Ambleside (Waterhead) Pier

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 it for 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.

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.

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.

Spots 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)
There's so much to see on Lake Windermere, but here's a few things to look for on your journey:

- **Silverholme Manor** - part of the 5000 acre private Grasmere Estate. Silverholme Manor is a Georgian Manor House built in 1820 for Oscar Theodor Ginzgelpius 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 Grasmere 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.

- **Fell Foot Pier** - Lakeside Pier 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.

- **Storks 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. It is now a luxury hotel. Storks Temple (originally called "The Temple of Heroes") was built in 1804 during the Napoleonic wars and commemorates British naval victories.

- **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.

- **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!

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- **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 cafe.

**Share your photos and cruise memories with us using #windmerelakecruises**