



17 CUMBRIA SELDOM SEEN

▶ Distance: 7¼ miles/11.6km ▶ Time: 3 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate

SEE
FEATURE
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Views to Ullswater
from Glencoyne Park.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY...
GUY PROCTER

A beautiful, surprising and little-walked loop from the shore of Ullswater to the most beautifully-situated hamlet in the Lake District. Along the way you'll follow the journey to work of some of the hard-working workers in the most-productive lead mines in the area. A tough job to be sure, but what a commute! The walk doesn't take in any summits but it circulates the head of a neglected valley spectacularly, before dropping past fascinating mine-workings to the aptly-named – and achingly idyllic – row of former miners' cottages that is Seldom Seen, Glencoyne.

1 Start Leave the car park and follow the made path leading from its far end parallel to the road, heading east towards Aira Force. After a wooden footbridge head L on a very faint grassy path leading diagonally toward a white-topped post. The path isn't clear at all here but keep in the same direction to a small gate past a beck. Over the brow of the field you'll see a small wooden gate – your exit point. Through the gate pass the oak on your R and follow the fence line. At the end of the fence follow the yellow arrow across a wooden footbridge then head diagonally uphill towards a wooden gate (giving onto the road) which will become clear.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Glencoyne Bridge car park on A592 on the south west shore of Ullswater (fee charged; free to NT members), grid ref NY386189

Is it for me? Remote walking on reasonable tracks. Long, slow climb up then down

Stiles 2

PLANNING

Nearest town Penrith

Refreshments None on route

Public toilets None on route

Public transport

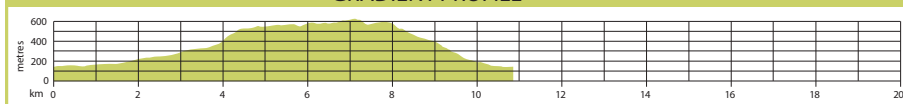
Bus 508 from Penrith

Maps OS Explorer OL5;

Landranger 90

21 mile/1.6km Turn L on the road for 400m. Then L on the path, signed to Glencoyne Head 2¼ miles, opposite the Park Brow car park. This is a lovely path, leading through woods and

GRADIENT PROFILE



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► OS Explorer map OL5 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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amid birdsong, open fellside and views of wide sky and placid Ullswater, to a steep beech wood.

3 **2½ miles/4km**

Past the wood the path tacks steeply R giving wide views of almost the full swathe of Ullswater. A good distraction from a fairly punishing section of ascent. Finally through a handsome stone wall you turn L to join the Miners' route to work from Dockray. There are magnificent views to Green Side, Hart Side, Stybarrow Dodd. The path soon focuses into a long, nearly level traverse towards Glencoyne Head.

4 **4½ miles/7.25km**

Round the shoulder of Greenside and carry on straight, eschewing the short

cut L. Follow the path through steep grass and spoil toward the valley floor (your exact route to it isn't critical). Before you reach the floor, pick up a narrow path L through heather, then L uphill again on a patchy path through grass with your back to the spoil heaps.

5 **5 miles/8km**

You're heading to Sheffield Pike, the top of which you skirt by heading L at the col. The track ends up at two gates at 90 degrees to each other. Take the L option to meander through bracken slopes toward the hamlet.

6 **6½ miles/10.5km**

Take the left fork to drop into Seldom Seen on the side bordered by a broad grassy expanse. Follow the sound of

rushing water and cross this beck-threaded grassland to visit the lovely jacuzzi pool in Glencoyne Beck. Once rested, take the grassy path down to Glencoyne farm, taking care while passing a precipitously steep grassy slope to the river. The path passes right through the farmhouse's little garden (look for the yellow arrow for confidence!) then leave via the farm's straight grey access road. Turn L at the end and it's a short walk back to the car park. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON
OS MAPS ONLINE:**

lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING