

Lake District Walking Holiday

Information for Drivers

The boxes give information on destinations for use in satnavs. Country locations don't have precise postcodes, so you may do better with a grid reference or latitude and longitude. Most of the directions here are based on Google Streetview, and are the best I can manage. Most distances and times come from Google. Feel free to use your own route.

Home to Brockhole Visitor Centre

Nearest Postcode LA23 1LJ Grid Reference NY 391 010 Latitude & Longitude N 54.402531°,W 2.941831°

My driving distance was 202 miles, actual driving time 3¾ hours.

Make your own way to the M5 northbound, and follow it to its end.

As soon as you have passed junction 1 of the M5, take lane 2 or 3 for the M6 northbound. The first stretch of M6 is normally very busy, so take great care.

Follow the M6 for many miles to junction 36, where you turn left on to the A590. (If you notice Brockholes at junction 31, ignore it. You want Brockhole.)

Follow the A590, which changes to the A591, for several miles of dual carriageway.

Go straight on at a roundabout (still A591), and continue to Windermere town, which you pass through.

When you see the White Cross Bay Holiday Park on your left, you are close to Brockhole.

300 yards before it, there is a sign saying Lake District Visitor Centre, and the entrance is reasonably clear on the left.

The parking system is unusual. When you arrive you are photographed, and all you do is park.

When you come to leave, you key your registration in to a machine, then pay and leave before the time you are given. The charge is £2 for the first hour, then 40p per 20 minutes.

You are allowed to leave without paying, provided you do pay on the internet within 48 hours.

Brockhole to Rydal Hall

Postcode LA22 9LX Grid Reference NY 365 063 Latitude & Longitude N 54.448111°, W 2.979263°
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Google says 4.2 miles, 10 minutes.

Leave Brockhole, turning left on to the A591.

Ambleside is confusing! Keep following signs for A591, Keswick.

At traffic light as you enter Ambleside, go straight on.

After a bit, you must turn left, then take the right hand lane.

At the foot of the hill turn right and take the left lane.

When the road splits, turn left.

After a short distance, the road swings right and takes you up through a street with shops.

At the top turn left, and you are back on to the main A591, which you follow for a few miles.

Shortly after passing the Rydal sign, you will see a narrow road crossing a bridge to the left.

You are now near your turn.

When you see a sign warning of pedestrians, you can see the junction you want on the right.

It has a green sign saying Rydal Hall.

Go up the hill and turn right at the first entrance.

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Rydal Hall to Great Wood

Nearest Postcode CA12 5UP
Grid Reference NY 271 214
Latitude & Longitude N 54.583576°, W 3.129004°

Google does not give any information for this route, since the road is closed. I would expect about 45 minutes, although Keswick can be congested.

Go down to the main road and turn right.

At the roundabout outside Grasmere, take the second exit (straight on) to Keswick.

When you come down the hill into Keswick, the road curves sharply to the left (A5271) towards the town.

Close to the town centre, at a fairly complicated junction, the road swings right. It is marked Borrowdale, but not very clearly.

This road turns left, then right opposite Black's.

At a mini-roundabout, turn left, marked Borrowdale.

Follow this road through a number of twists and turns, until you reach a mini-roundabout where you should take the left lane and go straight on.

At the next mini-roundabout, you have to go right.

The car park is about 1 mile along this road, on your left. There is a sign 85 yards before it and one on the entrance.

Rydal Hall to Monk Coniston

Nearest Postcode LA21 8AA
Grid Reference SD 316 978
Latitude & Longitude N 54.371883°, W 3.053990°

Google says 10.1 miles, 27 minutes. (A little shorter and quicker if you use the Hawkshead road, but I prefer the Coniston one.)

Go down to the main road and turn left.

Pass through the centre of Ambleside.

When a pinch point forces you to the right, stay in the right hand lane, then turn right (A593 Coniston and Langdale).

You came down this stretch on Monday, but this time you need the left hand lane.

Turn left at the bottom.

After the road has swung left, turn right (A593 Coniston and Langdale).

After the road has swung right, turn left to cross a narrow bridge. (A593 Coniston and Langdale).

At Clappersgate go straight on.

Continue on this road until you reach Coniston.

In the centre of Coniston turn left on to the B5285. (There is a short-cut as you enter Coniston, but you will have to be alert to spot it.)

When you have been driving alongside the lake for a bit, the road swings left. At this point take the road to the right.

The car park (pay and display, £5.50 for 4 hours) is a short distance on the right.

Rydal Hall to Elterwater

Nearby Postcode LA22 9HP (Britannia Inn)
Grid Reference NY 327 047
Latitude & Longitude N 54.433892°, W 3.037915°

Google says 5.9 miles, 17 minutes.

Go down to the main road and turn left.

Pass through the centre of Ambleside.

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When a pinch point forces you to the right, stay in the right hand lane, then turn right (A593 Coniston and Langdale).

You came down this stretch on Monday, but this time you need the left hand lane.

Turn left at the bottom.

After the road has swung left, turn right (A593 Coniston and Langdale).

After the road has swung right, turn left to cross a narrow bridge. (A593 Coniston and Langdale).

At Clappersgate go straight on.

After a few miles you should see the prominent white building of the Skelwith Bridge Hotel.

Take the road to the right of it (B5343 Elterwater and Langdale).

After a few miles, when you are on open moorland, you will pass a small layby on the right followed shortly by a small layby on the left. Just after this, turn left into a minor road which has a small sign for Elterwater.

In the village centre follow the road to the left. The car park is on the left just before the bridge.

Parking is free for those displaying a National Trust badge, but others have to pay.