

Walk 2: Raven Howe (Wansfell)

Raven Howe is where it all begins. This is the craggy fell on the east side of the lake from the summit of which Tom first sees Rufus Clay with his lap top, and witnesses the sinking of the *Clementine*. Despite its modest height it provides spectacular views towards the Troutbeck valley from one side and the entire northern half of Windermere from the other.

Distance: 4.5 miles

Start: *Kysty*, Cheapside, Ambleside

There are plenty of parking options and public transport links in Ambleside, including the option of a trip down the lake from Bowness on the famous *Teal*, disembarking at Waterhead. The walk begins at our family's favourite place to eat in Ambleside, *Kysty*, which is Cumbrian dialect for 'fussy about food'!

Three word digital address	Coordinates	Ordnance Survey Map
///overtime.dorms.sticking	54°25'53.5"N 2°57'42.4"W	OL7 376 045

Summary: *Wansfell (1588ft / 484m) is a popular walk, usually undertaken from Troutbeck, or straight up the steep northwest side from Ambleside. This short, circular walk, however, approaches the fell by an unusual route, following some rarely trodden paths on the ascent through the delightful Skelghyll wood. Because some paths are a little vague, navigational waymarks have been provided at key points.*

Spy: *In Skelghyll wood look out for red squirrels, enormous trees and – in winter - glimpses of the lake through the trees. From the summit see if you can see the other 'Spylark Three Peaks', Brockbarrow (Todd Cragg) and Rigg Knot (Latterbarrow). And keep an eye out for suspicious men with straw hats!*

1. From *Kysty* head down to the main road (Lake Road) and turn left. Then bear left up Old Lake Road. A little later take another left, following a rusty footpath sign for 'Jenkin's Crag and Troutbeck'.
2. Walk up the steep tarmac lane, then take the right fork signposted 'Jenkins Cragg, Broad Ings and Skelghyll Woods'.
3. At the next fork take the right hand path signposted 'Skelghyll woods,' (Broad Ings left). (A) There is bench here with views over the river Brathay.
3. When you reach the National Trust sign for 'Skelghyll Woods' (B) you could – if you wish – take a right hand path for a detour that leads to the delightful Stagshaw Gardens, noted for their collection of rhododendrons and azaleas.
4. At the next fork turn left, following the bridleway sign. Look out for some very large Douglas Firs. Keep on the track that crosses the beck over a little bridge.

5. Look out for a narrow left hand path leading away from the main path signposted 'National Trust: Keswick Fell, (C). If you reach the Jenkins Crag view point you have gone too far.
6. Head up the fellside into the woods, bearing left, and ignoring a right hand fork, past a large rock formation on your right. Proceed up the hill, ignoring a left hand fork, and following a right bridleway sign. Eventually you will come to a drystone wall. Climb over the wall via a ladder stile and emerge into open moorland.
7. Pass an interesting stone pillar and enjoy the view. (D). The path then winds up through the bracken heading towards the fell, with the stone wall on your left. The path is generally clear, and there are white arrows pointing the way.
8. Eventually you will cross another ladder stile at the three word address:
generals.decisions.lentil. (E)
9. The summit (F) (fruity.maddening.lawns) offers fantastic views of the lake, and the town of Ambleside (Watertop) below. There is no actual trig point here but this is where Tom first spied Rufus clay with his lap top.
10. Leave the summit and go through a kissing gate. The path down is good, clear but very steep in places, and slippery in the wet. After a while it levels off beside the stream with meadows on either side. Listen out for cuckoos in the spring.
11. Go over a stile to join the tarmac road (G) that leads down to the town. Soon there is a path right through an usual turnstile gate that will lead you down past the waterfalls of Stockghyll. Eventually this will take you back to the town and the start.

RAVEN HOWE

