



'Steamer' Walks

Cruise & Walk with the Ullswater 'Steamers'

Howtown to Glenridding Route

Description:	Lakeland's most beautiful lakeshore walk – stunning views of the Ullswater Valley and Helvellyn range
Starting Point:	Glenridding, Howtown or Pooley Bridge 'Steamer' Piers
Parking:	At Glenridding Pier, in Glenridding village or in Pooley Bridge village. Poor parking facilities at Howtown
Distance:	7 miles / 11 km
'Steamer' Options:	Catch the 'Steamer' from Glenridding to Howtown and walk back to Glenridding OR cruise from Pooley Bridge to Howtown, walk to Glenridding and catch the boat back to Pooley Bridge OR cruise from Glenridding to Pooley Bridge & back to Howtown before walking to Glenridding
Difficulty:	Moderate – Easy Not suitable for standard prams but OK for 'All Terrain' prams (with helpers)
Terrain:	Undulating path with up and down hill stretches and some slightly rocky parts
Duration:	3 to 4 hours average depending on your pace and whether you stop for a picnic!
Footwear:	Boots/sturdy shoes
Clothing:	Waterproofs during wet weather
Toilets/Refreshments:	Glenridding or Pooley Bridge Pier Houses or villages, on the 'Steamers' or in the Howtown Hotel Public Bar & Beer Garden (open March to October).

Always check the weather forecast and boat times before your walk.
Take plenty of water, especially on hot days!

1. Disembark the 'Steamer', walk down Howtown pier, take an immediate right across a small bridge, signposted **Public Footpath – Sandwick No Cycling** and follow the lakeshore path. After the second swing gate, continue straight forward along the road for 30 metres, then go through the swing gate on your left signposted **Patterdale Sandwick** and follow this path along and up the steps until you reach the next swing gate. Once through the gate, turn RIGHT and follow the path.
2. Soon the path heads up and bears left as you leave Howtown Bay. You'll pass a bench on the left and there are stunning views up the lake towards Pooley Bridge from this area – the Pennines in the distance and the Sharrow Bay Hotel prominent on the right hand lakeshore about a mile away. Continue along the path as it rounds the corner and starts to head southwards along the lake. The path dips to lake level and there is a spot suitable for picnics (and skimming stones!) here.
3. The path now rises to a swing gate, which signals the start of a slightly rocky section of track going through Hallinlogg Wood. Watch your step, and look out for Red Squirrels here! The path soon exits the woods through a swing gate, after which you need to skirt the wall on your left for 30 metres before taking the swing gate or double gate on the left. Although not signposted to Patterdale, there is a signpost pointing back towards Howtown

Public Footpath Howtown 1½ miles - No Cycling which you can ignore, but is a good marker.

Follow this path diagonally up and to the left, through several swing gates. The path soon follows a dry stonewall towards Beck Side Farm and Sandwick, and bears off left as it approaches the farm. Cross the bridge here and go through the double gate before turning left and walking up the tarmac road for 20 metres. Now follow the path to your RIGHT after Townhead Cottage, signposted **Public Bridleway Patterdale 3¾ miles**. There are PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY MARKERS (blue arrow on yellow background) regularly along this stretch of track.

4. Follow the path, great views of Hallin Fell and Martindale stretching out behind you. You will pass an old barn and cross a small wooden bridge - remember to look out for Scalehow Force waterfall up to your left, this marks a geological fault line between soft and hard rock that runs across the lake and through Aira Force - a larger waterfall which is hidden behind the left side of Gowbarrow Fell, the huge fell on the opposite side of the lake. After a short upwards climb there is another Bridleway marker pointing you in the right direction. You can also look out for Lyulph's Tower - a 16th Century castellated building nestled towards the bottom of Gowbarrow Fell. There is a steep side to this section of path, so be careful. Soon you will have great views across towards Helvellyn, down towards the lake islands and Silver Bay, so called because the silvery underside of the bracken shimmers when caught by the wind whistling down Glencoyne Valley.
5. You can follow the undulating path as it skirts around Silver Bay - or you could take a detour down to the shore to rest or have a picnic (again, mind your step). The path continues towards Patterdale and gradually turns into a farm track with a wall on the right, over which you can see Glenridding and the Steamer pier on the opposite side of the lake. When you reach the wide gate for Side Farm, go through it and after 20 metres turn right through the farm yard (tea rooms here). Continue along the farm track as it heads towards the road and village. (Turn left along the main road if you wish to visit Patterdale Post Office & Store and the White Lion Pub).
6. When you reach the A592 main road, cross over carefully and turn right to walk past St Patrick's Church. After the church head along the pavements and paths to Glenridding. Cut through the Boat Hire yard or go through the gate just after it and follow the lake shore path all the way back to the 'Steamer' car park.

