

Buckden to Starbotton and return

Distance: 8km (5 miles)

Time: a minimum of 2 hours

Ascent/descent: one strenuous section early on

Accessibility: Rocky in places with gates and stiles. The riverside can get wet and boggy.

Parking: Buckden car park
(BD23 5JA.
SD 94239 77374)

Other transport:

- bus 72 from Skipton
- Cycle stands in the car park

Toilets: Buckden car park

Refreshments: Pubs at Buckden and Starbotton. Shop and cafes in Buckden

Closest National Park Centre: Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre
DL8 3TH (call 01969 662910)

Route description

- Leave Buckden car park through the gate at the top, leading away from the village.
- Immediately turn right at the signpost for Buckden Lead Mine and Starbotton, and follow the path by the wall side to a stile.
- Cross the stile and then continue along the wall side until reaching the sheep pens on your right.
- Cross Buckden Beck using the stepping stones (take care in times of high water). Follow the sign to Buckden Lead Mine.
- Follow the track as it climbs steeply through a number of fields. As the route approaches a wall, it then doubles back on itself, heading towards a sign; this is a fine vantage point looking up to the head of Wharfedale and into the small dale of Langstrothdale.
- At the footpath junction bear right to follow the sign for Starbotton, cross the stile in a wall, then follow the waymarker posts through a series of valley side pastures. From here the route begins to drop down towards Starbotton. Enjoy the far reaching views to Firth Fell and the classic U-shaped dale towards Kettlewell.
- Continue along the path next to the wall and down into Starbotton village.
- Carry on through the village and cross the road to join a narrow walled lane leading to the river, signposted Bridleway Arncliffe.
- After crossing the footbridge over the river turn right to follow the Dales Way. The footpath follows the riverside through pleasant meadows, via a number of gates and stiles. Birds such as heron, wagtails and oystercatchers can be seen along the riverbank. As the path passes under Fosse Wood and Birks Wood, keep a look out for woodpeckers too.
- Turn right at the tarmac road, crossing Election Bridge back into Buckden village.



Buckden to Starbotton Return distance 5 miles (8km)

