

Your Adventure Your Way

Explore the world around you with OS Maps. Routes, mapping and navigation across the UK whenever and wherever you need it.

Find out more at os.uk/osm



Scan to download the app:



YHA Members: Head to the member benefits area at yha.org.uk/walk-os to find your discount code for an OS Maps Premium subscription

Hazards

Some walking on lanes and narrow roads without pavements. The higher parts of the route regularly have low visibility, make sure you know where you are at all times and have a map and compass or app for navigation. In winter conditions the route could be hazardous, especially if covered in snow and ice, and will require winter clothing and footwear. Cat Bells is steep in places with some minor scrambles which will be slippery after rain. Deep water close to the route. If the lake is flooded it may be necessary to identify alternative paths.

Accessibility

There are steps on the route and paths less than one metre wide. Terrain is a mixture of tarmac, good path and steep and uneven paths, with some light scrambling on Cat Bells. Buses available to various points on the route in summer and the Keswick Launch boat service stops at Hawse End Jetty, the closest to Cat Bells – check times before leaving.

Facilities

Toilets in Keswick Bell Close and Booths supermarket. Pubs and lots of places to eat and drink in Keswick. Pub and café in Portinscale, café at Lingholm and Nichol End. Public bars in some hotels.

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/emercencysms 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

Share your walks



Produced by Matt Overd (<https://walkingpace.uk>). Contributions from Tom Day & Simon Ainley. Designed by HeylinSmith.com. Cover image: Tom Day



Cat Bells and Derwent Water walk



205

YHA Keswick

Book your stay now yha.org.uk/stay-205

Hill and lakeside walk

A classic walk to popular Cat Bells with spectacular views and around picturesque Derwent Water. Includes alternative routes to head back the same way after Cat Bells and a low level circumnavigation of the lake.

Distance: 10.4 miles (16.8km)

Ascent: 527m (1,729ft)

Time: Allow 5h 15m to 8h 30m



Partnered with



Route directions

Map: OS Explorer 1:25k (OL4) English Lakes
– North-western area

Start/Finish: Grid ref NY 267 235

what3words ///thankful.square.blogging

- 1 From the hostel head up the steps and turn right onto Station Street. Cross over at the traffic lights and at the Royal Oak turn right onto the pedestrianised Main Street.
- 2 Continue ahead on Main Street, go straight ahead at the mini roundabout and cross the bridge over the River Greta.
- 3 Immediately after the bridge turn left onto a drive, then bear right onto the footpath, signposted to Portinscale.
- 4 Turn left, cross a pedestrian bridge over the River Derwent and head into Portinscale village.
- 5 Bear left at the road junction signposted to Grange and Newlands Valley.
- 6 Turn left towards Nicol End Marina. At the end of the road bear right to follow the path.
- 7 At the road bear left, pass through the pillars and bear right onto the footpath.
- 8 At the road go straight ahead onto the footpath signposted to Cat Bells. Or for the low level route around Derwent Water turn left along the road.
- 8a Turn left onto the gravel path, signposted to the Lakeshore Path. Follow the Cumbria Way alongside the lake to Park Neb.
- 8b Stay on the main lakeside path (go to 15).
- 9 At the road bear left, then follow the footpath on the left, signposted to Cat Bells. Cross the road again, onto the footpath and follow the obvious path up Cat Bells.
- 10 Bear left to avoid the small rocky section.
- 11 Head over the summit of Cat Bells, and stay on the main ridge path.
- 12 At the dip in the ridge bear left to head downhill to Hause Gate, then follow the path to the road at Manesty.
- 13 At the road turn right, then turn left onto the Cumbria Way.
- 14 Pass through the gate and go straight ahead. Or to return along the western side of Derwent Water turn left.
- 14a Turn right onto a grassy path, then turn left onto a gravel path and follow the Cumbria Way alongside the lake. Turn right onto the road and pass the outdoor centre.
- 14b Turn right and retrace the route to the hostel.
- 15 Cross bridge known locally as Chinese Bridge. The onward path often floods, the path to the right may provide a diversion otherwise divert on the road via Grange.
- 16 Turn left onto the path beside the B5289, pass the Lodore Falls Hotel and continue along the road.
- 17 Turn right onto the signposted footpath and follow it through the woods, alongside the road.
- 18 Cross the road at Kettlewell car park and head over the wooden bridge parallel to the road. Follow the lakeside path (or the roadside path if the water level is high) past Barrow Bay, Lord's Island and Friar's Crag to Lake Road.
- 19 Bear left and follow the path alongside the park. At the cafe bear right, pass under the subway and turn right onto Lake Road.
- 20 At the road junction turn left, turn right at the square by the Moot Hall and right again.
- 21 At Station Street turn left and to the hostel.



Cat Bells and Derwent Water

Scan this link to view this route on the OS Maps App – also a route profile and GPX



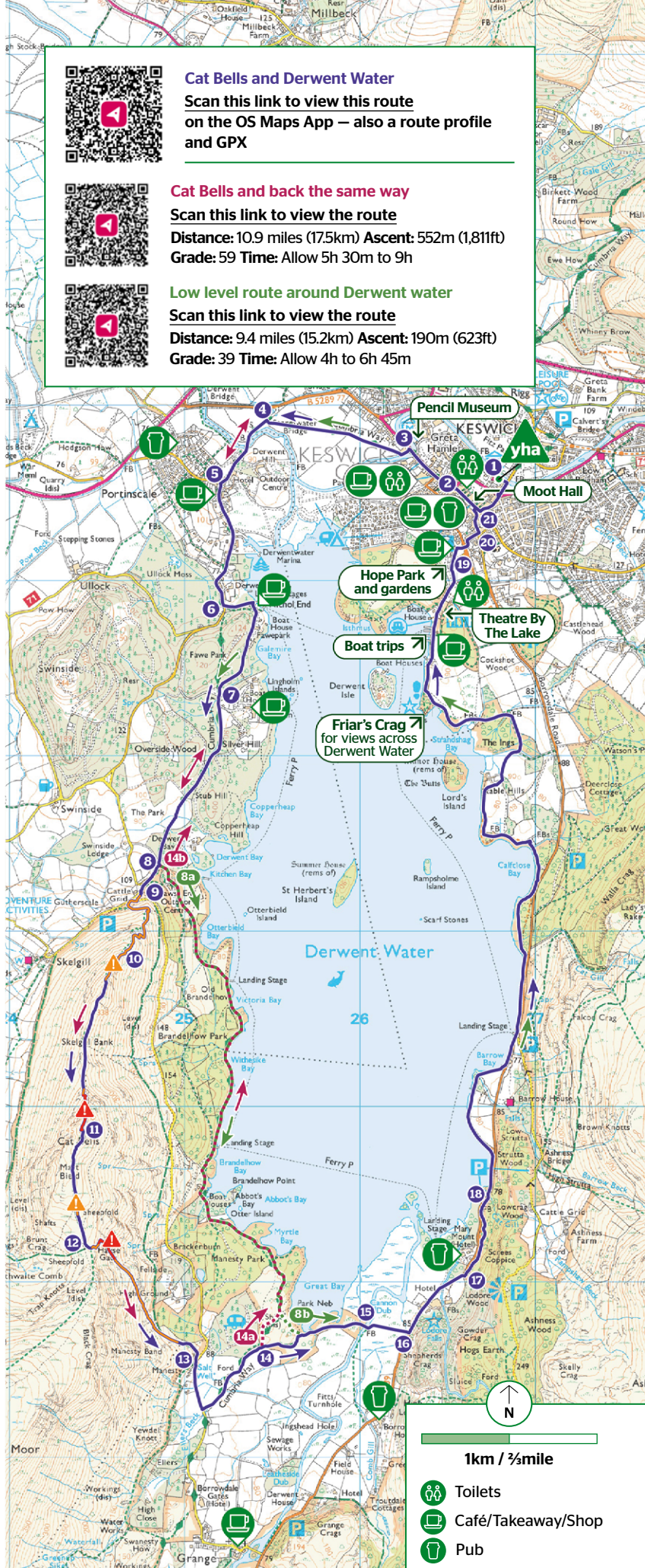
Cat Bells and back the same way

Scan this link to view the route
Distance: 10.9 miles (17.5km) Ascent: 552m (1,811ft)
Grade: 59 Time: Allow 5h 30m to 9h



Low level route around Derwent water

Scan this link to view the route
Distance: 9.4 miles (15.2km) Ascent: 190m (623ft)
Grade: 39 Time: Allow 4h to 6h 45m



OS map legend - find out what the other symbols on this map mean os.uk/explorlegend

Steep gradient

