

Walk on the WILD SIDE



JO VAUGHAN ENJOYS LAKESIDE VIEWS WITH A WONDERFUL COUNTRY WALK IN CUMBRIA

WINDERMERE is possibly the most famous of Cumbria's lakes. Its glorious mountain setting and quaint surrounding villages attract tourists from all over the world, most of whom descend on the town of Bowness-on-Windermere.

Braithwaite Fold Caravan Club Site is found conveniently just a few minutes' walk from the picturesque village centre, but it is even closer to the landing stage that takes cars and passengers from one side of the lake to the other. Vehicles have to queue for hours in the summer to get a ride across the often choppy waters, but passengers can jump straight onto the next available ride.

It's this ferry that's needed in order to begin this month's walk, which starts from the westerly ferry terminal. We then walk inland a little and up onto the hills of Claife Heights, before returning to the lakeside and along the water's edge. You don't have to be super-fit, although there are some persistent slopes and sharp descents to endure, so stout walking boots and a strong stick are essentials.

The first section of this walk sounds fiddly, but all we're doing is avoiding the main road with its blind corners by following adjacent footpaths instead. Be extra careful after inclement weather – there are some sections that could be muddy and slippery.

General information

NEAREST CLUB SITE: Braithwaite Fold, Glebe Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, Windermere LA23 3HB. Tel: 01539 442177
DISTANCE: 6.2 miles/9.9km
TERRAIN: Varied
NUMBER OF STILES: 0
ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: Ordnance Survey OL7 Explorer Map – South-Eastern area (Windermere, Kendal and Silverdale), sturdy boots, hiking poles
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Moderate to strenuous
REFRESHMENTS: Sawrey Hotel, Far Sawrey
TOILETS: None

Tourist information

Windermere TIC, Victoria Street
 LA23 1AD. Tel 01539 446499

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Alight from the ferry, and continue along the road until it bends around to the left beside a road to the right marked 'Harrowslack car park'. Continue left around this bend, still following the B5285, but almost immediately turn right following a public footpath sign stating 'Hill top via Sawrey' up some steps. Continue along the footpath marked by a yellow arrow.
- 2 As the path bends to the right, away from the road (which is now far below), turn left following the public footpath 'Ash Landing, Sawrey, Hill Top' sign. At the foot of the steps turn right to Sawrey.
- 3 Pass through the National Trust car park and continue ahead along a footpath that follows the road. Pass through a wooden gate where the path bends to the right, cross the road and continue along a footpath marked 'Near Sawrey and Hill Top'.
- 4 Pass through another wooden gate and continue along the road marked 'B5285 Sawrey'. After a short distance, before a wooden bench, turn right following a public footpath sign, still marked 'Far and Near Sawrey'. Cross the tarmac lane and continue through the kissing gate.
- 5 When the gravel turns to tarmac keep ahead always following a yellow arrow, but very soon leave the lane as it turns to the left and continue ahead, along a stone wall.
- 6 Pass the house and continue to the right of a yellow footpath disk between a fence and another stone wall. Pass through another kissing gate, walk down the gravel lane, and when you reach the road continue along this, past the Sawrey Hotel.
- 7 Soon after the hotel, take a turning to the right marked 'Public Bridleway to Moss Eccles Tarn and Claife Heights', up a tarmac road.
- 8 Continue along the road, over a cattle grid, before veering left at a public

footpath sign marked 'Public Bridleway', with a blue arrow on a yellow background, towards Claife Heights. Cross the wooden bridge over the stream.

9 Go through the wooden gate and continue following the bridleway sign for 'Claife Heights'. Go through a wooden gate and continue following the track signposted to 'Claife Heights and The Tarns'.

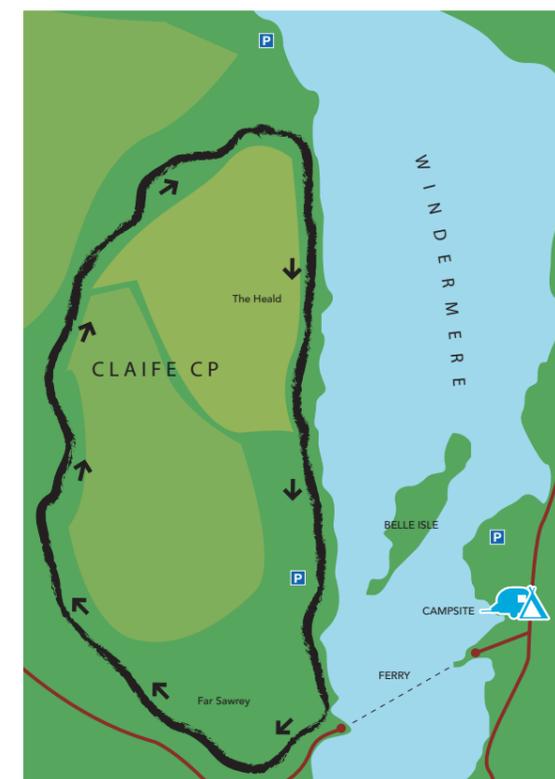
10 Pass the first lake and carry on along the footpath through another wooden gate. Pass another lake on your left – Wise Een Tarn – and then another on your right. Having passed all three, and on reaching the top of the hill, go through a wooden gate (signposted 'Public Bridleway'), and continue through woodland on a narrower path.

11 Where the path forks, go left leaving the main track and ignoring the public bridleway sign (blue arrow on a yellow background). This path descends steeply and is rocky. At a major path crossroads continue straight ahead (signposted 'Public Bridleway – High Wray').

12 At another major junction continue straight ahead (signposted 'Public Bridleway – Belle Grange'). Having steeply descended, continue straight ahead following the 'Public Bridleway, Lake Shore' footpath sign.

13 At the bottom of the hill, at a T-junction, turn right following the 'Ferry House – 2 1/2 miles' footpath sign. After a while, continue as the track turns to tarmac, go through a wooden gate and continue ahead still following the 'Windermere Ferries' footpath sign.

14 Continue along the road, over a cattle grid, until you see a sign to the left marked 'Footpath to Ferry'. Follow this through a wooden gate and continue along the footpath until you pass through another wooden gate. Turn left along the road back to the ferry terminal.



Local attractions

- **Windermere Steamboat Museum**, Rayrigg Road, Bowness-on-Windermere LA23 1BN. Tel 01539 445565. Cost: £4.25. Exhibition about life on and about Windermere, as well as a collection of vintage vessels. Disabled access: most of the site and buildings are accessible for wheelchairs
- **Townend Historic House**, Troutbeck, Windermere LA23 1LB. Tel 01539 432628 or see nationaltrust.org.uk. A 17th-century Lakeland yeoman farmer's house with traditional furniture, cottage garden and a children's activity trail. Disabled access: no, due to the sloping nature of the site
- **La Galerie d'Art**, Lake Road and Queens Square, Bowness-on-Windermere LA23 3BT. Tel 01539 445470 or see galart.co.uk. Exhibition of original paintings by local and international artists. Disabled access: partial for wheelchairs with just a couple of steps to negotiate