

Calke Park, Ticknall, Derbyshire DE73 7LE

TRAIL Walking

GRADE

Easy

DISTANCE

2 miles (3.4 km) = shorter route (red), 2.8 miles (4.6 km) = longer route (black dotted) -

TIME

45 minutes to 1 hour (allow extra time if stopping to view the lambs in spring)

OS MAP

Landranger 128

Contact

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Facilities

National Trust

http://nationaltrust.org.uk/walks

Calke Park (Staunton Harold) walk

Enjoy this delightful stroll around Calke Park's Staunton Harold Reservoir, taking in the sites of St Giles Church and Calke Abbey itself. For a springtime detour, why not follow our additional route (red dotted line on the route map), which will lead you to a carpet of bluebells in May.



Terrain

The route has stepped and stone paths with kissing gates. A section of the walk is along a wooden boardwalk alongside water. Enquire at the property for more accessible routes. Dogs are welcome but must be kept on leads, as livestock graze in the surrounding fields. Please place dog litter in the bins provided.

Things to see



Calke Abbey

Sir John Harpur built the mansion seen today between 1701 and 1704. Named Calke Abbey in 1808, it incorporates the original Elizabethan house and is built on the site of a 12th century Augustinian priory. The lack of agricultural input on the main lawns in front of the Abbey has enabled a diverse range of wild meadow flowers to flourish. Look out for yellow cowslips in the spring and yellow rattle in the summer months.



Staunton Harold Reservoir

The name Staunton comes from the local term for limestone, while Harold was the 12th century Lord of the Manor. The reservoir holds 1400 million gallons and was built by Severn Trent Water between 1957 and 1964, to supply the city of Leicester.



Deer enclosure

At one time, Calke's deer herd would have roamed the park but they are now confined within the park's large enclosure. The stags are particularly spectacular in October during the rut, when they are at their most active and noisy.



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Start/end

Start: Calke Abbey main overflow car park, grid ref: SK367226 End: Calke Abbey main overflow car park, grid ref: SK367226

How to get there

By bike: National Cycle Network traffic-free route 5 miles away. See Sustrans for details

By bus: 69/A Derby/ Swadlingcote bus (passing close to Derby), alight Ticknall then 1.5 mile walk through park to house. Burton-on-Trent is 10 miles away

By car: 10 miles south of Derby on A514 at Ticknall. M42/A42 exit 13 and A50 Derby South. It is signposted in brown from the A42

National Trust

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1. Follow the exit road from the main car park, walking past the front of the Abbey, the church and the entrance of Home Farm, which takes you into Calke Village.

2. Turn left at the main road, which will take you into the reservoir car park.

3. Walk along the Severn Trent permissive path along the boardward to the weir.

4. The path takes you along the deer fencing, around the deer enclosure and back into the park.

5. Optional detour: Where the deer fence turns left, downhill, you have the option of following the path straight on (dotted red line on the route map), keeping the stone wall to your left. Alternatively, if taking the shorter route to return to the walk start point (red route line on the map), follow the deer fence as it turns to the left and proceed towards the Abbey.

6. If following the shorter route (red line on the map), turn right here and continue to the walk starting point at the car park. (If following the detour route, skip straight to direction point 7).

7. Detour continued: Continue to follow the track (from point 5 on the route map), passing Serpentine Wood on your left.

8. Go through the small gate and up the steps, keeping the ponds on your left. Follow the high path back to the car parks.