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| <p>Distance: Approx. 6.5 miles</p> <p>Time Taken: Approx. 3 hours</p> <p>Terrain: Mixture of good and rough paths and farmland.</p> <p>Total ascent / descent: 846ft</p> <p>Dog Friendliness: Dogs should be kept on lead at Housesteads Fort and through farmland.</p> <p>Toilets / Refreshments: Toilets and refreshments available at Housesteads.</p> <p>Parking: Parking available at Housesteads and Steel Rigg.</p> <p>OS Maps: OL 43</p> | <h2>Housesteads to Steel Rigg</h2> <p>Background: Lying midway along Hadrian's Wall, Housesteads is the most complete example of a Roman fort in Britain, and one of the best-known from the entire Roman Empire. It was built within a decade of AD 122, when work on the Wall began, and was garrisoned by an 800-strong infantry regiment until the end of the 4th century. Excavations have revealed major buildings, defenses and the civilian settlement outside its walls.</p> <p>Steel Rigg is one of the finest viewpoint along the high, central section of Hadrian's Wall. It gives you a view of the Wall perched on top of the mighty, north-facing crags of the Whin Sill geological feature which inspired the Emperor Hadrian's positioning of Rome's northern boundary in AD122.</p> <p>Route Description: From the car park at Housesteads, climb up to the Fort and keep to the left of the fort until you join the Hadrian's Wall trail heading West. Follow the wall until you reach Hotbank farm and Milecastle 38. Cross the farm track and switch to the North side of the wall.</p> <p>Head through the woods above Crag Lough and drop down to Sycamore Gap. Sycamore Gap has become famous for its iconic scene in Robin Hood Prince of Thieves. This part of the walk is generally very busy with walkers and visitors taking photos. Cross the wall again at Sycamore Gap, so that you are now on the South side and follow the wall up a steep ascent continuing to head West.</p> <p>From here follow the wall to Steel Rigg and up to the car park. The view at Steel Rigg is one of the best around so take your time to admire it and get those photos. Leave the car park and head right following the road down the hill for around 100 meters. Take the footpath signposted on the right and follow the track and field path back to Hotbank Farm. During the winter this area is very muddy so be careful not to lose your boots.</p> <p>From the farm we headed back up to the wall and followed the same route back to Housesteads Fort.</p> <p>Points of Interest: Housesteads Roman Fort, Sycamore Gap, and Steel Rigg.</p> <p>Map:</p>  |
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