

Walks from Running Hare



Millerground Lakeside Walk



There are two distinct experiences of Windermere lakeside within easy walking distance of Running Hare. Although neither are 100% countryside walks, they are both appealing in different ways. For a more urban walk, go by pavement down the hill to Bowness Bay in Bowness-on-Windermere in about 20 minutes. It's perfect if you want the buzz of browsing shops, enjoying an ice-cream, drink or meal, followed by a walk at Windermere's lakeside with its quay and boats. You can take a boat trip on the lake from here (see www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk), but there's no paddling here unless you're a swan or goose.

This walk takes you to Millerground where you can have a paddle on the shingle beach, or even swim. Although it starts and ends on the roadside, it soon becomes a lovely countryside walk in the woods and alongside the lake, across a stream and past a little waterfall, with a walk up Queen Adelaide Hill offering stunning vistas of the fells. Not a long walk, but re-fuelling at a local café will help you and the local economy 😊

Distance 5km; time 1-1.5 hours. If you're short of time, you can drive to the carpark at Rayrigg meadow and follow a route shown on a map in the carpark.

1. Turn right outside Running Hare, then take the first right onto Park Road, walking alongside the park. Cross Woodland road and walk down Holly Road till it meets Ellerthwaite Road into which you turn right.
2. Cross the main road (New Road, the A5074) to head down the steps through the little park, Birthwaite Gardens, then turn right down Birthwaite Road.
3. Follow Birthwaite Road through the woods, walking along the verge past some rather grand houses, until you reach Rayrigg Road.
4. At Rayrigg Road, cross over and turn left, walking alongside Rayrigg Meadow. At the sign for *Low Millerground Via lakeshore*, turn right into the meadow, following the grass path, passing a building to your left.

It's possible to sponsor posts and benches to support the Lake District National Park work to care for the area. Find out more here www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/donate



5. Head for and go through the wooden gate: you can now see Lake Windermere in front of you. Turn right onto the path in the woods and follow it ahead with the lake to your left. Ignore a path up to your right and continue to Rayrigg Meadow Bay with its public jetties (apparently you can moor your boat for up to two hours free of charge) and paddling area.

There's a few small paddling areas dotted along this part of the lake. Confusingly there is both a warning of potentially toxic algae (that can cause stomach upset and skin irritation) and a notice that the water here has a three star 'excellent' rating for bathing.

6. With the jetties to your back, climb the wooden steps up the hill. Ignore the little path going left into the wood. When the steps finish, go left up the hill then right up a short steep rocky stretch to the wooden gate at the top.

7. Go through the gate and walk up the Teletubbies-style hill – there's no obvious path - till you reach the top where you'll see a bench. This is Queen Adelaide Hill (it's not signposted). What a viewpoint!

8. Looking towards the lake, walk straight down – again, there's no path to follow, just go round to the right of the stone wall. When you reach the tarmac path, turn left and go through the gate. Immediately turn right, with the lake on your left again. Go past the two jetties on your left, and Windermere Sea Scouts hut and Windermere Outdoor Adventure Centre on your right.

*** after a lot of rain, we once found that the path between the lake and the scout hut was flooded. This is not a problem as you can just use the path on the other side. So at (8) above, go down the hill and instead of turning left and going through the gate, simply turn right and follow the path to the stone bridge at (9).

9. Cross the stone bridge over the stream as you head towards and past a brick house that looks like it might have been a small church.

10. Follow the track round as it goes over a stone bridge, with a little waterfall to the left. Head up the hill and leave Millerground through the gate.

11. Cross the road and turn right before shortly entering the woods at the signpost *Public Footpath A591 600 yds.*

Follow the tarmac track up the hill all the way to the A591 road.

12. Cross St Mary's Park road on your right and take the path between the post box and the church; signed Old College Lane. Follow the path and wider track as it goes through housing, ignoring a path off to the right, and also a road on the left. Go past the end of Phoenix Way, and continue up Old College Lane, going past Wheatlands Lodge back to the main road.

13. Windermere town is to your left, so you could treat yourself to a drink and a snack, or head back to Running Hare, going down Ellerthwaite Road past the Marchesi Centre on your left until you reach Woodland Road, turn left then right into Park Road, where you'll recognise the way you came with the Queen's Park now on your left. The hill you see up ahead, beyond the park, is School Knott, another great walk from the cottage. Turn left into Limethwaite Road.



Having some fun with the OS map app that shows you the hills and other locations in the distance. This picture is from the top of Adelaide Hill.

*Stunning vistas—
better than my phone
photography shows.
You'll see for
yourselves 😊*



*Please excuse using a
stock photo from the
internet, this is to
show you that it's
only a very small
beach available here.*