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the lake district
Cumbria

JENNINGS
Pure Lake District

jennings 2 day grasmere ale trail

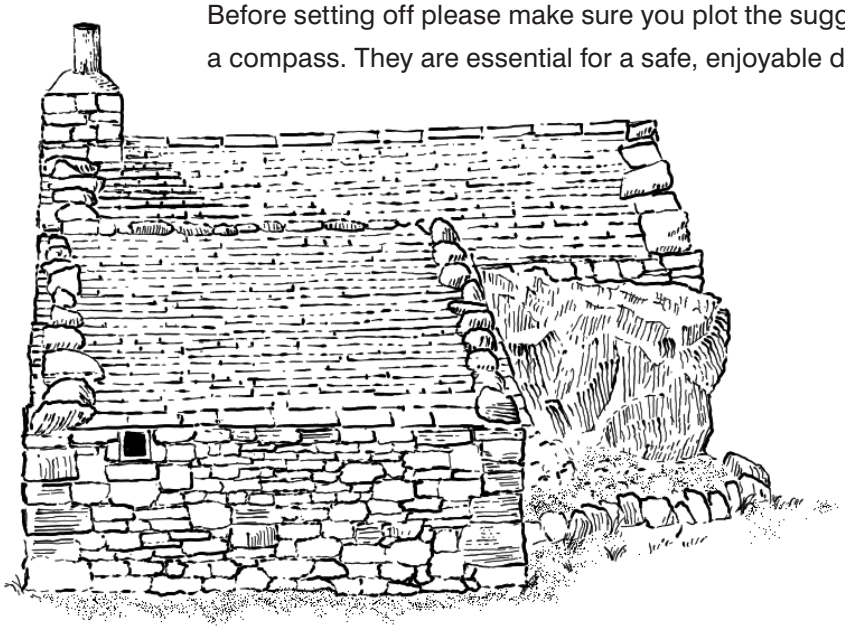
Grade: Time/effort: 5 Navigation: 2 Technicality: 3
Start / Finish: Wordsworth Hotel, Grasmere GR NY337074
Distance: 15.6 miles (25.1km)
Time: 2 days
Height gain: 1200m
Maps: OS Landranger 90 (1:50 000), OS Explorer OL 4 & 5 (1:25 000), Harveys' Superwalker (1:25 000) Lakeland Central and Lakeland North, British Mountain Maps Lake District (1:40 000).

Grasmere and Great Langdale are separated by a long ridge of low fells. It starts life at Blea Rigg where it abuts the shapely Alpine like peaks of the Langdale Pikes then extends in a roughly south easterly direction to terminate at the lofty viewpoint of Loughrigg Fell. The crest of this ridge is quite broad and festooned by an intimate collection of mini peaks interspersed by a number of attractive tarns.

Exploring the crest of this ridge makes a fascinating and exciting walk. There are a number of ways of tackling it, but arguably the best way to do it, is to split it over two days. Doing it this way rather than walking it in one long day gives plenty of time to relax and enjoy the experience with some classic real ale from Jennings!

Starting and finishing at the Wordsworth Hotel in Grasmere, with an overnight at the Langdale Hotel it also allows you to take in the different characters of the softer landscape around Grasmere, and the classic rugged mountain vista that is Great Langdale.

Before setting off please make sure you plot the suggested route on OS maps and pack a compass. They are essential for a safe, enjoyable day in the hills!



Easedale Refreshment Hut - 1908

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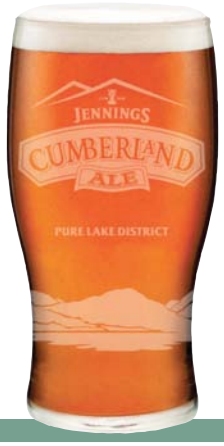
Day 1 – wordsworth hotel, grasmere – langdale hotel, elterwater

The first part of this route tackles Loughrigg Fell. It accesses it by heading out of Grasmere past Dove Cottage and Rydal Mount (Wordsworth's two residences in the area), along the old Coffin route that links with Ambleside. This is a pleasant, easy warm up and once you have had lunch and a pint of distinctively dark Jennings Bitter at the Queens Hotel you will be well set up to tackle Loughrigg Fells lofty but easy summit. It is not the biggest peak in the Lake District but standing by the summit trig point you would hardy guess this. The reason it packs such a punch is down to its prominent and isolated position. It sits right at the junction of five major valley systems with no neighbouring peaks to block the views. It affords unrivalled panoramas of every corner of the central fells. Before setting off please make sure you plot the suggested route on OS maps and pack a compass. They are essential for a safe, enjoyable day in the hills!

Grade: Time/effort: 2 Navigation: 2 Technicality: 2
Start: Wordsworth Hotel, Grasmere GR NY337074
Finish: Langdale Hotel, Elterwater GR NY325051
Distance: 8.1 miles (13.1km)
Time: 5 hours
Height gain: 570m
Maps: OS Landranger 90 (1:50 000), OS Explorer OL 4 & 5 (1:25 000), Harveys Superwalker (1:25 000) Lakeland Central and Lakeland North, British Mountain Maps Lake District (1:40 000)

1 The Wordsworth Hotel located right in the heart of Grasmere village is the perfect place to unwind before tackling the surrounding fells. Relax in the bar with a pint of Jennings Cumberland Ale. This award winning beer (silver medallist at the International Beer Awards 2009!) is a must do when in Cumbria!

2 From the hotel turn left and head down the road passing Sarah Nelsons Ginger Bread Shop and St Oswalds Church and out of the village on the B5287. Carefully cross the A591 and join the lane which leads to Dove Cottage, Wordsworth's Home from 1799 to 1808. Continue along the lane and follow it to a junction at How Top at the edge of Whitemoss Common. This was a favourite place of Dorothy Wordsworth and the views of Grasmere, although slightly shrouded by trees, are stunning.



3 Leave the lane and turn left onto the Whitemoss Common track and follow it for 350m to a bridleway junction. Continue straight on following the track as it traverses the hillside to its end at Rydal, close to Rydal Mount (Wordsworth's home from 1813 to his death in 1850). From Rydal take the lane/footpath around the back of Rydal Hall to join the A591 near Scandale Bridge. Follow the A591 to Ambleside. The grade 1 listed building Bridge House is over 300 years old and is thought to have been originally built either as a summer house or a fruit store.

4 Head to Rothay Park, and follow the path to cross the River Rothay and join the minor road at Under Loughrigg. Turn right onto the road then immediately left to follow the bridleway up a private drive towards Brow Head. The bridleway is followed as it winds its way past Miller Brow to a junction of paths at a beck.

5 Turn right off the bridleway and join the path which climbs beside the beck up towards Black Mire. The path now leads past some small tarns to the summit of Loughrigg Fell.

6 Descend from the summit trig point and follow the path down to join the bridleway at Loughrigg Terrace. Turn left and follow it the short distance to the Red Bank road. Turn left onto the road and follow up the rise to a junction. Turn right and follow the road downhill passing the YHA at High Close to another junction. Turn left and continue downhill to the B5343 overlooking Elterwater village which used to have its own gun powder works. Built in 1824 it supplied 'Extra Large Coarse Black' cartridges for the quarrying and mining industries. Turn right and follow the road to the Langdale Hotel.

7 Head down the steps from the car park and into Hobson's Bar to rest tired feet and recover with a hearty meal and a pint of deep golden Jennings Cumberland Ale. Made with pure Lakeland water from the breweries own well this refreshing ale give you the real flavour of the Lake District!

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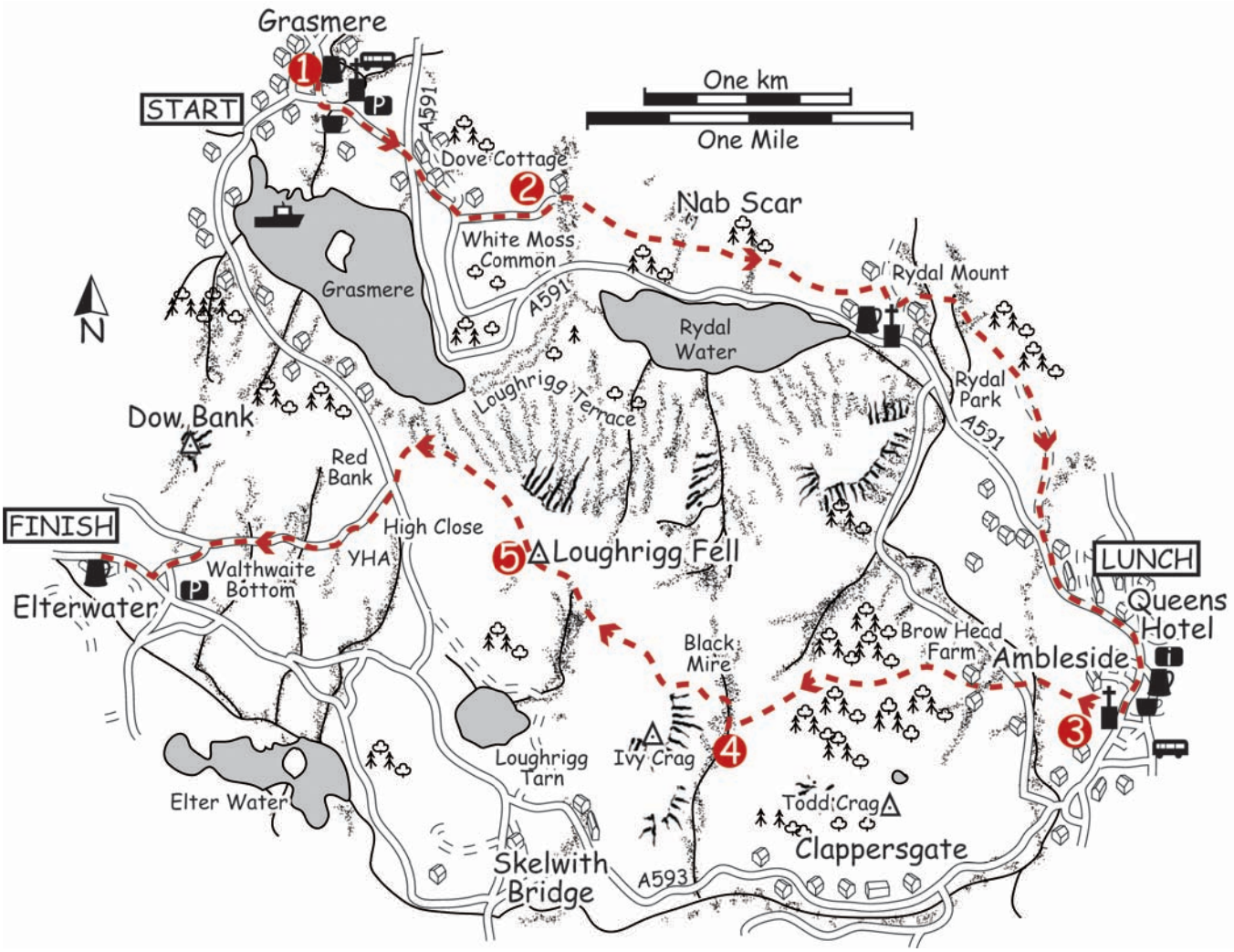

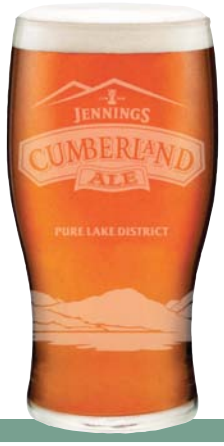

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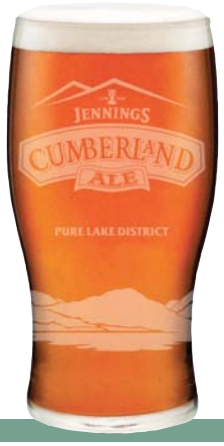
Day 2 – langdale hotel, elterwater – wordsworth hotel, grasmere

Day two, in keeping with the more mountainous surroundings of Great Langdale, tackles the main bulk of the ridge all the way up to Blea Rigg. The towering rock face of Pavey Ark can be seen from the route as it reaches its high point. Its buttresses and gullies hold numerous top quality summer and winter climbs. This is a glorious walk with a real mountain top feel to it. There is a bit of a steep pull out of the valley to gain the crest of the ridge and there will be a need to keep an eye on the map and use a compass to check directions as every now and again there are variants to the path. However all this muscle and brain work will be rewarded because the views and the surroundings are truly sublime! Before setting off please make sure you plot the suggested route on OS maps and pack a compass. They are essential for a safe, enjoyable day in the hills!

Grade: Time/effort: 3 Navigation: 2 Technicality: 3
Start: Langdale Hotel, Elterwater GR NY325051
Finish: Wordsworth Hotel, Grasmere GR NY337074
Distance: 7.5 miles (12km)
Time: 6 hours
Height gain: 630m
Maps: OS Landranger 90 (1:50 000), OS Explorer OL 4 & 5 (1:25 000), Harveys Superwalker (1:25 000) Lakeland Central and Lakeland North, British Mountain Maps Lake District (1:40 000)

1 Outside the Langdale Hotel turn left onto the main valley road and follow it for 250m to a path on the right. Join this path and follow it up through the fields to join the minor road at Walthwaite. Turn right and follow the road for 50m to a path on the left. This path follows a sneaky route cutting across the steep fellside to gain the main ridge on the north side of Langdale at Dow Bank.

2 At a broad col on the main ridge the Walthwaite path crosses the ridge path. At the junction turn left onto the main ridge path. The path weaves its way along the broad crest, passing Lang How, Swinescar Pike, Little Castle How, Great Castle How along the way until after about 5km it reaches the top of the Easedale Path (at GR NY291084). There are a number of variant paths along the way that can be confusing but problems can be avoided by maintaining a general north west direction and avoiding dropping off the crest.



3 There are superb views all along the ridge path but some of the best of the Langdale Pikes can be had just before you drop down into Easedale. The Easedale Path can be tricky to locate so explore and check the descent direction with a compass if you have any doubts. The path is not over-used but it is distinct on the ground. It leads down first past the shapely bump of Belles Knott, and then into the upper reaches of Easedale. Continue along the path to join the bridleway at the mouth of Easdale Tarn.

4 The bridleway leads easily east from Easedale Tarn carrying you above the waterfalls of Sourmilk Gill and down to the pasture of lower Easedale. Continue along the bridleway to then join Easedale Road. Follow the road into Grasmere and return to the Wordsworth Hotel to reflect on all you have discovered on this two day exploration. Sit back with a golden, foam topped pint of Jennings Ale and sample the carefully balanced flavours of the classic Jennings Cumberland Ale.

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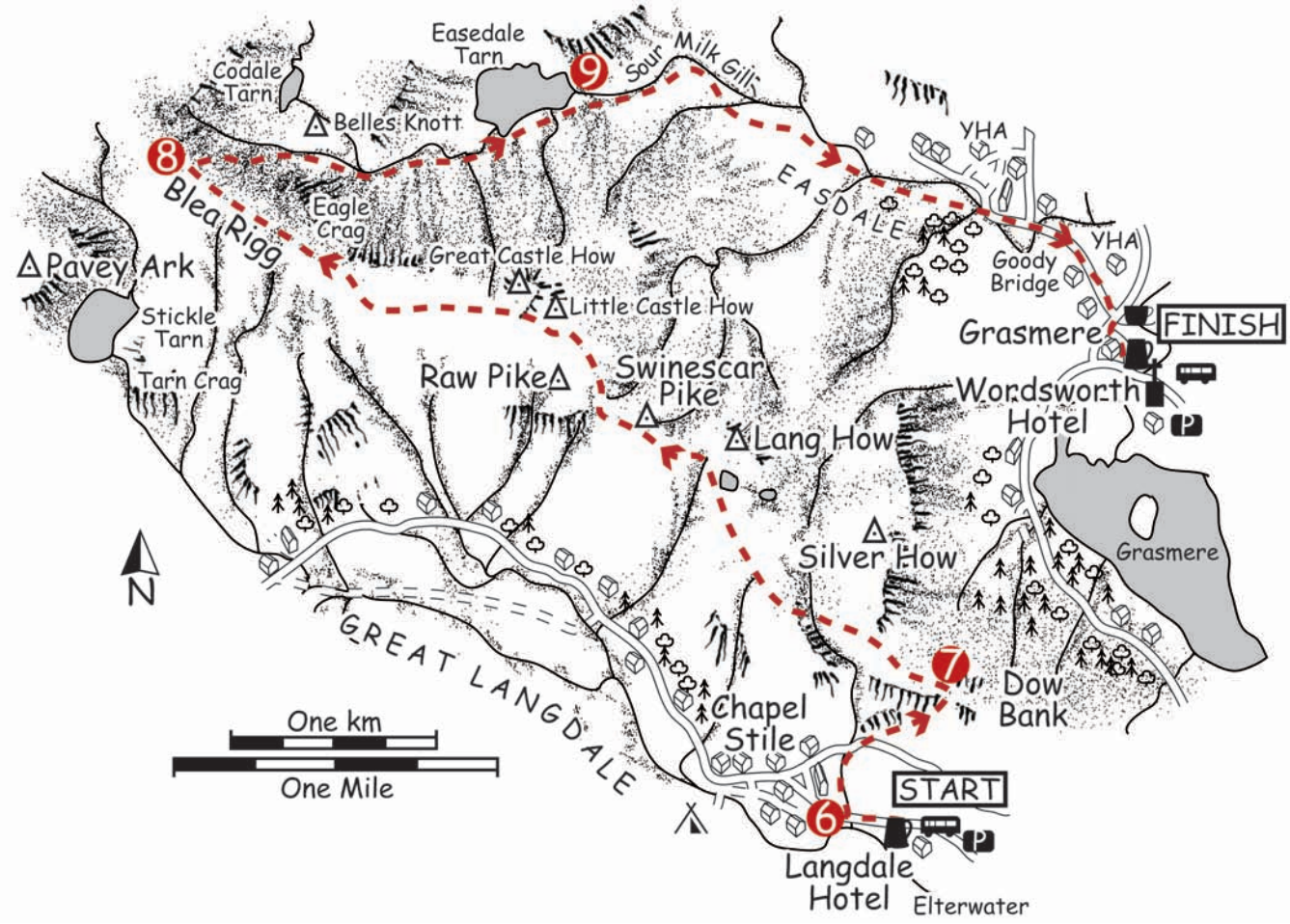

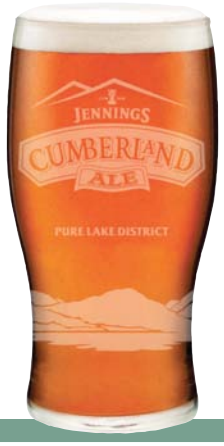

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