

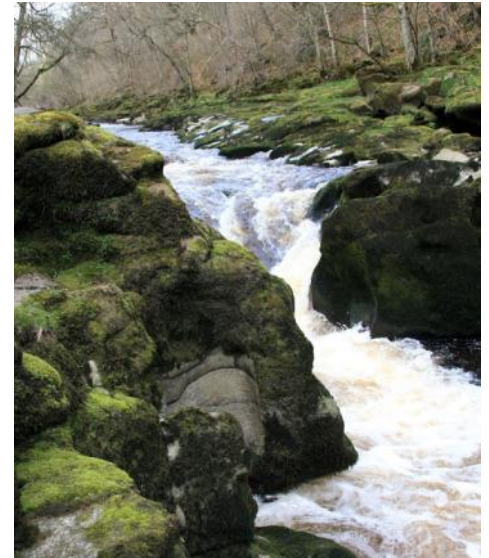


Walking Holidays in Britain's most Beautiful Landscapes

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Dales Way

The Dales Way crosses through the Yorkshire Dales from east to west, spending much of its time on the riverside paths bordering the Rivers Wharfe and Dee. The path begins in Ilkley, a market town at the eastern edge of the Dales and takes a route through Wharfedale and Dentdale, before crossing into the foothills of the Lake District to finish on the shores of Lake Windermere, England's largest lake, in the Lake District.

This is primarily a riverside walk threaded between market towns and ancient limestone village hamlets. In between, the route takes in shorter sections of moors, fell sides and limestone pavement to keep the route interesting.

The Yorkshire Dales is an internationally renowned National Park, with a characteristic landscape of limestone dry stone walls and isolated field barns with small villages and hamlets dotted through the steep sided valleys.



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Summary

Why do this walk?

- Charming historic limestone villages dotted along the River Wharfe.
- Pleasant, not too strenuous, walking in the distinctive Yorkshire Dales landscape - you've got time to relax, soak up the peaceful ambience, and enjoy the views.
- Skirts the beautiful Howgill Fells, one of the quietest corners of Cumbria.

Essential Info

Length	4 - 9 nights
Full Route Length	81 miles / 130 km
Shortest Break Length	21 miles / 34 km

Grade



Easy to Moderate

The route, which is waymarked over its entire length, is relatively straightforward. The paths usually follow valley systems but rises up to 450 metres at its highest point. A good route for regular walkers.

Terrain: The route generally follows rivers and valley bottoms. Crossing from Wharfedale to Dentdale (after Buckden & Hubberholme) the route rises over the moorland, up to a height of 450m.

What's it like underfoot? On the whole the paths are well defined and maintained, but at times it can be rough underfoot with some muddy paths, so good footwear is essential.

How Much Up & Down? Most days are rolling with gentle ascent and descents. The climb from Buckden to the highpoint on the route is the biggest at about 150m.

Signposting: Generally good, but use your map and guidebook as well.

Navigation: Pretty straightforward. You may encounter hill fog on the highest day, but route is pretty well defined.

Weather: You may be lucky enough to encounter warm, dry weather over the whole route and enjoy dry paths and tremendous views, but you must be prepared because the weather can change quickly. Good clothing and waterproofs essential!

Route

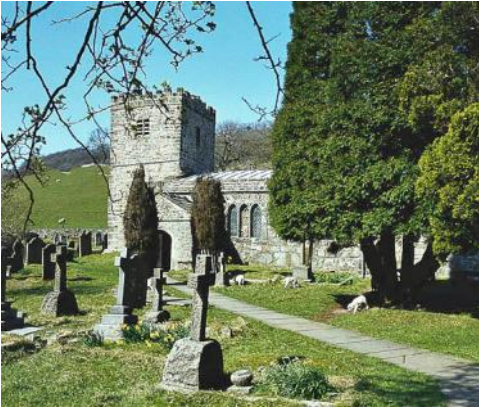
Lower Wharfedale: Ilkley to Burnsall

The route starts at Ilkley, an old market town marking the eastern edge of the Dales and heads upstream along the banks of the River Wharfe. Enroute you pass Addingham and Bolton Abbey, an impressive 12th century ruin set in the parkland of the Duke of Devonshire's estate. The path enters Strid Wood, where the River Wharfe is forced through a narrow chasm and can be particularly spectacular after rain. More riverside walking leads to Appletreewick, the first in a string of delightful limestone villages, and on to Burnsall which is idyllically situated on a large meander in the river.

Classic Dales: Kettlewell to Beckermonds

From Burnsall the route carries on along the Wharfedale valley and enters the small market town of Grassington, the last town before Sedbergh, on the eastern fringes of the National Park. After Grassington the route leaves the valley for a few miles and climbs up to a plateau of limestone pavement. Here, millions of years of rainwater have dissolved deep crevices in the limestone, splitting the surface spectacularly.

The Wharfe is rejoined at Kettlewell, one of the honey pot villages of the Dales and the path follows the river gently upstream past the villages of Starbotton, Buckden



and Hubberholme. This is where Wharfedale officially finishes and the route continues along the beck side up the narrow vale to Beckermonds.

Cam Fell and Dentdale

The character of the route changes markedly here as the path climbs out of the cosy confines of Wharfedale over the wild moorland of Cam Fell. An altitude of 450m is reached at Cam Houses giving dramatic views of the Yorkshire Three Peaks, before the route descends towards Ribbleshead and its famous viaduct. Moor fell sides soon lead to the gentler countryside of the River Dee and Dentdale. Riverside paths meander downstream to the village of Dent, with its narrow cobbled streets and on to Sedbergh, a small market town nestling under the steep Howgill fells.

Sedbergh to Bowness on Windermere

After Sedbergh, the walk skirts under the Howgills and along the River Lune for a few miles, where the character of the route changes again. The riversides of the Dales are left behind, as the route passes through the rolling countryside separating the National Parks of the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District. Views of distant Lakeland mountains become more impressive as Windermere is approached.

Additional Days

Bowness on Windermere

The linked towns of Windermere and Bowness at the heart of the Lake District have been an attraction for visitors since Victorian times. With the lake shore of Windermere so close, there is always something to do whatever the season - walking along the lakeside, enjoying panoramic views of the lake and mountains from several viewpoints, experiencing a whole host of water-based activities, luxuriating in the pleasures of travelling around the area by steamer, open-top bus or steam locomotive or discovering the lake for yourself by hiring a rowing boat, dinghy or cruiser. Away from the lake shore is a varied choice of heritage sites, historic houses, colourful gardens and other visitor attractions.



Getting There and Away

Detailed instructions on getting to your first night's accommodation by car, or on foot from the nearest train or bus station, will also be included in the holiday pack on individual accommodation maps.

Getting There:

By Air: The nearest airports are Manchester International (MAN) and Leeds Bradford (LBA). There are frequent buses or trains from the airports to Ilkley (Manchester to Ilkley is 53 miles, and Leeds to Ilkley is 17 miles).

By Public Transport: The nearest main railway station is Leeds, where there are rail connections to Ilkley.

By Road: Ilkley is situated in the Yorkshire Dales. The nearest city is Leeds (17 miles).

Returning from Bowness on Windermere:

By Air: There is a railway station in Windermere, where you can catch trains to airports: Manchester (approx 2 hours) and Leeds (approx 3 hours).

By Public Transport: There is a train station in Windermere for travel to Oxenholme on the west coast mainline. You can also travel by bus on the National Express coach service.

By Road: A591 to M6 motorway.



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How our holidays work

We specialise in self guided walks because we think it's the best way to really experience local landscapes, cultures & history. You walk under your own steam, at your own pace, safe in the knowledge that we have organised everything, and help is only a phone call away. We book all you accommodation, move your luggage between overnight stops, provide you with maps and guidebooks, and all the details you need for a successful holiday. You just turn up and walk!

Inbuilt flexibility

Our holidays are designed to be flexible and can therefore be tailored to suit your requirements. If you're looking for something different, or extra, from the holidays described here, give us a ring and we'll do our best to please!

You can start on any day you like. We can arrange extra nights at any of the overnight stops, allowing for rest days or giving you more time to explore the locality. Or you can book part of a walk if you don't have the time to complete the entire distance.

How to Book

Once you have decided which holiday you wish to book, please fill in the form at the back of this brochure and either post or email it to us. We will get in touch with you shortly afterwards to confirm your holiday details.

Alternatively you can book on our website mickledore.co.uk, or telephone us in office hours.

Accommodation

Good accommodation and friendly hosts are an essential part of any holiday. We make a special effort to find the hidden gems, as well as keeping a close eye on the quality of the more mainstream accommodation.

As well as visiting the accommodation ourselves, we ask all our customers to complete a short evaluation on each night's accommodation, which then gives us an insight in to the day-to-day operation, and lets us spot any potential issues before they become a problem.

The Dales Way includes a great variety of accommodation, including small country hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts, farm house accommodation, and Victorian town houses. In selecting the accommodation we look for helpful,

friendly hosts with good quality, characterful accommodation close to the trail. Occasionally we may use a chain hotel.

Single Rooms

We are happy to book single rooms on this walk at a supplement, but can't normally book more than 2 single rooms for any 1 group.

What We Provide

All Holidays

Accommodation Overnight Bed and Breakfast accommodation in selected hotels, farmhouses, village inns, guest houses and family B&Bs including a Full English or Continental breakfast.

Guidebook A guidebook with route information, maps, photos and background information.

Information of Services Along the Route

A comprehensive Service Info sheet, including services such as cash points, banks, post offices, village shops, inns, cafes and taxis.

Maps A waterproof 1:40000 map from Harvey Maps covering the whole route.

Personal Itinerary A personal itinerary setting out each overnight stop, including



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large scale maps of each accommodation, to ensure you find it easily.

Emergency Telephone Support If you get in to difficulties during your holiday, we are always available to help, even out of office hours.

Options

Luggage Transport We will transfer your luggage between each overnight stop – leave your luggage at the accommodation when you set off in the morning, it will be moved on to your next B&B. You only need to carry a small day sack with the clothes and provisions you require during the day's walk. We ask you to limit your luggage to one bag per person, up to 18kg.

Packed Lunches Provided for each day's walking and recommended on this holiday as there will not always be a handy shop or cafe on the route.

Off Road Parking If you are travelling by car we can usually arrange off road parking for the duration of your trip. (There may be a small charge for this).

Arrangement of return transport We can also arrange your transfer back to your car, (or advise you when public transport is a better option).

What's not Included

Evening Meals Your evening meal isn't included in the package, but we include full details and recommendations for each evening meal in your itinerary. You will normally be within walking distance of a pub and/or restaurant, or where there is good food available at the accommodation, we'll book that for you. Allow about £30.00 per night.

Transport to the Start & Away from the Finish

Taxi or Bus transport if you need to miss a stage (but we'll help you organise it if you need help)

Travel Insurance Even if you are based in the UK travel insurance is worth having.

Prices

Detailed prices for all our holidays are available on the website mickledore.co.uk

About Mickledore

Mickledore Travel is based in Keswick at the heart of the English Lake District. We are one of the leading specialists in self guided walking and cycling holidays in the UK, and provide a friendly, professional and flexible service.

We are walkers and cyclists ourselves, so it really matters to us that you have a good holiday. We are still a small business, with a lot of local knowledge, and personal enthusiasm for the outdoors. If you've got any queries, we're always happy to help, so don't hesitate to pick up the phone or drop us an email, or call in and see us if you're in Keswick.

We specialise in UK holidays, and by concentrating on what we consider the best routes, we get to know the trails, accommodation, and local area intimately.

- All your accommodation has been carefully selected and is regularly monitored.
- We listen to you and tailor each holiday to meet your requirements.
- We have an excellent level of customer service.
- We have 15 years experience, and very high levels of customer satisfaction.
- Peace of mind – help is only ever a telephone call away
- We are all outdoor enthusiasts – we know what makes a good holiday, and we want you to have one!
- 100% financial protection – in the very unlikely event of Mickledore's financial failure, you receive a full refund.



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Book With Confidence

Financial Protection

Your payments are fully protected against our financial failure. We are members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO), and have arranged bonding through ABTA. This means that in the unlikely event of our financial failure, any monies you have paid to us will be refunded. This bonding is fully compliant with the Package Travel Regulations and provides 100% financial protection.

AITO Quality Statement

Mickledore Travel is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators. It promotes high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

Mickledore Travel abides by AITO's Code of Conduct and adheres to the Quality Charter which can be viewed at aito.com. Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.



Client Feedback

We're proud of our reputation for quality holidays on the Dales Way. There are plenty of customer reviews on our Website but here are a couple of comments to give you a flavour:

Your telephone and email responses were excellent. We booked at short notice and were very impressed with the service.

Everything went according to plan.

Barbara McDowall, Leatherhead

My husband and I agree that it was one of the best adventures we've ever had. The accommodations you booked for us were

wonderful, the people fun, the food delicious. Thank you so much for putting together a wonderful vacation for us.

Becky Murphy, California, USA

What made the holiday special, and so easy-going, was the meticulous organisation by Mickledore Travel, from the initial booking to the end of the trip. I know it is a cliché, but Mickledore really did exceed our expectations.

**Graham Blackourn, West Lothian
Cotswold Way, August 2024**



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Dales Way

Ilkley to Bowness in 6 Days Walking Code: DW7				Ilkley to Bowness in 7 Days Walking Code: DW8			Ilkley to Bowness in 8 Days Walking Code: DW9		
		M	km		M	km		M	km
Day 1	Travel to Ilkley for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Ilkley for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Ilkley for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Ilkley to Burnsall	13	21	Ilkley to Grassington	17	27	Ilkley to Bolton Abbey then transfer to Burnsall	6	10
Day 3	Burnsall to Hubberholme	16	26	Grassington to Hubberholme	12	19	Transfer back to Bolton Abbey then walk to Grassington	11	18
Day 4	Hubberholme to Dentdale	16	26	Hubberholme to Ribbleshead	12	19	Grassington to Hubberholme	12	19
Day 5	Dentdale to Howgill	15	24	Ribbleshead to Dent	10	16	Hubberholme to Ribbleshead	12	19
Day 6	Howgill to Burneside then transfer to Kendal	11	18	Dent to Howgill	10	16	Ribbleshead to Dent	10	16
Day 7	Transfer back to Burneside then walk to Bowness on Windermere	10	16	Howgill to Burneside then transfer to Kendal	11	18	Dent to Howgill	10	16
Day 8	Depart from Bowness on Windermere after breakfast.			Transfer back to Burneside then walk to Bowness on Windermere	10	16	Howgill to Burneside then transfer to Kendal	11	18
Day 9				Depart from Bowness on Windermere after breakfast.			Transfer back to Burneside then walk to Bowness on Windermere	10	16
Day 10							Depart from Bowness on Windermere after breakfast.		



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Booking Form

Contact Details

Address

Mobile Telephone..... Landline telephone.....

Email.....Emergency Contact no

Your Holiday

Holiday Code.....Holiday Name.....

Date of First Night.....Date of Last Night.....

Party Members

Title	First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth

Options	Rooms Required	Rest Days (give date & location)
Luggage Transport	Y/N No. Double Rooms	
Packed Lunches	Y/N No. Twin Rooms	
Off Street Parking	Y/N No. Single Occupancy Rooms	
Return Transfer required (additional charge)	Y/N	

Comments (special diets, other requirements etc):

Upon receipt of your booking form Mickledore will send by email a confirmation with the full price and 20% deposit cost required. You can pay by card or cheque (GBP only for cheque).

How did you hear about Mickledore Travel?



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