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Route



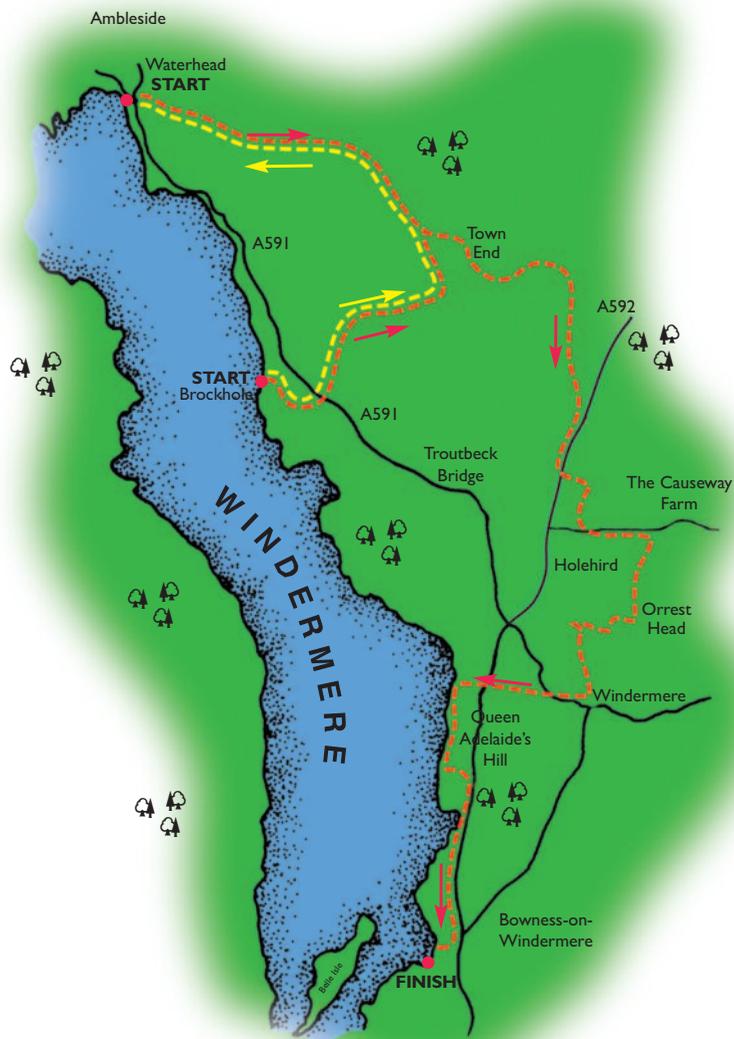
Walk 10

Walk 11

Walk 12

Waterhead Pier to Orrest Head, Windermere and Bowness

A 3½ hour walk through Woodlands and the Troutbeck Valley with spectacular Lake and Mountain views and a lakeshore path.



- 1 From the piers at Waterhead cross the main A591 road by the corner of the Waterhead Hotel and take the public footpath marked to Jenkins Crag. The path is quite steep at first, then it levels out and crosses a field into woodland. Follow it up into the woods bearing right. A National Trust sign “Kelsick Scar” is reached after 20 minutes from the start. Stay on the main track where the ground levels and, 60 metres ahead on the right, is Jenkins Crag, a magnificent Windermere viewpoint. Retrace your steps to the path and carry on along the track towards Troutbeck.
- 2 Ten minutes further on is High Skelghyll Farm. Go through the farm and after 100 metres cross a cattle grid. Follow the sign towards Troutbeck. The path swings away to the left, follow it upwards for fifteen minutes to reach Robin’s Lane through a double gate. Carry on along this lane for 2-3 minutes and you will meet another lane on the right leading up from Brockhole.
- 3 Walk 11 joins here but you go straight on the lane for about 300 metres until you come to a wooden seat at the viewpoint. A bridleway leads down to the right and if you follow this you will reach a road in five minutes. Turn left and pick up the bridleway again on the right after 100 metres. Follow this down to a white cottage, Town Foot, (to visit Town End see Page 40, detour left 100 metres and retrace your steps), cross the road and follow down to the river.
- 4 Here the river Troutbeck is crossed by two wooden footbridges (during late autumn large salmon and sea trout can be seen as they make their long journey from the sea, through the lake and up to their spawning grounds high in the Troutbeck valley). In May 2018 the second bridge was storm damaged but could be crossed with care. Go through the gate and follow the path up to the top of the field. The road is the A592 from Windermere to Ullswater. Turn right and follow the footpath along by the roadside for 400 metres, then cross the road to a kissing gate and public footpath which leads upwards through two fields. Look out for Annies Seat and enjoy the splendid view across the lake to Coniston and Wetherlam.
- 5 Go through a gate and continue between buildings to the road, cross straight over into the lane and go on over a cattle grid and after 100 metres fork left. You are now on a surfaced farm road which you follow for 400 metres. When you reach the farm, walk past the first building and look for a wooden gate on the right. Cross and go through the farm yard looking out for yellow direction arrows. Cross the next two fields looking out for stiles and yellow direction arrows until you arrive at white farm cottages. Proceed down the lane to the road and turn left. This is Crosses Farm. Follow this road and in 400 metres you will come

to Causeway Farm. Take the footpath opposite and head uphill following signs and yellow markers towards the top of the hill in front of you. Pass through a gate and follow a sign (Orrest Head $\frac{1}{4}$ mile) to the summit. This is Orrest Head, and the view is breathtaking over the full length of the lake and away beyond to the Lakeland Fells. This is the view that inspired Wainwright on his first visit to the Lake District.

- 6 From the summit take any path down as they all lead to Windermere village. Coming off Orrest Head you join the main road opposite the Railway Station and Booth's Supermarket. To avoid the village turn right and follow the main road towards Ambleside, keeping to the pavement. In 300 metres you will come to St. Mary's Church and just past the Church the footpath down to Millerground - look out for the sign on the wall. Follow this path and road down until you come to a main road. Cross with great care and opposite is the path to Queen Adelaide's Hill. Twenty metres to the right is the path to Millerground. This path leads down to the lake shore.
- 7 Follow the path along the lake shore, past the piers and the picnic site at Rayrigg Meadow, almost as far as it is possible to go. Go through the gate at the end and cross the field to the road and the pavement on the far side. Turn right and walk for 15 to 20 minutes passing the steamboat museum until you reach Bowness village and the promenade for cruises to Ambleside or Lakeside.

Brockhole to Orrest Head, Windermere and Bowness

A 3 to 3½ hour walk through woodlands and the Troutbeck Valley with spectacular lake and mountain views and a lake-shore path.

- 1 Take a Windermere Lake Cruises launch from Bowness or Waterhead to Brockhole Jetty and walk up through the grounds and car park to the main A591 road. Cross the road to the bus stop on the right hand side and follow the waymark sign (blue arrow) up Mirk Lane. The track leads up through woodlands and, after about ten minutes, reaches Wood Farm where it diverts right, around a stone wall. Turn left along a tarmac road for 50 metres, then continue up on a path following the blue arrows. There is at first a steep ascent for two to three minutes until the track makes a hairpin turn left. Turn right on the bend towards a wooden gate leading into a country lane, there is a gradual climb after this for about five minutes until you join a minor road at Castle Syke Farm, where you bear to the right for thirty metres before joining a footpath again going left and upwards.
- 2 There now follows a steady climb for approximately ten minutes where you will pass over two wooden stiles. It can be quite muddy here. At the second stile you should see a National Trust sign "Martins Wood", a further five minutes brings you to a wooden gate with stile alongside leading into a lane where you turn right and "Robin's Lane" is twenty metres further on. Turn right when you reach "Robin's Lane" and continue the walk referring to Paragraph 3 of previous Walk 10.

Note: The viewpoint (see Page 29) is approximately 200 metres left along Robin's Lane towards Waterhead. If the weather conditions are clear you may wish to divert and then retrace your steps.