

<p>Distance: 20 miles</p> <p>Time Taken: Depending on your speed of walking and number of stops between 7-9 hours.</p> <p>Terrain: Mixture of flat easy path, farmland and rough terrain including uphill.</p> <p>Total Ascent / Decent: 3011 ft / 3007ft 917m / 916m</p> <p>Dog Friendliness: This is suitable for fit, active dogs. Sections of the route are on the road and through towns as well as through farmland so dogs should be kept on leads during these sections, especially during spring.</p> <p>Toilets / Refreshments: These are available in Pooley Bridge, Howton, Glenridding and Aira Force.</p> <p>Parking: Good parking is available in Pooley Bridge, Aira Force and Glenridding.</p> <p>OS Maps: OL5 covers the full route.</p>	<h2>The Ullswater Way</h2> <p>Background: The Ullswater Way is a 20-mile circular walking route around Ullswater. The route can be walked in either direction and from any starting point. You can break it up into smaller sections such as Pooley Bridge to Howtown and ride the Steamer back. The route is well signposted and easy to follow. If you are walking the full route in one day note the approximate times to walk the route and allow a full day.</p> <p>Route Description: We decided we needed a challenging walk and picked the Ullswater Way as it is circular and do-able in one day. We started out from Pooley Bridge walking clockwise around the lake. We parked in the all-day car park opposite the church, costing around £3 for the day.</p> <p>From Pooley Bridge head to the lake and follow the lakeside path to Waterside House Campsite and then out onto the road for around half a mile until you reach Cross Dormont camping and caravans. Head up the path to Cross Dormont (the Ullswater way is signposted here) and then across the field toward Seat Farm. We had the pleasure at this point to see lambs being born at Seat Farm so if you have a dog please be mindful of the livestock and keep your dogs on short leads through farmland. The path continues along farmland for most of the way to Swarthbeck and is well signposted. From Swarthbeck to Howtown the path follows to edge of Swarth Fell.</p> <p>Howtown is a very small place but has a pier and hotel should you want to break the way into stages. You can get the steamer back to Glenridding or Pooley Bridge from here. The section from Howtown to Patterdale is physically challenging, there are a lot of small ascents and descents which sap the energy but the views up and down the lake are worth the effort. From Howtown follow the path around Hallin Fell to Sandwick and then around Sleet Fell and Place Fell until you reach Patterdale. Once you reach Patterdale, follow the path to Glenridding which includes a footpath along the road.</p> <p>Once in Glenridding you have the option of a comfort break and re-fuelling break. We took a break at a café near the river side but there are plenty to choose from, or on a nice dry day you can sit by the lake or river and enjoy your own packed lunch. Once you're refreshed and refuelled then it's on to Aira Force. Glenridding to Aira Force is probably the easiest part of the route. The paths are very well marked and looked after and there is very little ascent or decent. Don't be fooled by this part, the hardest bit is yet to come.</p> <p>From Glenridding, follow the footpath along the A592 until you get to Aira Force, small parts of this are on and cross the A592 so be careful of traffic and keep dogs on their leads. From Aira Force car park take the path up to Aira Force and continue through the woods and up to a path on the right as it heads skywards towards Airy Crag and Gowbarrow Fell. This section is very steep and very challenging. After 15 miles of walking this section can be slow and difficult. If you don't want to do Gowbarrow Fell there is an alternate route around Gowbarrow Fell at a lower level if you wish to take that. Both routes meet back at Swinburn Park.</p> <p>Descend Gowbarrow Fell and head towards Swinburn Park. There has been a lot of felling of the trees here when we walked this route, so on the OS map it looks like a woodland, however in reality there are no trees for most of the path on your right hand side which means you can enjoy the views across the lake.</p> <p>The path cuts across the road from Watermillock through farmland to Bennethead. From Bennethead you now follow the road for around half a mile. The road is quiet but be careful as there are still cars that use it. There is another Ullswater Way signpost on your right which now takes you across some more farmland towards Waterfoot Caravan Park. When we walked this path, the farmland was full of cows so again be mindful of this if you have a dog or two.</p> <p>Follow this path to Waterfoot caravan park and once you reach the main house in the park take a right along the side of the house and follow the path down to the A592. Once you reach the road there is a path on the left-hand side of the A592 (across the junction) that keeps you off the A592 around Dunmallard Hill all the way back to Pooley Bridge. Again, there are plenty of pubs to get refreshments and accommodation should you wish to enjoy a relaxing evening with a well-earned dinner and drinks.</p>
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Points of Interest:

Aira Force, Ullswater Steamers, Gowbarrow Fell and of course the beautiful and breath-taking views. Lowther Castle is also nearby and is worth a visit including the bird of prey centre.

Recommended:**Accommodation / Place to Eat:**

The Pooley Bridge Inn
Waterside House Campsite
Hillcroft Caravan Park

Cafes / Pubs:

Helvellyn Country Kitchen

Outdoor Gear:

Catstycam

Map: