

Ingleborough Walks

Ingleborough is one of England's most famous mountains. At 724 metres above sea level, it is the second highest of Yorkshire's famous Three Peaks, but perhaps the most distinctive, a landmark visible from four counties. With some of the finest areas of limestone pavement in Britain, Ingleborough is rich in geological, archaeological and natural history interest. As well as being within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, much of the area forms the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve. But this is also a very accessible mountain, crossed by numerous public rights of way and large areas of open countryside which now enjoy public access rights on foot.

The best way to experience and enjoy this unique area is on foot, taking advantage of available good public transport to cross the summit or shoulders of the mountain without being forced to return to a parked vehicle. This series of ten **Ingleborough Walks** leaflets is designed to show how local buses and trains make such magnificent linear walks possible.

It is essential to use **OS Map OL 2 Yorkshire Dales Southern & Western areas** to work out exact routes, using public rights of way and public access areas. Sketch maps in the leaflet are for approximate guidance only. These walks use moorland and mountain paths which should only be attempted with appropriate clothing and footwear and not in poor weather conditions. Carry spare clothing, waterproofs, food and drink, and leave adequate time for your return transport. If you bring a dog, please keep it under control, preferably on a lead, in areas where there is livestock. Walking times are for guidance only in good weather conditions, so always leave adequate margins - which also gives time for well-earned refreshment.

This series of leaflets has been produced by the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company a subsidiary of the Yorkshire Dales Society, in partnership with Friends of DalesBus and Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line, to encourage environmentally sustainable access to Ingleborough.

Ingleborough Walks forms part of the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership's **Stories in Stone** project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. For further details of the project and work of the Trust visit www.storiesinstone.org.uk and www.ydmt.org.

Transport information

Clapham is served by regular daily trains on the Leeds-Skipton-Lancaster-Morecambe (Bentham) Line to access this walk. On Mondays to Saturdays Craven Connect Bus 580/1 runs two hourly between Skipton and Settle through to Clapham and Ingleton, with connections in both direction at Settle and Giggleswick Stations. There are also summer DalesBus services (832, 881) from Lancaster on Summer Sundays.

For details of outward and return bus times see the Metro DalesBus booklet, visit www.dalesbus.org or ring 0871 200 22 33; for trains see the Northern Rail Timetable Leaflet 7 or www.northernrail.org or ring 08457 484850.

PDFs of all 10 Ingleborough Walks leaflets can be downloaded at www.dalesbus.org or www.settle-carlisle.co.uk

Car drivers can take advantage of the bus or train, by parking at Clapham and returning from Ingleton by the 581 bus. You will also be safeguarding the environment by reducing your carbon footprint in the National Park.



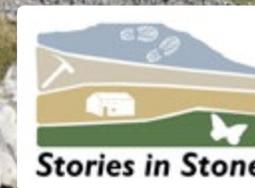
Ingleborough Walks

Walk 6

Ingleborough Summit from Clapham to Ingleton



This walk from Clapham village via Trow Gill and Gaping Gill and over Ingleborough summit to Ingleton is one of the great classic walks of the Yorkshire Dales; a wonderful way of experiencing some of the most spectacular limestone scenery of the Ingleborough area and Ingleborough itself.



The Walk

If coming from Clapham station (1¼ miles) follow the main line signposted to Clapham village - avoid crossing the main A65 by using the underpass. From the 581-bus stop by the old post office return to Clapham Bridge. Your way follows the narrow lane to the left of the Clapham Beck, (the stone hump backed bridge leads to National Park Car Park and toilets).

Follow the lane, noting superb views of the artificial waterfalls on Clapdale Beck - source of an early hydro-electric scheme before bearing left then turning right into the entrance of Ingleborough Hall Estate in front of cottages. Go through the gates (small charge payable at the ticket machine gate - this is a private estate and admission charges pay for its upkeep). The track curves up to the left and enters the Ingleborough Estate alongside The Lake which was created by the Farrer family as a landscape feature and source of water power. The most famous member of the family was Reginald Farrer (1880-1920) explorer and plant hunter who made a major contribution to alpine gardening. Some of the trees and shrubs around lake were originally introduced by Reginald after his Himalayan expeditions. Follow the old coach track which leads alongside the lake through narrow Clapdale to Ingleborough Cave. This is one of the most celebrated show caves in Yorkshire, originally explored by the Farrer family. For opening times ring 01524 251242 or visit <http://www.ingleboroughcave.co.uk>.

Continue through the gate above the Cave into Trow Gill, a steep and narrow limestone gorge originally created by glacial meltwaters and a spectacular limestone ravine. Some scrambling over rough builders may be required. At the top of the Gill, the gradient eases but you still walk through the shallow valley as it curves left. Continue for another half mile (1km) ignoring the first stile on the left to where twin stiles take the main Ingleborough path over onto Hurnel Moss, a flatter, area of rough grassland, heading due north west on the well-used path, but bear right again on an obvious link path to view the mouth of Gaping Gill.

This 98 metres (322 feet) deep pothole is one of the largest and most famous in England, where Fell Beck forms the highest (albeit underground) waterfall in England. It is impossible to imagine the size and scale of the vast underground cavern from the surface which is large enough to contain the whole of York Minster. It is also a gateway to extensive cave and pothole systems. Keep well away from the dangerous edges. On Bank Holidays Bradford and Craven Pothole Clubs organise winch chair trips for visitors to experience the awesome cavern.

From Gaping Gill take the clear and well used path that heads due north westwards initially up gentle gradients then up a very steep slope as you ascend the end of the summit ridge, known as Little Ingleborough. You then head due north towards the steep hump-like summit of Ingleborough itself, curving to the east of the summit up a diagonal rocky path steep enough to

test the fittest walker, before finally curving round behind Swine Tail to join the main Three Peaks route onto the amazingly level summit plateau. On a clear day, this is one of the great viewpoints of England with wonderful panoramic views across Ribblesdale to Pen y Ghent and south to the Bowland Fells, across to the Lancashire coastline and northwards to Whernside and the Howgill Fells. This is also an important archaeological site, with relics of Iron Age religious settlement activity, so please cause minimal disturbance to any stone work or cairns. The wind shelter is modern.

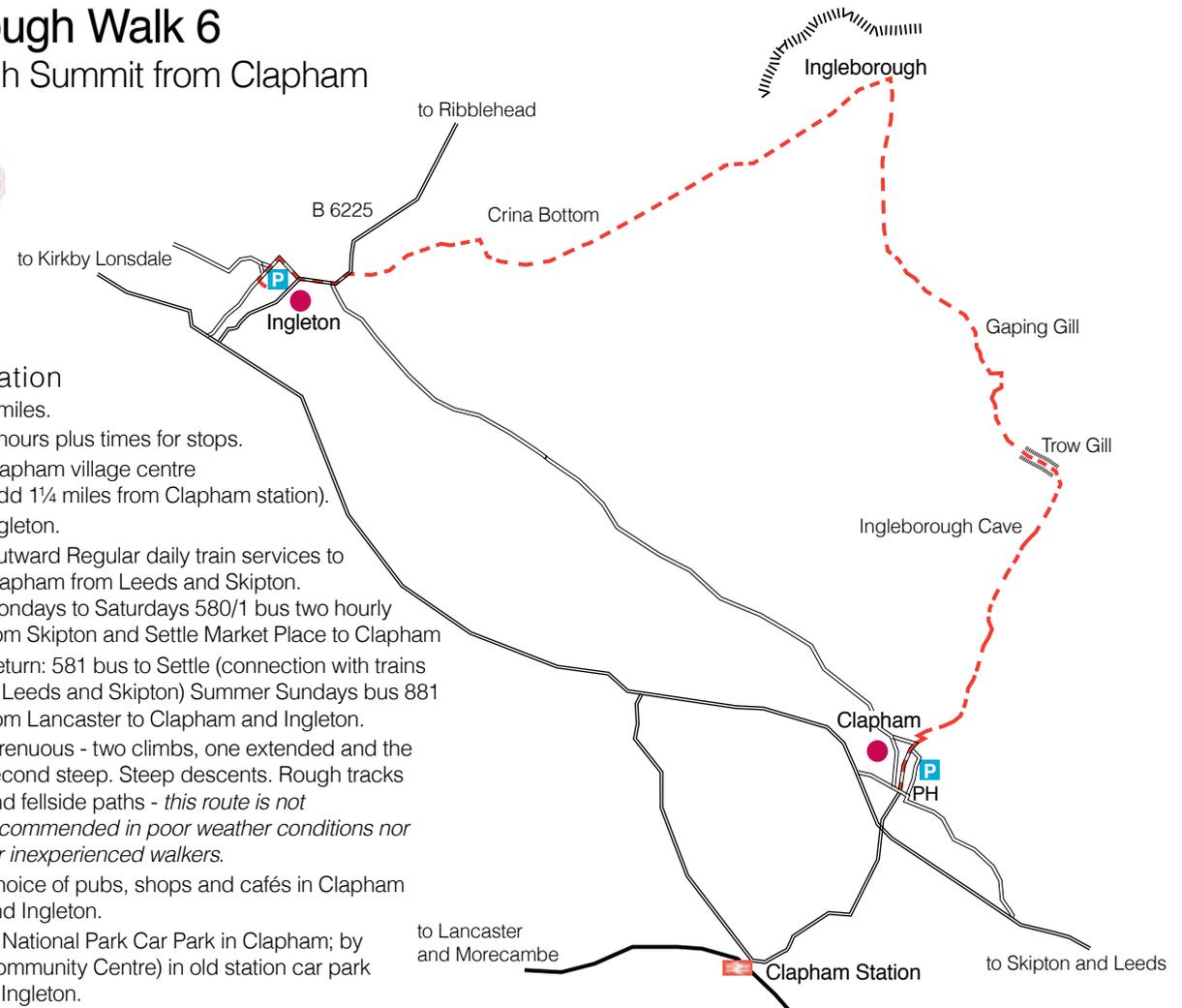
The descent from the mountain needs care. Your route to Ingleton lies directly off the southwest corner, of the summit plateau, a broad, well walked but steep and stony track, which requires care over loose stones and boulders, until the gradient

eases and is gradually better defined, generally easy walking though with some boggy areas. After around a mile you reach Crina Bottom Farm from where the track becomes a double walled lane, eventually emerging at Storrs Common and the main B 6225. Turn left here for 120 metres, then right into the one-way street which forms Ingleton's main high street with a choice of welcoming pubs, cafes and shops for the tired walker.

For return transport, head through the attractive village centre as the street winds towards the disused railway viaduct, before which steps, left, lead directly up to the main car park and toilets. Outside the excellent Information Centre is the 581 bus stop back to Settle and Skipton, and on summer Sundays the 832 to Lancaster.

Ingleborough Walk 6

Ingleborough Summit from Clapham to Ingleton



Travel Information

- Distance: 8 miles.
Time required: 5 hours plus times for stops.
Start: Clapham village centre (add 1¼ miles from Clapham station).
Finish: Ingleton.
Travel: Outward Regular daily train services to Clapham from Leeds and Skipton. Mondays to Saturdays 580/1 bus two hourly from Skipton and Settle Market Place to Clapham. Return: 581 bus to Settle (connection with trains to Leeds and Skipton) Summer Sundays bus 881 from Lancaster to Clapham and Ingleton.
Terrain/Grade: Strenuous - two climbs, one extended and the second steep. Steep descents. Rough tracks and fellside paths - *this route is not recommended in poor weather conditions nor for inexperienced walkers.*
Refreshments: Choice of pubs, shops and cafés in Clapham and Ingleton.
Toilets: In National Park Car Park in Clapham; by Community Centre) in old station car park in Ingleton.