

WALK I LORD FARNHAM WALK

Start	Type	Dist (km)
Hotel Door	Out/Back	2.5 km total
Ascent	Footwear	Terrain
Negligable	Comfortable Shoes	Wooded Estate Road

Comments

This is the classic starter' route. Even though it is a simple out-and-back stroll to Farnham Lough, it presents much of what is on offer throughout the estate: some enormous trees, birdsong and peace and quiet. This is a ramble you could do anytime. The outer point is a pretty lakeside clearing (referred to as the 'American Garden') beside where the old boathouse was situated on the shore of Lough Farnham. The walk should take 45 minutes in total... but you might decide to add browsing time to that.

Walk Route

From the front door of the hotel, bear right to gate at the corner of the building, where there are some walk signs. From there, a little estate road heads off towards the trees. Bear left at the first fork, 100m out. There is a magnificent monterey pine in the parkland on the left. Continue on this estate road and enjoy the rest of the ramble to the Lough. In an attractive clearing at the lakeside, beside the old boathouse there is a fine cypress. Large beech trees with ferns growing on branches hold bat boxes. The latter are similar to a bird nest box, but with a slit at the bottom. They are provided to facilitate the nesting of bats (e.g. pipistrelles). The trunk of a fallen beech provides a natural viewing seat. Wild garlic, daffodils and rhododendrons provide a nice floral backdrop in season. This is a peaceful spot, well worth the stroll. Out in the lake is an island sprouting trees; that is a crannog (from the Irish crann, a tree). Crannogs were prehistoric lake forts, normally built upon logs embedded in the lake bottom. These forts provided secure refuge during time of attack from other tribes or invaders. As you ramble, watch for bluebells and wild garlic in season - you will smell the distinctive aroma of the latter before you see the green leaves and white flowers. You will also spot in spring the blankets of wood anemone and bluebells and rhododendrons show of their colourful display in June/July located along the estate road and down by Farnham Lough. In such quiet and natural habitats of woodlands and lakelands it is not surprising that all kinds of wildlife abound here. Rabbits and hares are often spotted in the green areas around the hotel early in the morning. Keep and eye out for pine martins, mink, stoats and weasels. Also you will could spot badger dens if you wander off the beaten track. Red squirrels are very common in Farnham but can be hard to spot. When you want to return to the hotel, just retrace your steps on the outward route. (Keep left at junction on the estate road on the way back)

WALK 2&3 LADIES & WOODLAND WALK LOOP

Start	Type	Dist (km)
Hotel Door	Loop	3 km total
Ascent	Footwear	Terrain
Minor	Can be muddy	Gravel & stone paths/Woodland

Comments

A short and easy route through glorious wooded surroundings. The features of this route are the variation in tree types and the changing ambience. The outer point is again the pretty lakeside clearing beside where the old boathouse was situated on the shore of Lough Farnham. The walk should take one hour, though you might decide to browse.

Walk Route

From the front door of the hotel, bear right to gate at the corner of the building, from where a little estate road heads off towards the trees. Bear left at the first fork, 100m out. There is a magnificent monterey pine in the parkland on the left; just before you get that far, turn up right onto a leafy path. Notice the black bat boxes up on the trees here, as you turn up. You are now on the Ladies' Walk, which will take you all the way to the Lough. After a short uphill, the Ladies' Walk swings left. It is a fine walking ambience, rambling along on a grassy and leafy path about two metres wide (after rainy spells, it can be muddy in places), with conifers up on the right; to the left is a nice mix of deciduous trees. Wild garlic thrives in late spring/early summer. The path winds and undulates, all the more interesting for that, and then you walk through a little grassy crossroad, down to an estate road. The clearing and old boathouse are now just to the left, on the bend. Dally here and enjoy the tranquillity, maybe sit and have a break.

Return

From the back of the clearing follow the sign Woodlands Walk leading to the right into the woods. Follow the arrows painted on wooden discs. The route is through tall conifers, walking on moss and pine needles - very atmospheric. Soon the golf course and stream are on your right, as you walk along a canopied path before swinging left. When you emerge on a little road turn right and then you have a choice. You can turn left as signed into another wood. Following the arrows and turning right onto the next road you meet brings you onto the Lord Farnham Walk and back to the Hotel. Alternatively at that junction you can continue on and follow the road to our Golf Clubhouse for some well deserved refreshments.

Alternative Return

From the 'American Garden' at the old boathouse, you could just follow the estate road (Lord Farnham Walk) directly back to the hotel.

WALK 4 THE VISTA WALK

Start	Type	Dist (km)
Hotel Door	Loop (return via Woodland walk)	3km total
Ascent	Footwear	Terrain
50m	Boots unless Dry Spell	Gravel and stone / Woodland Paths

Comments

This is an alternative route to get to Farnham Lough and the Boathouse Clearing. This one brings you somewhat higher, but you won't find it difficult. It is rougher underfoot in parts than the earlier routes and can be wet, so if you have boots or good walking shoes, best wear them. Allow maybe 1 hour 15 minutes.

Walk Route

From the front door of the hotel, bear right to gate at the corner of the building, from where a little road heads off towards the trees. Bear up right at the first fork. The road swings right less than 100m up, but you continue straight onto a wide grassy path. The first thing you come across is a little old brick pavillion on the left; this was part of the former tennis court. Tennis as an interest for the landed classes in Ireland developed greatly during this period (1929), due to the fact that it was a much cheaper alternative to some of the other pastimes such as hunting that they had been accustomed to. At the county tennis club in Cavan, Lord Farnham was one of the main patrons. In a letter written by John Betjeman in September 1930 he stated

“the other day we went to the Cavan Tennis Tournament. It was all organised by Lord Farnham who did the umpiring, carried a bucket of sand to the place the competitors serve and arranged that a subscriptions dance should take place at his house.”

Continue up the wide grassy line, with good views out of the estate to the right. This may have been the vista referred to in the name of the walk; or it may be that in earlier times the trees to the left were lower and there could have been a vista left down over the estate. Farther along, the path narrows to a single-file track and continues along to meet up with the Ladies' Walk. Continue outwards on this, and arrive at the old boathouse clearing at Farnham Lough.

Return

From the back of the clearing, follow the sign Woodlands Walk leading to the right into the woods. Follow the arrows painted on wooden discs. The route is through tall conifers, walking on moss, pine needles and leaves. When you emerge on a little road turn right and then you have a choice. You can turn left as signed into another wood. Following the arrows and turning right onto the next road you meet brings you onto the Lord Farnham Walk and back to the Hotel. Alternatively at that junction you can continue on and follow the road to our Golf Clubhouse for some well deserved refreshments.

WALK 5 THE LAKE WALK

Start	Type	Dist (km)
Hotel Door	Out/Back to Boathouse + Loop	3km + 1.5 km total
Ascent	Footwear	Terrain
Negligible	Lower Path can be muddy	Estate Road & Lakeside Paths

Comments

This is a very pretty walk alongside Farnham Lough. It is a short loop (1.5 km), but you must first use one of the other walks from the hotel to reach the boathouse clearing at Farnham Lough to get to the start of this one. The combined distance from hotel back to hotel is 4.5km, about 1 hour 30 minutes depending on your pace and stops. The lower level beside the water is lovely, but you will see from the high tide line that it is sometimes flooded.

Walk Route

First, follow the Lord Farnham, Ladies or Vista Walks to get from the hotel to the clearing and old boathouse on Lough Farnham. Continue outwards around the bend and walk outwards on the higher green-striped estate road (your waterside return route is visible below to the left). There are no more route decisions for now, as you ramble along in a peaceful setting, with great views of the lake down to the left and tall conifers up to the right. The route is mostly between trees, but it emerges in an open meadow clearing for a while as well. Continue until the estate road swings right, along to a gate with walk signposts. This is the outer end of this Lake Walk.

Return

If you can see that the lower waterside path is flooded, then just walk back along the higher road you walked out. Otherwise, from that gate follow the sign 'Lake Walk' pointing down alongside a wire fence to the water's edge, where the path swings left. There is a clear waterside path to follow. This stretch is perhaps one of the best walks on Farnham Estate, weaving between hawthorn trees with gnarled roots. Enjoy fine views across the lake and the changing light patterns on the water. Ignore the short gravel connector going left up to the outward road. Stay beside the Lough on an attractive path with hazel and mixed trees until the path swings up 30m to the left to join the road again. Just where you rejoin the road, notice a definite cutting from the lake; this was a little port for boats when the lake was being actively used for fishing - the Lough water level was obviously higher in those days. The old boathouse clearing is now just around the corner and from there you can walk back to the hotel via the Lord Farnham, Ladies' Walk, or via the Woodland Walk - there is not much difference between them in terms of time or distance. The estate road is obviously the simplest. Our own choice would be to follow the sign for the Woodland Walk which allows for a small diversion to our Golf Clubhouse for refreshments!.

WALK 6 THE DERRYGID LOOP

Start	Type	Dist (km)
Hotel Door	Out/Back to Boathouse + Loop	4.25 km + 3.25 km total
Ascent	Footwear	Terrain
Minor	Easy, firm	Quiet grass-striped estate road

Comments

This is a level walk in wood and lake surroundings; it is the outermost of three linked walks. The loop itself is 3.25 km but you must first use one of the other walks from the hotel to reach the boathouse clearing at Farnham Lough and then take the Lake walk to get to the start of this one. The combined distance from hotel back to hotel is 7.5 km, about 2 hours 30 minutes depending on your pace and stops.

Walk Route

First, follow the Lord Farnham Walk to get from the hotel to the clearing and the old boathouse on Lough Farnham. Then continue outward on Lake Walk, on the estate road, until you reach the gate with signposts at the outer end of that walk.. Some 50m farther on, you come to a fork. Since this is a simple loop walk now, it does not matter which branch you take, but we suggest the left branch, going around clockwise. The road underfoot is mostly grass-striped, stony in parts - an ideal walking surface and a perfect setting for a quiet ramble. Throughout this loop, Derrygid Hill is above to the right, part of the local drumlin system. It was up there, in the Night of The Big Wind' in 1836, that the destruction of thousands of oak trees took place. Here at the outer reach of Farnham Estate everything is peaceful and natural. To the left is the northern end of Farnham Lough; when the road swings right the lake to the left is Derrygid Lough and later, when the road begins to swing back south the Cavan River is to the left. There are some fine tall conifers and good examples of the life cycle of a wood; fallen trees become covered in moss and provide nutrients and habitat for other plant and insect life. Finally, after another sharp bend the quaintly named Coalpit Lough is on the left. There has been recent planting of some 25,000 trees on the slopes up to the right here. The estate road finally circles around to where you started the loop at the gate and the homeward route beckons.

Return

Our personal choice would be to take the lakeside path of the Lake Walk from the gate and then later take the Woodland Walk from near the old boathouse clearing. But you can also just stay on the estate road via the Lord Farnham Walk all the way back to the hotel. Either way, this entire Derrygid Walk is a truly lovely and peaceful walk route.