



# Derbyshire Gritstone Way

**The Derbyshire Gritstone Way** was Derby Ramblers contribution to Footpath Heritage Week in 1980. The walk goes through water meadows, ancient oak woodlands, parkland and heather clad moors. There is much of scenic, historical and industrial archaeological interest. The route to the east side of the Derwent Valley occasionally follows the valley floor but more often uses the tops of the Edges. Moorland walking gives a sense of the desolation faced by the jagers (packhorse drivers) as they crossed the moors. There are tales to tell of murdered priests, the construction of Ladybower reservoir and "Shivering Mountain" (Mam Tor).

## Trail Grading



This Guided Walking/Hiking Trail is graded 3 which involves walks/hikes on well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged footpaths. These may be rough and steep in sections and will require a good level of fitness as you will be walking every day. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday.

## Fitness

We want you to be confident that you can meet the demands of each walking day and get the most out of your holiday. Please be sure you can manage the mileage and ascent detailed in the daily itineraries. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.

It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.

All walking days listed below involve minibus or local transport between the walking route and your accommodation and this is included in your holiday price.

## Planned Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival Day

Your leader will give an introductory talk about the holiday

### Day 2: Derby to Belper

From Derby the route enters Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site and follows the river. In the city we make 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 en route to Little Eaton, once the terminus of various horse-drawn tramways that linked the coalfield to a spur of the Derby Canal. Other points of interest today include the Chevin (part of the ancient Portway), Jedidiah Strutt's cotton mill village of Milford and finally a moderate descent leads to Belper. Good footpaths and lanes throughout. 12 miles (19km) with 600 feet (180m) of ascent.

### Day 3: Belper to Cromford

The gentle ascent from Belper leads to Ridgeway village with a view of Heage windmill. A short descent to Bullbridge village follows where we access the Cromford Canal tow-path. The canal is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and home to a population of water voles. The heart of the World Heritage Site beckons as we pass Leawood Pumping Station and then the Wharf Shed, originally the transshipment point between the canal and the Cromford and High Peak Railway. High Peak Junction is home to the oldest railway line in the world. At the terminus of the canal we reach Sir Richard



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Arkwright's cotton mills and industrial village with a village trail that explores listed pig sties, the village lock up and frame-work knitters' cottages. Field and woodland paths and some surfaced routes along the tow-path and in the villages. 11½ miles (18km) with 600 feet (180m) of ascent.

## **Day 4: Lea Bridge to Beeley**

We enter the Peak District National Park and after a steep ascent beyond Smedley's Mill complex pass Bilberry Knoll, a viewpoint over the Derwent Valley. A rough bridleway and field paths lead us towards Riber Castle, a Victorian folly. Following a descent to the village of Tansley, country lanes, woodland and field paths are used to reach the moors of Chatsworth Estate. The woodland route to Beeley is below Fallinge Edge. 13 miles (21km) with 1,250 feet (380m) of ascent

## **Day 5: Beeley to Grindleford**

From Chatsworth Park an ascent to Nelson's monument on Birchen's Edge follows and then to Wellington's Monument on Baslow Edge. Reaching the Eagle Stone, a fine gritstone boulder, 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 White Peak. We'll look down on 'Colditz' and admire Chatsworth's Emperor Fountain from a distance. There's a tale to tell of the unpleasant death of two Roman Catholic priests following their arrest at nearby Padley Chapel. Today's route uses field and woodland paths and surfaced bridleways. 11½ miles (18km) with 1,100 feet (340m) of ascent.

## **Day 6: Grindleford to Yorkshire Bridge**

Today the brook-side ascent through Padley Gorge with its ancient oak woodland managed by the National Trust gives a marked contrast to the later part of the route. We follow Burbage Brook heading for Burbage Edge. Open moorland surrounds us

as we head for Stange 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 descent is along a bridleway and then country lanes to Yorkshire Bridge – the village built to rehouse residents of Ashopton and Derwent when Ladybower reservoir was built. Good paths. 9½ miles (15km) with 1,000 feet (330m) of ascent

## **Day 7: Heatherdene to Edale**

We walk across Ladybower Dam then ascend close to Parkin Clough to the summit of Win Hill, 1518ft (463m). Next, a descent to cross the Vale of Edale near Townhead and then another steep ascent to the summit of Lose Hill 1563ft (476m) 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 1695ft (517m), 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 to Edale village with the National Park Information Centre with its exhibition of Moorland Management is on field paths. 9 miles (14.5km) with 2,200 feet (670m) of ascent.

## **Day 8: Departure Day**

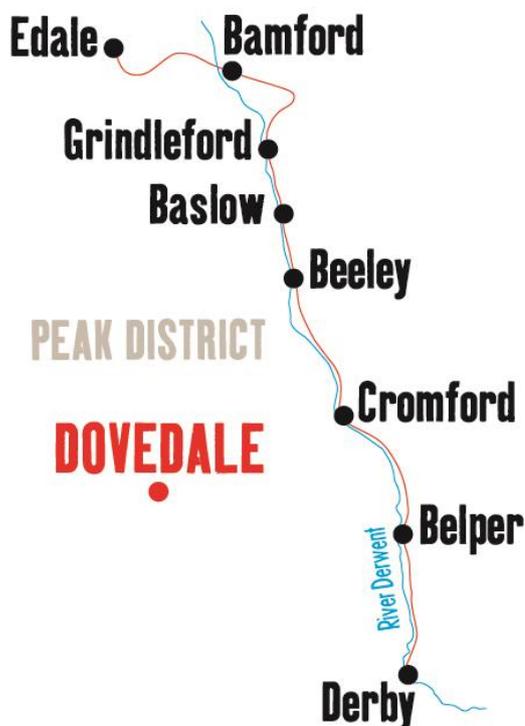
### **In the evenings**

After a sociable evening meal, you can join in an organised activity such as a quiz or a talk about the local area, relax in the bar or use the Country House facilities.

*The itinerary may be subject to change at the discretion of the leader with regard to the weather and other external factors*



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## Trail Leader

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your Guided Walking/Hiking Trail and will also be delighted to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.

## What to wear

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety is our priority and Britain is famous for its changeable weather, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities. Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents. Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters. Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares). Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended. Waterproof

jacket and waterproof over trousers are essential and a warm hat and gloves are useful additions. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra. Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks.

## What to bring

Rucksack with a waterproof liner, thermos flask for hot drink, water bottle (at least 1 litre) and spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar. Small torch and first aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed). Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents. Insect repellent, sun hat, sunglasses and protection cream and camera are all optional extras you may choose to bring.

## 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.

*Please ensure you complete and hand in your registration form on arrival and let the leader know about any medical problems you may have. This may be useful in the event of a problem on the walk and will be treated confidentially by the leader.*

## On the walk

We try to create a relaxed atmosphere on the walk/hike but please listen to safety instructions from your leader. Keep members of the group in view especially when weather or visibility is poor. If you leave the group, then your leader will no longer have responsibility for you. Our leaders consider the safety of the group as a whole and are likely to be more cautious over potential risks such as bad weather.



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## In the event of a problem

If you become separated from the party, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you. All our leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack. Call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas). Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

## Maps and Guides

Your trail leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For your 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>

## Accommodation

### The Peveril of the Peak

Thorpe

Dovedale

Ashbourne

Derbyshire

DE6 2AW

Tel: +44 (0)1335 350396

Fax: +44 (0)1335 350857

Email: [dovedale@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:dovedale@hfholidays.co.uk)

Grid Reference: SK 157 505

Your room will be ready from 2.30pm onwards (1pm for Better and Best rooms). Afternoon tea will be provided on all arrival days, so you can meet with your fellow guests. If you need assistance carrying your luggage to your room, please speak to the House Manager when you arrive for this to be arranged.

## Facilities

The bedrooms all have their individual layout and character and you'll find a TV with digital radio, hair dryer, towels and tea and coffee making facilities. On your departure day kindly vacate your bedroom by 10am. There are spacious public rooms at the Peveril of the Peak including a lounge and newly refurbished dining room. There's also a licensed bar, open throughout your stay, opening onto the terrace which enjoys delightful views of the surrounding countryside. The boot and drying room is available to store your boots and to dry wet outdoor clothing. Secure cycle storage is also available. WiFi is accessible in all public areas of the house. Due to the area in which the house is located, the mobile phone signal is patchy.

## Fabulous food

All holidays at our Country Houses are full board, from evening meal on arrival to breakfast on the day of your departure. There's a vegetarian option at all meals and we cater for gluten-free diets. For this and any other dietary requirements, please speak to the House Manager on your arrival.

## Travel

### By car to the Peveril of the Peak

For those with satellite navigation, enter the postcode DE6 2AW.

**From the south:** leave the M1 at Junction 24 and head to Ashbourne via the A50 and A515. Continue north on the A515 heading towards Buxton. 1 mile north of Ashbourne



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turn left, signposted to Thorpe, Dovedale and Ilam. After a further 2 miles the road bends sharp left by The Old Dog. The Peveril of the Peak lies ahead at the bottom of the hill.

**From Buxton** take the A515 south towards Ashbourne. After 17 miles turn right at a crossroads following signs to Thorpe, Ilam and Dovedale. After 1 mile turn right by The Old Dog pub and follow the road around the sharp left-hand bend. The Peveril of the Peak lies ahead at the bottom of the hill.

**From the west:** leave the M6 at junction 15 and head via the A50, Cheadle (A521) and Oakamoor (A5417) to the A52. At the junction of the A52 and the A523 take the minor road signposted Ilam. After 1½ miles turn left and descend the hill. Cross the bridge at Ilam, turn right and follow the road up a steep hill and onwards through Dovedale and Thorpe village. The Peveril of the Peak is on the left hand side at the end of the village. Visit your holiday page on our website for a map.

## By rail

The nearest railway stations to the Peveril of the Peak are Buxton or Derby. For train times and route planning by train visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or phone 03457 48 49 50.

## Station transfer by taxi:

The 17mile journey from Derby Station takes approximately 40 minutes. Ashbourne Taxis will charge you £32 per taxi for this journey. The 19mile journey from Buxton station takes approximately 35 minutes. Ashbourne Taxis will charge you £38 per taxi for this journey. They will arrange shared taxis wherever possible. To book a transfer please contact

Ashbourne Taxis

Tel: +44 (0) 1335 345 198

Email: [ashbourne-taxis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ashbourne-taxis@hotmail.co.uk)

## Station transfer by bus:

From Buxton take the 442 bus service to Ashbourne, and then change to the 101 bus to Thorpe village. From Derby take SW1 service to Ashbourne and then the 101 bus. Alight by the bus shelter in Thorpe village, from where it is a 500-metre walk along Wintercroft Lane to the Peveril of the Peak. For details of bus times from Buxton or Derby visit [www.traveleastmidlands.co.uk](http://www.traveleastmidlands.co.uk)

## Car parking

Parking is available in the grounds. No responsibility can be accepted for loss or damage to guests' property or vehicles. We advise not to leave valuables in cars.

## Travel Insurance

Travel and any other personal insurance relevant to your holiday is recommended to all our guests.

***While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the information in this guide may change after it has been printed. For the most up-to-date information please see our website or use the contacts below.***

Enquiries

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[www.hfholidays.co.uk](http://www.hfholidays.co.uk)