



14 CUMBRIA WINDERMERE TO AMBLESIDE

▶ Distance: 8¼ miles/14km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate 

View from Troutbeck, looking back eastwards to the route from Windermere.



PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Bus and train stations next to Info Centre, A591, Windermere, lay-bys; grid ref SD413986, postcode LA23 1QA

Is it for me? Open fells, pasture, woodland; good paths but some boggy ground. Steep, stony descent from Wansfell Pike **Stiles 6**

PLANNING

Nearest towns Ambleside & Windermere

Refreshments Ambleside and Windermere, plus pub at Limefitt Holiday Park, and pub and tea room at Troutbeck (close to route)

Public toilets Bottom of Stockghyll Lane, Ambleside

Public transport Bus 555 and 599 (stagecoachbus.com), local buses and trains to Windermere. Bus 508 shortens the walk

Maps OS Explorer OL7; Landranger 90/97; Harvey Superwalker Lakeland East

CHOSEN BY...

JULIE ROYLE

One day in 1930 a young man from

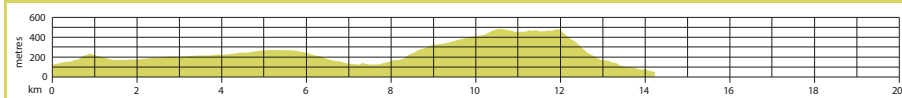
Blackburn alighted from a bus at Windermere station. He could not have known that around 15 minutes later the whole course of his life would be changed. But 15 minutes is all it takes to follow the gorgeous woodland path from Windermere to Orrest Head. He must have appreciated the mossy stone walls bordering the path, and the massive oaks, their craggy trunks shaggy with ferns, their gnarly roots sprawling along the path and writhing over boulders, but it was the view from the top that blew Alfred Wainwright's mind.

His thoughts on the occasion are now written in stone at the viewpoint, but his greatest memorial is the series of superbly illustrated guidebooks to the Lakeland fells which was the eventual result of his epiphany on Orrest Head. Why not follow in AW's footsteps to Orrest Head, then tackle a beautiful and varied linear walk which finishes with a visit to Stockghyll Force before dropping down into the bustling streets of Ambleside?

1 Start

Turn L onto A591 towards Keswick, cross at the lights and take footpath signed to Orrest Head, which climbs through woodland to viewpoint. Descend northwards on

GRADIENT PROFILE



14 CUMBRIA
WINDERMERE TO AMBLESIDE► OS Explorer map OL7 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

well-trodden path through pastureland. Cross stone stile and take path signed to Causeway. Approaching gate in wall, with farmhouse beyond, do not cross wall but keep R of it to meet lane. Turn R then take second path L, signed to Moor Howe. Follow it across pastures to Moorhowe Road. Turn R then soon L on walled byway, Dubbs Road.

2 3½ miles/5.6km

Turn L on another byway (Garburn Road) then soon R, through gate to bridlway (Longmire Road). Go L at next junction then turn R by Haybarn Inn, through Limefitt Holiday Park then L along road. Take bridlway R before Jesus Church. Ignore branching paths, cross beck and immediately turn R to find half-hidden gate. Follow wall L. At wall end proceed on same line to gate and follow walled track uphill. Turn R at junction then L on bridlway to Troutbeck.

3 5¼ miles/8.4km

Turn R then soon L on walled track, Nanny Lane. After ¾ mile, path is signed L to Ambleside via Wansfell. Take this if you want shortcut, but for the complete walk continue along Nanny Lane. At end of lane waymark points L but ignore this, go through gate and proceed along track by wall. When wall turns L follow it up to col. Note wall



© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2022. ORDNANCE SURVEY MEDIA 004/22

gap L, which is onward route, but first ascend the little bump R, which is Baystones (487m). Then go through wall gap to follow trodden path, soon joining wall R which crosses Wansfell (476m) then neighbouring Wansfell Pike (482m). Go through small gate and descend on steep, pitched-stone path. Ignore branching paths and descend to Stockghyll Lane. Turn L, then soon R into Stockghyll Park (permissive access).

Follow red arrows to waterfalls then down through woods to rejoin lane. Descend to Ambleside. Pick up return bus R (Salutation Inn) or L (Kelsick Road). **CW**

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

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



© Country Walking August 2022

DATE WALKED
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □TIME TAKEN
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □YOUR RATING
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○