

LAKE DISTRICT

Tom Gill to Tarn Hows walk

Thinking of driving to Tarn Hows? Approaching by this short but exhilarating climb heightens the magic. Take a steep woodland path past surging waterfalls to reach the beautiful tarn near Coniston. The circular route returns you via soaring views of Wetherlam and Coniston Old Man fells.

! Challenging terrain

This walk has two scrambles that can be hazardous in wet weather. Please wear appropriate footwear for the conditions.



Information

Address: Glen Mary Bridge National Trust car park, near Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8DP.

OS map: Explorer OL07

Activity: Walking

Challenging: Steep climb with two rock scrambles, not suitable for beginners. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Dog friendly

Full trail: Miles: 1.6 (km: 2.56)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 1 hour

Terrain

A short walk but on difficult terrain. The initial ascent up Tom Gill has uneven paths alongside steep drops with two rock scrambles that can be hazardous, especially in poor weather. Not suitable for people with limited mobility or novice fell walkers.

Total steps: 10

Start point: Glen Mary Bridge National Trust car park, near Tom Gill, grid ref: SD321998

1. From the car park, head past the ticket machine and over the wooden bridge. Go through the gate to take the narrow path alongside the gill (a narrow stream cut into a rocky ravine).
2. The path climbs up a rocky section before traversing the gill-side with the beck below. The waterfall is best viewed from the path as it ascends on the left side.
3. Passing a gate, follow the path, keeping on the left-hand side of the gill. Take extra care on the last rocky section as you approach Tarn Hows, the reward for your climb. Head right on the main track through the gates.
4. In front of the bench, at the three-way junction, take the path on the far left along the edge of the tarn. It sweeps around the bank and uphill, past some trees on your left.
5. At the T-junction go right, continuing uphill towards the road. Stay on the path as it follows alongside the road a little way above you, bearing left until you reach the junction with the road, opposite the car park.
6. Turn right and head towards Coniston, along the road, passing a cattle grid. Follow the road for about a quarter of a mile (400m) as it swings its way down, opening out to breathtaking views of Yewdale.
7. At the junction, take the track on the right through the gates marked Tarn Hows Cottage. With the wall on your left and views on your right, follow the track towards the cottage.

8. Follow the track swinging down to the right. Go through the gate, keeping straight on past the front of the cottage and out through another gate into the fields. Turn immediately left, following the wall downhill.
9. At the end of the wall, go through the small gate. Continue down the slope, keeping the hedge and fence line to your right. Go through a small gate in the hedgerow, then turn left downhill.
10. At the bottom of the hill, head right along the field edge, with Yew Tree Farm on the opposite side of the road. Head out of the field, through the gate and over the wooden bridge into the car park.

End point: Glen Mary Bridge National Trust car park, near Tom Gill, grid ref: SD321998
