

Rail Trails

DRIGG TO RAVENGLASS

Three rivers, the Irt, the Mite and the Esk converge and enter the sea at Ravenglass forming a complex natural harbour.

The Romans good use of the sheltered deep water, developing the area as an important base. The remains of their fort and bathhouse are still visible today and make a fascinating focal point for a walk that explores this intricate stretch of coastline.

Start: Drigg Station (GR SD 063 988)

Finish: Ravenglass Station (GR SD 085 964)

Distance 10.5km (6.5 miles)

Time: 4 hours

Height gain: 125m

Maps OS Landranger 96, OS Explorer OL 6.

1. Turn left out of Drigg Station and follow the village road to the B5344. Turn right and follow the B5344 for 550m to a bridleway on the right (Cumbria Coastal Way).
2. Follow the bridleway past fields to the banks of the River Irt at Drigg Holme. Cross the river via Holme Bridge. Turn immediately right and follow the path to a road. Turn right and follow the road for 350m to a fork. Take the left branch and follow the rough lane to join another road.
3. Turn right and follow the road to carefully cross the railway at Saltcoats Crossing. Continue along the road, ignoring the turning on the right, until it reaches the foreshore at Low Salt Coats. Follow the Cumbria Coastal Path by the embankment to the footbridge beside the railway viaduct. Head through the car park to Ravenglass station.
4. Cross the footbridge at the end of the platform and follow the path beside the children's playground. At the junction turn right and follow the track to the Roman Bath House. Soon after the bathhouse the path splits. Take the left fork (Cumbria Coastal Path) and follow it to another junction in front of the grand house at Newtown. Take the left branch. The track then skirts the lower slopes of Newtown Knott (muddy) and is followed a gate on the right.
5. Go through the gate and follow the vague grass path straight down the hill towards the trees. Follow the path on to the foreshore of the River Esk.
6. Turn right and follow the Cumbria Coastal Way to pass under the railway line. Head back to Ravenglass tracing a route along the foreshore parallel with the railway.

