

Almscliffe Crag

Distance – 3.68 km

Height gained – 68m

Time – 1hr 15 mins

1. Turn right out of the Square & Compass and cross the road. (Rigton Hill). Continue past Chapel Hall along Church Hill to Brackenwell Lane.
2. Turn right for a short distance to the footpath on the right which goes between two high hedges and house gardens. (NYCC sign beside the entrance – stone slab marks the old Bracken Well)
3. Follow the path which swings left and opens out with views across the fields. The path continues behind the gardens until it joins Crag Lane.
Note: This path can be very wet during wet weather. If it is too wet to follow avoid point 2 and continue along Church Hill to Crag Lane & walk along Crag Lane to point 4. (There is no footpath on Crag Lane)
4. Continue in the same direction along the lane past New House Farm to the stile on your right.
5. Cross the stile and then left diagonally to the gate at the field boundary and cross the farm track to the next gate.
6. Continue in the same direction, (you can now clearly see the Crag) and cross 2 fields through 2 slip stiles. (Avoid the muck heap on your right!)
Look left across these fields where you have views across Lower Wharfedale.
7. You cross a wooden stile into the Crag field. Follow the track up to the base of the Crag. The path around swings to the right where you climb a small wall and drop down to the final slip stile continuing down-hill again to the road where cars park.

Note: You can wander around the Crag off the footpath, even though it is private land. BUT TAKE CARE!

If you wish to shorten the route you can return to this point and follow the track, across two stiles beside the farm gates on the Lane, to turn left back to the village or point 10. (1 km reduction)

8. At the road, turn left and then left again back on to Crag Lane.
9. Pass Crag Farm on your right, then 3 other properties and continue along the road to New House Farm again and number 4.

Here you can return to the Square & Compass by following Crag Lane back into the village, or alternatively...

10. Turn left and follow the track up-hill through the trees. The track swings to the right and ends at a gate.
11. Continue through the woodland until you are clear of the trees, and then cross diagonally to the stile in the stone wall.
12. You cross into a private garden and turn right on to a path along-side the tall stone wall to the entrance and then on to the stone track to the road, Rigton Hill.
13. Cross the road, carefully, and spend some time in the Village Garden, or turn right and walk down Rigton Hill to return to the Square & Compass.