

# Galava Fort and Ambleside

### Lakeside, river and town walk

**Distance:** 2.7 miles (4.4km) **Ascent:** 37m (121ft) **Time:** Allow 1h to 1h 45m

**Map:** OS Explorer 1:25k (OL07) English Lakes – South-eastern area

**Start/Finish:** OS Locate NY 376 030 **what3words** ///jots.feasts.cliff

An excellent walk highlighting much of what Ambleside town has to offer. From the hostel turn right, cross the car park, head along the water's edge and bear right onto Borrans Road. Turn left, then left into Borrans Park and head towards the water. Turn right and follow the path alongside the lake, then bear left to the remains of Galava Fort. Cross the fort and bear left to a gravel path and gate in the corner of the short grassed area, near the river. There are many paths leading from the fort and you may wish to explore for a while, if you move off the route then to continue the walk head to the river. Turn right onto the riverside path and follow it upstream. Continue to the road, turn left and bear right before the bridge onto Rothay Road (signposted Town Centre). Continue past the playing fields, turn left onto Compston Road and follow it around to the right. Bear left onto Rydal Road, cross the river, turn right onto Smithy Brow and right onto North Road. Turn left onto Rydal Road, right onto Market Place, which becomes Lake Road. The walk back is straightforward and efficient alongside Lake Road. Continue to Waterhead. Bear right to Ambleside Pier and to the hostel.

### Hazards

Watch out for traffic on the road sections, some short sections with no pavements. Do not cross Galava Fort if the river is flooded, remain on Borrans Road. May be cattle grazing near the fort.

### Accessibility

There are no stiles on the route. There are gates, including kissing gates, and paths less than one metre wide. Much of the route is on tarmac, good tracks and grass paths, there are sections which may be muddy. To avoid the off-road section and narrow gates return to Borrans Road after Borrans Park and use the roadside pavements, some narrow sections and a few absent dropped kerbs in crucial places. Buses run from Ambleside centre to Waterhead, check times before leaving.

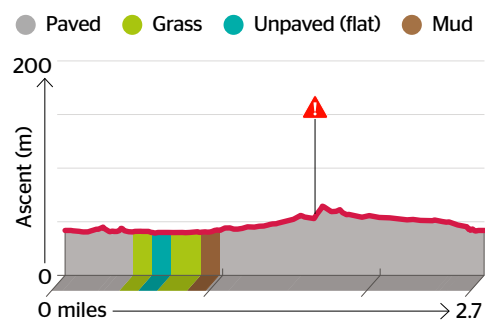
### Navigation

Straightforward navigation following well laid paths and roads. Grass paths around Galava Fort which may be less obvious, it is possible to re-orientate by heading to the riverside path.

### Terrain

Mostly tarmac pavements and paths, grass paths around the fort, some board walk and may be muddy in places alongside the river.

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.



● Paved ● Grass ● Unpaved (flat) ● Mud

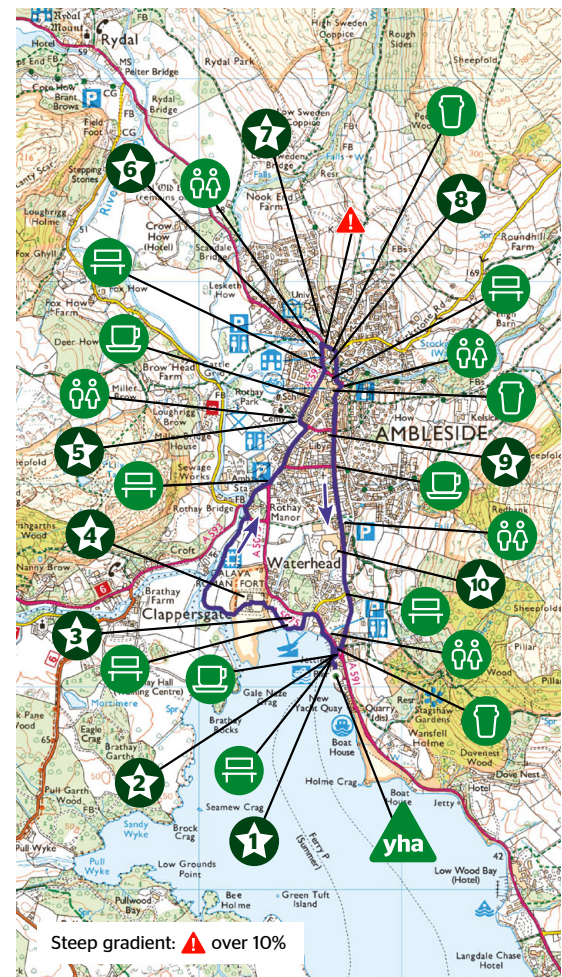
### ★ Points of interest (see map)

As well as the stunning views across the lake and beautiful riverside path there is so much to see in and around Ambleside. **1** Ambleside Pier, **2** Boat hire, **3** Borrans Park, **4** Galava Roman Fort, **5** White Platts Recreation Ground with crazy golf, pitch and putt, bowls, tennis, children's play area and refreshments. **6** The Bridge House, **7** The Armit Museum, Gallery and Library, **8** Old water wheel, **9** Indoor climbing wall, **10** Garden centre and café.





### 🚻 📺 🗑️ Facilities (too many to map)

Toilets available at YHA, Waterhead and in Ambleside. Shops – including walking shops in Ambleside. Food and drink available at YHA and many options in Ambleside.

### 🛋️ Seats on route (see map)



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

 **Not fully** wheelchair accessible  
 **Not a** touch free route  
 **Not fully** pushchair accessible  
 **Stile free**

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Route: Matt Ovard & Ludwik Michalek



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 ([metoffice.gov.uk](http://metoffice.gov.uk)).
- Check the tide times for coastal routes ([tidetimes.org.uk](http://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](http://relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms)).
- For further information on how to stay safe visit [adventuresmart.uk](http://adventuresmart.uk)

**In case of emergency** call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.

**For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to [yha.org.uk/walks](http://yha.org.uk/walks)**

If you encounter problems with this route contact [walking@yha.org.uk](mailto:walking@yha.org.uk)



Scan or click to shop  
for OS maps online  
[osmaps.com/yha](http://osmaps.com/yha)

Share your walks



## Countryside Code

### Respect everyone

- Be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking.
- Be nice, say hello, share the space.
- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

### Hazards

- Take extra care and stay alert where a right of way crosses a railway line.
- When walking on a road without a pavement keep to the right-hand side, so that you can see oncoming traffic. Keep close to the side of the road, and walk in single file if necessary. It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.
- Give wild animals, livestock and horses plenty of space.

### Protect the environment

- Take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit.
- Do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can.
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight.
- Dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do.
- Care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance.

### Enjoy the outdoors

- Check your route and local conditions.
- Plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do.
- Enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory.

## What to wear

- Comfortable clothing suitable for the conditions.
- Use several layers, so you can add and remove clothing to regulate your temperature.
- Extra warm clothes in case it gets colder.
- Hat, gloves and scarf.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning comfy socks.
- Comfortable well fitting trainers, walking shoes or boots.

## Kit

- Map and compass.
- Water, lunch and snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Torch and spare batteries.
- 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

- Picnic blanket.
- Waterproof baseball cap, if you wear glasses.
- Walking poles.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.