



choose a stroll over the fell tops on a good day, most traveling the Coast to Coast will head along the good path treading the valley bottom. This is also full of interest. Dense forestry plantations in Ennerdale are being cleared to make way for a more natural mix of ecosystems, and the views of Pillar Rock, a vertical rock buttress high on the southern side of the valley, are tremendous. At the head of Ennerdale, the remote YHA Black Sail Hostel makes a welcoming place to stay the night.

Next comes the climb and descent to Honister Pass, one of the major high roads of the Lake District and the location of England's last working slate mine. A steep descent leads into picturesque Borrowdale and the village of Rosthwaite. This is perhaps one of the most scenic areas of the Lake District. It's 11.5 km (7.2 mi) of wild country from here to Grasmere, and then another tough stage ahead as the second half of the Lake District section must be tackled: a steep climb to Grisedale Tarn, a long descent to Patterdale, and then up into the mountains for the ascent of Rampsgill Head (792 m/2,598 ft). After following most of Haweswater's western shore, you will abruptly leave the Lake District and enter lower hilly terrain on the way to Shap— a small but hiker-friendly village.

From Shap to Kirkby Stephen, the next town, is a challenging 30km (18.6 mi). The terrain is less mountainous here, but there is still plenty of up and down to negotiate across the moors. Kirkby Stephen is the first major town encountered on the route, and a good place to stock up before passing into the Yorkshire Dales. The section that follows is just as beautiful as the Lake District but very different in character. After the ascent of Nine Standards >

↑ Evening light shining on the north face of Great Gable.
↓ Snow still clings to the upper slopes of Halvellyn, which rises into the cloud.



Visiting a wide variety of landscapes from the Lake District to Eden Valley, Yorkshire Dales to the North York Moors, Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk offers a cross section of Northern England and a breadth of high-quality walking.

↑ Ennerdale is the location of an ambitious conservation and rewilding program.
← A night at YHA Black Sail in Ennerdale is always a treat.