

# Ennerdale Valley Visitor Guide



Wild and secluded Ennerdale Valley provides the visitor with a unique experience of a landscape increasingly shaped by natural forces. A wild valley of mountain, forest, fell and water.



## Welcome

Ennerdale is one of England's wildest valleys. For hundreds of years the soft lapping waters of the lake and the stark outlines of Pillar and Steeple have inspired many visitors seeking tranquillity, challenge or spiritual refreshment.



## Walking & Cycling in Ennerdale

There are more than twenty miles of forest road and many more miles of paths open to the public. The wooded slopes offer sheltered walking during inclement weather and the wide open roads provide an almost traffic free, environment for cyclists and walkers alike. To access the valley by bike please use Bowness Knott car park.

## Smithy Beck Forest Trail

A delightful short walk along the banks of Ennerdale Water and through the forest. Smithy Beck takes its name from a bloomery or smithy used to produce iron that once stood by the Beck near to the site of an ancient settlement. The "original" Ennerdale Forest provided timber for making the charcoal that supported the iron industry in the area. Follow the red waymarkers from Bowness Knott.

## "Round the Lake"

Starting from Bowness Knott or Bleach Green this route is mostly easy walking with the exception a stretch of narrow, steep path where it crosses over Anglers Crag

Please remember that Ennerdale is a working forest and it is possible that you may encounter vehicles using the forest roads

## The More Adventurous

Ennerdale is a landscape waiting to be explored. There are many rights of way criss crossing the valley or why not explore off the beaten track. The valley ridges provide spectacular views of the Cumbrian Coastline, Scottish Mountains and neighbouring valleys such as Wasdale and Buttermere.

Please remember that large parts of Ennerdale are very remote and have no mobile phone signal. The weather can change rapidly and the terrain in places is very steep and the surface loose.

For more information please visit the Wild Ennerdale Partnership website at [www.wildennerdale.co.uk](http://www.wildennerdale.co.uk)



## Walking Distances – All from Bowness Knott Car Park

Route	Difficulty	Time	Distance	Climbing
Smithy Beck (red way markers)	Moderate	1 hour	2m/3.3km	215ft/350m
“Round the Lake”	Moderate	4 hours	7m/11km	230ft/70m
To Black Sail Youth Hostel	Moderate	2½ hours	6m/9.6km	550ft/160m
To Gillerthwaite Youth Hostel	Easy	1 hour	2¼m/3.6km	80ft/25m
To Ennerdale Bridge via Bleach Green	Easy	1 hour	2¾m/4.4km	



The map below is for information only and is no substitute for a detailed scale map when walking or riding in the valley. Please note only authorised vehicles are allowed beyond Bowness Knott.

