



16 CUMBRIA KIRKSTONE TO HARTSOP

▶ Distance: 10.5km/6½ miles ▶ Time: 5 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging

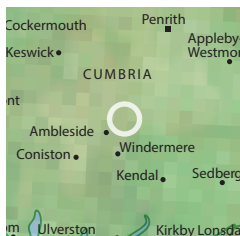


SEE
FEATURE
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Leaving Stony Cove Pike,
heading for Thornthwaite Crag.

PHOTO: TOM BAILEY

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking: Car park opposite Kirkstone Pass Inn, grid ref NY401081.

Is it for me? A linear walk on high mountain paths, occasionally indistinct. Steep, rocky descent off Stony Cove Pike to Threshthwaite Mouth - beware in poor conditions

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Ambleside

Refreshments Kirkstone Pass Inn at start, Brotherswater Inn at end

Public toilets None

Public transport None in winter. Buses 108 and 508 connect Glenridding and Windermere via Kirkstone Pass in spring, summer and early autumn.

Maps Ordnance Survey Explorer OL7 & OL5, Landranger 90



CHOSEN BY...
NICK HALLISSEY

Day 1 of a terrific two-day circular

route starts at one iconic Lake District inn and takes you over the hills to another one. The walk is high-level from the start, crossing St Raven's Edge, Stony Cove Pike and Thornthwaite Crag, and descending over Gray Crag with a fabulous view of High Street and Hayeswater across the way. It finishes at the superb Brotherswater Inn, which offers a great view of the return route that lies ahead on Day 2.

1 Start

From car park, cross road and take footpath leading

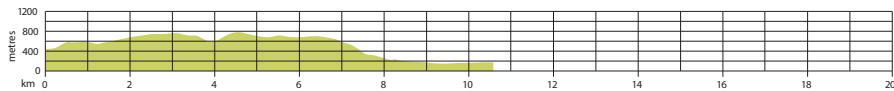
uphill to L of Kirkstone Inn, signed for St Raven's Edge. Go through gate and climb hillside, passing wind turbines and making for wall-line ahead. Go through another gate and follow path up steep flank of hill. At top, reach cairn and follow St Raven's Edge north with wall L. Follow path beside wall-line, climbing to a monument on Caudale Moor. Here stay on main path (ignoring branching path L) and continue, tending R, to summit cairn on Stony Cove Pike.

2 3.1km/2 miles

Continue east and begin steep, rocky descent into Threshthwaite Mouth (some down-climbing required).

Follow wall line L and begin ascent up far side of gap, →

GRADIENT PROFILE



16 CUMBRIA KIRKSTONE TO HARTSOP

► OS Explorer map OL5 & OL7 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapshop

tending R. Climb is steep but soon levels out to reach top of Thornthwaite Crag, marked by enormous obelisk-cairn.

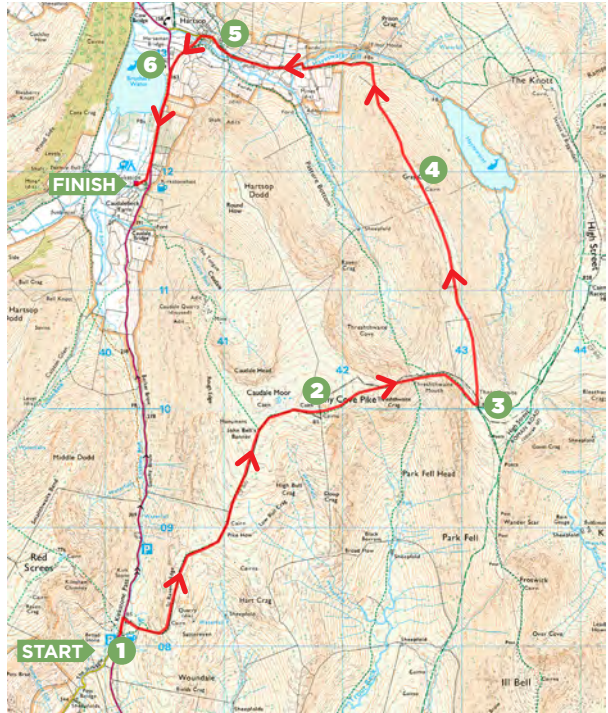
3 4.7km/3 miles
Go through wall. Do not take main path which continues to High Street, but turn L, loosely following wall-line. Path tends directly north above Hayeswater (High Street is the large fell opposite), continuing for a further mile to the small summit cairn of Gray Crag.

4 6.5km/4 miles
Continue ahead, dropping directly off the 'nose' of Gray Crag. Path is steep but clear. Nearing bottom, path veers R then L to join clear path coming down from Hayeswater. Join this path and continue through gates. At double-gates near sheep-pens take R of two paths and follow stonier track towards Hartsop. Track becomes metalled as it enters village.

5 8.9km/5½ miles
Take first footpath L,



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPPING ©CROWNN COPYRIGHT 2015 IN ASSOCIATION WITH MEMORY-MAP/BAUER MEDIA LICENCE NUMBER 097/15

signed for Low Beckside. Head down track between two barns. Cross footbridge over river. Path continues ahead, passing house L. Turn R with crossing track. At private driveway, track veers R of drive to become enclosed sunken path. Follow through gate, emerging onto main road.

6 9.6km/6 miles
Carefully cross road and go through kissing-gate opposite to turn L on permissive path following shoreline of Brothers Water. After end of lake, path

climbs gradually to join access track to Sykeside Campsite. Turn R on track to reach car park of Brotherswater Inn. End of Day 1. **CW**

TRAILZILLA ID:
TZID28302

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