

Walk from Berrington Hall to Croft Castle and Parkland

A five mile walk from the Georgian splendour of Berrington Hall to the majestic Croft Castle through the rolling Herefordshire countryside.

Start point: Berrington Hall (front steps)

End point: Visitor reception, Croft Castle and Parkland

Distance: 5 miles **Time:** min 1 ½ hours

Terrain: mixed and undulating – sturdy shoes required

We start this walk in front of the main portico of Berrington Hall (1). Enjoy the view of the hall, then turn to the right and look behind the bushes ahead of you. You will see the end of a ha-ha and beyond this, an

iron gate. Turn left through the gate and follow the fence line up.



Keeping the woodland (George's Plantation) and old farm building on your right, take in the great view of the lake to the left. At the end of George's plantation there is a bench (2). Follow the blue arrow downhill to a gate into the woods. Follow the track straight through the wood for 100m to another gate (3). Go through the gate and turn right along the bridleway. At the end of the woodland, just before the pond on your right, turn left into the field (4). Keep to the left of the hedge cross the field to a footbridge (5).

From the footbridge head half left across the field to a gate in the hedge, go through and look out for a stile (6) in the hedgerow to the right which leads towards Eye church. Follow the path from the stile into the churchyard and (maybe after visiting the church) exit through the lych gate and along the road.

Turn left along the road (caution of traffic) and after going over a railway bridge look for a footpath sign on the right (7). Turn right into the field and follow the hedge/fence line around to the left until level with two houses. At this point turn right and head across the field for the house opposite (8). Crossing over the driveway and over stile, follow this forward through a series of gates and stiles with signs to a footbridge leading onto a main road.

Cross the road carefully (caution of traffic) to a stile opposite. From here, head diagonally right towards an oak tree close to the overhead power lines. Here there is a footbridge, (9) cross and go up the slope ahead to a gate. Go through and turn right to the corner of the field. Then turn left, keeping the hedge on your right, and walk up the rise, down to a stile then forward to a stream.

Keeping the stream on your left, walk around two bends to a footbridge (10) cross this and turn right, walk around a couple of left hand bends and then leave the stream and walk across the field to a stile (not the main field gate) onto the road (caution traffic). Cross the road through the gate and forward through fields. Straight ahead there is a metal pedestrian gate with a couple of steps leading down to the road.

Through the gate, onto the road, and then turn right to reach T junction in Yarpole almost opposite the church. At the junction, turn left and walk through Yarpole for about 1km. Up a gentle hill. Just after Middleton Farm there is a footpath sign to the left (11).

Follow the track and walk though a private garden making sure that the gate is closed. Cross the field keeping the hedge to your right, to reach the gate in far corner. There is a second gate leading to a main

road.



Cross over to a small gate and into a sloping field (12). Head up the field half right in amongst the large parkland oak trees to a stile which will then lead you to the main drive of Croft Castle. Turn left to the Visitor Reception where you will be greeted by a National Trust member of staff. Then treat yourself to the Carpenter's tearoom for some well deserved refreshments.

Photo credits: NTPL John Millar and Purple Wizard Photography