

<p>Distance: Approx. 4.5 miles</p> <p>Time Taken: Approx 2.5 hours</p> <p>Terrain: Steep mountainous terrain but good footpaths for most of the route.</p> <p>Total ascent / descent: 1729ft</p> <p>Dog Friendliness: Very dog friendly, dogs can be off the lead for most of this walk. Dogs should be on the lead through the farm and on the road.</p> <p>Toilets / Refreshments: Toilets and refreshments available in Buttermere and Honister Slate Mine.</p> <p>Parking: Parking available at Gatesgarth (limited).</p> <p>OS Maps:</p>	<p>Haystacks from Gatesgarth</p> <p>Background: Haystacks is situated at the south-eastern end of the Buttermere Valley. Haystacks stands at 597m and is one of the most popular fells due to Alfred Wainwrights love of this particular hill and it is where he had his ashes scattered.</p> <p>Buttermere is a small hamlet situated between the lakes Buttermere and Crummock Water, which were originally one post-glacial lake. The land was created by the debris washed down from the surrounding hills. Buttermere lake is owned by the National Trust and is 1.5 miles long and 0.75 miles wide and 75 feet deep.</p> <p>Honister Pass starts at the eastern end of the lake at Gatesgarth Farm and connects the Buttermere Valley to the Borrowdale Valley. At the top of the pass lies Honister Slate Mine. The slate mine produces world famous Westmorland Green Slate. As well as producing beautiful green slate they also provide adventures for those brave enough, such as mine tours and via ferrata.</p> <p>Route Description: We started this walk at Gatesgarth Farm, parking in the small carpark opposite the farm. This car park can fill up pretty quickly so make sure you get there early to get a space. From the car park follow the road, heading towards Honister Pass, once you pass Gatesgarth Cottage on your right take the footpath on the right. Follow this path around Fleetwith Pike following Warnscale Beck.</p> <p>After around ¾ of a mile the path will fork, one path continuing on and the other bearing right and down towards a footbridge. Continue on the path straight ahead. The path will now start ascending upwards. This can be hard going on very warm days so take your time and enjoy the waterfalls on the way up.</p> <p>As you approach Dubs hut you need to take the path on the right that crossed the water and follow this path across Green Crag to Blackbeck Tarn and the around to Innominat Tarn. From here you have amazing view of Great Gable and down towards Buttermere.</p> <p>Continue on until you reach the summit of Haystacks. Be careful on Haystacks as the path does disappear on the top, so if the visibility is poor it's easy to get turned around. Once you've enjoyed the summit and taken in the views, descend via Scarth Gap. The path down is very clear but is very steep and quite rocky in parts so watch your feet.</p> <p>Once at the bottom of Butternere Fell, cross Peggy's Bridge and follow the path through Gatesgarth Farm and back to the car park.</p> <p>Points of Interest: Buttermere Lake, Honister Slate Mine, and Buttermere.</p>
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