

# AMBLESIDE: 8<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022



You will be in walkers' heaven in Ambleside - enjoy gentle rambles through Rydal & Grasmere valleys and low climbs to spectacular views of Loughrigg & Wansfell. A short walk from the centre of town will take you to Stock Ghyll Force, a 70 foot waterfall. Ambleside is the gateway to the Langdale Valley and home to one of the most popular and distinctive mountain ranges in England. Our walking holiday will be designed around the low fells, offering short and long route options of 5-7 miles or 9-11 miles respectively. There will be options to exit some walks and get back by bus, or extend them onto the high fells, weather permitting. Alternatively, drive up 'the struggle' to Kirkstone Pass Inn, the third highest pub in England, or take a lake cruise to Bowness and Lakeside from the terminal at Waterhead Pier.

## **Covid Restrictions & Walks**

We will keep to any Covid restrictions the Ramblers and Government have at the time of the holiday and are keeping our Ambleside numbers to a maximum of 30. We have also planned a trip on Windermere and an Evening Meal together, so using a face-mask or sharing food will be personal choices. The walks and routes we outline below will be flexible depending on Covid rules but more likely because of the weather. The weather will control which walks are done on which days and we might have to swap mountain walks to better weather days. Pricing of the car parks, bus times and planned trips need further adjustments and announcement. Despite this, Pauline & I wish you a happy holiday in Ambleside.

It is 240 miles to Ambleside from Bedford taking 4½ hours to drive, mainly on motorways, according to the AA.

Contact information:

Pauline – 07504 751554

Roy – 07784 208997

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## Day 1: Ambleside – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May – 1:30pm – 5 mile Circular walk

We start the holiday by meeting at Rydal Road carpark in Ambleside which is adjacent to the Bridge House. The walk meanders through the backstreets of Ambleside and up Skelgyll Lane to Stagshaw Gardens(NT). From here we drop to Waterhead Pier on Windermere for a break and then continue around Galava Roman Fort to cross the River Rothay. Ascending to Lily Tarn to get good views of the area, we return to Ambleside on the Rydal side to the carpark.

**Explorer Map OL7   Grid Ref: NY 375 046   Postcode: LA22 9AY**



Stagshaw Garden

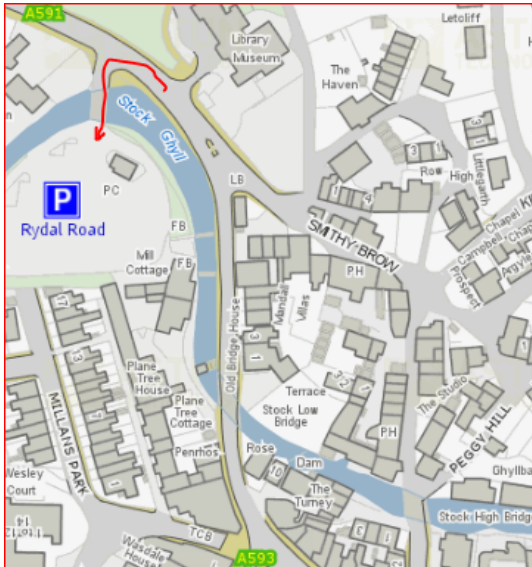
Waterhead Pier



Stagshaw is an eight-acre woodland garden created by Cubby Acland, a former National Trust land agent who lived in the cottages at the foot of the garden. The cottages, the land where the garden now stands, and the woodland above, were passed from the Wansfell Estate to the NT

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in 1957, and Cubby created the garden from scratch between 1959 until his death in 1979.



## Day 2: Ambleside - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May - 09:30am - short 7 miles or long 11 miles

We start the walks at Rydal Road carpark in Ambleside and climb toward Loughrigg Fell where the walks separate. The long route continues to the top of Loughrigg (a Wainwright) and heads across to Dow Bank into Grasmere for lunch, then returns via Dove Cottage and Rydal Water back to Ambleside. The short route continues on around the Fell to pass Loughrigg Tarn and Terrace into Rydal Mount for lunch. Afterwards it follows the Coffin Trail back into Ambleside.

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**Dove Cottage**

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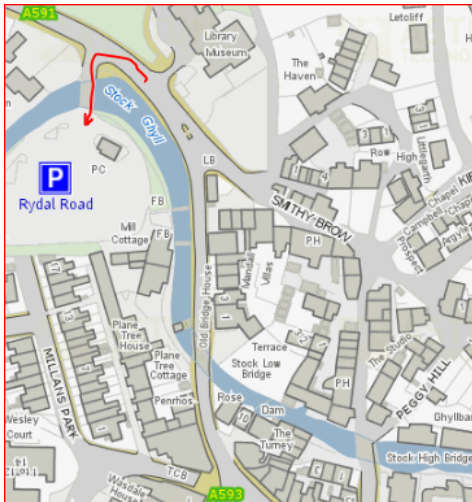
Rydal Mount



William Wordsworth lived in and around Grasmere. He lived 8 years at Dove Cottage with his sister, Dorothy, 4 years at Allan Bank with his wife, where he called it "the loveliest spot that man hath ever found" and 37 years at Rydal Mount where he died as Britain's poet laureate. The Coffin trail is an old medieval road used to carry the dead from churches at Ambleside & Rydal to the consecrated ground at St Oswald's in Grasmere for burial.



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3-Day Parking permit = £17.50

7-Day Parking permit = £34

Can be used in other carparks.  
(Page 8 lists the ones we will use)

## Day 3: Ambleside - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May - 09:30am - short 5 miles or long 11 miles

Both walks begin at Waterhead pier and if we agree among ourselves to catch a cruise across Windermere to Bowness and Wray Castle, then we all meet at Low Fold carpark in Ambleside. If not, the long walk starts at Ferry Nab carpark in Bowness LA23 3JH and the short walk starts at the Pay & Display carpark in Hawkshead LA22 0NT. The chain ferry takes the long walkers to Far Sawrey and heads to Beatrix Potter's Hill Top cottage to reach the ridge to Latterbarrow and down to Outgate for lunch. The return is via Wray Castle and along the lakeside back to the chain ferry and Bowness. The short walk heads out past Blelham Tarn to Wray Castle(NT) and returns to Outgate for lunch. It is but a short walk back into Hawkshead from there.

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**Bowness on Windermere**



There's been a ferry across Windermere for more than 500 years, with the earliest craft being rowed across the lake. In this period there was a recorded disaster in 1635, when the ferry capsized and 47 people sadly perished. The first cable ferry, powered by steam, commenced in 1870. Motorized ferry boats were introduced in 1915, 1954 & 1990. Wray Castle was built in

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1840 for a retired surgeon, James Dawson, who built it along with Wray Church using his wife's fortune. The estate was inherited by his 15 year old nephew and his cousin, Hardwicke Rawnsley took up the appointment of vicar of Wray Church. Beatrix Potter spent a summer holiday there when she was 16 in 1882. In 1929 the estate was given to the National Trust.



Valid to use Ambleside Parking permit

Valid to use Ambleside Parking permit

## Day 4: Grasmere - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May - 10:00am – short 5 mile long 11 miles

We start the walks from Red Bank Road carpark in Grasmere - 15 mins drive from Ambleside. Both walks ascend to Easedale Tarn where they separate. The short walk crosses stones to the other side of Sourmilk Gill and descends on the opposite side of Easedale Beck into Grasmere. The long walk climbs onto Blea Rigg and across to Sergeant Man for lunch. Weather permitting we can walk round to the Langdale Pikes or Greenup Edge since the area is all at similar height, otherwise we'll descend over Tarn Crag down into Sourmilk Gill and back into Grasmere.

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Gingerbread Shop

Easedale Tarn



Gingerbread was invented in 1854 by Victorian cook, Sarah Nelson who mixed and baked her spicy-sweet chewy concoction inside her church cottage home, now the Grasmere Gingerbread Shop – and sold it to villagers and visitors from a table top on a tree stump outside her door. Within a few years its reputation had reached nearly every corner of the country and with the advent of the steam railways tourists flocked to Grasmere to buy her gingerbread. Easedale Tarn lies between Tarn Crag to the north and Blea Rigg to the south. Formed by a small corrie glacier, it is believed to have filled with water around 11,000 years ago when the ice melted.

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Valid to use Ambleside Parking permit

## Day 5: Elterwater - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May - 10:00am - short 6 miles long 11 miles

We start both walks at the National Trust carpark in Elterwater and follow the Cumbria Way to Skelwith Force and onward to Colwith Force. At High Park the walks separate. The short walk continues into Little Langdale for lunch, visiting Cathedral Caverns(NT) on the way, then back into Elterwater. The long walk veers towards Yewdale Fells into Tilberthwaite Gill for lunch before returning to visit the Cathedral Caverns(NT) and back into Elterwater over Yew Crag.

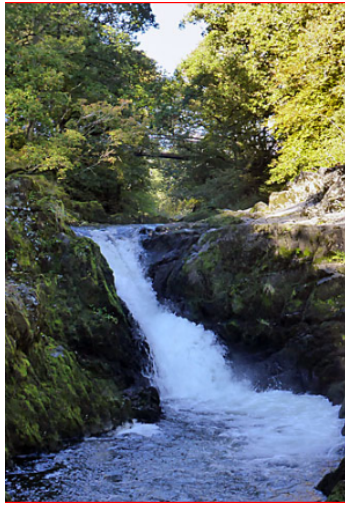
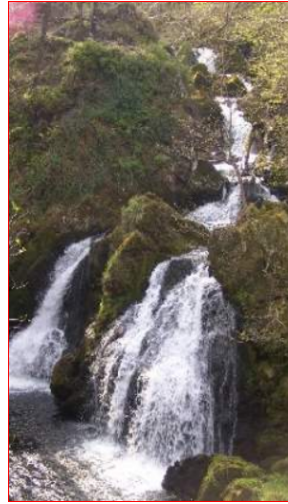
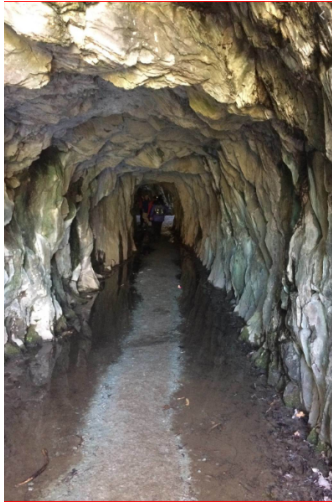
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Cathedral Caverns

Colwith Force & Skelwith Force

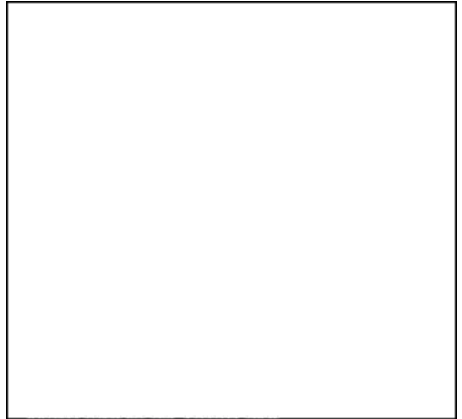


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Colwith Force on the River Brathay drops in several stages down a total height of about 40ft. The River Brathay drains all the hills in the Langdale area, and joins Little Langdale Tarn to Elterwater, then down into Windermere. A little further along is Skelwith Force, relatively low in height (~17 ft), but thrusts all the water through a fairly narrow gap, making an impressive curtain fall. The Cathedral quarries are a network of inter-linked quarries in Little Langdale. The system is best known for its main chamber, which stands forty feet high, and is lit by two windows off the main quarry. In 1929 Beatrix Potter bought this quarry and donated it to the National Trust. Quarrying continued here under lease until the 1950s.

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## **Day 6: Ambleside – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May – 10:00am – short 5 miles or long 8 miles**

The last day walk starts in Ambleside at the Rydal Road carpark and we all head eastwards to Stockghyll Force waterfall. Here the walks separate. The short walk heads across the beck and up to High Sweden Bridge, and returns to Ambleside via Low Sweden Bridge. The long walk continues climbing onto Wansfell Pike around to Baystones (a Wainwright) before descending onto Nanny Lane into Troutbeck for lunch. The return is along Robin Lane to Skelghyll Wood and then into Ambleside.

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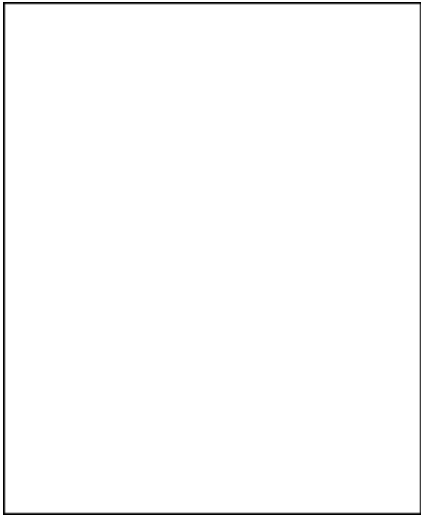
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Windermere from Wansfell Pike



Stock Ghyll is a tributary of the River Rothay and tumbles down through a series of waterfalls to the centre of Ambleside, passing under the famous Bridge House. There were 12 watermills driven by the power of Stock Ghyll and other local becks, producing bobbins, processed fabrics, paper and ground corn. Wansfell has an extensive summit and ridge with two tops. The highest point of the fell is called Baystones (Wainwright) while Wansfell Pike is regarded as the “true” summit because of its superior view across Windermere.

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Three and Seven Day Parking Passes for carparks (using yellow)



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You can buy a three day pass for **£17.50** and a seven day pass for **£34.00** from the pay and display machines by:

- credit/debit card
- cash
- [pay-by-phone](#)



The green circle logo will be displayed on the machines at the eligible car parks.

Although the pass will state the car park name from which it was bought, it can be used on any of the eligible car parks. The expiry time will be the same time you buy it, but it will have an expiry date in three or seven days' time. For example if you purchase a three day pass at 11.00am on Friday, it will have an expiry time of 11.00am on Monday. **It is not possible to purchase a pass online or in advance.**

## Car parks where you can use these passes:

### Ambleside car parks

Car park	Tariff	Postcode	Spaces	Spaces for disabled
King Street*	Short Stay	LA22 0BX	29	3
Lake Road	Multi-Tariff	LA22 0DB	47	3
Low Fold**	Multi-Tariff	LA22 0DN	45	3
Rydal Road	Multi-Tariff	LA22 9AY	170	10

\*King Street: closed Wednesdays for Market Day. Tickets cannot be purchased on-site.

\*\*Low Fold: not in electric charging point space.

### Bowness car parks

Car park	Tariff	Postcode	Spaces	Spaces for Disabled
Braithwaite Fold*	Long Stay	LA23 3HB	400	11
Ferry Nab	Multi-Tariff	LA23 3JN	104 34 double	9
Rayrigg Road	Multi-Tariff	LA23 3BZ	176	12
Quarry Mount	Short Stay	LA23 3DU	36	3
Glebe Rd	Long Stay	LA23 3HB	126	9

\*Braithwaite Fold: closed November to February

### Grange-over-Sands car parks

Car park	Tariff	Postcode	Spaces	Spaces for Disabled
Hampfell Road	Multi-Tariff	LA11 6BD	23	2
Kents Bank Road	Multi-Tariff	LA11 7EY	56	3
Main Street	Multi-Tariff	LA11 6DY	84	6
Windermere Road	Multi-Tariff	LA11 6EG	66	4

### Grasmere car parks

Car park	Tariff	Postcode	Spaces	Spaces for Disabled
Red Bank Road	Multi-Tariff	LA22 9PU	79	0

## Windermere Cruises

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## Walkers Ticket

Explore the beautiful western shore at your own pace on foot.

**COVID 19: THIS CRUISE IS CURRENTLY NOT RUNNING**



To maintain social-distancing and keep everyone on board safe, we've had to change our cruises with:

✓ Social-distancing ✓ Ticketed seating ✓ More space to enjoy the views ✓ Enhanced cleaning ✓ Limited timetables

[FOLLOW THIS LINK TO SEE WHICH CRUISES ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING](#)

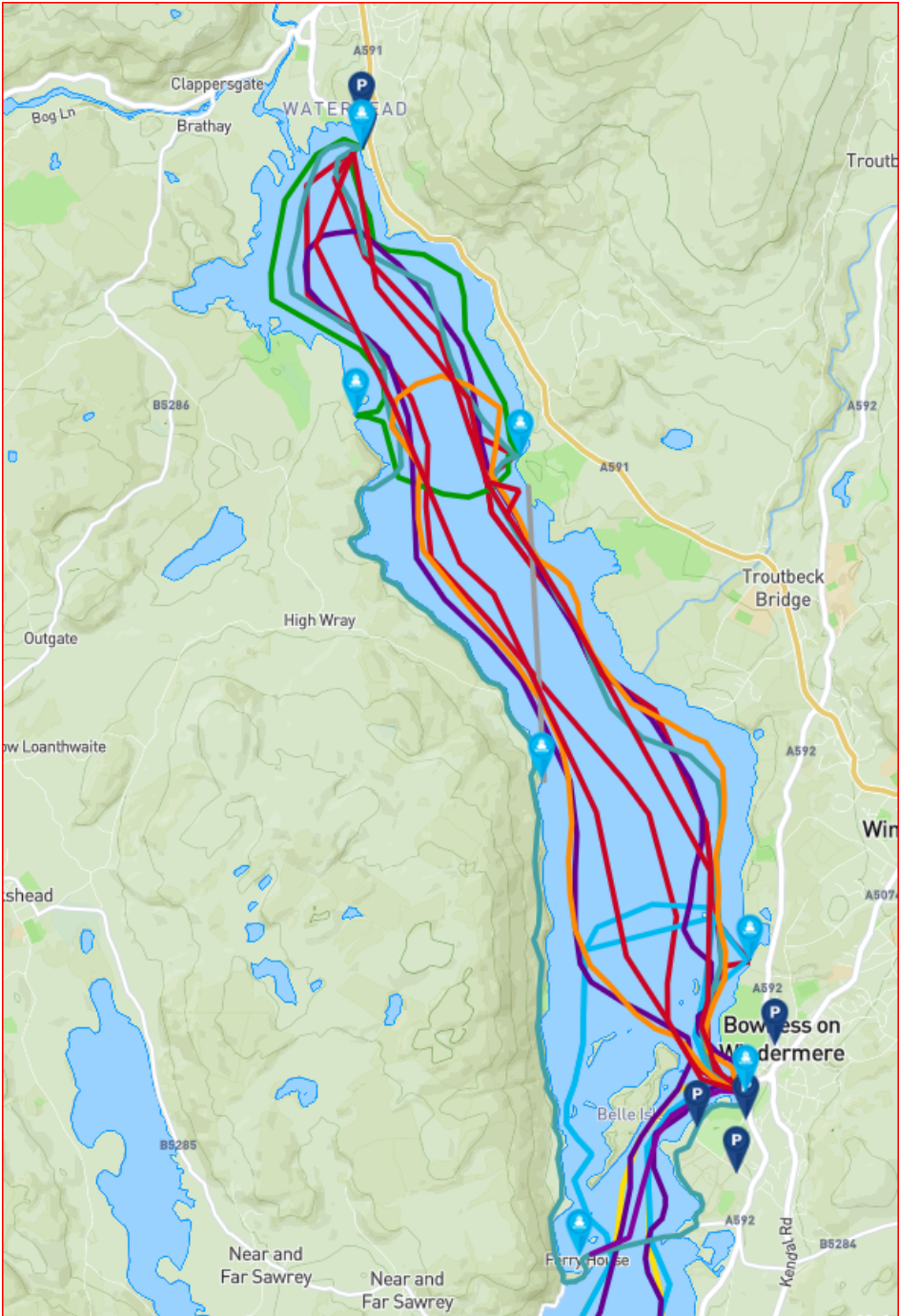
⚠ The information below is for reference only. Please keep checking back to find out when we are re-opening fully.



**Combine a stroll along the peaceful western shore with a cruise across Windermere.**

This convenient ticket allows walkers to create a circular walking loop and can start/finish at Bowness, Windermere Jetty (Museum), Brockhole or Ambleside.

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## Buses from Ambleside to other places

Ambleside to...			Timetable
Windermere	14 mins by bus	A charming town for a leisurely stroll and home to a host of independent shops. After a day of exploring, there's plenty of places to quench your thirst and satisfy your appetite.	505 555 599
Bowness	27 mins by bus	Pop down to the pier and enjoy a leisurely cruise on England's largest Lake with Windermere Lake Cruises (Prebooking necessary).	599
Grasmere	13 mins by bus	Immerse yourselves in the world of poetry at <a href="#">Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum</a> . Don't forget to sample the world famous <a href="#">Grasmere Gingerbread</a> while in the village!	555 599
Hawkshead	20 mins by bus	With its cobbled streets and whitewashed cottages, it's the perfect place to experience the real Lake District.	505
Elterwater	17 mins by bus	Visit the famous Skelwith Force waterfall and enjoy a brew from the local Langdale Brewing Company.	516
Keswick	40 mins by bus	Situated between Skiddaw and Derwentwater, this scenic market town offers a wide range of attractions and outdoor activities for visitors.	555
Coniston	36 mins by bus	A great base for walking and sailing, ride the famous <a href="#">Steam Yacht Gondola</a> to really appreciate the views.	505



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