

<p><b>Distance:</b> Approx 6 miles</p> <p><b>Time Taken:</b> Approx 2 – 3 hours</p> <p><b>Terrain:</b> Part road and rocky footpaths. Good well maintained paths all the way around.</p> <p><b>Total ascent / descent:</b> 897ft 273m</p> <p><b>Dog Friendliness:</b> Dogs should be kept on leads in the village and the road leading into and out of the village which forms part of the route. Once on the road dogs can be off the lead.</p> <p><b>Toilets / Refreshments:</b> Two sets of public toilets (small fee applies) at either end of Grasmere village.</p> <p><b>Parking:</b> Lots of parking available in the village of Grasmere.</p> <p><b>OS Maps:</b> OL7</p>	<p><b>Grasmere to Rydal Caves</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> Grasmere village takes its name from the adjacent lake. Grasmere is home to Dove Cottage in which William Wordsworth lived from 1799 until 1813. The cottage was originally an inn known as the Dove and Olive Branch, but during Wordsworth's time, it was called Town End. The poet and his beloved sister Dorothy are buried in the churchyard of St Oswald's Church in Grasmere, along with several other family members.</p> <p>This walk starts and ends in Grasmere village and takes in both Grasmere and Rydal water. The caves are man-made which was formally known as Loughrigg Quarry as they are situated on Loughrigg Fell. Over two hundred years ago, Rydal Cave was a busy working quarry providing quality roofing slate to the surrounding local villages.</p> <p><b>Route Description:</b> We started this walk from the car park behind the garden center in the middle of the village but can be started from any parking location. Head south out of the village heading towards the lake. This section of the walk follows the road which can get busy at times so be mindful of traffic keeping to the correct side of the road. You are required to walk on the road for around a mile, the path will then take a left down a bank to the lake (there is a signpost at this point).</p> <p>Follow the lakeside path all the way to the end of the lake to the footbridge (do not cross). At the footbridge the path forks, direct ahead or right. Take the path to the right up onto the side of Loughrigg Fell. The path then meets the point up to Loughrigg Terrace, go through the gate and take the path bearing right (not onto Loughrigg Terrace. This path will then take you all the way to the caves. Spend some time exploring the caves as you can walk into them and have a look around. Take a headtorch as they are obviously very dark.</p> <p>With the caves at your back, take the path in front of you that heads down to Rydal Water. Be careful on this path as it is full of slate from the quarry and is loose underfoot. Once you reach Rydal Water turn left onto the path along the lake heading back towards Grasmere. This path is a lovely place to stop and enjoy your packed lunch or cuppa. It's a great spot for dogs to play in the water and children for that matter, on a warm day.</p> <p>The path heads upwards from the lake following the wall which will be on your right. Once you reach the gate again turn right into the woodland area and follow the path through there until you reach the footbridge again. Now you can re-trace your route back to Grasmere and to one of the many pubs or cafes to enjoy a well earned treat.</p> <p><b>Points of Interest:</b> Rydal Caves, Dove Cottage, Sarah Nelson's Gingerbread.</p> <p><b>Recommended:</b> These are places we've stayed / drank / eaten and enjoyed.</p> <p><b>Accommodation:</b> We have never stayed in Grasmere and tend to just visit for the day so can't recommend any accommodation here.</p> <p><b>Refreshments:</b> Grasmere Tea Rooms Potting Shed Café</p> <p><b>Outdoor Gear:</b> Mountain Warehouse</p>
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