



Download
Route



Walk 2

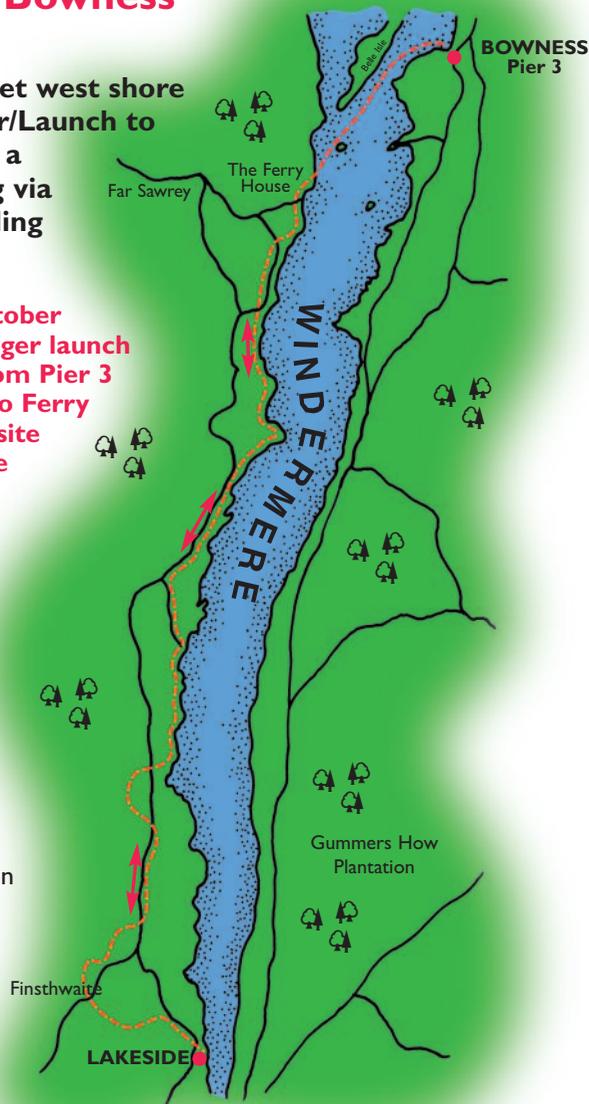
Lakeshore - Bowness to Lakeside

A walk on the quiet west shore using the Steamer/Launch to return. Three and a half hours walking via Finsthwaite, avoiding main roads.

From Easter to October a traditional passenger launch service operates from Pier 3 at Bowness direct to Ferry House on the opposite shore and this is the preferred option to cross the lake.

In the event of this service not being available directions to the car ferry are as follows.

From the piers at Bowness turn round and with your back towards the lake make for the corner on the right behind the Information Centre. Walk past Boatman's Cafe and along a road inaccessible to cars between the pitch and putt golf course and cemetery. Cross the road and take the footpath opposite, walking on past the public launch site at the Lake Wardens to the road and turn right down to Ferry Nab.



Note:
Check date
and sailing
times before
commencing walk

- 1 When you reach the other side of the lake walk along the road until you come to the public footpath sign. This directs you away from the dangerously narrow roadway to Ash Landing. From Ash Landing car park cross the road and at the corner follow the track on the left by the lake shore for about 300 metres. The track then turns steeply to the right avoiding private buildings and soon becomes a surfaced drive which in 200 metres meets a minor road. Turn left here. You will eventually pass a very large house by the lake - Fellborough. Just over 100 metres after the house cross a narrow stone stile and follow the path directly down to the lake shore and continue walking by the water's edge. Look ahead and you will see the curve of a peaceful tranquil bay terminating at a headland with a small island - Ling Holme - 20 metres off shore. Make for the headland, the wooden footbridge crosses the River Cunsey, and you will find another bay which you follow round to Rawlinson Nab.
- 2 When you reach the other side of the Nab you walk by the edge of the lake with the water almost lapping at your feet. Unfortunately this is only for 200 metres and then the path turns away. Follow it up and over steps to a minor road.
- 3 Turn left and you will have to follow this road for approximately 1 km (15 minutes) until you come to a public footpath sign on the left just over the brow of a long steep hill. This path now is through woodlands and gradually descends to the lake shore where you turn right. Look out for the yellow direction arrows as you go along but the path is quite distinct and keeps close to the water's edge.
- 4 The small island on the left is Silver Holme. Ducks, geese, swans and other water fowl frequent these quiet bays. Pheasant and other woodland birds and mammals are present all around.
- 5 Continue alongside the shore past a private boathouse and after 200 metres the path abruptly meets a fence on a stone wall and you are now forced to move inland. Admire the view back up the lake before you leave it. You should be able to see Storrs Hall on the headland, part of Bowness to the left and above and beyond the beautiful Troutbeck Valley flanked by the pyramid shaped Ill Bell.
- 6 Turn left on the main road but only for 50 metres and join the footpath on the right, opposite the entrance to the YMCA. This path climbs into the woods but you should ignore any gates on the right and follow the fence until it comes down to the road again. Keep following the path by the road side until you are forced to join the road and then walk straight across and you will find the path continues just off the road on the other side next to the southern YMCA entrance.

- 7 You join the road again by the Stock Park Estate entrance, but 50 metres past this entrance look for a public footpath sign on the right. Walk up the driveway for 50 metres and then go left. You will see another sign directing you through a wooden gate into a field. The path crosses the field following the contour of the hill to a metal gate. Go straight on across the next field and into the corner to another stile which leads into woodland (take the left fork) and on to finish at the road leading to the car park to High Dam.
- 8 Turn left for 20 metres before turning right on the main road to Finsthwaite and when you come to the first buildings take the lane left towards the church. Walk past the church and the school, now on your left, to the end of the lane and then straight on across two fields to join a stone stile into deciduous woodland (Great Knott Wood). Follow the path straight on to join the main road. Turn right and walk along the road 400 metres until you come to Lakeside and the Lake Steamers if you wish to return to Bowness or Ambleside.

Lakeshore, Lakeside to Bowness

Walk 2A

An alternative start to walk no 2 from Lakeside. The first part of the walk is described in walk No 1, paragraph 1.

- 1 After entering the special conservation area, turn right and descend 200 metres to walk down the road past the car park. Just 20 metres before you reach the main road look out for a track on the left, it follows the wall at the end of the wood, with the field on the right. In less than 100 metres you will cross a stone stile into the corner of a field, follow the wall on the right for approximately 100 metres and then move towards the centre of the field and on to metal gate. The path is not clear but keep going in the same direction and follow around the contour of the hill and then head for the right-hand corner where you will find a wooden gate.
- 2 The track leads 50 metres down to a drive, turn right and follow to the main road. On the main road turn left and walk past Stock Park Estate. Just past the entrance, on the right, there is a narrow off-road footpath. This follows close to the road, it is quite muddy, and you will cross two pairs of wooden stiles until you are eventually forced back to the road again. Go straight across the road to the footpath on the other side (this can be overgrown in summer).

- 3 You are now near the YMCA South Camp entrance and the footpath sign reads “880 yards”. In just half this distance the footpath leads back to the road but ignore the road and go through the wooden kissing gate and follow the path upwards for 100 metres and then bear right opposite the fence on your left until you descend to the road again, opposite the main entrance to YMCA National Centre.
- 4 If you turn left on the main road the public footpath to the lake shore is 50 metres past the YMCA entrance on the right hand side. When you reach the lake, a pleasant woodland path follows the lake shore for about 1.5km, detours, via a kissing gate, to avoid private land and then, after a short distance, turns abruptly left away from the shore. Follow the yellow arrows as the path climbs steadily through woodland for some ten to fifteen minutes and eventually meets a quiet country road. Turn right and follow the road down a long steep hill then walk on for a further 800 metres until you reach the signpost - Cunsey. Just past the first group of cottages - Holmewell House - turn right over a wooden stile and follow the path down to the lake shore.
- 5 Now follow the path by the water’s edge for a further 1.5km, via Rawlinson Nab with its sheltered picnic beaches, around the next bay to the island of Ling Holme 20 metres off shore. Cross the River Cunsey and continue to the far end of the next bay, then up to rejoin the quiet road. Turn right and walk past the large house - Fellborough. 400 metres further on, at the bottom of a hill, turn right down the driveway - Bryers Cottage.
- 6 Walk down the Private Drive for 150 metres and follow the track alongside the lake which leads to the main road. If you cross the road to Ash Landing Car Park, there is a short off road path via “West’s Station” and on to the ferry. If the traditional launch service is available you are advised to use it as it will take you directly to Bowness Bay.
- 7 If the launch service is not operating use the car ferry and after crossing over walk along the road and look for the path by the Lake Wardens and Public Slipway. A five minute walk leads directly to the steamer pier.