



YHA Keswick. The best view over Derwentwater

Difficulty **Easy** Walking time **1 hour 10 minutes** Length **3.8km / 2.3mi**

Route developer: **Andy Page**

Route checker: **John Clift**

Start location: Keswick Youth Hostel

Route Summary: A short walk from the centre of this popular town up through Castlehead wood to a wonderful viewpoint over Derwentwater and the surrounding fells. The route then goes down to the lakeshore and returns across Crow Park to the market square.



Getting there



By Car: Keswick is by where the A66 Penrith to Workington, and the A591 Windermere to Carlisle roads cross in the north of the Lake District. The YHA is on Station Street, just down from the war memorial from the main road through the town. Parking is restricted to 2 hours during the day, but if you continue past the YHA and round a right bend you will find some unrestricted parking. There are also numerous Pay & Display car parks around the town.

By Bus: The main buses serving Keswick are: the X4/X5 between Penrith, Cockermouth and Workington. The 555 from Keswick to Windermere, Kendal & Lancaster. The 73/73A to Carlisle. Non-hostellers should aim for the market square or the war memorial to pick up the route.

Description

[1] From the bridge at the front of the YHA turn right along the road to the crossroads at the war memorial. Cross over and go half left along Southey Street. At a T-junction at the far

end, turn right for a short distance along Acorn Street to another T-Junction. The parish church is just to your right if you wish to take a look.

1

[2] Turn left along the road. Just as it starts to get steep, turn right along Springs Road.

After a little over 100 metres take a path on the right, signed to 'Castlehead & Lake Road'. A wonderful pub worth making a trip to on the Lake Road is the "[Dog & Gun](#)", which features in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. It is newly refurbished with a modern interior and the bar has been extended to make room for more guests. The Dog and Gun serves food and is famed for its Hungarian Goulash. The pub is always full of dogs and even has a special menu and doggy bags for its customers' pets. This pub serves one regular beer – Theakston Old Peculier and four changing beers from local independent Cumbrian breweries.



2

Another great pub on the Lake Road is the "[Wainwright](#)", a traditional Lakeland pub and a must visit for real ale drinking rambblers. It serves a variety of local Cumbrian beers and offers a 10% discount for CAMRA members. The pub serves one regular beer – Thwaites Wainwright and six changing beers, predominately local Cumbrian ales.

3

The "[Magnolia Belgian Beer Bar & Bistro](#)" is also on the Lake Road. This pub was awarded spring 2016 Pub of the Season by its local CAMRA branch! Alongside fantastic fresh food at lunchtimes and evenings and a great selection of Belgian beers, this pub serves three real ales.



The path to 'Castlehead & Lake Road' goes through a kissing gate and into a wood. Go left up the bank for about 10 metres then turn right along a path. After about 25 metres, fork left on another path and go steeply uphill. Pass a wire fence at a corner and keep straight on uphill to emerge from trees onto a small rocky area with a couple of benches, a viewfinder, and an outstanding view!

[A] The viewpoint at Castlehead wood proves you do not have to go that high up to get an amazing view. Many people claim this is the finest view of the whole of Derwentwater there is. The lack of height gives it a perspective and intimacy you do not get in views from the high fells. The surrounding mountain views are good from here too. The viewfinder will help you identify them. You can also see a bit of Bassenthwaite Lake over to the right.

[3] Having taken in the view and reluctantly decided it is time to leave, retrace your steps down to the wire fence corner. Turn left and go downhill through the woods keeping parallel to the fence on your right to reach a road. Cross over and go left along a gravel path that runs parallel to the road. After about 40 metres go right on a path signed 'To The Lake'. Reach a wood. Enter it and go straight on along the path



ahead, going up at first then descending to the far side of the wood. Keep straight on over a cross path to reach the lake shore.

[4] Turn right and walk along the shore on a tarmac path with lots of benches. It can get very busy around here. When opposite the entrance to the Theatre by the Lake, go left through a metal gate into Crow Park. Go over the top of the grassy bank in the centre of the park and carry on to the far corner where you will find a gate just left of sheep pens leading onto a tarmac lane. Turn right along it. The lane widens to become a residential street. After a junction, keep straight on past Booth's supermarket then turn right at a mini roundabout and go up to the market square. Take a road from the top left corner, by Greggs, and turn left along Station Street. Return to the war memorial and keep straight on to return to the YHA.

POI information

Keswick is the main tourist centre for the northern Lake District. You will find plenty of accommodation, pubs, cafes, eateries and gear shops here. The town is mainly Victorian and grew after the coming of the railway in 1864. The name comes from "Caeswick", which means a cheese farm, though there is more than cheese on offer now!

Notes

For more information about staying at YHA Keswick see <http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/keswick>

Acknowledgements

Crow Park Photo © Copyright [Trevor Rickard](#) and licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#).

For more information about Pubs & Wellbeing please visit:
www.camra.org.uk/pubs-wellbeing

For more information about local routes, please visit:
www.ramblers.com