

199 YHA Ilam Hall Dovedale

Countryside and riverside walk

Distance: 2.9 miles (4.6km) **Ascent:** 78m (256ft)

Time: Allow 1h 15m to 2h

Map: OS Explorer 1:25k (OL24) Peak District – White Peak area

Start/Finish: OS Locate SK 131 506 **what3words** ///mysteries.approach.snuck

A wander through the White Peak countryside to a stunning riverside stroll. From the hostel turn right and take the path past the church. Bear left onto a small road, at the gate turn right and walk alongside the village road. Turn left at the memorial then take the footpath on the left, signposted Bunster Hill. Head up the steps and continue to the 'alternative route' sign. The alternative path is steeper and more uneven, but avoids stiles and cattle and provides a great view across the valley. Otherwise continue ahead and follow signs and trodden paths across fields and then through trees. Bear left onto a broad track and turn left onto the road next to the Dovedale carpark. Continue along this road to the stepping stones. Return back to the carpark on the same road, or alternatively cross the stepping stones, head back on the other side of the river and cross back at the bridge before the car park – this route is a lot more uneven. Return to the hostel using the direct or alternative path.

Hazards

Caution on the roads without footpaths. There are sheep and cattle on the route. Take care near the water. Do not walk along Dovedale if the river is flooded – the alternative path along the river is more likely to flood.

Accessibility

There are stiles and flights of steps on the route and gates and paths less than one metre wide. The surface

is generally good with some uneven pasture which may be muddy. Small patches of scree on the road alongside Dovedale. The alternative paths are narrow in places and uneven underfoot.

Navigation

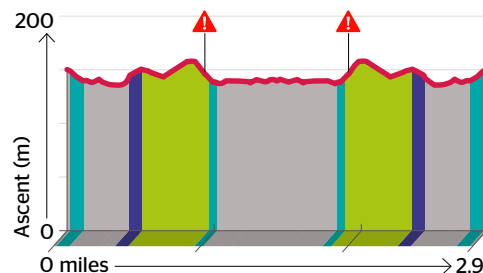
Following obvious paths and roads or trodden rights of way through fields which are well signposted. There are gates and stiles between the fields which help to keep you on the right path.

Terrain

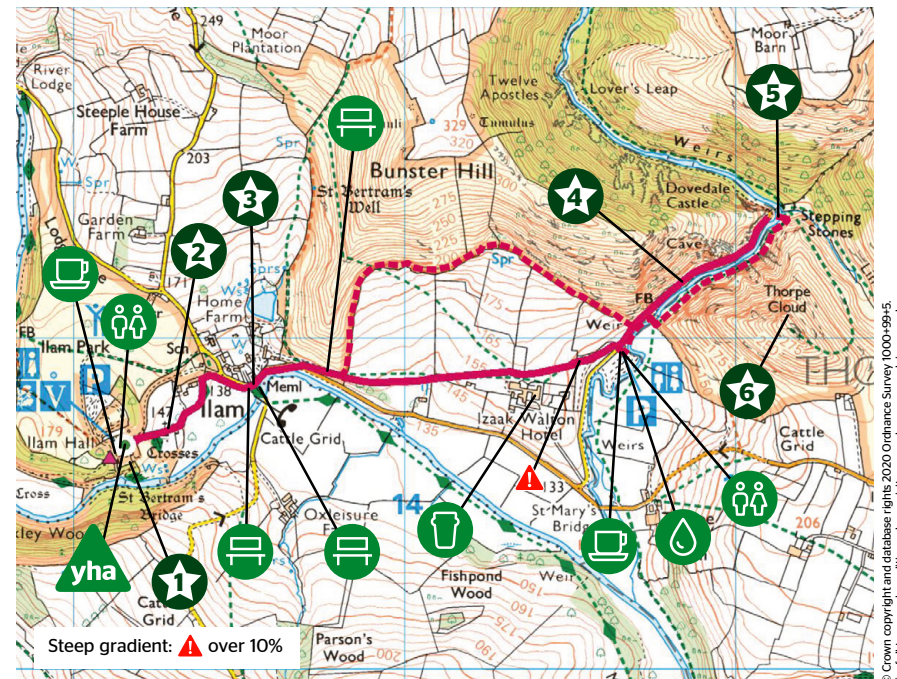
Mostly good paths, tarmac roads and grass paths through fields which could be muddy after rain. Both alternative paths are uneven with rocks and ruts in places.



- Paved
- Unpaved (flat)
- Unpaved (uneven)
- Grass



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



Points of interest (see map)

This is a lovely part of the White Peak. **1** Ilam Park, the hostel grounds, are owned by the National Trust. **2** The Church of the Holy Cross. **3** Watts-Russell Memorial Cross. **4** Dovedale is a beautiful with views along the River Dove – famed for fly fishing. **5** Stepping stones across the river and places to paddle. **6** Thorpe Cloud, the flat topped hill visible from the hostel.

Facilities (see map)

Toilets and water at the hostel, café and toilets in Ilam Park near the hostel. Toilets, water tap and food van at the Dovedale carpark.

Seats on route (see map)

Not wheelchair accessible

Not a touch free route

Not pushchair accessible

Not stile free

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.

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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).
- For further information on how to stay safe visit adventuresmart.uk

In case of emergency call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.

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



Countryside Code

Respect everyone

- Be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking.
- Be nice, say hello, share the space.
- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

Hazards

- Take extra care and stay alert where a right of way crosses a railway line.
- When walking on a road without a pavement keep to the right-hand side, so that you can see oncoming traffic. Keep close to the side of the road, and walk in single file if necessary. It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.
- Give wild animals, livestock and horses plenty of space.

Protect the environment

- Take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit.
- Do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can.
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight.
- Dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do.
- Care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance.

Enjoy the outdoors

- Check your route and local conditions.
- Plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do.
- Enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory.

What to wear

- Comfortable clothing suitable for the conditions.
- Use several layers, so you can add and remove clothing to regulate your temperature.
- Extra warm clothes in case it gets colder.
- Hat, gloves and scarf.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning comfy socks.
- Comfortable well fitting trainers, walking shoes or boots.

Kit

- Map and compass.
- Water, lunch and snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Torch and spare batteries.
- 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

- Picnic blanket.
- Waterproof baseball cap, if you wear glasses.
- Walking poles.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.