

## THE TEN RESERVOIRS WALK

Map Outdoor Leisure No 1 the Dark Peak, covers the walk route.

The 22-mile (35km) Ten Reservoirs Walk is comparable with the 20-mile (32km) 'Saddleworth Five Trig Points walk' - a high-level moorland route which, although slightly longer than the latter, is possibly somewhat easier as more of the route follows recognised footpaths. As with the 'Five Trig Points walk' this route should only be attempted by experienced walkers carrying the necessary items of safety equipment, and with proven stamina for this type of exercise.

The walk forms a circuit around the Saddleworth Moors, starting and ending at Dovestone Reservoir car park, off the A635 road above Greenfield. Although the circuit can be tackled in either direction, the clockwise route gives an easier finish at the end of the day. Many factors will affect the time taken for the walk, but an average party should allow for between seven and ten hours.

From the SW corner of Dovestone Reservoir, walk along the dam wall and follow the path around the reservoir to Yeoman Hey Reservoir. A pleasant walk of about two miles up the valley above Yeoman Hey and Greenfield reservoirs leads to the stream junction below the crags of the Ravenstones. The left fork - Holme Clough - is taken, where a faint path follows the left bank of the stream, below the rock face of Standing Stones. After half a mile the stream divides again, below a waterfall take the left fork and begin the ascent of Rimmon Pit Clough. The easiest way appears to be directly over the boulders and slabs of the stream bed, trying to avoid wet feet on the way. The clough climbs past the ruined Rimmon Cottage, and leads to the A635 road at the Boundary Stone (GR. 050063).

The Pennine way signpost indicates the next section of the route. The first part of this section, over White Moss, is over stone slabs and wooden slating, and the going is not as treacherous as once it was. At Black Moss Reservoir (footbridge) turn NE and go over rough ground to Swellands Reservoir. From the SE corner make for Blakeley Clough and the Pennine way, and a gradual descent towards the Wessenden Valley. Wessenden Brook is crossed by a footbridge to the S of Blakeley Reservoir, to reach the main track up the Wessenden Valley. A walk of two miles leads pleasantly upwards above Wessenden and Wessenden Head Reservoirs to the Meltham Road and to the junction with the A635 'Isle of Skye' road. Refreshments are often available here at Snoopy's Mobile cafe.

From here the route climbs Black Hill, 1908' /582m, by the well-defined, now paved, Pennine Way track, then follows the ridge SSE over Soldier's Lump and Tooleyshaw Moss to White Low and Westend Moss. After a steep descent from Westend Moss a path drops over Hey Moss, and leads to Crowden Youth Hostel, on the A628 above Torside Reservoir. The hostel is also a Mountain Rescue Post, and there is a camp-site nearby. From Crowden, the lowest point on the route at 700'/215m, the walk follows the Pennine Way to Laddow Rocks, then by the well-cairned path over the moors between

Black Chew Head and Featherbed Moss to Chew Reservoir. All that remains is to walk the two miles down Chew Road to the starting point at Dovestone Reservoir.

The Route:	1	Yeoman Hey Res	020046	App. 1 mile
	2	Greenfield Res	027055	2
	3	Black Moss Res	033086	6
	4	Swellands Res	038089	6.5
	5	Blakeley Res	053089	7.5
	6	Wessenden Res	058088	8
	7	Wessenden Head Res	070077	9.5
	8	Torside Res	073993	16
	9	Chew Res	035018	20
	10	Dovestone Res	014034	22

Certificates (2Op each) for authentic completions of the walk (please enclose details of date, times etc.) can be obtained from: Carole Engle, 10 Brookfield, Penistone Road, Kirkburton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD8 0PE.

Woven badge available at £1.50 each. Please enclose a large SAE (min. 9" x 5") with applications.