Yorkshire Dales National Park
70 Essentials





YORKSHIRE DALES
1954 | National Park | 2024

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk



Ribblehead Viaduct © Wendy McDonnell

LAPWING © KEN READSHAW

MUKER HAY MEADOWS © WENDY MCDONNELL

Yorkshire Dales National Park
70 Essentials

16 November 2024 marks 70 years since the Yorkshire Dales was designated a National Park. To celebrate this anniversary we've prepared, with the support of local partners 70 Essentials that we think any resident or visitor should experience in the National Park.

These include iconic locations and walks, activities, ways to connect with nature, and stories to be heard.

Just click the QR code across and enjoy! And let us know how you get on using #YorkshireDales on social media.



Nine Standards © Eden Tourism

Walks

A walk in the Yorkshire Dales is good for both your physical and mental wellbeing and there are walks for all ages and abilities.



SMARDALE GILL VIADUCT © MARK BUTLER



GREAT ASBY SCAR © TERRY ABRAHAM

01 VISITED / /
Beacon Hill & Gamelands
An excellent introduction to the Westmorland Dales, including the Beacon monument, Great Asby common, and Gamelands stone circle.

02 / /
Smardale Gill
A lovely gentle walk from Newbiggin-on-Lune using a section of old railway line which crosses the spectacular Smardale Gill viaduct.

03 / /
Sedbergh
A short easy access walk from the town of Sedbergh along the River Rawthey.

04 / /
Cotter Force
A short, accessible 'miles without stiles' walk to the impressive Cotter Force waterfall in Upper Wensleydale.



PEN-Y-GHENT © ANDY KAY

05 / /
Pen-y-ghent
A circular route beginning in Horton-in-Ribblesdale, climbing gently up Brackenbottom Scar, and following the Pennine Way to the summit.

06 / /
Whernside
Starting from the iconic Ribblehead Viaduct, a 7-mile circular route taking you to one of the highest points in Yorkshire.

07 / /
Ingleborough
A walk from Chapel-le-Dale through Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's dramatic Southerscales nature reserve – one of the best-preserved limestone pavements in the country on route to the dramatic peak.

08 / /
Malham circuit
This iconic walk, encompassing Gordale Scar, Janet's Foss and Malham Cove, includes the beautiful village, wild rivers, and awe-inspiring limestone formations.

09 / /
Malham Tarn
A circular walk around the tarn including the boardwalk, Ha Mire – wonderfully diverse bog grazed by cattle, and industrial archaeology.

10 / /
Hawes circular
Taking in the town of Hawes, the village of Hardraw – home of the famous single-drop waterfall – and the hamlets of Simonstone and Sedbusk.

11 / /
Ingleton Waterfalls
This trail boasts some of the most spectacular waterfall and oak woodland scenery in the country, truly encapsulating nature at its best.



HAY MEADOWS © ANDY KAY

12 / /
Muker to Keld
An iconic walk that takes in the famous Muker hay meadows best in May and June, a stroll along the River Swale, and Kisdon Force.

13 / /
Grimwith Reservoir
A great walk for watching water sports and enjoying stunning views of the adjacent moors, valley and lower Yorkshire Dales.

14 / /
Ingleborough Estate Nature Trail
An accessible 'miles without stiles' walk beginning in Clapham and winding through Clapdale Wood along Clapham Beck.

15 / /
Buckden-Cray-Hubberholme
The highlight of this walk is the amazing view down Wharfedale – look out for orchids and northern brown argus butterfly.



NORTHERN BROWN ARGUS © IAN COURT

16 / /
National Trails
The Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails run through the Dales, with sections of both easily accessible by public transport. The Coast-to-Coast path will soon also become a National Trail.



River Eden © Andy Kay

Locations

The Yorkshire Dales is best known for its stunning scenery and great natural attractions, but there is so much more to discover.



GAMELANDS STONE CIRCLE © ANDY KAY

17 VISITED / /

Pendragon Castle

Legend states that the castle – located in the Mallerstang valley close to the River Eden – was built by Uther, father of King Arthur.

18 / /

Gamelands Stone Circle

Lying in the shadow of Great Asby Scar with views of the Howgill Fells, this is one of the largest circles in Cumbria, dating from the Neolithic or New Stone Age.

19 / /

Bolton Castle

This 14th century castle is preserved in outstanding condition with many interesting rooms and features to discover – Mary, Queen of Scots was held prisoner here for six months.



BOLTON CASTLE © WENDY MCDONNELL

20 / /

Aysgarth Falls

The triple flight of waterfalls, surrounded by woodland, are spectacular after heavy rain, and featured in the movie Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991).

21 / /

Grassington

A bustling village with cobbled streets and stone cottages, and the location for 'Darrowby', the fictional village featured in Channel 5's All Creatures Great & Small.



GRASSINGTON © STEPHEN GARNETT

22 / /

Sunbiggin Tarn

Important for its variety of wildlife and plantlife, and offering views of the Howgills, Great Asby Scar and Little Asby Common.



SUNBIGGIN TARN © EDEN TOURISM

23 / /

Smardale National Nature Reserve

Comprising three separate nature reserves that stretch from Newbiggin-on-Lune almost as far as Kirkby Stephen, with stunning scenery providing a backdrop.

24 / /

Kettlewell

This beautiful Wharfedale village is dominated on two sides by high peaks, home to an annual Scarecrow Festival, and showcased in the movie Calendar Girls (2003).

25 / /

Bolton Abbey Estate

Set in 30,000 acres of stunning Dales countryside there are riverside and woodland walks, the ancient Priory, and nearby Embsay & Bolton Abbey steam railway to explore.



HARDRAW FORCE © WENDY MCDONNELL

26 / /

Hardraw Force

England's highest single drop waterfall featured in the film Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991).

27 / /

Ribblehead Viaduct

A world famous feat of Victorian engineering, located in the middle of the Yorkshire Three Peaks; a must-visit.



RIBBLEHEAD VIADUCT © ANDY KAY

28 / /

Tan Hill Inn

At 1,732ft this is Britain's highest pub, famous for its warm welcome, live music, and the occasional enforced lock-in after heavy snow!

29 / /

Howgill Fells

Escape the crowds and head west; this distinctive range of rounded grassy hills lie between Sedbergh and Ravenstonedale, and were famously described by Alfred Wainwright as like a 'herd of sleeping elephants'.



Experiences

Make your visit to the Yorkshire Dales one to remember by getting stuck into these experiences. Where will your adventure take you?



CYCLING © PAUL HARRIS

30 VISITED / /
Settle-Carlisle Railway
Jump on a scheduled service or steam special and experience the incredible views across the rolling hills and valleys of the Dales.

31 / /
Cumbria Classic Coaches
Hop on board one of the services that runs through Ravenstonedale and Kirkby Stephen, from May to October.

32 / /
The Yorkshire Dales Cycleway
A superb 210km circular route visiting most of the major dales in the National Park, and which can be divided into sections to suit your fitness.

33 / /
Swale Trail
Aimed at aspiring young mountain bikers and families riding together, this 20km valley bottom route runs between Reeth and Keld. The Dales more widely is an amazing place to cycle, and hosted the Tour de France Grand Départ in 2014.

34 / /
Caving
Some of the most extensive cave systems in the world are found in the Yorkshire Dales including the show caves of Ingleborough, White Scar and Stump Cross – so grab a guide and get on an underground adventure.



GAPING GILL© WENDY MCDONNELL

35 / /
Gaping Gill
One of the most famous caves in the National Park and one of the largest underground chambers in Britain; winch meets – the only way to visit take place in May and August.

36 / /
Salmon leaping at Stainforth Force
In the autumn, salmon make their way up the River Ribble towards their spawning grounds, taking the spectacular 'leap' up this waterfall.

37 / /
Cheese Festival
Each October the incredible Dales produce is celebrated by local businesses hosting special events and tastings across the National Park.

38 / /
Wensleydale Cheese
Visit the world-famous creamery in Hawes, home of Wensleydale Cheese, just one of dozens of amazing local artisan food and drink producers based in the Dales.

39 / /
Dark Skies Festival
Each February, the awe-inspiring dark skies of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Dark Sky Reserve is celebrated by local businesses holding themed events and activities.

40 / /
Alpaca Walks at Semerwater
After a walk with a difference? Enjoy stunning views across the lake while ambling along with an alpaca!

41 / /
Old Gang smelt mill
Visit the Swaledale ruins of an 18th century lead mill, one of the best preserved in the north of England and now a scheduled monument.

42 / /
Malham Cove limestone pavement
Follow in the footsteps of Harry Potter in the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 and experience the stunning views from the top of Malham Cove, while navigating your way across the exposed pattern of limestone blocks and fissures.

43 / /
Go West
Head west and experience the Howgill Fells, Farfield Mill arts centre near Sedbergh, the beautiful village of Dent, and Cautley Spout waterfall.

44 / /
Hoffman Kiln
This massive industrial lime-burning kiln, constructed in 1873, is the best preserved in England and a scheduled monument, and features a trail around the site.

45 / /
Grassington Lead Mining Trail
One of the most awe-inspiring industrial heritage sites in the Dales, the trail weaves through the 400-year-old workings standing proud on Grassington moor.



MUKER SHEEP SHOW © STEPHEN GARNETT

46 / /
Agricultural shows
Long at the heart of local communities, many traditional Dales agricultural shows can be traced back over a century – visit Kilnsey, Wensleydale and Reeth shows in August, and Muker and Moorcock shows in September.



Malham Cove © Wendy McDonnell

Stories

Immerse yourself in the stories of the people who helped shape, and who left their mark, on this landscape.

47 ☑
John Dower
A resident of Malham, John wrote the 1945 White Paper that was pivotal in establishing the principles by which National Parks were to be designated.

48 ☐
Tale Trails
Read the legends and follow the trails of the Clapham Boggart, Samson the Stainforth Giant, and the Gauber Trolls of Ribblehead on the 'Stories in Stone' website.

49 ☐
Mabel Binks
Discover the story of one of England's first and most famous female cavers, who sadly died at Alum Pot in 1936.

50 ☐
Kirkby Lonsdale 'Vault'
Behind an iron door at the information and gift shop is an interactive cinema telling stories of the town and its connections to people like writer JM Barrie and painter JMW Turner.

Top left
Hay making
© Andy Kay

Top Right
Lammerside Castle
© WDLP

Bottom
Hoffman Kiln
© Mark Sadler









WHITE HOUSE, REETH © WENDY MCDONNELL

51 ☐
Keld Resource Centre
Find out how farmers and lead miners worked, lived, played and prayed at this living heritage centre telling stories of life in Upper Swaledale.

52 ☐
The Listening Gallery, Settle
The world's first audio gallery inside a heritage phone box: step inside, pick up the phone, and discover fascinating stories.

53 ☐
Voices from the Dales
Download this special series of podcasts that explores life in the Upper Dales, including school, dialect, and farming.

54 ☐
Yorkshire Festival of Story
Organised by Settle Stories and taking place annually, this is the largest free online storytelling festival globally.

55 ☐
Terrible Knitters of Dent
Discover the story of the terrible (terribly good and terribly quick) knitters of Dent on a visit to the town itself, or at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

56 ☐
Guardian of the Dales
Read the story of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority over its 70-year history, featuring vintage photography, maps and news articles from archives.

57 ☐
Walter Morrison
Discover the story of how the Malham Tarn Estate came to be in the care of the National Trust.



Barns and Walls © Mark Sadler

Connect with Nature

Taking time to connect with nature, using all our senses, can give wellbeing a boost! And there is so much nature to take in.



RED SQUIRREL © GAZ ATKINSON



CURLEW © IAN COURT

58 Curlew

The call of the curlew is the soundtrack to Spring in the Dales. These iconic, groundnesters return to their upland breeding sites from late February – Upper Wensleydale is one location to try to hear the haunting cry of these birds for yourself.

59 Red squirrels

Best spotted at Snaizeholme red squirrel sanctuary in Widdale, these characterful native creatures are a rare sight in the wider countryside.



RIBBLESDALE © YDNPA, DANNY LAWSON

60 Tarn Sike nature reserve

Taking its name from the stream that flows through it, Tarn Sike has a wide range of habitats and is close to Sunbiggin Tarn, a stunning marl lake with great views.

61 Drystone walling

Drystone walls are defining features of the landscape, shaped over thousands of years by people and nature; head to the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes for a drystone walling demonstration.

62 Dark skies

The National Park is home to some of the darkest skies in the country, markedly free from light pollution and is designated a Dark Sky Reserve; spot the Milky Way (Jan-March) and constellations, and experience meteor showers for yourself.

63 Freeholders' Wood

This local nature reserve is across the road from Aysgarth Falls National Park Visitor Centre. In spring the ground is a carpet of bluebells and keep an eye out for a wide variety of birds and the occasional roe deer and red squirrel.

64 Grass Wood nature reserve

Both an ancient woodland and one of the largest broadleaf woodlands in the Dales, it is famous for its cacophonous dawn chorus in Spring.

65 Geology walk

Take the Orton Scar & Knott geology walk in the Westmorland Dales for a story of tropical seas, the action of ice and water, and the shaping of the landscape by people.

66 Farming & agriculture

Go on a farm experience: livestock farming is a special quality of the dales with distinct sheep breeds and a strong tradition of upland cattle rearing that is deeply interwoven into local life and made famous through local cheese.



LAMBS © MARK CORNER



HAY MEADOW, ASKRIGG © KEN READSHAW

67 Hay meadows

Species-rich hay meadows, particularly those around Muker and Yockenthwaite, are a must-see around May and June when the landscape comes alive with colour.

68 Malham Tarn national nature reserve

Visit in the summer to experience wildflowers in full bloom, and amazing birdlife and invertebrates.

69 Hudswell Woods

A circular trail takes in fields of wildflowers, steep hills cloaked in historic woodland, and views of Richmond – perfect for families.

70 Oxenber & Wharfe Woods

A real gem, and with a lovely café nearby at Feizor, you can truly connect with nature in this Site of Special Scientific Interest.

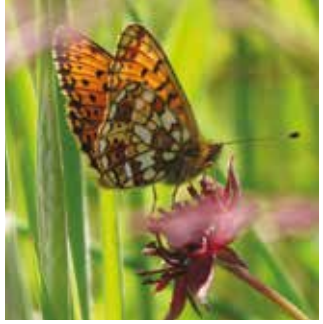


Pendragon Castle, Mallerstang © Paul Harris

Top left
Small pearl-bordered fritillary
© Ian Court

Top Right
Close to Orton
© YDNPA

Bottom
West Burton Cauldron Falls
© Wendy McDonnell







With thanks to a number of partners for their invaluable assistance in compiling these experiences, including Friends of the Lake District, Wild Ingleborough, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, the National Trust and Settle Stories.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT
friends for 90 years

WILD INGLEBOROUGH

YORKSHIRE DALES MILLENNIUM TRUST

National Trust

Settle Stories



Contact us

info@yorkshiredales.org.uk
0300 456 0030

Find out more from us

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

Follow us

yorkshiredales
yorkshiredales
yorkshiredalesnp

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

© Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority 2024 V1
Designed by Nic Draper Design

FSC
www.fsc.org
MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C007825