

Sheriff's Walk, Rayrigg Meadow, Miller Ground 75 minutes 2.8 miles

Turn right out of Ivythwaite's front gate. Walk to the end of Prince's Road and turn left into Lake Road with the Baddeley Clock and public toilets to your right. The clock tower marks the division between Windermere and Bowness-on-Windermere, and was built as a memorial to Mountford John Byrde Baddeley (1843 - 1906) who wrote a series of well-regarded Windermere walking guides. Lake Road turns into New Road. Continue straight ahead, downhill, past the Church of Our Lady of Windermere and St Herbert. At the turning into Queens Drive to your left, cross the New Road and head down the footpath signed 'Sheriff's Walk', to the right of the bus stop. **P1**

Follow the footpath until you pass through an iron gate into woodland with a stream below you to the right. Follow the path with the stream (known locally as a beck) to your right **P2**, eventually picking up a dry stone wall to the left. The playing field of Windermere Rugby Club can be seen over the wall. Where the footpath ends, you will reach a tarmac road. Go straight on for the direct route to the excellent Windermere Jetty Museum and Lake Windermere. Take a right through the stone pillars signed 'Private Road'.

Follow the road as it meanders uphill, with views of the lake through the trees and bushes to your left. **P3** You pass properties called Witchingham on the right and High Longlands on the left where the road turns into a track. Take the path to the left through two oak trees into Rayrigg Wood **P4**, 50m before the track reaches a gate and some properties. The path narrows, descends downhill and meanders right to left. The path reaches a t junction in front of a large laurel bush. Take the path to the right. Cross over a concrete drainage channel and carry on through the gate until you reach Birthwaite Road.

Turn left on Birthwaite Road, head downhill on the path on the opposite side of the road. You will soon see Lake Windermere ahead. Cross over the A592 (Rayrigg Road) and follow the wooden sign for the lake into Rayrigg Meadow, past Windermere Outdoor Adventure Centre and a childrens' play area **P5**. Follow the path and descend the staircase down to the edge of the lake. This landing area is known as Miller Ground. You have views of Heald Woods straight across the lake and the high Langdales fells to the right **P6**. You can walk some distance on the lake edge path both to the left and to the right. The lake edge path to the right passes a number of jetties with the option of climbing the steep path away from the lake which climbs Queen Adelaide's Hill (82m), named after Queen Victoria's aunt who visited in 1840.

Retrace the route to Ivythwaite from this point. For a shorter, alternative route, do not turn off Birthwaite Road and follow the footpath through Rayrigg Wood. Follow Birthwaite Road uphill past some splendid properties, including one with restored vintage farm equipment in the front garden, to the southern end of Windermere village centre. There are a number of pubs, cafes and restaurants in the village for a well-deserved pit stop.

Cross over New Road and head into Ellerthwaite Road, past The Windermere Park Hotel on your right. Pass Windermere library to your left, with its excellent Ambleside to Auschwitz exhibition detailing the story of 'The Windermere Children', child survivors of World War 2 concentration camps who were given refuge in the South Lakes in 1945. Pass Clifton House and Brook House guest houses as Ellerthwaite Road turns to the right. Cross the brook and pass the Brookside public house on your right and turn left into Oldfield Road. At Oldfield Garage, take the lane opposite. Go past the church. The car park and rear entrance to Ivythwaite is the next left.

