



15 ISLE OF MAN LAXEY TO SNAEFELL

▶ Distance: 4¾ miles/7.6km ▶ Time: 3½ hours ▶ Grade: Moderate

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FEATURE
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The final stretch to the summit of Snaefell.

PHOTO: NICK HALLISSEY



CHOSEN BY...

NICK HALLISSEY

At 2037ft (621m), Snaefell is the highest land on the Isle of Man, and like the much higher Snowdon, it has a railway to the top and a summit café. But it's more exciting to walk up from the beautiful harbour town of Laxey and take the train down (a useful solution as there's no alternative descent route, so you'd have to retrace your steps otherwise). This also makes it an exciting family walk for older children. Heading up through the quiet valley of Agneash you'll pass eerily derelict mine workings, before crossing the famous TT race road to head for the top. From there the views are

superb – on a clear day you'll see high ground in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. After returning on the train, make sure to visit the Great Laxey Wheel, AKA the Lady Isabella (visitisleofman.com), which is close to the start of the route.

1 Start

Follow Mines Road north. Having crossed the River Laxey, road veers R then L, passing entrance to Laxey Wheel R. Continue uphill on road as it zig-zags to reach small hamlet of Agneash. Turn L at fork, passing green and cottages R. Where lane veers R into farm, continue ahead through gate onto track. Snaefell now in view ahead, at far end of valley.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Free parking on Mines Road near to Laxey station, IM4 7NY, grid ref SC432847

Is it for me? Mostly clear paths and tracks, apart from one indistinct, boggy section between Upper Agneash mines and the Bungalow. Descend on Snaefell Mountain Railway (charge)

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Laxey

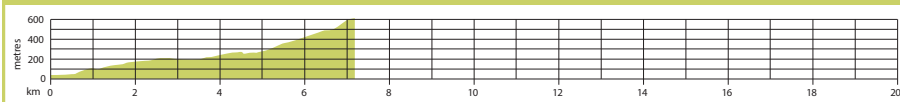
Refreshments Laxey at start; café on Snaefell.

Public toilets Laxey station and summit station

Public transport Manx Electric Railway connects Laxey with Douglas and Ramsey. This route uses the Snaefell Mountain Railway for descent. Timetables for both at manxelectricrailway.co.uk

Maps OS Landranger 95; Harvey Superwalker XT-30

GRADIENT PROFILE



15 ISLE OF MAN
LAXEY TO SNAEFELL▶ OS Landranger map 95 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

2 1 mile/1.65km

Follow track up valley, through a series of gates, for 1½ miles to reach derelict mines of upper Agneash. Where track splits, take L fork through mine complex. Skirt edge of spoil heaps and continue to far south-western edge of mine workings. From here a vague and sometimes indistinct path continues south-westwards, steadily climbing hillside and crossing stream. Your ascent eventually runs parallel to the railway line on the hillside above. Continue

upwards as terrain steepens. At top, cross railway line with care and turn R to reach the A18 (TT race road) at The Bungalow.

3 3½ miles/5.85km

Cross road with extreme care (footbridge may be erected during summer for TT and other events). Turn R away from Bungalow along road for a short distance then take first footpath L, passing through kissing-gate marked 'Snaefell'. Follow clear path ascending hillside, eventually reaching

summit station. Cross railway line and turn R along platform, then continue uphill on path to reach summit of Snaefell. To return to Laxey, either retrace your outbound steps, or simply descend to summit station and take the train. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

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YOUR RATING

