

<p>Distance: Approx. 5.5 miles</p> <p>Time Taken: Approx. 2.5hrs</p> <p>Terrain: Good paths and roads.</p> <p>Total ascent / descent: 1077ft</p> <p>Dog Friendliness: Very dog friendly, be aware there may be livestock around.</p> <p>Toilets / Refreshments: Toilets in Elterwater (small charge). There are pubs in Elterwater and Little Langdale.</p> <p>Parking: Car parks and roadside parking in Elterwater. Can be difficult to park during busier times.</p> <p>OS Maps: OL7</p>	<p>040 – Elterwater, Colwith Force, Little Langdale Circular</p> <p>Background: Elterwater is a village in the English Lake District and the county of Cumbria. The village lies half a mile (800 m) north-west of the lake of Elter Water, from which it derives its name. Both are situated in the valley of Great Langdale.</p> <p>The lake is situated at the heart of Lakeland, where the Langdale Beck joins the River Brathay, at 187 feet above sea level and is the smallest of the sixteen lakes, measuring only around half a mile long, 0.4 km wide and reaches a depth of 15.24 m. The lake is gradually silting up and becoming even smaller. Elterwater can be reached, amongst other routes, via a pleasant half mile walk from Skelwith Bridge which follows the wending, rock strewn course of the River Brathay.</p> <p>Little Langdale is a hamlet of a few scattered stone houses and a pub in the Little Langdale valley. Separated by the Lingmoor Fells from Great Langdale, it can be reached by a narrow, twisting road that passes by Blea Tarn.</p> <p>Today the valley is lovely and quiet, but 200 years ago it would have all been very different. Langdale Village was the major intersection of all the old pack horse routes carrying goods around the area. With old roads coming from Ravenglass to the west, Whitehaven to the north west, Keswick to the north, Penrith and Carlisle to the north east, Ambleside to the east, Hawkshead to the south east and Coniston, Ulverston, Broughton and Barrow in Furness to the south, this is where all the roads crossed.</p> <p>Route Description:</p> <p>This route starts and ends in the gorgeous village of Elterwater, wherever you can find parking.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From the village head along Langdale Beck towards Elterwater following the Cumbria Way. 2. At Skelwith Force, cross the footbridge and head up into the woods and around to Park House. 3. Keep following the Cumbria Way through Park Farm and around down to a road. 4. Once on the road, turn right and then after a few meters left through the wall. 5. Once through the wall follow the path right around to Colwith Force. 6. Once you enjoyed Colwith force, keep following the path up and out High Park. There is a café here if you want to stop for some refreshments. 7. Once you walk through High Park you will meet a road. Turn right onto the road following it past Stang End, through some more woodland and out to where it meets the River Brathay and a footbridge. 8. Cross the footbridge and follow the lane up and out into Little Langdale. 9. Once on the main road in Little Langdale, turn right walking past the Three Shires Inn, which is a nice place to stop for refreshments. 10. Walk past the Three Shires Inn on your left, continue along the road until you pass a cottage on your right and then a whitewashed cottage on your left. The footpath is next to the whitewashed cottage off the main road around 160 meters from the Three Shires Inn. 11. Turn left onto the footpath and walk approximately 80 meters up to the gate and footpath bearing right. 12. Go through the gate and follow this footpath along a tree line and across open field until you reach the lane which takes you back to Elterwater. 13. The lane is full of loose broken slate so be careful of your footing. Follow this lane back down to and past the Eltermere Hotel and onto the road. 14. Follow the road back into the village, across the bridge and to the Britannia Inn for a good drink and bite to eat. <p>Points of Interest: Cathedral Cave in Little Langdale. It's not a natural cave, but a long-abandoned slate mine whose origins date back as far as the sixteenth century.</p> <p>Just a short walk down the lane and across the fields from the Three Shires Inn, Slaters Bridge is a delightful 17th Century packhorse bridge spanning the River Brathay.</p> <p>Halifax Bomber crash site, Top of Broad Slack which lies between the summits of Swirl How and Great Carrs, high above the Little Langdale valley</p>
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