

Claife Viewing Station to Wray Castle

This route hugs the west shore of Windermere and provides far-reaching views across the lake. It's also worth taking time to explore the two fascinating places that bookend the trail: Claife Viewing Station, a platform built in 1790 to enhance the views for the first tourists to the Lake District; and Wray Castle, a Gothic Revival house and estate hugging the lake shore.

Difficulty: Easy

Distance: 4.0 miles

Time: 1hr 30min

Starting Point

Ash Landing Car Park

Stage 1

Before you start, take time to walk up to Claife Viewing Station for wonderful views across the lake.

Stage 2

From the entrance to Claife Viewing Station head north on the road along the shore of Lake Windermere signed for Bank Barn / Wray Castle

Stage 3

After a short while you'll pass over a cattle grid where the road turns into a wide gravel track. The trail leaves behind the open views across Windermere and enters mature woodland.

Stage 4

On reaching Bank Barn, ignore the track left signed to Hawkshead and continue on towards Red Nab. You will soon arrive at Red Nab car park. Ignore the road running uphill and head on through the car park and along the lakeshore. You'll eventually reach a small bay with a couple of boathouses and you'll pass through a gate where the trail turns to the left. Head on uphill signed towards Wray Church.

Stage 5

Just past the church you will reach a road. Turn right and then right again through the entrance gates to Wray Castle. Continue along the driveway to the castle.

Stage 6

After resting for a while at Wray Castle, turn around and retrace your route back to your start point at Claife Viewing Station.

Finish Point

Retrace Your Steps Back to Ash Landing Car Park

Points of Interest

Built in the 1790s and later expanded, Claife Viewing Station had windows tinted with coloured glass, designed to recreate the landscape under different seasonal conditions.

Wray Castle is a mock-Gothic castle sitting on the shores of Lake Windermere with turrets, towers and informal grounds.

