

LIMESTONE LOOP

These three. and. four day walking holidays are ideal for independent walkers wishing to explore some of England's finest scenery in the Peak District National Park. The walking is not strenuous, being mainly through the gentle limestone landscape of the "White Peak". The walk is designed to start from Buxton (easy to reach by car, rail or bus), with the three day version finishing at Bakewell (from where there are regular daily buses for the return to Buxton). However, if you have more time to spare, the four-day option allows time to explore the delightful town of Bakewell or to visit medieval Haddon Hall, followed by a superb walk back to Buxton.

Buxton to Hartington 12 miles/19km

.This is a pleasant walk, which takes in a comfortable walker's pub in Crowdicote en-route. From Buxton you will climb up the valley side below Grinlow, eventually dropping down to the road between Harpur Hill and the Leek-Buxton road. The path climbs Countess Cliff and heads south to Diamond Hill, so named for the clear pieces of quartz to be found here. The route then climbs Leap Edge to reach Dalehead. From here head for the village of Hollinsclough with its little chapel and pretty school (now replaced by a more functional building), then take a delightful stroll down the valley through Glutton Bridge to Crowdicote and the Packhorse Inn. Continue down the valley to Pilsbury Castle Hill then climb out of the valley avoiding the road. You will soon reach Hartington, where a short climb up Hall Bank brings you to the Youth Hostel.

Hartington to Youlgreave 9 miles/14km

Today your path crosses the limestone plateau of the White Peak before following the upper reaches of Bradford Dale with its clear stream, which forms a group of attractive pools close to Youlgreave. The path heads east through Heathcote and crosses the Tissington Trail at the former Hartington Station. From the B5054 follow the green lane to reach the High Peak Trail and turn right to Friden Brick Works. Through Long Dale for a short distance, picking up the White Peak Way towards Middleton, before turning right and following the stream into Bradford Dale, one of the prettiest Dales in Derbyshire. Your arrival at Youlgreave is indicated when the village spills down to meet the river.

Youlgreave to Bakewell 5.5 miles/8.75km

A short walk today, which allows time to explore pretty Haddon Hall en-route. From the church bear right into the valley, then turn left at the signpost and head for Alport. Follow Lathkill Dale across the river meadows until you reach Raper Bridge. Turn right out of the valley and follow the track towards Haddon Hall. This delightful medieval house is open every day from April - September, and is well worth a visit. The rose gardens are particularly beautiful in summer. From Haddon Hall, a short walk along the busy A6 soon brings you to the path on the right through the river meadows alongside the River Wye and in to Bakewell. If you are not staying here for the night, buses leave Bakewell every two hours for Buxton.

Bakewell to Buxton 13 miles (21km)

Today's walk takes you through Lathkill Dale, a National Nature Reserve. The River Lathkill is crystal clear and trout can easily be seen. At Cales Dale turn left to leave the dale. Climb up the steep hill and then follow the footpath through farmland until reaching the attractive village of Monyash. At this point, you can catch a bus to Buxton, or continue through the village, and follow the path across the fields to Flagg and then through Chelmorton. From Chelmorton take the lane heading for Deep Dale, and then

follow the footpath across the fields and through the tiny hamlet of Cowdale before reaching the outskirts of Buxton. Walk under the imposing railway viaduct and the Youth Hostel is ahead.



The village green Monyash.