Derbyshire Gritstone Way Guided Trail 2027



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Guided trails	Peak District	7	194kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Devised by members of the Derbyshire Area Rambler's Association in 1970, the Derbyshire Gritstone Way takes walkers through meadows, ancient oak woodlands, parkland, and heather clad moors. Discover the Gritstone Edges that run from Chatsworth in the south to Stanage and beyond in the north and expect plenty of easy-to-navigate walks, interesting wildlife, and sweeping panoramas.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Exploring the Derwent Valley and famous Gritstone Edges
- Walking the Great Ridge from Lose Hill and over Mam Tor to Edale
- Visiting Chatsworth House on the banks of the River Derwent
- Crossing the iconic Ladybower Dam wall
- Spotting peregrines at Derby Cathedral
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 16 people)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream Tea on Arrival
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- All transport to and from walks where necessary
- Guided walks with experienced HF Holidays Leader

ITINERARY - GUIDED TRAIL

Day 1 **Arrival Day**

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2 **Derby to Belper**

From Derby Cathedral the route embraces The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage route and follows the River Derwent. We take a brief visit to the Cathedral to view the peregrines and then on past Lombe's Silk Mill erected in 1717, the earliest factory in the world. Leaving the urban environment, we walk through Darley Park and Darley Abbey village, home of Evan's cotton mill settlement. Turf fields are crossed to pass through the pretty village of Breadsall en route to Little Eaton, once the terminus of various horse-drawn tramways that linked the coalfield to a spur of the Derby Canal. A climb to Holbrook before descending through Jedidiah Strutt's cotton mill village of Milford and an ascent of The Chevin (part of the ancient Portway route) and a descent to Belper. Good footpaths and lanes throughout.

11½ miles (18 km) with 1200 feet (390m) of ascent.

Day 3 **Belper to Cromford**

Leaving Belper we pass the Wyver Lane Nature Reserve home to numerous wetland species of bird. Picking up a section of the Midshires Way we pass through Shining Cliff Woods and delightful Alderwasley Park. Continuing high above the Derwent Valley with views East to Crich Stand and ahead to Alport Heights. We pick up historic Intake Lane which was used to transport much of the material required to build the Mills at Cromford. From Bolehill we descend the Sheep Pasture Incline to High Peak Junction (Eastern Terminus of the amazing High Peak Railway). A final trek along The Cromford Canal takes us to Sir Richard Arkwright's Cotton Mills at Cromford (with the option of the village trail to explore).

9 miles (14½ km) with 1400 feet (430m) 0f ascent.

Day 4 **Cromford to Rowsley**

A steep ascent takes us out of Cromford onto Bilberry Knoll and onto the fine viewpoint of Riber Castle. Descending to pass through the historic spa town of Matlock, home to John Smedley's Hydro (now Derbyshire's County Hall). The Derwent Valley Heritage way is followed along the river before an ascent of Oaker Hill, the Peak District really begins to shine as we climb to the high plateau of Stanton Moor and its wealth of historical sites including numerous burial mounds and barrows. Quarrying and Lead Mining were the major industries here. After the Trig Point we visit Nine Ladies Stone Circle before descending, with views of the Derbyshire Wye Valley, to Rowsley at the confluence of the Wye and Derwent rivers.

11½ miles (18 km) with 1900 feet (590m) of ascent.

Day 5 Rowsley to Grindleford

Field paths from Rowsley take us to Beeley village and then we enter Chatsworth Park. From Chatsworth House an ascent to The Hunting Tower, a traverse of Dobb Edge then across to Nelson's monument on Birchen's Edge and then to Wellington's Monument on Baslow Edge. Passing the Eagle Stone, a prominent local landmark, means the hard work of the day is done. Our route hugs the top of Curbar and Froggatt Edges with wide ranging views west towards the plateau of the White Peak. We'll look down on 'Colditz' and admire Chatsworth's Emperor Fountain from a distance as the full grandeur of the Peak district begins to unfold before descending into Grindleford.

12 miles (19 km) with 1650 feet (500m) of ascent.

Day 6 Grindleford to Yorkshire Bridge, Bamford

The brook-side ascent through steep sided Padley Gorge with its ancient oak woodland takes us into the National Trust managed Longshaw Estate home of the imposing Longshaw Lodge built by the Duke of Rutland. We follow Burbage Brook heading for the skyline of Burbage Edge. Open moorland surrounds us as we head for Stanage Edge, used by Himalayan mountaineers for their training in the 1960s. We see evidence of ancient packhorse ways that used to cross this Pennine wilderness area – the call of the red grouse often the only sound hereabouts. The day's finish ascends Bamford Edge to Great Tor looking down on the spectacular Upper Derwent Valley and the famous Derwent Dams (training ground of 'The Dambusters'.)

11 miles (17 km) with 1900 feet (590m) of ascent.

Day 7 Yorkshire Bridge, Bamford to Edale

From Yorkshire Bridge, Bamford we cross the iconic Ladybower Dam wall and ascend to the summit of Win Hill giving superb views of the Hope Valley, Upper Derwent Valley and across to the Kinder Plateau. A descent to cross the Vale of Edale near Townhead and then another steep ascent to the summit of Lose Hill where we meet the Great Ridge. The walk follows Back Tor, then Hollins Cross (an ancient track-way through the lowest point of the ridge) and on to Mam Tor our final and fittingly highest summit of the route, the site of an Iron Age hill fort. Below us we see the effects of the 'Shivering Mountain' on the old main road and views south towards Winnats Pass and Castleton village. The descent is to Edale village in the stunning Vale of Edale with the National Park Information Centre with its exhibition of Moorland Management and The Nag's Head Pub – start of The Pennine Way.

9½ miles (15 km) with 2500 feet (770m) of ascent.

Day 8 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Moderate walking grade 7

The most active moderate grade. Longer distances and short but steep ascents and descents possible throughout the day. Hill walking experience desirable. Typically, 11-12 miles (18-19km) with around 1,800ft (560m) of ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

Lee Wood Hotel

A New HF Country House for 2027 Lee Wood is our 43-bedroom Georgian property in the historic spa town of Buxton, opening 29 January 2027 with a special celebratory launch week. Not only does our newest country house have excellent rail connections, with Buxton station only a short walk away, it also has easy access to a wonderful variety of Peak District walking routes. Surrounded by the Peak District National Park, our Buxton base offers a wealth of walks across the dramatic gritstone edges of the Dark Peak, through the gentle valleys of the White Peak, and routes that delve into the region's industrial past, history, and heritage. Other nearby highlights include the Derbyshire Dales and the Hope Valley, home to picturesque villages such as Hathersage, Eyam, and Castleton, which is famed for its show caves and is crowned by the dramatic ruins of the 11th-century Peveril Castle. When you're not out walking, unwind in the well-kept gardens, or enjoy plenty of space for socialising and activities in the roomy bar and lounge areas. If you want to take it easy or fill a free day, Lee Wood's excellent location puts you steps from Buxton's many highlights. Visit Buxton Opera House to catch a show in an authentic Edwardian theatre, stop by the iconic, Grade I-listed Buxton Crescent building and browse its fascinating museum, or simply stroll through the landscaped parklands of the Pavilion Gardens, which first opened in 1871. Alternatively, take a 25-minute walk to Poole's Cavern, a two-million-year-old natural limestone cave and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

About

· 43 well-appointed guest rooms · Exclusive occupancy: 68 guests minimum · Check in from 4:00pm · For members check in from 2:00pm · Free Wi-Fi · Free on-site parking · Boot room and drying room · Discovery Point offering a wide range of local area maps, route guides, and information for self-guided walks · Books and games to borrow · Licensed bar · Lounges · Lawned grounds · Electric vehicle charging point - Please note, you will need to bring your own cables to use this EV charging point

Then & now

The Lee Wood Hotel was originally built in 1830 as three houses by William Canendish, the 6th Duke of Devonshire. The so-called "Bachelor Duke" was one of the biggest landowners in the United Kingdom, as well as an ambassador to Tsarist Russia, and a renowned horticultural enthusiast who owned over 200,000 acres of land. Cavendish transformed the three houses into a hotel in 1860, to capitalise on the growing influx of visitors arriving via the newly built Derby–Manchester railway line. At the time, the town was beginning to prosper as a Victorian spa resort, drawing people keen to enjoy the therapeutic properties of its thermal spring waters.

Acquired by Margaret and Derwent Millican in 1957, the hotel reopened the following year after a brief renovation. It remained in the care of the Millican family for almost 70 years, becoming a much-loved hotel known for its warm welcome, friendly atmosphere and excellent customer service, attracting many returning guests.

In 2026, HF Holidays purchased the property and, in the spirit of our member-owned co-operative, hopes to carry that legacy forward when Lee Wood opens as an HF Country House in 2027.

Check-In & Check-Out

You are welcome to check in from 4pm at the earliest. HF Members can check in earlier, from 2pm. On arrival, you'll enjoy a complimentary cream tea and get to meet your fellow guests, our HF Holidays Leaders, and the rest of the friendly team. Check out 10am.

ROOMS

Your room at Lee Wood Hotel

Designed with your comfort in mind, Lee Wood Hotel has 43 well-appointed guest rooms available in three categories: Classic, Premium, and Superior.

Classic Rooms are comfortable en-suite guest rooms, ideal for a peaceful night's sleep. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, and shower gel), and a TV.

Premium Rooms are more spacious en-suite guest rooms*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers.

Superior Rooms are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surroundings*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers.

The **Choose Your Room** service is available at our UK country houses, allowing you the option of choosing and confirming a specific room for an extra charge of £30 per room. This is subject to availability. Upgrade supplements apply.

Room supplements

Superior	Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£25 pppn	£20 pppn	£20 pppn	£30 per room

*Views and layout reflect each properties unique character and location

ACCESSIBILITY

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865.

ABOUT YOUR STAY

A warm welcome
We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided waking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Helping you enjoy the Great Outdoors - A natural focus on walks

Walks talks and Discovery Points
Our founder, country pastor turned social innovator, Thomas Arthur Leonard, was passionate about encouraging people to explore the countryside. His legacy continues in HF's continued focus on walking. Many guests choose to travel with us on guided or self-guided walking holidays, and as such, evenings at our houses are often busy with walk leaders hosting various briefings and talks. On guided walking holiday arrival days, there are walking information briefings before dinner, and for the duration of any guided walking holiday there will be a Walks Talk before (or on occasion after dinner), to go through the following day's walk options. Self-guided walking guests, and those on special interest holidays (where there is free time to explore independently), are of course welcome to also join in these Walks Talks - please talk to the team locally if you have any queries. Our Discovery Points are filled with handy maps and route notes, designed to ensure everyone, not just those booked on a guided walking holiday, can enjoy the beautiful countryside settings that our HF houses enjoy.

The walking day
Prior to setting off on guided walks, our HF Holidays Leaders run through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure walkers have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

The Park,
Park Rd,
Buxton
SK17 6TQ
Tel: 01298 23002

Google Maps

By train

The nearest station is Buxton, approximately 0.5 miles from the house.

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

By taxi

You may wish to call one of our local taxi companies on 01298 72123 or 01298 72333 on arrival for transport to and from the train station.

By car & parking

Lee Wood Hotel can be approached either via The Park or to the rear via Manchester Road (A5004 Long Hill to Whaley Bridge). If you are using SatNav, our postcode is SK17 6TQ. Parking is available around the hotel, and there is additional unrestricted parking on The Park, to the south side of the premises.

LOCAL AREA

Places to visit in Buxton

Perfectly placed in the heart of the Peak District, Buxton offers easy access to some of England's most inspiring landscapes, charming villages, and historic landmarks. Whether you're enjoying a guided, self-guided walking or special interest holiday, there's always the opportunity to linger for longer. Here's our pick of the very best things to see and do within easy travelling distance of the Lee Wood Hotel in Buxton.

The Peak District's best-loved landscapes

Step straight into the Peak District National Park, where a network of well-maintained trails leads you through dramatic dales, rolling hills and rugged moorland. Discover the limestone valleys of Dovedale and Monsal Dale, with their iconic stepping stones and sweeping views, or explore the wild beauty of the Dark Peak, where gritstone edges like Kinder Scout and Stanage Edge offer a more dramatic backdrop.

Buxton's heritage, gardens & caves

Closer to home, Buxton itself is rich in history. As England's highest market spa town at 1,000 feet above sea level, there's more to this place than water. The town's spa heritage and leafy parks make it an ideal place to relax after a day in the hills. Stroll around the elegant Georgian Crescent, explore the beautiful Pavilion Gardens, or visit the historic Opera House to catch a show in an authentic Edwardian theatre. From musicals and stand-up comedy to operatic performances, including the world-famous International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival every August, it's one of the Midlands' prime entertainment venues. Poole's Cavern is also well worth a visit – a two-million-year-old natural limestone cave.

Historic houses and stately grandeur - Chatsworth House, Bakewell & Castleton

The surrounding countryside is dotted with picturesque villages, each with its own charm. Home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, this magnificent 17th century mansion is set in over 1,000 acres of stunning parkland and formal gardens. Inside, there are over 30 rooms to explore, including the State Rooms, Sculpture Gallery, and Painted Hall. Castleton, located at the head of the Hope Valley, is known for its caves: Peak Cavern, Blue John Cavern, Speedwell Cavern, and Treak Cliff Cavern - and historic Peveril Castle, while Bakewell offers riverside walks and its famous pudding. Closer to Buxton, villages like Tideswell – home to the impressive "Cathedral of the Peak" – provide welcoming pubs, local history, and a slower pace of life. Haddon Hall, overlooking the River Wye, is a fairytale-like manor house with its fortified exterior dates from the 12th century. Every part of the property is steeped in history, but the banqueting hall, chapel, and kitchens are particularly worth exploring.

Cromford Mills

Part of the UNESCO-listed Derwent Valley Mills, the world's first water-powered cotton spinning mill developed by Richard Arkwright in 1771 is known as the birthplace of the modern factory system. The mill museum and visitor centre are both worth visiting.

Dovedale Stepping Stones

The limestone valley of Dovedale steals the limelight as one of the best-loved – and most visited – beauty spots in the Peak District National Park. Don't miss the famous stepping stones located about half a mile from the car park (check the National Trust website for news of Stepping Stones opening/access due to repairs).

Trails, railways and scenic routes

Enjoy traffic-free walking and cycling along the Monsal Trail, following a former railway line through tunnels and across viaducts with spectacular views. For a nostalgic day out, the Peak Rail heritage railway offers a leisurely journey through the Derwent Valley, while the surrounding area is crisscrossed with gentle routes perfect for guided and self-guided exploration. Crich Tramway Village - a recreated Edwardian-style village and home to the National Tramway Museum is located near the village of Crich. Highlights include the woodland walk, sculpture trail, and collection of over 60 trams built between 1873 and 1982.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

Weather conditions in the UK can vary throughout the day, and conditions in the mountains may be cold and windy even in summer. Use the following list as a guide when preparing for your holiday.

Essentials

- Suitable waterproof walking boots with ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof, wind-resistant jacket with a hood, taped seams and a hydrostatic head rating of at least 10,000 mm
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Spare warm clothing, such as a synthetic insulated jacket
- Comfortable walking clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Warm mid-layers, such as fleeces
- Gloves and a warm hat, even in summer
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Water bottle with a capacity of at least 1 litre
- Flask for hot drinks
- Sunscreen
- UV-protective sunglasses
- Spare high-energy food
- Head torch and spare batteries for holidays between October and March
- Passport (if applicable)
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

Recommended

- Several base layers, with long or short sleeves
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First-aid kit, including plasters, insect repellent, a midge net and a tick-removal tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bags
- Wallet or purse

- Camera
- Walking poles
- Sun hat
- Gaiters
- Mobile Phones
- Swimwear (please see accommodation information for hotel facilities)
- Membership cards for English Heritage, the National Trust or similar heritage organisations in Scotland and Wales, if you are a member. These may be useful when visiting attractions during your itinerary or on your free day.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Maps and Guides for Derbyshire Gritstone Way

Your trail leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For you own interest you may consider buying or looking at some of the following:

1:25,000 Maps: OL 1; OL24; OL259

1.50,000 Map: Buxton 119

The Derwent Valley Mills and their communities - about industrial archaeology and the World Heritage site.

Cromford Revisited by Doreen Buxton & Christopher Charlton.

The Peak District National Park guide for a general overview of the area & the geology

of the Dark Peak

http://www.derbyramblers.org.uk/articles/walkingroutes/72-the-derbyshire-gritstone-way.html

Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred. In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary. The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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