



'Steamer' Walks

Cruise & Walk with the Ullswater 'Steamers'

Aira Force Circular Walk

Description: Excellent short walk developed by the Victorians with great views from the top and bottom of a beautiful waterfall. Watch out for the red squirrels!

Starting Point: Aira Force car park

'Steamer' Options: Before or after your walk, take a round trip from nearby Glenridding and view the Aira Beck valley from the lake! It is possible to catch a bus to Aira Force and back from Glenridding or Pooley Bridge, please contact ourselves or Stagecoach for timetable details.

Distance: 1 mile / 1.6 km.

Difficulty: Easy (see below).

Terrain: Easy going but with some steep steps which can be avoided. Can be muddy in wet conditions and is a bit steep in places.

Duration: ¾ to 1 hour average.

Footwear: Boots/sturdy shoes.

Clothing: Waterproofs during wet weather.

Toilets/Refreshments: Glenridding or Pooley Bridge Piers or villages, on the 'Steamers' or at Aira Force Tea Rooms.

Always check the weather forecast and boat times before your walk.

Take plenty of water, especially on hot days!

1. Drive to Aira Force, situated on the A592 adjacent to the Keswick & Dockray junction, 2½ miles north along the lake road from Glenridding or 5½ miles south along the lake road from Pooley Bridge. Park in the National Trust pay & display car park (free for NT members). There are toilets and tearooms signposted next to the parking area.

2. There are many walks of varying length here, but this leaflet follows the **1 mile circular route up to the waterfall and back**. From your car, walk to the covered information boards at the far end of the car park - these are well worth a read if you'd like some more detailed information or advice on the different routes you can take. Follow the path signposted Aira Force Waterfall ½ mile. The path is gravelled and easy going for 300 metres or so before reaching a small gate and small bridge, after which it splits into two.

OPTION 1 - a more gradual route with views from the top of the Force:

Take the left fork for an easier, more gradual climb straight to the top of the force, bypassing the view from the bottom of the waterfall and, also the 105 steps up to the top [Note: these are worth doing if you are up to it - see OPTION 2]. This path is still fairly steep in places. Follow it until you drop down onto the bridge spanning the waterfall from which you get a fantastic view looking straight down the fall. After the bridge follow the path straight on, rising up and skirting the tree line to give you superb views over the lake in both directions. The path soon drops down some steps and over a bridge before heading through a gap in a fence. Turn left here and walk straight along to meet back up with the path you originally came in on. This takes you back to the car park.

OPTION 2 - a slightly more strenuous route with great views from the top and bottom of the force.

Take the right fork which heads straight on and through a narrow gap in a fence. Cross the bridge and follow the path up some steps. In a few metres the path splits - take the left path and be careful - it is wide but has a steep drop off to the left. You will soon reach a bridge spanning the Aira Beck at the bottom of the waterfall - the classic postcard view straight up the fall to your right. You now have to walk up the 105 steps to the top of the fall. When the steps end, continue straight on towards the falls and drop down on to the bridge spanning the top of Aira Force. After the bridge follow the path straight on, rising up and skirting the tree line to give you superb views over the lake in both directions. The path soon drops down some steps and over a bridge before heading through a gap in a fence. Turn left here and walk straight along to meet back up with the path you originally came in on. This takes you back to the car park.

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For more information on the area visit www.visiteden.co.uk