Walks at Croome
An easy walk in the grounds

Croome
A walk in the Pleasure Grounds

Cromb Seat a watercolour by Burney

Did you know?

In 1824 William Dean, who was the Botanic Gardener at Croome, published a book with the catchy title ‘An historical and descriptive account of Croome D’Abitot, the seat of the Right Hon. The Earl of Coventry with biographical notices of the Coventry Family to which are annexed an Hortus Croomensis, and observations on the propagation of exotics.’

Within the book there is a descriptive walk through the ‘Pleasure Grounds’. This trail is a recreation of that walk. Originally it was a circular walk starting at the rear of the house, which included a few areas that sadly no longer exist. To aid the visitor we will start the walk from our Visitor Centre about half way round the original circuit.

The new church at Cromb by Burney

Take this historic walk around Croome and imagine how the views were created.

Route details

Easy

1 hour - 2 hours

2 - 2 miles (3.2 - 3.2 km)

OS Landranger 150

Access: easy

Dog friendly
Directions

1. From the Visitor Centre turn left into the Wilderness Walk and walk out to the church.
2. From the church turn right and go through the iron gate into the Evergreen Shrubbery. Follow the path as it meanders through the shrubs. After a short distance you will reach four white plinths which mark the spots where statues of the Four Seasons once stood. Continuing on you will reach the Greenhouse Shrubbery which leads you past the statue of Pan to the Temple Greenhouse. From the Temple Greenhouse follow the path past the statue of the Druid and on under the Dry Arch Bridge towards the lake.
3. Turn right and follow the path around the lake passing a monument dedicated to Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, the Grotto and the statue of Sabrina. Continue along the path and cross the first of two bridges to the Island Pavilion and then the second bridge to continue around the lake to the rope bridge. In William Dean’s day there would have been a boat at this point to cross the ‘river’.
4. After passing under the Dry Arch Bridge turn immediately right, up the slope and turn left through the gate into the parkland. Follow the path to the Court.
5. Walk around the Court to the rear entrance, it is from here the original walk started (you can detour to take a look at the Chinese Bridge if you wish before you start). Standing on the steps looking out across the parkland take the path to the left and eventually through the iron gate into the Home Shrubbery. Originally the path would have gone through what are now the private gardens you see to your left, where there was a dairy, a hot house and an aviary.
6. Follow the path up the slope to the Rotunda. Keep an eye out on the left for our best example of a Ginkgo tree.
7. From the Rotunda follow the path through the shrubbery keeping the wall of the walled garden on your left. You will pass a monument on your left dedicated to George William, Earl of Coventry. Just before you reach the road you will see the entrance into the privately owned Walled Garden which is open on selected weekends from during spring and summer.
8. Follow the path, crossing a tarmac road, into the Church Shrubbery, passing the bird hide to your right continue along the path to the church.
9. From the church retrace your steps through the Wilderness Walk back to the Visitor Centre.

Quotes from the Hortus Croomensis by William Dean in 1824.

1. “The wilderness walk at one time was home to the prized truffle which was rarely found in this country”.
2. “In one part, this walk is intersected, by a wide opening; of which the four corners are adorned with statues of the Four Seasons: and in the course of it, pleasing views are obtained, of the north-front of the mansion, on one side, and of rising grounds, robed in a waving mantle of wood, on the other.”
3. “This island is connected with the opposite banks by a bridge of larger dimensions than the first, from which, near the centre, the whole lake scenery is presented, in a new point of view, usually considered, as more strikingly beautiful, and more impressively grand, than any other. But here description would fail: and to form any adequate conception of what art has effected, with the aid of few natural advantages, it must be seen.”
5. “Near this point, a side walk, on the left, leads to the dairy; of which the interior presents all the proper and characteristic appearance of unsullied purity and refreshing coolness. Its walls are formed with Dutch tiles: the milk-troughs are of marble; and all the utensils of best Wedgwood ware.”
6. “The rotunda is an elegant stone building; plain in its exterior, but richly ornamented within: furnished with sofas, and fitted-up, as a summer evening apartment”
8. “Passing from the Grass Walk—the stranger enters on the second, called the Church Shrubbery—planted with evergreens and deciduous shrubs; thickly interspersed, among the larger and loftier trees; forming a very serene and solemn shade—suited to the name, it bears, and the character of the edifice, to which it leads.”
9. “Though a parish church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen—it has more the appearance of a domestic chapel, and an appendage to the mansion, near which it stands. It is a beautiful Gothic structure; which does honor to the taste of Brown, after whose design it was erected.”

If you enjoyed this walk, why not try one of our other walks, which are available on our website.