

252

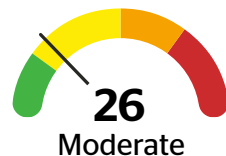
YHA Malham

Gordale Scar and Malham Cove

Countryside walk

Distance: 4.5 miles (7.3km) **Ascent:** 161m (528ft)

Time: Allow 2h to 3h 15m



Map: OS Explorer 1:25k (OL02) Yorkshire Dales – Southern & Western areas

Start/Finish: OS Locate SD 901 629 **what3words** ///prowling.bike.robots

Two out and back routes to the stunning Gordale Scar and Malham Cove, walk them together or in two parts. From the hostel turn left, then left onto Finkle Street. Follow Gordale Lane to the gated entrance to Gordale Scar. Follow the path to Gordale Scar and turn around when the path becomes rocky. Retrace the route to Finkle Street and return to the hostel if stopping. For Malham Cove continue past the Lister Arms and over the small bridge to the village centre and turn right onto Cove Road. Pass through the gate on the right to Malham Tarn Estate and follow the path to the base of Malham Cove. Retrace the route back to the hostel.

Fallen rocks on the path and erosion may create occasional obstacles for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Non-powered wheelchairs may struggle in places. The walk can be enjoyed in one or two sections, stopping at the hostel or in Malham in-between. It is 2.6 miles to Gordale Scar and back. Malham Cove and back is 1.9 miles.

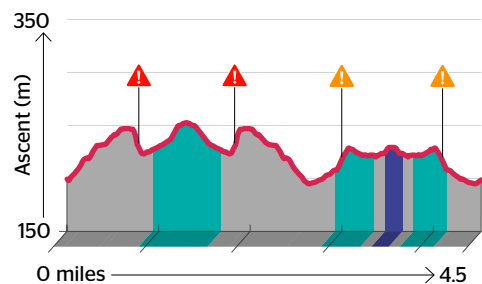
Navigation

Easy to follow roads and well marked footpaths.

Terrain

Tarmac and paved roads, flat crushed stone paths, some flagstones and small section of uneven ground near Malham Cove.

● Paved ● Unpaved (flat) ● Unpaved (uneven)

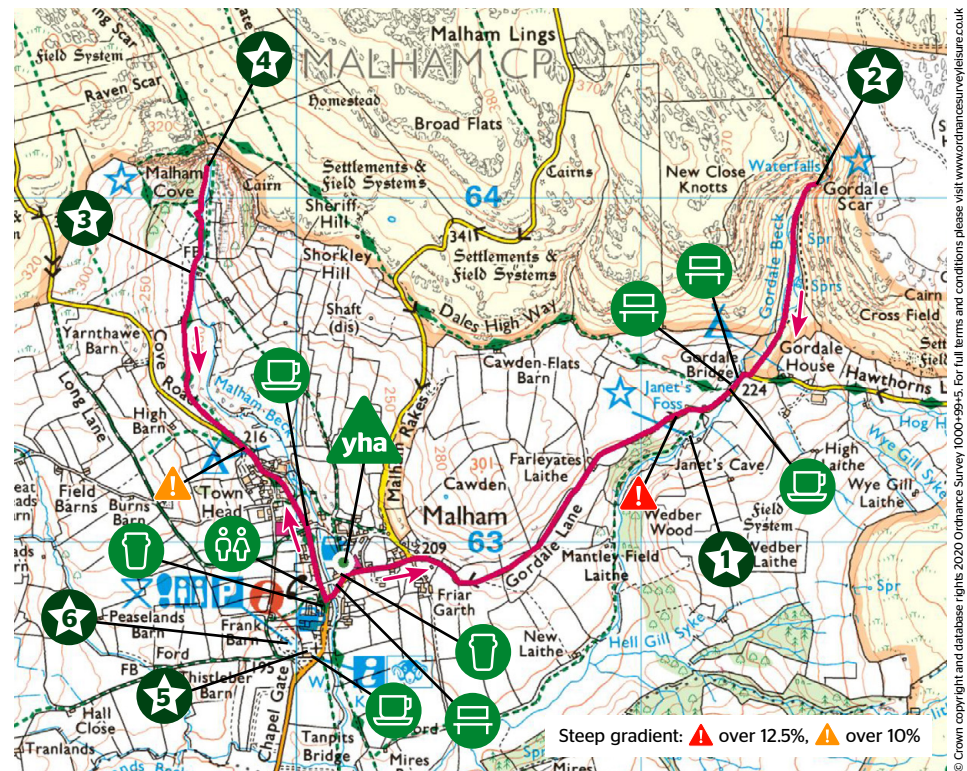


Hazards

Caution required on the road sections, they are narrow with no pavements. May be livestock near the path to Malham Cove.

Accessibility

There are no stiles or steps on the route and gates and paths are at least one metre wide. Steep gradient (1 in 5) on the tarmac road to Gordale Scar. The first 25m section of footpath from the road to Malham Cove has a gradient of 1 in 6, after which it does not exceed 1 in 8.



Points of interest (see map)

Beautiful National Park scenery and the pretty village of Malham.
1 Janet Foss Waterfall **2** Gordale Scar, **3** Ancient field systems, **4** Malham Cove, **5** National Park Visitor Centre with information about the limestone scenery and cameras to watch nesting peregrine falcons, **6** designated dark skies discovery site.

Facilities (see map)

Toilets in Malham and at YHA. Pubs in Malham. Refreshments available at Gordale, Beck Hall and the National Park Visitor Centre.

Seats on route (see map)

Accessible for some

Not a touch free route

Off-road pushchair accessible

Stile free route

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.

252 YHA Malham Additional accessibility notes



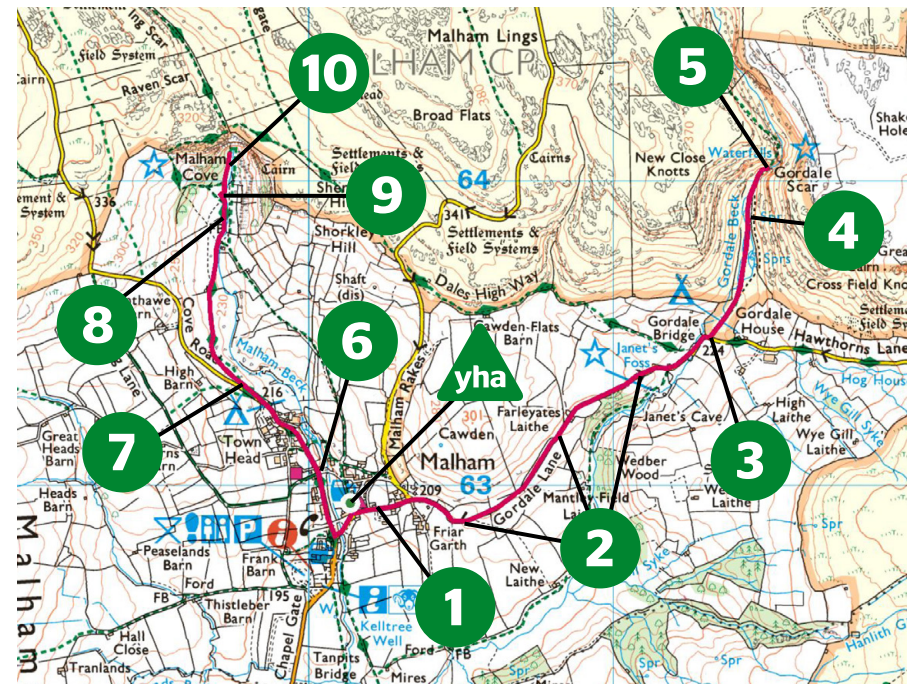
This route combines two shorter accessible routes from YHA Malham to Gordale Scar and Malham Cove. They can be completed together, separately or together with a break in-between. The path to Gordale Scar is described by Access the Dales (access-the-dales.com/post/gordale-scar-terrainhopper-walk) and the path to Malham Cove is described by Miles Without Stiles (yorkshiredales.org.uk/plan-your-visit/essential-information/access-for-all/miles-without-stiles).

This route is suitable for sturdy all terrain powered wheelchairs or mobility scooters. Manual wheelchair users may find sections of this route difficult.

YHA Malham provides wheelchair accessible facilities with accessible parking, an accessible reception desk, an accessible public toilet and an accessible bedroom and bathroom.

These notes accompany the YHA Walks route card 252 to provide additional information about the terrain and potential obstacles.

- 1 The route begins at the YHA and leaves the village along a narrow tarmac lane (Pic A).
- 2 Steep sections along Gordale Lane (Pic B).
- 3 Gated entrance to the Gordale Scar path (Pic C). Path is crushed stone and gravel (Pic D).
- 4 Path becomes uneven in places as small rocks fall from the slopes alongside the path (Pic E).
- 5 Accessible path ends where it becomes rockier (Pic F). The route returns to Malham the same way.
- 6 The route to Malham Cove leaves the village along a tarmac lane (Pic G).
- 7 Gated entrance to the Malham Cove path (Pic H). Path is crushed stone and gravel (Pic I).
- 8 Path changes to York stone flags (Pic J).
- 9 The path approaching the cove has become eroded, exposing tree roots and large stones (Pic K).
- 10 Boulders, uneven rocks and the stream make the path to base of the cove very uneven (Pic L). The route returns to Malham the same way.



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Notes: Matt Overd

