

Keswick Club Site – Walk to Walla Crag

Camping and Caravanning



Route Summary



Walla Crag is an amazing viewpoint for Derwentwater as well as a great place to eat your butties! This walk from Keswick Club Site passes through Keswick to climb through woods and open fellside to reach the summit. The return down Cat Gill and by Derwentwater is a fitting end to a great day.

Route Overview



Category: Walking

Rating: Unrated

Surface: Rough

Date Published: 18th July 2017

Difficulty: Hard

Length: 9.680 km / 6.05 mi

Last Modified: 25th October 2017

Description



View from the summit of Walla Crag

Be aware this is a tough walk with a steep climb and descent. Choose a day of clear bright weather for the best views and take along Ordnance Survey Map OL Explorer 4 - The English Lakes North Western Area.

THE ROUTE



The stunning viewpoint of Walla Crag

Start: From reception at Keswick Club Site go through the barrier and back down the approach road. Go left at the end and left again at the next road junction. Follow the road past Booths into Keswick. Go right at a mini roundabout and follow the road through the shops. When it bends left at traffic lights go ahead through the pedestrianised area of Keswick Town Centre to pass Moot Hall. Reach a road at a bend/junction just right of Costa Coffee and go straight ahead to walk past the Church of Keswick St. John. Continue on the road following it to a point where Ambleside Road becomes Manor Brow just before it rises up. Here go right down Springs Road. Continue to Springs Farm and a tearoom after crossing a bridge. Follow the footpath sign to bear left in front of Springs Farm and go right of the tea rooms through a gate/opening. Continue ahead, signposted Rakefoot and Castlerigg, to reach a gate.

2 - Pass through the gate to take a rising track into the woods with a beck on your left. At a path junction go right (signposted Rakefoot Farm/Walla Crag/Castlerigg Stone Circle and begin ascending.



Sign in the woods

Continue to climb with a fence on your right and pass a prominent mast. Go straight on at a junction following signs for Castlerigg/Walla Crag. As the path narrows follow it with the beck down below on your left. Pass through a kissing gate and continue on the path to descend slightly and turn left over a bridge. Take the path beyond and head towards a wall before turning left and passing through a gate.

3 - At a junction with a Private road going left, stay right (signposted Walla Crag). Continue to the end of the lane and just before a gate, go right over a bridge. Take a path on the left for Walla Crag. Follow a wall and pass through a gate – when the wall bends right near a junction, stay right on the path by the wall. Follow this and cross two streams. Stay on the wide path and move slightly away from the wall to re-join it further up. Go straight ahead at a large cairn by a kissing gate and continue alongside the wall. Continue until you cross a stile on the right and climb on the path to the summit of Walla Crag.



View from Walla Crag



At the summit of Walla Crag

4 - With your back to Derwentwater and the drop, take a path on the right and descend to cross a stile in a wall. Go right to descend by the wall. When you reach a cairn and junction on the left, stay ahead keeping the wall on your

right. When the path splits, go right keeping near the wall. Descend towards trees and Cat Gill below. Continue alongside the wall to pass through a gate as you descend. Steps help on the steep bits but the going is rough and requires care as you follow Cat Gill down.



Descending Cat Gill

Follow the path to pass through the kissing gate. Continue following the descending path into the woods.



Another view of Cat Gill

Eventually you'll reach a sign and path junction just right of a bridge. Turn right for Derwentwater. Stay ahead at the next junction for Derwentwater again. Pass by a barrier and at a junction straight afterwards, go left to descend and cross a track. Take the path through woods and descend eventually passing through a wall gap to a road by a bus stop.

5 - Cross the road carefully and go right on a narrow path next to it. Pass another bus stop and follow the path past the entrance to Great Wood car park. When you reach a footpath sign on the left for avoiding the road and Keswick, turn left through a stile in the wall. Follow this path, bearing left at a fence corner and walk through the woods. Continue to a good track and go left following the National Trust arrow. The track soon bends right to reach a junction. Here go right for Keswick and Friars Crag and continue over wooden boardwalks.



Crossing the boardwalk

After the boardwalk continue on a good track through the woods. Go right over a bridge and then left through a gate. Take the path nearest Derwentwater. Continue near the lake to pass a bay under Friars Crag. Pass through a gate going left up steps to reach Friars Crag. Go right from here and follow the path to join a good path further on.

Follow the path to pick up a surfaced lane with the lake on your left. At the lake end continue on the lane past the Theatre By The Lake and a car park on the right. Facing the car park exit, go left into Hope Park through a gap. Bear right before a barrier and cross a bridge. At a junction of paths by four benches go left and exit the park by the Green Café. Go left on the road, then at a junction by Hazeldene Drive go left, taking The Headlands and follow the road. As the road descends and goes right, go left down steps before the junction and then left to pass the rugby club. Now turn right to re-enter Keswick Club Site.

Waypoints

