

Ambleside Townhouse Walks starting from the Tourist information centre



Rydal Hall & Under Loughrigg, Ambleside 08

An easy walk through a wooded park, followed by a stroll along a quiet country lane, with lovely views of the surrounding countryside.
 Distance - 4.5 miles [7.5 km], allow 2 hours.

Legend:
 start of walk **S** direction →
 main route - - - road —
 other path - - - river —
 church + car park **P**
 note from route description overleaf ③

Stockghyll Force, Ambleside 13

A delightful, easy walk to a picturesque waterfall hidden in a wooded gorge.
 Distance - 1.5 miles [2.5 km], allow 1 hour.

Legend:
 start of walk **S** direction →
 main route - - - road —
 other path - - - river —
 car park **P**
 note from route description overleaf ③

Jenkin Crag & Galava Fort, Ambleside 16

A moderate climb through the woods to a lovely view of the lake, followed by a stroll to the site of an ancient Roman fort.
 Distance - 3.5 miles [5.5 km], allow 2 hours.

Legend:
 start of walk **S** direction →
 main route - - - road —
 other path - - - beck —
 church + car park **P**
 note from route description overleaf ③

Rydal Hall & Under Loughrigg, Ambleside

08

This very easy walk along parkland and back lanes begins at Ambleside Tourist Information Centre.

① Turn right out of the information centre and follow the main road out of the village, towards Grasmere. You walk past the Bridge House and mini-roundabout and past the college. After a few minutes, there are fields either side of the road and a view of Loughrigg on your left. 50m past the road bridge over the Rothay, there is a bus stop and pair of stone pillars on your right. Cross and go up the drive between the pillars.

② This is a very easy track which takes you into the grounds of Rydal Hall. As you walk over the parkland, there's an excellent view of Fairfield on your left.

You pass the sign for The Rydal Hall Community and enter the house grounds proper. After 150m, the track forks. Go left, towards the buildings (signed FOOTPATH & THE FAMOUS RAMBLER'S TEA SHOP).

③ Follow the track through the buildings to the tea shop. There is a good view of the waterfall as you cross the bridge. After a tea stop (if you must), continue past the Hall on your left and the track leads you out to a minor road. If

you want to visit Rydal Mount, Wordsworth's last home, go right. Otherwise, go left, past Rydal Church and down to the main road. Cross over and turn left, heading back towards Ambleside.

④ After 150m or so, turn right and cross the River Rothay again via Pelter Bridge, a picturesque packhorse bridge.

⑤ Now you are on the Under Loughrigg road. This is a minor road with traffic restricted to locals, but it is worth keeping dogs and children under control.

⑥ Continue along this very pleasant back lane and after half-an-hour of gentle walking, you come back to the river at a cattle grid and farm gate. Just beyond that is a footbridge, signed VILLAGE CENTRE. Cross the bridge, turn right and follow the path through Ambleside Park. Look out for the Millennium sculpture on your right as you enter the park.

The path brings you past Ambleside church to another minor road past the school. Continue up the road to join Compston Road and back into the centre of Ambleside.

Stockghyll Force, Ambleside

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Stockghyll Force is a pretty waterfall within fifteen minute's walk from the centre of Ambleside. The word 'force' is Cumbrian dialect for waterfall.

① From Ambleside Tourist Information Centre, follow the main road left and turn up the small alley between Barclay's Bank and the old Market Hall (now a restaurant). Turn left again and follow the narrow road uphill, signed TO THE WATERFALLS.

② After a few minutes' walk, go left into Stock Ghyll Park. The path takes you through a wood and towards the river.

③ After a few hundred metres, the path splits. Go left, to cross the river via a wooden footbridge. Once across, go right, climbing steeply alongside the ravine. Watch out for a path to the right to a good view of the waterfall.

④ Back on the main path, continue uphill to a stone bridge and another good view of Stockghyll Force.

Return to the main path and continue downhill, past the picnic tables. Keep to the metal fence and you will come to two viewpoints, also built by the Victorians. These allow you to go to the edge of the ravine and get another view of the waterfall.

⑥ Continue down the path to the road and back to the centre of Ambleside.

EXTENDING THE WALK: To explore a little farther, as you approach the Tourist Information Centre, turn right into North Road. After 200 metres, turn left before you cross the road bridge. This takes you down a little alley (as you walk past the river, look for the water wheel on the far side) and brings you to the main road opposite the Bridge House.

⑦ This is one of Lakeland's best-known landmarks and was once a family home! Turn right and follow the road to the mini-roundabout.

Jenkin Crag & Galava Fort, Ambleside

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From Ambleside Tourist Information Centre, turn left and follow Lake Road out of the village, until you come to the Homes of Football on your right.

① Turn left, up Old Lake Road. Follow the road past a car park and take the turning left, signed JENKIN CRAG, SKELGHYLL, TROUTBECK. This climbs steeply and eventually peters out into a rough track.

② At the next path junction, go right, signed JENKIN CRAG. You enter Skelghyll Woods. Keep left (notice the sign using the old spelling of JENKYNS CRAG) and the path climbs to a stone bridge by a small waterfall.

③ Over the bridge and uphill to a junction at the sign for Kelsick Scar. Go right and after 50m there's a National Trust sign right for JENKYN'S CRAG.

④ This takes you to a splendid view of the lake and surrounding fells. Take great care as there are some steep, unguarded drops.

Return to the main path and retrace your route to the bridge. Turn left just before the bridge, down to a path by the river. Turn left here and head downhill, away from the stream.

⑤ The path leads around the back of Stagshaw Gardens

and eventually down a tarmac lane. After 100m, take the track right and after a few minutes you come to a small car park opposite Waterhead Marine.

⑥ Out onto the main road and go right, towards Ambleside. At the traffic lights, follow the road left, past the jetties and hotels, until you pass the Wateredge Inn and turn left, into Borrans Park.

⑦ Follow the path towards the lake. As you come back towards the road, a gate in the wall on your left takes you into the site of the old Roman fort of Galava.

Back to the main road and left again, following the road left at the next junction, as if going to Coniston.

⑧ After 100m, there's a path on the left, signed CLAPPERSGATE, LANGDALE., which leads over a small footbridge. Look out for the small statues on the far side.

Once over the river, turn right and up to the main road. Cross and head along the road opposite, signed UNDER LOUGHRIGG.

⑨ After ten minutes or so, you come alongside the river. Look for a bridge on your right, signed VILLAGE CENTRE. Cross over the bridge, turn right and walk through the park, back into the centre of Ambleside.