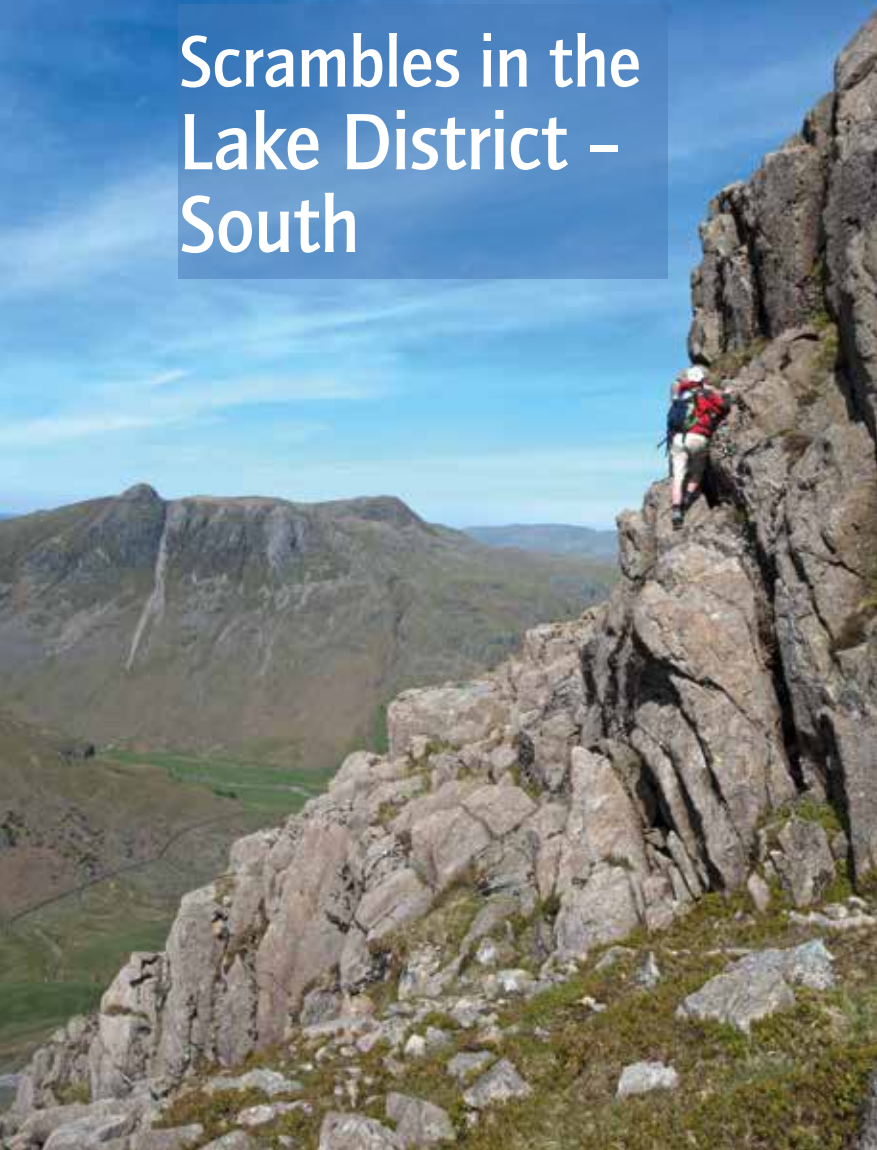


Scrambles in the Lake District – South





About the Author

John Fleetwood has lived in the Lake District for over 20 years, and over that time he has developed an intimate knowledge of the area. John loves exploring and has sought to visit every potential crag in the area to find new routes, some of which have been included in this guide. He is a keen runner, photographer and mountaineer and was the first person to complete the Bob Graham, Ramsay and Paddy Buckley rounds in winter, as well as being a previous winner of the FRA Long Distance Award. In 2015, John traversed the Alps in a self-supported trip taking in 60 summits over 1850km. He has climbed and walked in South America, China, Iceland, Norway and the European Alps as well as Britain. When not in the hills, John runs a sustainable investment ratings company.

Scrambles in the Lake District – South

Langdale, Coniston, Eskdale,
Patterdale and High Street

by John Fleetwood

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Updates to this Guide

While every effort is made by our authors to ensure the accuracy of guidebooks as they go to print, changes can occur during the lifetime of an edition. This guidebook was researched and written before the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are not aware of any significant changes to routes or facilities at the time of printing, it is likely that the current situation will give rise to more changes than would usually be expected. Any updates that we know of for this guide will be on the Cicerone website (www.cicerone.co.uk/1045/updates), so please check before planning your trip. We also advise that you check information about such things as transport, accommodation and shops locally. Even rights of way can be altered over time. We are always grateful for information about any discrepancies between a guidebook and the facts on the ground, sent by email to updates@cicerone.co.uk or by post to Cicerone, Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, LA9 7RL.

Register your book: To sign up to receive free updates and special offers, register your book at www.cicerone.co.uk.

Front cover: Stepping up on the Eskdale Needle with Ill Crag behind
(Scramble 88, Route 20)

Half title page: A steep step on the upper section of Black Wars
(Scramble 58, Route 14)

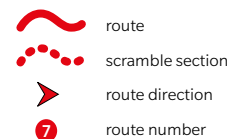
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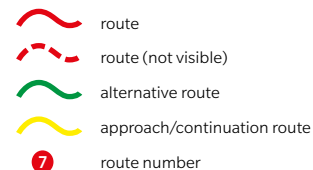
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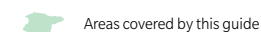
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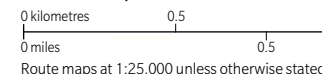
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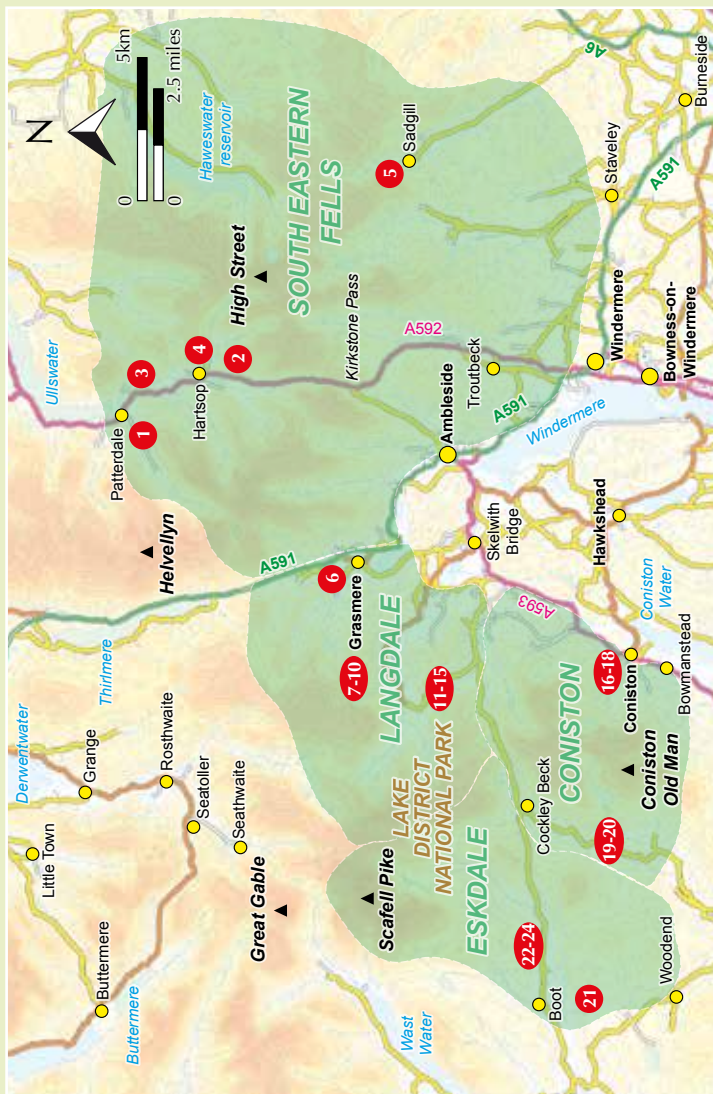
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Warning! Scrambling can be dangerous

Scrambling can be a dangerous activity carrying a risk of personal injury or death. It should be undertaken only by those with a full understanding of the risks and with the training and experience to evaluate them. Scramblers should be appropriately equipped for the routes undertaken. Whilst every care and effort has been taken in the preparation of this book, the user should be aware that conditions are highly variable and can change quickly. Holds may become loose or fall off, rockfall can affect the character of a route, and in winter, snow and avalanche conditions must be carefully considered. These can materially affect the seriousness of a scramble, tour or expedition.

Therefore, except for any liability which cannot be excluded by law, neither Cicerone nor the author accept liability for damage of any nature including damage to property, personal injury or death arising directly or indirectly from the information in this book.



Foreword



When my first guide to *Scrambles in the Lake District* was published in 1982 I could not have expected such an appreciative response. More *Scrambles in the Lake District* came a few years later but it wasn't until 2005 that the routes were collated in a more friendly way into North and South volumes. Reprint after reprint confirmed their popularity.

It is time to pass the baton to John Fleetwood, whose credentials as a mountaineer, adventurer and fell runner are impressive. As an enthusiastic

and skilled photographer I knew he would include inspiring shots and be capable of taking the guides into the modern era of photo topos.

John has found many new and exciting scrambles. These routes have also been assembled into long successive mountain days – challenging for the fittest, or memorable as single adventures.

I wish John every success.

Brian Evans



Preface

This book builds on the rich heritage of Brian Evans' pioneering guides *Scrambles in the Lake District* and *More Scrambles in the Lake District*, grouping scrambles into day outings and selecting some of the best of the original scrambles whilst adding new ones. It has been a privilege to explore all of Brian's creations and to add some of my own, whilst extending the scope of the guide to include some easy rock climbs. In some cases, better lines have been found on previously described scrambles and grades have been amended, although these changes are relatively few in number.

The guide contains a selection of some of the best scrambles, and by necessity some good scrambles have been omitted. A complete list of scrambles is available online at www.cicerone.co.uk/1045.

The character of these scrambles is diverse and what the Lake District lacks in terms of absolute height and scale of the rock walls, it more than makes up for in the beauty and diversity of the landscape. In particular, the gills offer adventures that have an other-worldly quality.

May this book act as both a source of inspiration for your own adventures and as a reliable guide.

John Fleetwood

Summary of routes and scrambles

Route	Scramble	Name	Difficulty	Quality	Climbers' scramble	Suitable for beginners	Page
South eastern fells							33
1	1	Eagle Crag Original Route	D (3)	☆☆ (☆)	Y		35
	2	Pinnacle Ridge, St Sunday Crag	3-	☆☆☆			37
	3	Broad Buttress, St Sunday Crag	3+ (3)	☆☆☆			39
2	4	Hogget Gill	3S (1)	☆☆ (☆)			41
	5	Hutaple Crag	D	☆	Y		45
3	6	Link Cove Gill	3S	☆☆☆			48
	7	The Dark Slabs, Greenhow End	3 (2)	☆☆			53
	8	Flake Buttress, Gill Crag	VD (3)	☆☆	Y		54
4	9	Angle Tarn Beck	1	☆			56
	10	Poor Man's Via Ferrata, Gray Crag	3 (D)	☆☆☆			58
	11	Blea Water Crag Gill	3S (2)	☆☆ (☆)			61
5	12	River Sprint	1+	☆☆		Y	63
	13	Hopgill Beck and Rowantreethwaite Gill	3	☆☆☆			65
	14	Mosedale Force	2	☆☆			66
	15	Galeforth Gill	3S	☆☆			69
Langdale							71
6	16	Easedale gills	1	☆		Y	76
	17	Belles Knott	2-	☆		Y	77
	18	Scale Close Gill	2 (3S)	☆☆ (☆☆☆)			78
7	19	Middlefell Buttress and Curtain Wall	D	☆☆☆	Y		85
	20	Raven Crag	2	☆			85
	21	Harrison Stickle South Central Buttress	3-	☆☆☆			87
	22	Harrison Stickle South East Buttress	3+	☆☆			87

Route	Scramble	Name	Difficulty	Quality	Climbers' scramble	Suitable for beginners	Page
	23	East Rib, Tarn Crag	2	☆			91
	24	The Spur, Tarn Crag	2	☆			91
	25	Route 1, Tarn Crag	D+	☆☆	Y		91
	26	Route 2, Tarn Crag	D	☆☆	Y		91
	27	The Groove, Tarn Crag	3	☆			91
8	28	White Gill Edge	3+	☆☆☆			92
	29	Crescent Climb	M	☆☆☆	Y		95
	30	Gwynne's Chimney	D+	☆	Y		98
9	31	Stickle (Mill) Ghyll	1	☆☆		Y	99
	32	Jack's Rake, Pavey Ark	1	☆☆☆		Y	101
10	33	Dungeon Ghyll	3S	☆☆☆			103
	34	South West Face, Harrison Stickle	3 (2)	☆☆☆			109
11	35	White Crag	D (2)	☆☆ (☆)	Y		113
	36	Thorn Crag	2-	☆		Y	114
	37	Loft Crag	2 (3+)	☆☆			115
	38	Merlin Slab	D-	☆☆☆	Y		117
	39	Gandalf Slab	M	☆	Y		118
12	40	Stake Gill	2	☆			121
	41	West Ridge, Pike of Stickle	2	☆			123
	42	The Grey Band, Pike of Stickle	3S	☆☆			123
	43	Pike of Stickle Main Face	3-	☆☆☆			125
13	44	Crinkle Gill	2-	☆			128
	45	Fleetwood's Folly, Gunson Knott	3S	☆☆			130
	46	The Garden Path, Gunson Knott	1-				132
	47	1st Tee, Bowfell Links	1	☆			133
	48	2nd Tee, Bowfell Links	3	☆☆			133
	49	3rd Tee, Bowfell Links	3+	☆☆☆			133
	50	4th Tee, Bowfell Links	3+	☆☆			135
	51	5th Tee, Bowfell Links	3S	☆			135
	52	6th Tee, Bowfell Links	3	☆☆			135
	53	Chock Chimney, Bowfell Links	3S	☆☆			137

Scrambles in the Lake District – South

Route	Scramble	Name	Difficulty	Quality	Climbers' scramble	Suitable for beginners	Page
	54	7th Tee, Bowfell Links	3	☆☆			137
	55	8th Tee, Bowfell Links	1	☆			137
	56	9th Tee, Bowfell Links	3+	☆☆			137
14	57	Browney Gill	2- (3S)	☆☆ (☆☆☆)			138
	58	Black Wars, Pike of Blisco	3	☆☆☆			141
15	59	Whoruneside Force	3S	☆			144
	60	Hell Gill	1	☆			146
	61	Yeastrigg Crag	1-				147
	62	Ill Crag South East Face	3 (2)	☆☆☆			149
	63	Esk Fortress	2	☆☆			151
Coniston Fells							153
16	64	Church Beck, Coniston	1 (3)	☆		Y	155
	65	Levers Water Beck	1 (3)			Y	158
	66	Simon's Nick Ridge	3	☆			159
	67	Little How	2 (3-)	☆			161
	68	Great How	3-	☆			162
	69	Great How Original Route	D	☆☆☆	Y		162
17	70	The Bell	1	☆☆		Y	164
	71	Low Water Beck	3 (3S)	☆☆☆			168
	72	Brim Fell Slabs	2	☆☆			171
	73	Raven Tor	3+ (1)	☆☆			171
18	74	C Ordinary	D-	☆☆☆	Y		177
	75	Easy Terrace	2+	☆☆			178
	76	Giant's Crawl	D	☆☆☆	Y		179
	77	Easter Gully	D	☆☆	Y		180
	78	E Buttress	3S (M)	☆☆			180
	79	F Buttress	3S	☆☆			181
19	80	Tarn Beck	2	☆☆			182
	81	Little Blake Rigg	2	☆☆			184
	82	Great Blake Rigg	3	☆☆☆			186
	83	Raven Nest How and Far Hill Crag	2 (3)	☆☆			189

Summary of routes and scrambles

Route	Scramble	Name	Difficulty	Quality	Climbers' scramble	Suitable for beginners	Page
	84	Crag Band Buttress	3	☆☆			191
	85	Throng Close Buttress	1	☆☆		Y	192
Eskdale							193
20	86	Castle How	2-	☆		Y	198
	87	Border End	1	☆		Y	199
	88	Eskdale Needle	3S	☆☆			200
	89	North West Crag, Harter Fell	2 (D)	☆☆			201
	90	The Harter Beanie	2 (3+)	☆☆			204
21	91	Low Birker Force	3S	☆☆☆			206
	92	Crook Crag by Great Whinscale	2	☆☆			211
	93	Green Crag	2	☆☆			211
	94	Harter Fell by Brandy Crag	3	☆☆			213
22	95	Scale Gill (Cowcove Beck)	2+	☆☆			216
	96	Silveryfield Crag	1	☆		Y	220
	97	Horn Crag	2	☆			221
	98	Tom Fox's Crag	2	☆			222
	99	Cam Spout Crag	1	☆			223
23	100	Esk Gorge	2	☆☆☆			226
	101	Cam Spout	3 (1)	☆☆			229
	102	Greencove Wyke, Sca Fell	3	☆☆			231
	103	Mickledore Slabs	3 (3+)	☆☆			233
24	104	Lingcove Beck	2+	☆☆			238
	105	Thor's Buttress and Pen	3+ (3)	☆☆☆			239
	106	Broadcrag Tarn Buttress	3	☆☆			241

Quality ratings

No stars Not particularly meritorious in its own right, but worth including as part of a day's outing.

☆ Worth climbing but may be discontinuous, short or lacking in continuous interest.

☆☆ A route of more continuous interest and a good line.

☆☆☆ A classic route with continuously interesting scrambling that is based on a good line.

Bridging the upper fall of Scale Close Gill
(Scramble 18, Route 6)



Introduction

Exposed scrambling on Tom Fox's Crag (Scramble 98, Route 22)



Scrambling offers the perfect combination of continuous movement and unfettered climbing in a mountain environment. It is a very basic activity that offers adventure, physical activity and mental concentration. Lakeland pioneer Harry Griffin clearly identified with this, saying: 'The Lake District teems with opportunities for modest adventure away from the track ... those I have introduced to various unconventional scrambles and climbs have all become addicts' (*Adventuring in Lakeland*, 1980). You may well find you become an addict, too.

This guide aims to inspire you to experience some of the best days that the Lake District has to offer. Most outings include scrambles of Grade 3 or above, but individual scrambles can be omitted if you are not confident scrambling at this grade. Grouping the scrambles into day routes allows the curation of varied and enjoyable mountain adventures, where the whole is greater than a sum of the parts. Some of the scrambles can appear a little contrived or insignificant if taken in isolation, but as part of a bigger day can provide interesting ways of exploring the Lake District.

South eastern fells

The eastern side of the Lake District is somewhat quieter than the more celebrated central area and it has an attraction all of its own. The area is bound by the high-level ridge that links Fairfield and St Sunday Crag at its northern edge. This boasts one of the Lake District's most popular scrambles – Pinnacle Ridge – but away from here you are unlikely to see anyone else on the scrambles described.

The valleys of Deepdale and Dovedale are places of great beauty that are easily accessed, but somehow retain a feeling of remoteness. These

dales are host to a collection of mountain crags and playful gills. There is a campsite at Brothers Water with an adjacent Inn, making it a good base for the area.

On the other side of the main Kirkstone road lies the High Street range. This is characterised by long whaleback ridges, but also by attractive becks that offer scenic gill scrambles. On the south side of the range, long valleys extend toward Kendal. The best known of these is the Kentmere valley, but equally beautiful is the wooded Longsleddale, up which runs a narrow single-track road to the farmstead of Sadgill where limited parking is available.

The pinnacles of Pinnacle Ridge (Scramble 2, Route 1)

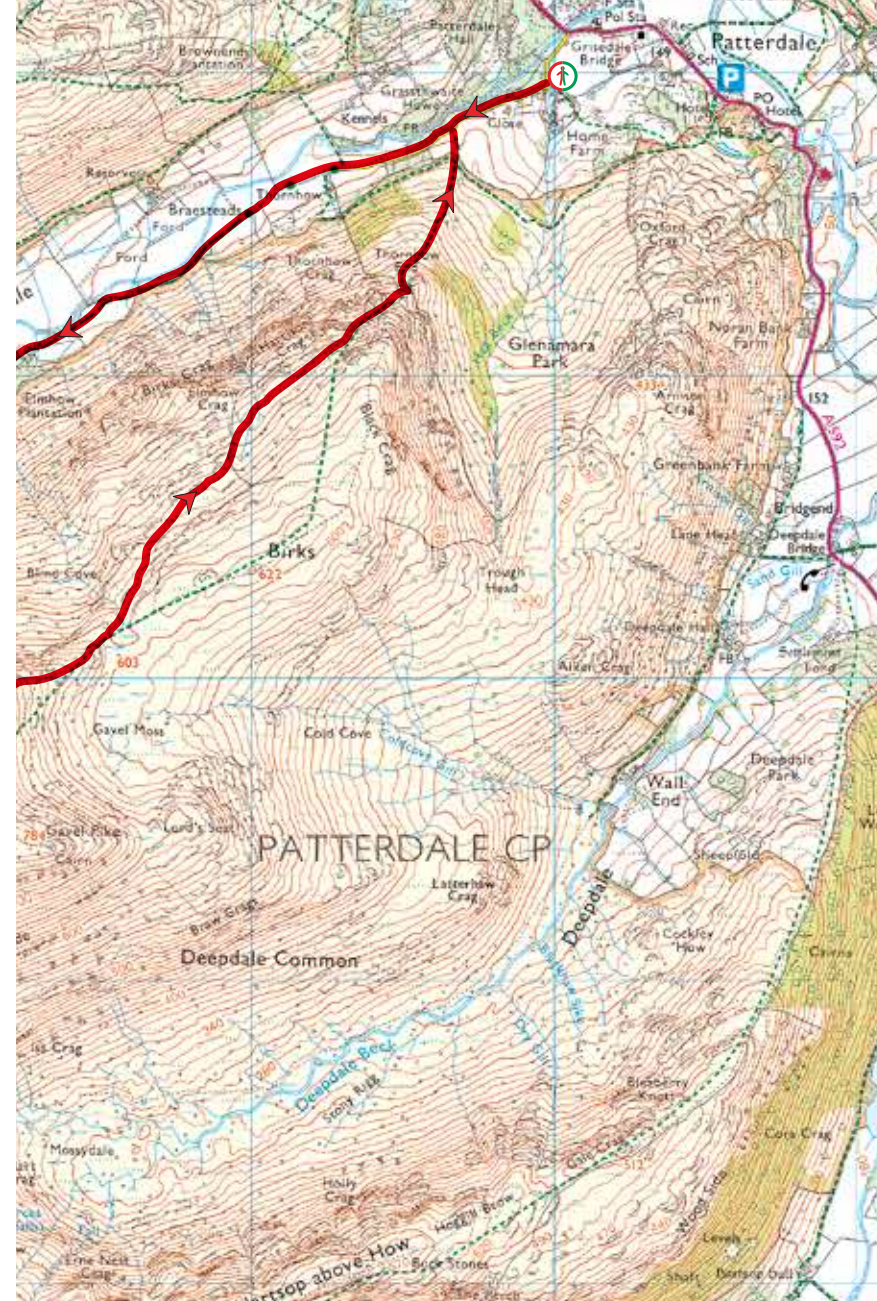
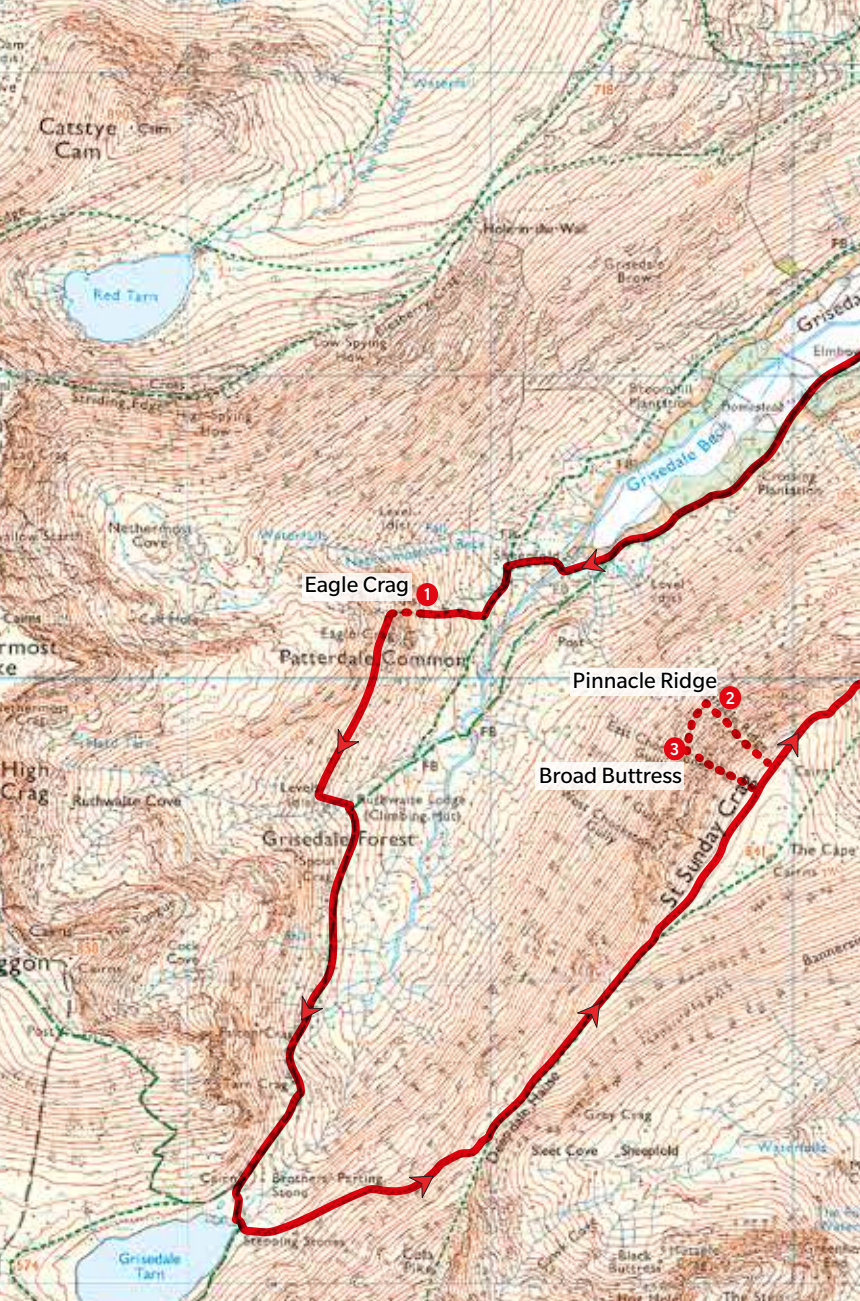


Route 1

Grisedale: Eagle Crag and St Sunday Crag

Start	Grisedale car park (NY 390 160)
Grade	Eagle Crag Original Route D (3), Pinnacle Ridge 3-, Broad Buttress 3+ (3)
Distance	12.5km
Ascent	870m (350m scrambling)
Time	6hr 30min
Conditions	All weather, but the rocks are greasy when wet. Avoid when windy.
Equipment	Rope, small rack, helmet, harness

St Sunday Crag may not quite resemble the Alps, but this day out has an Alpine flavour in that it involves the continuous steady movement that is the hallmark of Alpine climbing. In particular it includes down-climbing – a practice that many never use in the British mountains. The most celebrated scramble of the day is the Pinnacle Ridge of St Sunday Crag, but equally good, if not in some senses better, is its neighbour, Broad Buttress. In a break with tradition, the described route descends Pinnacle Ridge and climbs back up Broad Buttress, although Pinnacle Ridge is also described in ascent from the valley for those wishing to climb it the traditional way. The described day starts with a climbing scramble up the fine bluff of Eagle Crag on the opposite side of Grisedale. There is a Grade 2 scramble here, but much finer is the Difficult climb of Ordinary Route followed by more scrambling to the top of the crag. If this all feels too much like cragging, fear not – this is a mountaineering excursion! The day also involves a scenic perambulation up Grisedale and a high-level walk to the summit of St Sunday Crag, as well as a visit to Brothers Parting Stone. This is the place where William Wordsworth last saw his brother before he was lost at sea and the stone is etched with a farewell ode.



Eagle Crag

1 Original Route



Route 1 – Grisedale: Eagle Crag and St Sunday Crag

1 Eagle Crag Original Route

D (3) ⚡ ⚡, +50m, SE aspect, NY 357 141

Summary

Eagle Crag is an attractive crag just above the northern path up Grisedale. This route takes the easiest rock climb up the buttress on very clean rock. An easier alternative can be found on the left which reduces the difficulty to Grade 3.

Approach

Walk up the Grisedale valley road to its end and cross a bridge as if following the path for Striding Edge and Red Tarn. At the top of the first steep slope, go through a gate to the wall and follow it on a path which traverses the hillside slightly above the valley floor. Follow this all the way until just below **Eagle Crag**. Walk up to the base of the crag.

Route

The route starts at the left-hand side of the crag, slightly right of the **gully** to its left. Ascend the slight groove directly on very good holds to a **ledge**. Alternatively, go round to the gully and ascend this for 2–3m until you can take an easier line of flakes to reach the ledge (Grade 2). From the ledge, go up on easy ground and ascend a little wall to another vegetated ledge. The wall above is quite steep so go left along the ledge until you can take a line of flakes through the wall. Trend right to slabs and continue to the top of the steep section. The remainder of the route can be seen ahead. This gives easy scrambling to the top of the scramble. To make the most of the rock, veer to the left-hand side.

Continuation

Traverse the hillside above the crag to the SW and continue on a descending line toward **Ruthwaite Lodge**. Join the path at the hut, and follow it towards **Grisedale Tarn**. Just before the path splits near the tarn, head left off the path to visit **Brothers Parting Stone** at NY 352 123. Return to the path, cross the **stepping-stones** at the outflow of the tarn and follow the upward traversing path to **Deepdale Hause**. Continue along the fine ridge to the summit of **St Sunday Crag** which affords excellent views of the Dollywaggon/Nethermost coves.