from

Kendal, Windermere and

Ambleside ([www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com))

**Maps** OS Explorer OL6;

Landranger 96

## VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

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