

Blelham Tarn/Wray Castle

'With the inclusion of Wray Castle and the Lake Windermere shore walk, this walk has just about everything.'

- *A circular valley walk from the village of Outgate, through woods and open countryside with some stunning views of the central fells. 4.5 miles. Stout shoes or boots recommended.*
- *Wray castle is owned by the National Trust, and is not a real castle, but a private house built in the Gothic Revival Style in 1840.*
- *The grounds are open to the public, and the house itself is open during the summer months. From the Castle front there is a breathtaking view towards Lake Windermere and fells beyond.*

Route:

- 1) *From the Outgate Inn walk out of the village towards Ambleside (north) as you leave the village you will find a bridleway on your right. (Don't be confused by an earlier footpath on the right). Take the bridleway, which leads into the woods on a good if somewhat rough path. From the path there is good view of Latterbarrow to the right.*
- 2) *As you approach Blelham Tarn you will reach a path junction, go straight forward here signed – Low Wray/Wray Castle.*
- 3) *Follow the bridleway past the Tarn on your right for about 1 mile before exiting onto a quiet lane. Turn right, and after the entrance to Wray Campsite you will reach the castle gatehouse on the left.*

4) *Route 1:*

(a) Turn left here and follow the path down to Wray Castle NT – grounds open all year – the house has limited opening. Opposite the entrance to the house watch out for some steps on the left leading down to a path, go down the steps and follow the path to junction.

(b) Turn left signed – Wray Boat House/Lakeshore. At the lakeshore turn right, signed High Wray Bay, and follow the shore first through woods and then through pasture.

(c) At the junction with a bridleway turn right, signed Wray Church/Castle Gate House, follow the bridleway, which after about 300 yds leads you, back to the lane adjacent to entrance to the castle.

(d) Turn left after a 100 yds watch out for the footpath on your right.

Route 2:

(a) Go past the entrance to the castle for further 100 yds before a footpath on the right is reached.

- 5) *Take the path through the fields. Cross a slate bridge over a stream, and then bear left following the field edge and intermittent yellow marker arrows. Go through several stiles before reaching a cottage on the right. Go through the gate past the cottage and up the lane ahead.*

- 6) *At the top of the lane turn right towards High Tock Farm, signed, Loanthwaite/Hawkshead/Outgate. At the farm bear left, again following the yellow markers, up the slope to a stile and path junction. Go over the stile and follow the wall, signed Low Wray. Drop down to a gate and turn left, signed Outgate.*

- 7) *Follow the path, which is a little indistinct in places, through the fields, at one stage crossing a small stream at a ford. There are several gates/stile before you reach a path junction. Turn right here and follow the path back into Outgate.*

(Please note: we do not accept any responsibility for errors or changes in the route described – an up to date Ordnance Survey map should always be used in conjunction with the route description)