

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. 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 storiesinstone.org.uk and ydmtdt.org.

Transport information

Regular daily trains from Leeds, Skipton, Settle, Appleby and Carlisle on the Settle-Carlisle line serve Horton in Ribblesdale and Ribbleshead Stations. On Mondays to Saturdays there is also minibusservice 11 between Horton and Settle, whilst a DalesBus 830 from Preston, Lancaster and Ingleton serves Ribbleshead on summer Sundays and Bank Holidays.

For details of outward and return bus times see the Metro DalesBus booklet or dalesbus.org; for trains see the Northern Rail Timetable Leaflet 7 or northernrail.org or ring 08457 484850. If you are unfamiliar with timetables you can use the journey planner at traveline.info or ring 0871 200 22 33, calls will cost 12 pence per minute from landlines and mobiles. Your phone company may add its own access charge but it will tell you about this.

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

Car drivers can take advantage of the bus or train, by parking at Settle or Ingleton, taking the bus or train to the start of the walk and then taking as long as is needed to walk back to the car. You will also be safeguarding the environment by reducing your carbon footprint in the National Park.



Ingleborough Walks

Walk 9

Colt Park Meadows



This walk from Ribbleshead to Horton in Ribblesdale, provides an excellent introduction to the northeast corner of Ingleborough National Nature Reserve, crossing a nature reserve, flower rich meadows and areas of limestone pavement as well as following paths across upland pastureland on the slopes of Ingleborough.



The Walk

From Ribblesdale Station, walk down the stony drive past the Station House towards Station Inn (bus stop). Turn left under the railway bridge and left again along the track by sidings towards old Ribblesdale quarry. Past the car park and turn right through the gate into the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve with Interpretive Panel and map.

Follow the short green waymark posts which indicate the Nature Trail through the old quarry, an area rich in wild flowers in early summer, towards the small pond, where the Trail turns sharp left, marked with green posts, away from the quarry floor, above and behind the steep and dangerous old quarry face. Please keep to marked path. The path curves right to join a track, soon going through another gate. Look for the grassy path that leaves the track, forking right, still with green waymarks, towards the top pedestrian gate leading into Gauber High Pasture.

Keep ahead through limestone pavement, but after 20 metres look for a narrow path (unmarked) branching left though the pavement heading due south towards Park Fell ahead. Follow this narrow way for 400 metres to where it bears left to join the public path from Chapel-le-Dale, leading towards a stone step stile marked by a pole and yellow waymark ahead. Take the public path east across to Colt Park House, through the gate to join the main access track, but turn sharp right through another field gate. This leads to a track in front of the house (now Natural England offices) towards twin large barns, continuing through gates above the meadows. Continue through three fields, but at Rigg Barn where the track ends take the narrow waymarked path on the left which leads through the centre of the meadow, above a linear wood. At the next pedestrian gate and NNR waymark, turn left though a (signed) field gate which leads to a slippery path (care needed) through a narrow limestone gorge. At the bottom, the path turns right, south-eastwards, heading for a pedestrian gate in the field wall below. Through here, the path goes around outside of enclosure fence, then turns left to a pedestrian gate on the right, then heads half left to a gate and signpost in the far wall corner. Turn right. Walk on right by verge to face fast oncoming traffic on the B6479.

Turn right along the stony track leading up to Alum Pot (private access to Alum Pot - £1 fee payable at farm). Otherwise keep to the public track which bends sharp left to ascend to gate and ladder stile. Where the track ends (780752), the path bears half left - head for ladder stiles in the walls, above Gill Garth and Borrins Farms.

Where the path meets a green track southwest of Borrins,

turn left through the fieldgate, crossing a shallow ford. This joins the drive from Borrins Farm. Follow this, keeping right at a junction, heading up to South House Farm. Continue past the farm and outbuildings to enter a field.

Go through the gate on the left (waymarked) across a slope and tiny beck to the stile on the left. Go through here. Do not take the stile ahead but bear right following

yellow waymark posts over access land, which leads above the wall on the left - a level path marked by waymark posts. This joins the main Three Peaks route from Sulber Nick. Follow this well-defined, undulating route north of Beecroft Hall to cross the railway at Horton in Ribblesdale Station. Keep ahead down the road to the village for cafe and pubs. Buses leave below the station drive or opposite Pen y Ghent Café.

Travel information

- Distance:** 6 miles (9.5km).
- Time required:** 3½ hours plus times for stops.
- Start:** Ribblesdale Station.
- Finish:** Horton-in-Ribblesdale Station.
- Travel:** **Outward;** to Ribblesdale: Daily train services on Settle Carlisle line daily services to Ribblesdale; DalesBus 830 (Summer Sundays and Bank Holidays only) to Station Inn.
Return; from Horton to Ribblesdale Station daily train services; limited Monday to Saturday minibus service 11 to Settle.
- Terrain/Grade:** Easy to Moderate - Tracks and both moorland and field paths, with some sections of moorland path that require care. One short section (300 metres) of busy road.
- Refreshments:** Station Inn at Ribblesdale, also light refreshments at Ribblesdale Station Heritage Centre (open weekends); two pubs and two cafes in Horton in Ribblesdale,
- Toilets:** At Station Inn and Heritage Centre for customer use only. Public toilets in Horton main car park.

