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 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.

Brockhole Pier

Fell Foot Pier

Bowness Pier

Ambleside (Waterhead) Pier

Bowness-on-Windermere

Windermere Village

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.

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.

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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 Ice Age 12500 years ago.

Four rivers enter the lake (Rothay, Brathay, Trout beck & Cunsey beck). Windermere is drained by the River Leven near Lakeside Pier and out to the Irish Sea.

Ambleside

Turn over for Red Cruise

Things to look for on your journey

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the River Leven near Lakeside (beck). Windermere is drained by Rothay, Trout beck & Cunsey (becks). Four rivers enter the lake (Rothay, Brathay, Trout beck & Cunsey beck). Windermere is drained by the River Leven near Lakeside Pier and out to the Irish Sea.

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

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