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Hazards

Crossing busy and fast roads without pedestrian crossings. Some walking on lanes and narrow roads without pavements. Deep water close to the route. Some paths are shared with cyclists. May be livestock on the route.

Accessibility

There are no stiles on the route and no flights of steps. There are gates and paths less than one metre wide. Steep and rocky paths, which may be boggy in places, to Tarn Hows and on the return to Coniston. There is a Miles Without Stiles route around Tarn Hows (3km with some sections steeper than 1:10) beginning from the Tarn Hows car park.

Facilities

Toilets at Tarn Hows, Monk Coniston walled garden, Monk Coniston car park, Coniston lakeside and Coniston village. Snacks at Tarn Hows, café at the lakeside and lots of food and drink options in the village.

Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast and whether there is enough daylight to complete the walk (metoffice.gov.uk).
- Ensure you are wearing suitable clothing and footwear for the route and weather, and that you take the right kit — learn more at yha.org.uk/walk-skills.
- Download the OS Maps and what3words apps to your phone.
- To be able to contact emergency services by text visit relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms or text 'register' to 999.
- For more information on staying safe in the outdoors visit adventuresmart.uk.
- Complete a route notification card (yha.org.uk/route-card) to provide essential information for the Emergency Services if you do not return when expected.
- Check all members of the group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.

In case of emergency:

- Contact 999 and use OS Maps or what3words to help pinpoint your location.
- To attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash a torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location, number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.

For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to yha.org.uk/map-guidance

If you encounter problems with this route contact walking@yha.org.uk

Walking has been at the heart of YHA since 1930, helping people access the great outdoors. Today, YHA continues to make adventures possible with mapped routes and affordable hostel stays across England and Wales. Our hostels are ideal for walkers, with drying rooms, self-catering kitchens, and great trails from the doorstep. We're committed to making adventure accessible to everyone, with walks for all abilities and guided walking events that connect people to nature, heritage, and each other.

Supported by

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Tarns Hows and Coniston walk





Countryside and lakeside walk

A varied and interesting walk including Tarn Hows, a photogenic Site of Special Scientific Interest and lake formed by a dam built in 1865, Monk Coniston grounds and walled garden, with beautiful plants and rare trees, Coniston Water and Coniston village.

Distance: 7.6 miles (12.2km) **Ascent:** 322m (1,056ft)

Time: Allow 3h 45m to 6h 15m





Route directions

Map: OS Explorer 1:25k (OL6) English Lakes

- South-western area

Start/Finish: Grid ref SD 302 980

what3words ///training.propelled.recline

- 1 From the hostel head along the driveway and turn left onto the road.
- 2 At the A593 turn left and walk alongside the road for about 40 metres, then pass through the gate on the left and onto the footpath.
- Pass through the gate on the right, then cross the road onto the farm track.
- Pass the barn, cross the bridge and turn left, then follow the path alongside the stream and through Tarn Hows Wood.
- After the woods, and at the entrance to Tarn Hows Cottages, turn left onto the track and follow it around to the right.
- 6 Turn left onto the lane and head uphill.
- Pass the car park and turn left onto the well-defined path along the left side of Tarn Hows, then stay on the main circular path.
- Bear left through a gate, signposted to Rose Castle and head uphill.
- Pass through the car park and take the path to the left of the dry stone wall, then follow signs to Coniston.
- At the sign for Monk Coniston bear left, head down the steps and cross a narrow footbridge.
- Cross the road and through a gate, then follow the path through Monk Coniston grounds.
- Pass through a metal gate into the walled garden, then turn right to exit towards the lake.
- Just before the road turn right onto the footpath and follow alongside the road.
- Bear left and cross to the footpath alongside the road.
- (15) Pass through the gap in the hedge and cross the road onto a track towards the lake.
- 16 Bear right towards the lake.
- Bear right to cross the stream, then either stay on the road or walk on the lake shore.

