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YHA Cheddar [Book your stay now](#)

Cheddar Gorge and Black Down

Scan or click to view this route on the OS Maps App – also a route profile and GPX

Gorge, countryside and village walk

Distance: 12.8 miles (20.6km) **Ascent:** 650m (2,133ft)

Time: Allow 6h 15m to 10h

Map: OS Explorer 1:25k (141) Cheddar Gorge & Mendip Hills West

Start/Finish: OS Locate ST 455 534 **what3words** ///ferried.fetches.science

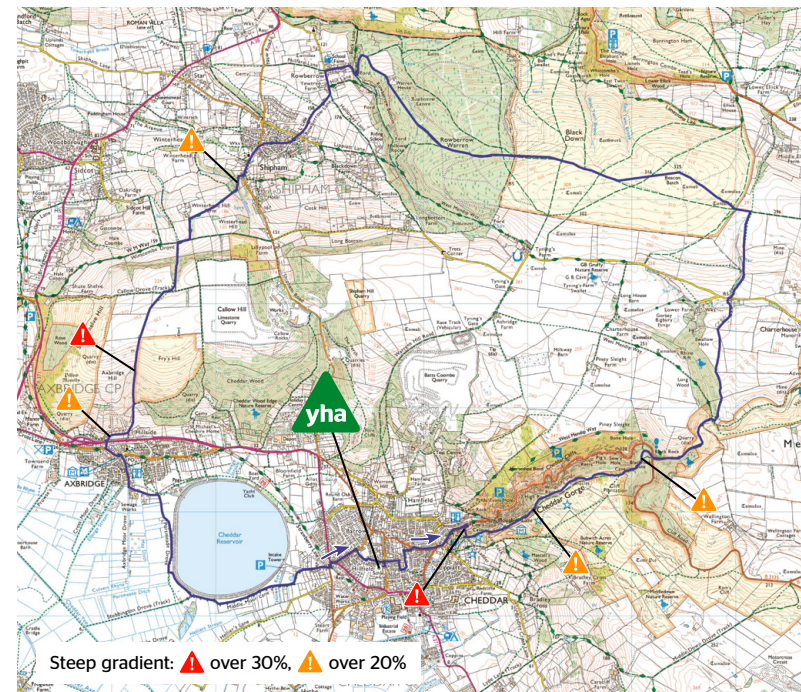


A great route taking in Cheddar Gorge, the Mendips and a lovely town and villages. From the hostel turn right onto Hillfield, left onto The Hayes and right onto Norville Lane. Turn right onto Lower North Street, left onto Venns Close, take the footpath to the left across the park and take the path between houses to Gadd's Lane. Turn right, turn right onto Tweentown and bear left onto Cliff Street, signposted Gorge and caves. Cross the river and follow the road ahead which becomes The Cliffs. Turn right to Jacobs Ladder and ascend the 274 steps to the Lookout Tower (48 more steps). To avoid Jacobs Ladder bear right after crossing the bridge on Cliff Street onto The Lippiatt, turn left onto Lynch Lane, then left into the trees and follow the path up to the Lookout Tower. From the top of Jacob's Ladder turn left and follow the gorge path to Blackrock Gate, bear right to cross the road to Black Rock. Continue through the nature reserve, pass the old quarry, bear right then left to head alongside Long Wood and then bear right across fields. Cross the road and continue across fields to a good path, turn left and onto Black Down. Bear right to reach the Beacon Batch trig point, bear left to follow the path through Rowberrow Warren, pass Warren House and around to the left to the road. Turn right and follow School Lane around to the left. Turn left onto Rowberrow Lane into Shipham. Cross North Down Lane onto Hollow Road, bear left onto

The Square, which becomes Cuck Hill. Turn right at the fingerpost and follow the West Mendip Way over Winterhead Hill to Winscombe Drive. Turn right, then left to cross Callow Drive, over Fry's Hill and into Axbridge. Continue to High Street and turn left. Turn right onto Moorland Street. Cross the stream and turn left to follow alongside it on Portmeade Drive. At the path junction remain on Portmeade Drive and follow it around to the right. Continue around the edge of the reservoir bank and across a field to Middle Moor Lane. At the entrance to Cheddar Reservoir car park bear right onto Sharpham Road. Turn left onto Lower New Road to cross the bridge, turn right onto Upper New Road and left onto Barrows Road. Take the path on the right to Comer Road, turn left, then right onto Southfield, right onto The Hayes and right onto Hillfield back to the hostel.

Hazards

Watch out for traffic on the road sections, many of the lanes near Shipham and Axbridge do not have pavements. The road crossing between Blackrock Gate and Black Rock has fast traffic and restricted views. The gorge path is steep and rocky in places with many exposed tree roots. Sections of the route will become slippery after rain. Horses, cows and sheep in some fields.



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Accessibility

There are stiles and steps on the route and gates and paths less than one metre wide. There are long sections of rough uneven ground, steep inclines, loose stones, tree roots, grass and mud.

Points of interest

Lots to see and do in Cheddar Gorge including Jacob's ladder and the Lookout Tower, they are open between 10am and 5pm and a fee applies to climb them. Stunning views of the gorge, the village and

reservoir from the cliff tops. Great far reaching views from Black Down. Interesting rock structures and caves. Village of Shipham and town of Axbridge with pretty churches and historic buildings, including King John's Hunting Lodge, Tudor timber-framed wool merchant's house (circa 1500) in Axbridge. Cheddar Reservoir.

Facilities

Toilets on Cliff Road in Cheddar and Axbridge. Pubs, shops and cafés on the approach to Jacobs's Ladder and in Axbridge. Pub in Rowberrow.

This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for an OS Map or the OS Maps App to navigate your walk safely. Digital maps are a guide and do not always reflect the conditions on the ground, ensure you are aware of your immediate surroundings.



Thank you for choosing to walk from our hostel.
We hope you have a great time.

Walking in the national landscapes of England and Wales is part of YHA's heritage. With hostels on National Trails, in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, YHA plays a unique role in the nation's walking community.

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy walking from YHA hostels, we have curated three walks – an easy, moderate, and more challenging option. They have all been graded – the higher the grade, the more challenging the route.

Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast (metoffice.gov.uk).
- Check the tide times for coastal routes (tidetimes.org.uk).
- Get the right clothing, footwear and kit for the route and weather.
- Ensure you have enough time to complete the route before dark.
- Download the OS Locate and what3words apps to your phone.
- Contact 999 by SMS text (must pre register by texting 'register' to 999) (relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms).
- Plan your walk by completing the YHA route notification card it helps Emergency Services if you get into difficulties or fail to return from your walk when anticipated (yha.org.uk/route-card).
- Ensure your entire group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.
- For further information on how to stay safe visit adventuresmart.uk

For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to yha.org.uk/walks

If you encounter problems with this route contact walking@yha.org.uk



Scan or click to shop
for OS maps online
osmaps.com/yha

Share your walks



What to wear

- Base layer and mid layer.
- Walking trousers.
- Warm jacket(s).
- Take extra layer(s).
- Hat, gloves and neck gaiter.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning walking socks.
- Walking shoes or boots.

Kit

- Map, compass and GPS device or OS Map app on your phone.
- Water, lunch and high energy snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Head torch, spare batteries.
- Watch.
- Whistle and survival bag.
- Rucksack, with waterproof cover or a dry bag or plastic bag inside.
- Medicines or toiletries you would usually use.

You might also want to take

- Spare socks, hat, gloves.
- Balaclava.
- Leg gaiters.
- Waterproof baseball cap (handy if you wear glasses).
- Walking poles.

- Bivi bag or group shelter.
- Spare food and hot drink.
- Duct tape (handy for fixing things).
- Penknife or multitool.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.
- Plastic bags to take away your rubbish or dog poo.

In case of emergency

- Call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and ask for the Police.
- Use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.
- If you need to attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash your torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location (grid reference), number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.
- Help could be some time coming so whilst waiting make the casualty comfortable.
- Keep the casualty warm and dry using spare clothing. Use coats or rucksacks to insulate them from the ground.
- Remember the rest of the group could be getting cold whilst waiting. Use an emergency shelter or find a sheltered location.