

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 3

NORTHBOUND

Ambleside > Rydal

walking time barely half-an-hour

A gentle wander through Rydal Park with the bonus of Rydal Hall's lovely Old School House Tea Room and Rydal Mount, Wordsworth's final home.

Walk through the car park, along King Street, turn right up Church Street. Notice a wall-plaque recording The Office of William Wordsworth as distributor of stamps for Westmorland 1813-43, below Greggs on the right. Turn left along the main street rounding by The Market Hall and the Post Office cum Tourist Office, offering plenty of retail diversion to lure you off the straight and narrow. Wander on down the street passing the tiny Bridge House (National Trust), built as an apple store for Ambleside Hall it was set on the bridge to evade land tax.

After the roundabout pass (or visit) Armit Museum, then follow the left-hand roadside footpath beyond the Medical Centre. Cross to the Lodge at the gated entrance to the Rydal Hall drive just after the 30mph limit signs and the bridge over Scandale Beck.

Follow the fenced drive through parkland with handsome views ahead to the ridge-end Nab Scar and the high fells at the head of Rydal Beck valley. Go through the camping site car park, cross over cascading Rydal Beck, via the Old School Room Tea Room, behind Rydal Hall to reach Rydal Lane. Turn down left by the entrance to the lovely Rydal church, with its famous daffodil gardens. The bus stop is at the foot of the hill.



Armit Museum

STAGE 3

SOUTHBOUND

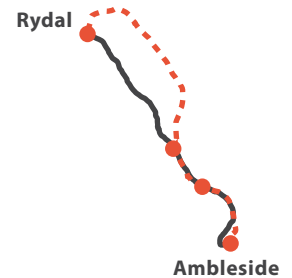
Rydal > Ambleside

The ultimate stroll - giving you time to indulge in Rydal Church, Dora's Field, Rydal Mount and Rydal Hall tea room, before venturing through the gracious park and Ambleside, where another pleasurable hour can be spent in the Armit Museum before partaking of the goods in the many retail and refreshment outlets in this popular little Lakeland town.

Ascend Rydal Lane. For an early diversion go left through St Mary's churchyard for a simple stroll around Dora's Field, abundant with daffodils in spring. Higher up the hill is Rydal Mount, one of Cumbria's cultural treasures, dedicated to the life William Wordsworth. The world-renowned poet lived his final years here and was responsible for laying out the romantic gardens, it remains in the care of his descendants (entry fee/tea-room).

Ignore the first access to Rydal Hall take the lane above, clearly waymarked 'footpath to Old School Room Tea Room', what more inducement do you need? Pass close behind the imposing Rydal Hall, now Carlisle's Diocesan ecumenical conference centre, retreat, and youth centre.

Enjoy Rydal Beck's dancing waters, tucked in beside the tea room, before heading on along the track waymarked 'footpath to Ambleside' accessed via the camp site car park. At a gate the footpath becomes a fenced lane leading to a Hall Lodge and gate onto the main road (request bus stop). Cautiously cross the main road, go left along footpath, keeping left cross Scandale Beck to duly enter Ambleside. Pass the Health Centre (request bus stop) to reach the roundabout by the Armit Museum, another treasure well worth investigating. Pass Bridge House (The National Trust's smallest property), follow the main road lined with shops. Crossing Rattle Gill go up by the Post Office/TIC, swinging down right by The Market Hall. Turn right into Church Street by Greggs bakery, notice the wall plaque to William Wordsworth immediately below. Coming to the Conservative hall turn left along King Street to reach the Kelsick Road bus stop.



Old School Room tea shop