

200

YHA Ilam Hall

Dove Dale, Wolfscote Dale and Hall Dale

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

River and Dale walk

Distance: 14.3 miles (23km) **Ascent:** 569m (1,867ft)

Time: Allow 6h 45m to 10h 45m

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

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

A beautiful walk through the dales of the White Peak. 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 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 cross the stepping stones. Turn left and follow alongside the river for about 4km to the Milldale bridge. Cross the river, bear right and continue following the river upstream to the end of Wolfscote Dale. Turn left to cross the footbridge and follow the track. At the junction turn left and follow the right of way through fields past How Narrowdale. Turn right, then left to continue through fields to meet a track. Bear right then turn right onto another track into Alstonefield. Bear left to the road and take the narrow path just before the toilets. Emerge

onto a road, turn left, pass the village hall and road junction then bear left onto the track. As the track bends to the right continue ahead and through fields and trees to cross the road at Dale Bottom. Take the track ahead and onto a road at Grove Farm. Bear left at the junction, turn left onto the track, then right across fields and along Hall Dale. Turn right at the river. After passing the footbridge at Ilam Rock bear right and head steeply uphill to follow the path around Dovedale Wood. Turn right to pass Air Cottage, then left before Ilamtops Farm to head around Bunster Hill and to the road. Retrace the route back to the hostel.

Hazards

Caution on the roads without footpaths. There are sheep and cattle on the route. Patches of rocky ground, some cliff edges to be aware of and ground which may be muddy and slippery after rain. Take care near the water. Do not walk alongside the rivers if they are flooded.



Accessibility

There are stiles and steps on the route and gates and paths less than one metre wide. Many good paths and tracks, some rough ground with ruts or stones greater than 10cm and some rights of way across fields. Will be muddy in places after rain. The steep ascent after Ilam Rock can be avoided by crossing the footbridge over the river and returning to Ilam along Dove Dale.

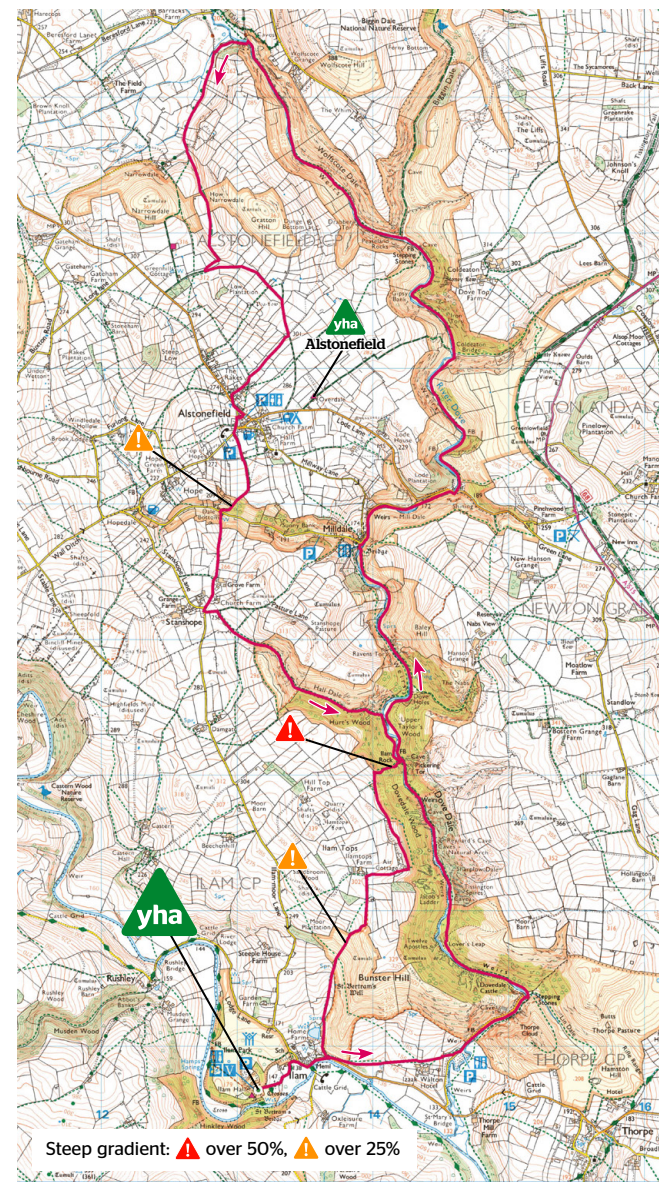
Points of interest

Great views and beautiful flora and fauna throughout the walk. Interesting caves along the river on the first half of the walk.

Facilities

Toilets and water at the hostel, café and toilets in Ilam Park near the hostel. Food and drink available at the Isaak Walton Hotel in Ilam. Toilets, water tap and food van at the Dovedale carpark. Toilets in Milldale and Alstonefield. Seasonal takeaway in Milldale. Pub in Alstonefield.

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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Route: Matt Overd & Julia Rakisimowicz



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.