

Clitheroe and the Castle

A short drive from the hotel is the ancient market town of Clitheroe. Dating back to Saxon times the town is looked down upon by the prominent 12th century Norman Castle. The castle is home to a museum and attractive landscaped gardens including the Rose Garden which features a collection of unusual metal and limestone sculptures.



START: Clitheroe Railway Station, BB7 2ED

WALK DISTANCE: 1 mile (1.6km)

WALK TIME: Less than an hour but add time to visit the castle museum

MAP: OS OL41 The Forest of Bowland

DIRECTIONS TO THE START OF THE WALK BY CAR

From the hotel take the A59, turn left and follow for 6 miles. Turn left for Clitheroe and Chatburn on the A671. Straight ahead at the next two roundabouts and join Moor Lane. At the fork in the road keep left on Parson Lane. Follow to the next roundabout. Turn right into Station Road. The railway station is on the left after passing the Booths Supermarket.



WALK DIRECTIONS:

Standing directly in front of the station turn right onto Station Road passing Booths supermarket on the right and the entrance to the market on the left. Follow the road as it swings left.

At the junction with Parson Lane turn right. Cross the road and just before the railway bridge keep left and follow onto the playing fields below Clitheroe Castle.

Keeping left, follow a wide path taking you to a junction below the battlements of the castle. From here turn right in the direction of the Sculpture Garden and a noteworthy feature - the Pinnacle.

With the castle to your left keep ahead on a narrow path that leads to a set of steps taking you to the forecourt of the Castle Museum. This amenity is a hidden gem with easy to follow displays providing information about the castle, the town and the exhibits. You'll need little persuasion to walk up to the keep with a walkway

providing an outstanding viewpoint over the town and surrounding countryside.

Directly east Pendle Hill dominates this part of the Ribble Valley. To the west you have a view of the hills of the Bowland Massif.

Returning to the forecourt bear left to take the main drive down to Castle Street. This is the commercial hub of the town with shops, pubs and tea rooms along its length.

When you reach the junction by the library (a striking flat-iron building paid for by the Carnegie Foundation) bear left onto Church Brow. This takes you past some of the oldest dwellings in the town to the church of St Mary Magdelene.

Turn left into its yard and then follow a path leading down to Church Close. Turn left then immediately right into Brennand Street. At the end turn right and then left into Railway View Road which leads back to the station.

Points of Interest in Clitheroe

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CLITHEROE CASTLE

The castle, built around the 12th century, you see today probably replaced an earlier wooden structure. Clitheroe Castle's keep in one of the smallest in the country. Small it may be but standing by it one can easily observe that it would have dominated the settlement that became Clitheroe and the Ribble Valley - a vital communication route between Lancashire and Yorkshire.

THE PINNACLE

The recently restored Pinnacle was originally a feature of London's Palace of Westminster. During restoration work on the Parliament buildings it was purchased by Sir George Brass, Clitheroe's MP of the time, and was placed in the Rose Garden to commemorate the coronation of King George VI.



THE SWAN & ROYAL HOTEL

The hotel on Castle Street has had some notable guests in the past including Sir Frank Whittle, designer of the modern jet engine, Sir Winston Churchill and Mahatma Ghandi who toured Lancashire in 1931 to explain the Indian Boycott of British goods to textile workers and mill owners.

ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH

The first historical reference to the church is made in 1122 but in the early 15th century it was demolished and a new church was erected. This church could only hold 500 people and the population by 1831 was 5000 so a new church building was begun in 1828. To this day, the tower and the stonework of the east end remain from the original build.

