

555 StagePath

RIDE & STRIDE BY BUS

the family way to walk

ALWAYS CHECK THE TIMETABLE - USUALLY DISPLAYED AT EACH BUS STOP – TO CONFIRM BUS TIMES FOR THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF EACH WALK STAGE.

The StagePath in the leaflet has been carefully researched and described for clarity in route finding. The maps on the other hand are very basic, as there is no substitute for carrying and referring to the correct Ordnance Survey Explorer Map, acquire OL7, OL5 and OL4 &/or the Harvey Lake District Outdoor Atlas.

Line - Journey of the 555 bus service
Dashes - the route of the StagePath
Dots - Request and Timetabled bus stop



STAGE 2

SOUTHBOUND

Ambleside > Brockhole National Park Centre

allow two hours, gently undulating

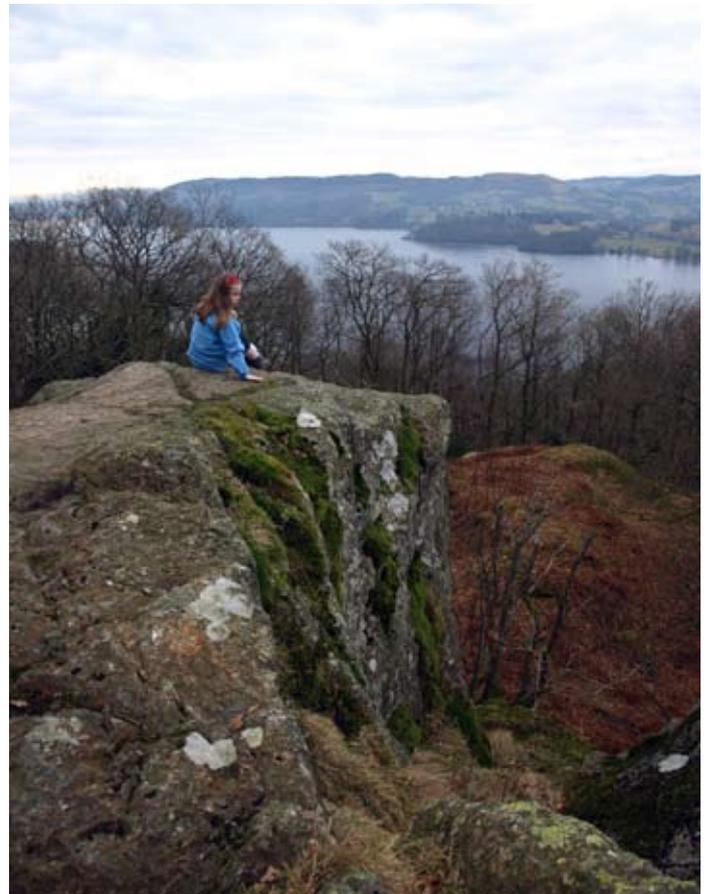
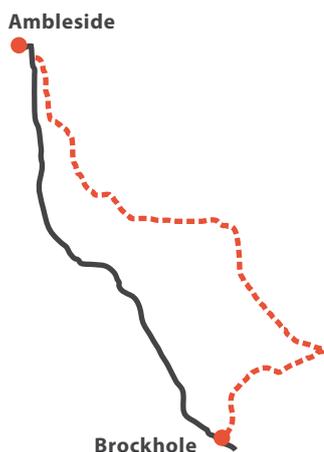
Get away from the crowds and lakeshore traffic to survey Windermere and the grand backdrop of mountain Lakeland from on high. The route having climbed to Jenkyns Crag and High Skelghyll progressively descends by a series of lovely lanes to Brockhole, where you may fill your mind with the wonders of Lakeland for another day.

Walk up Kelsick Road, turn right by the Homes of Football gallery, bear left at the road plaque 'Old Lakes Road'. This side road rises and descends by 'Ambleside Backpackers' and the Heart of the Lakes offices in Fisherbeck. Notice the Norwegian cabin across the public car park on the far side of the main road, this was originally located in Coniston and was used as W.Heaton Cooper's studio (see his distinctive water-colours in the Grasmere studio shop). Pass on behind the Mountain Rescue base seek Skelghyll Lane, the branch road rising left at a white-washed house, the speed sign is signed 'Jenkins Crag, Skelghyll and Troutbeck bridleway'.

Climb steadily, keeping right at the bridleway sign 'Jenkin's Crag and Skelghyll Woods', enjoy the handsome views over Ambleside Waterhead and the upper portion of Windermere. The metalled road becomes a rough lane entering Skelghyll Woods (National Trust). Keep rising by the wall, later a laurel hedge, then by a low level metal sign at a path fork. The roughly cobbled path rises, crosses Stencher Beck becoming level with a wall on the right. Take the opportunity to slip through the signed gap to visit

the Jenkin's Crag rock ledge viewpoint, revel in the gorgeous prospect over Windermere. Return via the gap onto the broad path go right, signed 'Troutbeck via Robin Lane'. The path rises a little further, passes a seat to leave the woodland at a gate.

The contouring path enters High Skelghyll farm's gated farmyard (please respect the privacy of the people living here, it is still an active farm). The ensuing open road leads past a three-way sign, proceed along the metalled road via the



Jenkyns Crag

kissing-gate and cattle grid. Descend by the barn and beneath Low Skelghyll via a gate. Still on an open road descend the next pasture to a further bank-barn, passing through a gate into a walled lane. Follow this private road via Close Cottage turn left at Holbeck Lane, a public road. Continue to the bridle-lane branching right at Castle Syke Farm, a sign with naïve lettering indicates this is 'Grand Ma's Lane'.

Follow the track down between the farmhouse and large bank-barn via a gate into the edge of woodland, hereon known as Mirk Lane - which meant 'the dark way'. Wind down via a further gate to the metalled roadway at Wood Farm, a private residence with an ornate garden. Leave the road at the green 'Private no right of way' notice and low set public footpath sign, bear right by the garden wall. Cross a gill via flagstones pass through the gate. Follow the lane beside the woodland leading down to the roadway at Merewood Lodge, continue to the main road at corresponding bus stops (with pedestrian island).