

All The Way to Gummers How and Back

Description

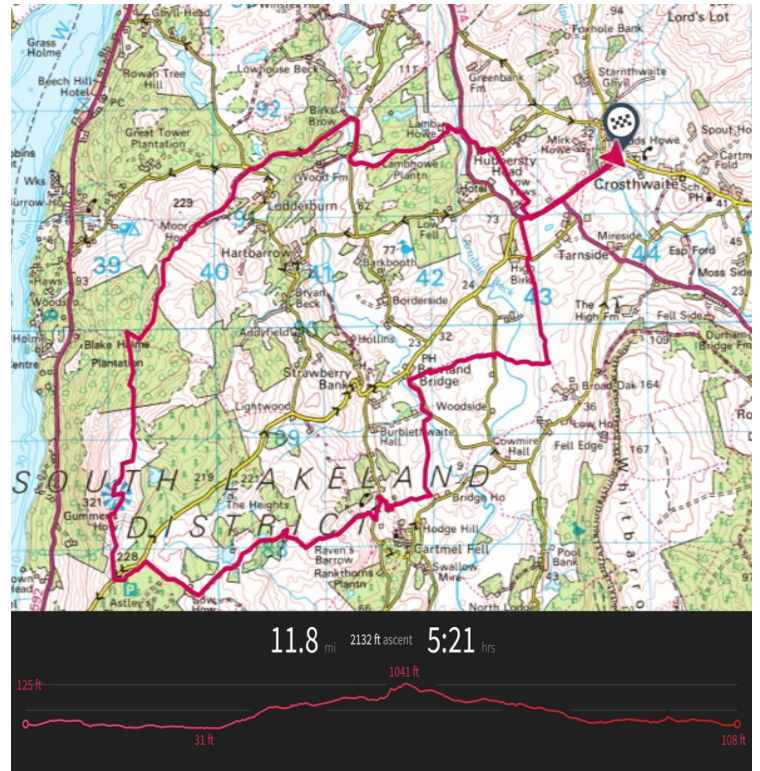
A full days long walk of around 12 miles and 2000 ft of ascent. This is possibly the toughest walk in this series, so you should leave a minimum of six hours. Although you don't get very high the paths from Gummers How onwards could be confusing and you can get lost in mist. I would strongly advocate a good GPS and phone map if compass and map reading skills are limited. The walking is long but not hard.

Gummers How is always a favourite. It is the first Lakeland Fell small children should attempt. A mountain in miniature in every respect with a scramble up rocks to get to the top that requires both hands and feet and a marvellous cairn to top it off.

According to Simon Jenkins, who loves making lists, the view down to Windermere from Gummers How is in the top 100 in the UK. He includes a further dozen Lakeland viewpoints in his list, but in my opinion it's only the second best view in the "walking from Crosthwaite Green" series. Simon Jenkins had clearly never been on Whitbarrow.

The full walk takes in the abundant meadows crossing the Winster Valley, lovely views from Raven's Barrow and Sow Tarn and then you have Gummers How.

You walk back through beautiful woodland and orchards until reaching tarmac again. By then you are pleased for its certainty.



Looking towards Cartmel Fell over the Winster Valley (above)

A beautifully muscled Charolais bull on a verdant Winster Valley meadow (left)

Route

The walk starts up the hill towards Bowland Bridge and then crosses a stone stile at the junction down the east of the Winster Valley towards Broad Oak. Before reaching the farm, the path turns right, crosses Woodside road and then just before reaching Bowland Bridge goes left until after Burblethwaite Mill you cross, and then follow, the river towards Cartmel Fell. It's boggy around here all year. You then need to pick your way up through Ravens Barrow allotments with regular looks back over the valley, Whitbarrow and beyond.

After turning right around Heights Cottage you then make your way past Sow How Tarn, turning right at the farm beyond. Just before the end of the Lane a path left takes you to the top of the hill leading to Gummers How.

The route up is fun and well trodden so doesn't need describing. Just make your way up to the trig point on the summit the best way you can and marvel at the views.

After a rest you now need your wits about you. This is where a GPS map definitely helps as the paths north of



Sow How Tarn



Full Apple Orchards in August, Winster Valley

Gummers are indistinct and boggy. Take care to stay west of the walls and fences until reaching a wooden stile leading to Blake Holme Plantation. There is now a dry and delightful woodland path that after almost a mile turns right and then shortly afterwards left out of the wood to Moor How Park. Take care as you reach the path through the farm orchard as you now need to follow the bridle way north of the footpath towards Ludderburn Hill. Don't worry if you miss it, you just have more tarmac than necessary on the route home.

From Ludderburn take the road steeply down to Birks Bridge, over the Ford and then right down the road before reaching the path through Lambhowe plantation, then up the road to Hubbersty Head and home.

Things to see on the walk.

This is a delightful but not straightforward walk. In Summer the valleys are full of cattle and sheep, all looking show-ready. The orchards surrounding pretty farm houses have apples and damsons in abundance and the whole area looks like a larder to provide for many more than the lucky inhabitants of these valleys.

There are several splendid views. Looking backwards towards Crosthwaite from Ravens Barrow is terrific. The summit of Gummers How has delightful spots for picnics and picking out the steam boats and sailing yachts on Windermere below.

The walk through Blake Holme follows a beck and is one of the prettiest woodland walks imaginable.



Views of Lake Windermere from Gummers How