

137 YHA Honister House Dale Head

Mountain walk

Distance: 4.9 miles (7.9km) **Ascent:** 592m (1,942ft) **Time:** Allow 3h 15m to 5h

Map: OS Explorer (OL04) English Lakes – North-western area

Start/Finish: OS Locate NY 225 135 **what3words** ///earmarked.decanter.cycles

A great single peak route with stunning views and historic quarry workings to explore. From the hostel head to the road and turn left. Take the path on the right signposted to Dale Head. Cross the first stile and continue uphill. Follow the fence line and then the cairned path to the summit cairn on Dale Head – watch out for the steep drop just beyond it. Turn right along the edge and follow the path downhill, then bear right to Dalehead Tarn. Keep to the left of the tarn and cross the beck to an obvious path. Navigate carefully to a faint path on the right in the direction of Rigghead Quarries, use the field boundary ahead and stile as a navigational marker. After the stile join a well worn path, head through Rigghead Quarries, bear right to pass the Climbing Hut and continue to a good path. Turn right and follow this track towards Honister Pass, then follow it alongside the road. Take the track on the left at the Honister.com sign and to the hostel.

Hazards

This is a high-level mountain route so proper preparation and equipment is necessary. 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 for navigation. In winter conditions the route will become slippery and dangerous, especially when covered in snow and ice – mountaineering skills and equipment may be required. Dale Head is very exposed to

winds and storms with limited shelter. Steep drop near the cairn on the top of Dale Head. Careful navigation required in places after Dale Head to identify faint paths. Take care on the road at Honister Pass with no pavement.

Accessibility

There are stiles but they should not trouble anyone who is able to complete this route. Long stretches of rough, steep and uneven ground and side slopes. Some path erosion and steep sections with stony steps which can be very slippery when wet – care is needed and walking poles may help. The route after Dale Head requires navigation abilities. For a quick summit viewpoint, the route up and down the same path from the hostel to Dale Head is straightforward and easy to follow in good weather.

Points of interest

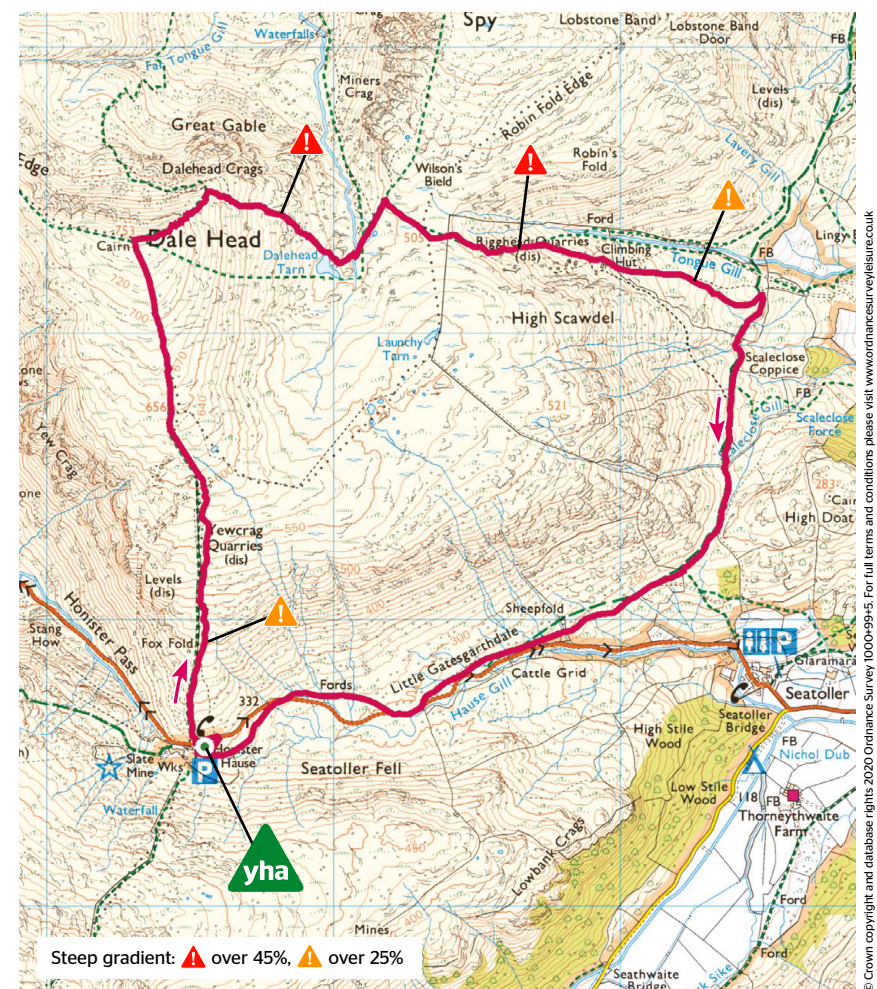
Stunning views from Dale Head and quarries and slate mines, which were mined from 1700 to 1940s, with visible tunnel entrances, remains of an aerial ropeway and the climbing hut. Honister mine visitor centre and outdoor adventure activities.

Facilities

No facilities on the route. Toilets at YHA. Toilets, café and visitor centre at the Honister mine next to YHA.



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



This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for an OS Map or the OS Maps App to navigate your walk safely. Digital maps are a guide and do not always reflect the conditions on the ground, ensure you are aware of your immediate surroundings.



Thank you for choosing to walk from our hostel.
We hope you have a great time.

Walking in the national landscapes of England and Wales is part of YHA's heritage. With hostels on National Trails, in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, YHA plays a unique role in the nation's walking community.

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy walking from YHA hostels, we have curated three walks – an easy, moderate, and more challenging option. They have all been graded – the higher the grade, the more challenging the route.

Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast (mwis.org.uk).
- Check the tide times for coastal routes (tidetimes.org.uk).
- Get the right clothing, footwear and kit for the route and weather.
- Ensure you have enough time to complete the route before dark.
- Download the OS Locate and what3words apps to your phone.
- Contact 999 by SMS text (must pre register by texting 'register' to 999) (relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms).
- Plan your walk by completing the YHA route notification card it helps Emergency Services if you get into difficulties or fail to return from your walk when anticipated (yha.org.uk/route-card).
- Ensure your entire group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.
- For further information on how to stay safe visit adventuresmart.uk

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

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



Scan or click to shop
for OS maps online
osmaps.com/yha

Share your walks



What to wear

- Base layer and mid layer.
- Walking trousers.
- Warm jacket(s).
- Take extra layer(s).
- Hat, gloves and neck gaiter.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning walking socks.
- Walking shoes or boots.

Kit

- Map, compass and GPS device or OS Map app on your phone.
- Water, lunch and high energy snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Head torch, spare batteries.
- Watch.
- Whistle and survival bag.
- Rucksack, with waterproof cover or a dry bag or plastic bag inside.
- Medicines or toiletries you would usually use.

You might also want to take

- Spare socks, hat, gloves.
- Balaclava.
- Leg gaiters.
- Waterproof baseball cap (handy if you wear glasses).
- Walking poles.

- Bivi bag or group shelter.
- Spare food and hot drink.
- Duct tape (handy for fixing things).
- Penknife or multitool.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.
- Plastic bags to take away your rubbish or dog poo.

In case of emergency

- Call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and ask for the Police.
- Use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.
- If you need to attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash your torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location (grid reference), number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.
- Help could be some time coming so whilst waiting make the casualty comfortable.
- Keep the casualty warm and dry using spare clothing. Use coats or rucksacks to insulate them from the ground.
- Remember the rest of the group could be getting cold whilst waiting. Use an emergency shelter or find a sheltered location.