

WINDERMERE LAKE CRUISES



Spotter's Sheet

There's so much to see on Lake Windermere, but here's a few highlights to look out for on your cruise today.

- Red Cruise (Bowness < > Ambleside)
- Yellow Cruise (Bowness < > Lakeside)
- Islands Cruise (Bowness circular cruise)



Wray Castle

Keep a look out for the distinctive turrets of Wray Castle above the woodland. Wray is not a medieval castle, it was only built as a folly during the 1840s for a retired Liverpool surgeon, James Dawson.

The castle has had many uses over the years: Youth hostel, the offices of the Freshwater Biological Association & training college for Merchant Navy radio officers. A young Beatrix Potter also used to holiday here. It's now owned by the National Trust.



Belle Isle and house

Belle Isle is the largest island on Windermere and covers around 37 acres. It is the only privately owned and inhabited island.

Hidden amongst the trees is Belle Isle House (built in 1774) - it was the first neoclassical Calendar house in England. Originally there were 365 panes of glass (days in a year), 52 windows (weeks), 12 rooms (months) and 4 sculptures (seasons). The design was based on Villa 'La Rotonda' near Vicenza in Italy.



Windermere Car Ferry

This is the crossing for the Windermere Car Ferry. It joins the road from Bowness through to Hawkshead, and carries up to 18 cars and 100 pedestrians. Horses and bicycles can also be carried.

The ferry, named 'Mallard', pulls itself along on two steel cables which it picks up on wheels on either side of the vessel. The four minute crossing here cuts out a road journey of about 14 miles.



Langdale Chase Hotel

This grand building on the lakeshore is the Langdale Chase hotel. It was originally built as a private house for the Howarth family in 1895. Mr Howarth, a cotton mill owner from Manchester, sadly died before the house was completed, but his widow lived there until 1914 employing a staff of 16. It was converted to a luxury hotel in 1930. The ornate boathouse originally housed the owner's steam launch. The boathouse is now used as a bridal suite.



White Cross Bay and memorial

The bay on the right is known as White Cross Bay. During the Second World War, there was an aircraft factory here, building and launching Sunderland flying boats. After the war, the factory was demolished and all that remains is the slipway. It is now a holiday park.

The bay takes its name from a small stone white cross on the shore. It was erected in 1853 following the drowning of two young men whilst out fishing in a storm. Their bodies were never recovered, but the boat came to shore here.

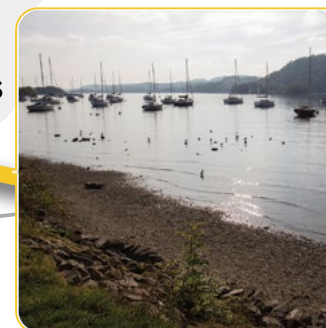
Windermere Village



Windermere Jetty (museum)

Bowness-on-Windermere

Bowness Pier



Cockshott Point

Cockshott Point is the site of an old aircraft factory and the former base of the A.V. Roe Seaplane Pleasure Flight Company. The area was famous for seaplane production and pilot training during World War I.

The factory closed in the 1920s and is now a beautiful picnic spot managed by the National Trust. It has long been popular with tourists, and also market traders, who used to line the path along the lake shore.

Windermere Facts

- Windermere is England's largest natural freshwater lake (or mere).
- It's 10.5 miles long and at its widest point is 1 mile wide.
- It was formed during the last major Ice Age 12500 years ago.
- Four rivers enter the lake (Rothay, Brathay, Troutbeck & Cunseybeck). Windermere is drained by the River Leven near Lakeside Pier and out to the Irish Sea.



Claife Station

This unusual structure was built in the late 18th century as a viewing station for landscape appreciation. Each window of the drawing room had different coloured glass to enhance variations in weather and the seasons.
During the 1830's-40's Claife was used by wealthy visitors for parties and dances. Reputedly visitors used to "swoon" over the sheer beauty of the views of the lake.
This early example of Lake District tourism has been restored by the National Trust.



Storrs Hall

Built in 1790 for Sir John Legard as a private residence, the building hosted many famous authors and poets including William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter. In 1806 it was acquired by Liverpool shipping merchant John Bolton who made his fortune from the West Indian slave trade. It is now a luxury hotel.

Storrs Temple (originally called "The Temple of Heroes") was built in 1804 during the Napoleonic wars and commemorates British naval victories.



Silverholme Manor - part of the 5000 acre private Graythwaite Estate

Silverholme Manor is a Georgian Manor House built in 1820 for Oscar Theodor Gnosspelius who designed and flew one of the first seaplanes in 1912 and was a close friend of author Arthur Ransome. It is now an exclusive wedding/events venue.
Most of the land on this western shore is part of the Graythwaite Estate. Further north the land is owned by the National Trust. As a result there are very few houses actually down by the lake on this side.



Broad Leys

Designed by the architect Charles F A Voysey and built in 1899, this superb example of Arts and Crafts architecture has been the headquarters of the Windermere Motor Boat Racing Club since 1951. Since the introduction of the 10 miles per hour speed limit on Windermere in 2005 racing now takes place in the dock areas in Barrow-in-Furness.
Broad Leys has been used as a location for many TV shows.



Private Lakeshore Homes

All of this eastern shore is privately owned and has a number of fine houses that enjoy the stunning lake views, many with eye-watering pricetags!



Beech Hill Hotel

One of the larger hotels on Windermere. Originally built from stone in the 1900s as a coaching inn, it has been added to over the years.



Lakeside Pier

Lakeside is the southernmost pier of Lake Windermere and is home to Lakeside and Haverthwaite Steam Railway, Lakes Aquarium and Lakeside Hotel.
Lakeside Pier and station was part of the national rail network until 1965 & reopened as a private heritage line in 1973.
Our 'steamers' Swan & Teal were built in Barrow (8 miles away), transported to Lakeside in parts on the railway, assembled and launched via the slipway.



Fell Foot Park

Fell Foot Park is a popular watersports and family activity area that has belonged to the National Trust since 1973.
It was formerly a private estate owned by Colonel Ridehalgh who was the first man to own a private steamer on the lake - "Fairy Queen" 1860.
The house was demolished but the boathouse and dock are still there and currently used as a café.