scenic bus rides
pleasant walks
places to see
The route number on most journeys changes in Clitheroe, but don’t worry, through tickets are available and you can stay on the bus.
The Ribble Valley Express is a frequent, reliable and scenic trans-Pennine bus route linking the fertile Lancashire Plain and busy City of Preston, with the dramatic high fell country of the Pennines that extends between the counties of Lancashire and North Yorkshire.

The Ribble Valley Express takes advantage of the narrow transport corridor through these Pennine foothills, along the A59 trunk road, through the Ribble Valley. This corridor also divides Pendle Hill and its beautiful surroundings from the rest of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Much of this spectacular landscape can be enjoyed from the bus window along your journey, before reaching the edge of the famous Yorkshire Dales.

Knowing you have a good, high quality regular bus service means that you can get off your Ribble Valley Express bus at several attractive and historic towns and villages such as Whalley, Clitheroe, Barnoldswick, Skipton or even Preston itself to enjoy their varied attractions, or simply give yourself time for a stroll around the shops and a pub lunch, or maybe just enjoy the scenic trip.

You can not only relax on the bus but because seating is higher up than in a car, you enjoy far better, uninterrupted views over walls and hedges. And with no parking worries and a much lower carbon footprint, bus travel is better for the environment.

The Ribble Valley Express is not just a tourist bus, but a vital daily transport link that gets people to work, to school and college, to shops and services. There couldn’t be a better way of exploring this beautiful part of England with a bus route which unites Lancashire and Yorkshire.
A View from the bus window
- a guide to your journey from Preston Bus Station to Skipton on the Ribble Valley Express.

Within a few minutes of leaving the bus station the Ribble Valley Express edges its way along Church Street to the busy traffic intersection of Stanley Street, passing the splendid Museum of Lancashire (on the left) before turning into New Hall Lane (alight here for Museum), a busy road of Victorian shops and terraces. Soon after joining Blackpool Road at Ribbleton roundabout and cemetery, the Ribble Valley Express leaves urban Preston to descend into the Ribble Valley past woods, and past the delightfully named Tickled Trout Hotel (alighting point for Brockhole Nature Reserve). The route continues underneath the M6, Britain’s first Motorway, along a mile of separated dual carriageway past Salmesbury, before turning left at traffic lights towards Myerscough.

The next feature of interest is the huge BAE Systems Salmesbury factory and research centre. BAE is a world-leader in aerospace research and technology for both civil and military purposes. Look out on the right for the supersonic Lightning Jet Fighter displayed near the entrance, an evocative relic of the 1960s Cold War years.

The bus leaves the A59 to serve the village of Mellor Brook, before heading back due northeast towards Osbaldeston and Copter Green, through a pastoral landscape of scattered farms and hamlets. Already, from either window of your bus, the Pennine foothills can be seen rising to fill the horizon, with increasingly dramatic views across to the Bowland Fells, Longridge Fell dominating the north and rolling hills beyond Langho and Whalley the south.

At Langho the Ribble Valley Express turns off the A59 to head through Billington, past the ever steeper southern flanks of Pendle

Ducks at the riverside, Sawley
Hill visible to your right, before descending steeply into the pretty wooded valley of the River Calder. Look to the left to see the Whalley Viaduct an impressive brick structure carrying the Ribble Valley Railway line over the River Calder. Almost immediately you are above the ruins of Whalley Abbey in a pretty wooded gorge. Note some unusual double-deck Regency cottages with iron balconies to your right. Whalley is an attractive town, well worth a visit for its fine ruined Abbey, with its impressive Gatehouse and the nearby medieval Parish church close by.

From Whalley the Ribble Valley Express heads due north under the A59 and through Barrow, a long linear village, before joining the main road into the busy market town of Clitheroe with its impressive castle - bus stop by the entrance - and busy Interchange for the Ribble Valley rail service and connecting buses into the Forest of Bowland.

Beyond Clitheroe the Ribble Valley Express becomes Service 180 or X80. The bus heads out through the suburbs with glimpses of the huge Ribble Cement works to your left, soon heading through open countryside to Chatburn, another pleasant Pendleside village.

This part of the route is increasingly dominated by the magnificent whale-back shape of Pendle Hill, one of the most celebrated hill summits in the north of England, beloved of fell walkers of all ages, and full of evocative legends of the ill-fated Pendle Witches who were so cruelly persecuted in the 17th century.

Rejoining the busy A59, the Ribble Express now enters countryside of exceptional beauty, much of it in the Forest of Bowland AONB, with fine views on either side, soon passing close to the ruins of Sawley Abbey, once major landowners in the region. The A59 trunk road follows along a natural plateau above the Ribble to reach the village of Gisburn, with its old inns and busy cattle market. This market owes its origin to a Royal Charter given to the monks of Sawley Abbey in the 13th century.
Two miles beyond Gisburn the Ribble Valley Express bus services divide. The X80 takes the more direct route along the A59 past East Marton with its unique double arched canal bridge. The 180 however turns down a narrow minor road along the valley formed by Stock Beck, a tributary of the Ribble, past the hamlet of Bracewell. Don’t miss, on your right, the medieval church of St. Michael dating back to the 12th century; its rugged tower is 14th century. The 180 soon enters the typical Pennine mill town of Barnoldswick. The mills have mostly vanished, though Bancroft Mill (open weekends) a mile out of town has one of the north’s finest preserved mill steam engines.

From Barnoldswick the 180 crosses the Leeds Liverpool Canal before entering Yorkshire at Thornton in Craven. Earby Beck, north of the village, flows into the River Aire heading for the Humber. Barely noticeably you have crossed the watershed of England. The A59 and X80 route are rejoined west of Broughton, with fine views to your right of the Broughton Park Estate and the handsome 18th century mansion, ancestral home of the Tempest family. The Park now hosts a highly successful local Business Centre.

Soon the Ribble Valley Express turns off the A59, following the canal and railway into the centre of Skipton. Set in a fold of steep hills at the head of Airedale this busy market town is the gateway to the Yorkshire Dales. Don’t forget that on Sundays the Ribble Valley Express connects with DalesBus 872, the Witch Way to the Yorkshire Dales and Grassington - see Walk 1.

(If you are travelling from the Yorkshire side to Preston, then save the description for your return trip!)
The City of Preston has much to offer the visitor, all within easy walking distance of the central bus station - excellent shops, especially along part-pedestrianised Fisher Street, or in the elegant Miller Arcade. There’s also Preston’s celebrated open market (Market Days: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays - but car boot and flea markets also on Tuesdays and Thursdays) and the busy indoor Market Hall. Art lovers will revel in the Harris Museum and Art Gallery in the Market Square with permanent collections of paintings by Joseph Turner, Henry Fuseli, William Blake, Thomas Rowlandson, Atkinson Grimshaw, Stanley Spencer, L S Lowry, Lucien Freud and many other masters. There is also a Sculpture Gallery and frequently changing exhibitions of contemporary art.

Not to be missed is the spectacular new Museum of Lancashire which covers so many contrasting aspects of the county’s rich history, from geology, archaeology and early settlement, to the growth of industry and modern entertainment, represented by such Lancashire icons as George Formby and Gracie Fields. In contrast, you can also experience frighteningly realistic evocations of a First World War trench or the horrors suffered in a Victorian prison. This is an ideal family all-weather day out, with lots of interactive displays and activities - with a small café for light lunches and refreshments on site. The Museum of Lancashire is 10 minutes’ walk from Preston Central Bus Station or alight at the 280 bus stop at the top of New Hall Lane, 100 metres from the Museum.
Clitheroe is dominated by its fine Norman Castle, built in 1186 by Robert de Lacy, reputedly with the second smallest keep of any castle in England. It is perched on a high limestone knoll above the little town, with its narrow winding main street of old shops and inns. The steep walk to the Castle ramparts offers visitors a breathtaking view across Ribblesdale to Pendle Hill and the Bowland fells.

There is a bustling market in the town on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and both the main High Street and connecting side streets have a variety of fascinating shops, galleries and cafés to explore.

However, it is the newly refurbished award-winning Castle Museum in the castle bailey which is Clitheroe’s top attraction. Designed to appeal to the whole family, with interactive displays, as well as special exhibitions and children’s activity events, the Museum tells the story of Clitheroe and Lancashire over 350 million years, from geology and fossils, landscape and wildlife, to early human settlements, then more recent history including Cavaliers and Roundheads (who captured the castle in the Civil War) the notorious Lancashire Witches, and both industrial and local history, as well as tales of some of Clitheroe’s heroes. There is a café in the Museum, and picnic and activity areas in the 16 acres of park and gardens that surround the Castle. The Castle is open daily from 11am to 5pm (4pm in winter) Admission Adults £3.75, concessions £2.85, accompanied children free. For details of special family events ring 01200 424568 or http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/clitheroecastlemuseum
Whalley

This pretty town lies on a wooded valley of the River Calder overlooked by the hill known as Whalley Nab, and close to an impressive brick viaduct on the Ribble Valley Railway Line. The town is best known for the beautiful ruins of its Cistercian Abbey. It was founded in 1296 by monks who originally came from Stanlow on the River Mersey, to establish what became the second richest monastery in Lancashire. The monastery’s building was not completed until 1440 but abandoned after the Dissolution in 1537. Much of the stone was used to build a large private house in the grounds, which after rebuilding and modernisation in the 19th and 20th centuries, is now a centre for religious studies. But the Abbey ruins and surrounding gardens in a lovely riverside setting are well worth a visit, as is the popular *Cloisters Tea Room* (10am - 4.30pm daily) from where entrance tickets for the abbey ruins and gardens (small charge) can also be bought. There is also a small visitor centre with exhibitions and a model of the Abbey. A short walk along the lane past the Abbey leads to the impressive 14th century Gatehouse (English Heritage) with its chapel on the first storey.

Also worth seeing is Whalley’s beautiful medieval Parish Church dating from 1200 with its tower built in 1440. It is situated on the site of an Anglo-Saxon church with links to St Paulinus dating back to the 8th century. The churchyard contains some impressive Anglo-Saxon crosses.

A choice of cafés, pubs and some interesting shops makes Whalley, an ideal place for a day out and the starting point for some impressive local walks - see Walk 2.
Brockholes is a very special place - a new (2011) wetland nature reserve and bird sanctuary with a lake and linked pools in old gravel workings. The Meadow Lake and Ponds, linked by extensive channels, are a superb habitat for birdlife, especially breeding waders. There are also reed beds, ancient woodlands, a rich flora and amazing variety of dragonfly and other insect life. An extensive network of footpaths linked to bird hides and viewpoints gives chance to observe wildlife at close quarters.

Brockholes is a place to visit at anytime of the year, including the autumn and winter months when a large variety of migratory birds including waders are to be observed on the lakes and in the wetland areas.

A focal point of the Reserve is the remarkable “Floating Village” including the Visitor Centre, café and restaurant, and local shop and food store. Buildings have a unique low-energy, eco-friendly design, and float on a gigantic concrete platoon which can cope with changing water levels.

Brockholes is about caring for the natural world and for the environment. One way of protecting that environment is to reduce your carbon footprint, so why not come to Brockholes by frequent local bus and on foot, enjoying an easy, level walk along the Ribble of less than a mile - about 20 minutes - to the Reserve entrance.

See Walk 4 for details of how to get there.
With its magnificent, superbly preserved medieval castle and ancient parish church at the head of its busy High Street, Skipton is an outstanding example of a Norman market town that has kept its character for almost a thousand years. The narrow medieval tofts and crofts provide alleyways and courtyards now filled with boutique shops and cafés, whilst the High Street is notable for its popular market (market days Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays), its old inns and shops. The Leeds & Liverpool Canal which winds its way through the town enjoys daily boat trips in the summer, and the pleasant marina area boasts an evocative statue of the late Freddie Trueman, the iconic England pace bowler.

The Craven Museum in the Town Hall has outstanding displays of Dales history and life, including the lead mining industry, and there are regular events (for details contact 01756 706407). The Museum is open daily (except Tuesdays and Sundays), admission free.

Not to be missed is the 900 year old Skipton Castle that survived a siege by Cromwell’s men in 1643-5. Features include a magnificent gatehouse, banqueting hall, bedrooms, the conduit courtyard, a well, and even a privy. There is a tea room and shop. Open daily from 10am (12 noon Sundays) until 6pm, 4pm in winter. Admission is £6.50 (adults) concessions £5.90, children £3.90.
Walk 1  A Stroll to Brockholes

Alight and Return: Tickled Trout Motel, Lower Brockholes (by M6 Junction 31).

Distance: 3 miles (5km), plus choice of circular walks around Reserve.

Terrain: Gravel tracks and paths - (level throughout suitable for pushchairs) Easy.

Time: 1½ hours but allow at least another 2 hours to enjoy the Reserve.

Refreshment facilities: Café at Visitor Centre; inn at Tickled Trout and shops close by.

Toilets: At Visitor Centre and at garage/shop next to Tickled Trout.

Map: OS Explorer 286 Preston.

A pleasant and level stroll by the River Ribble to the entrance and through the Brockholes Reserve to the main floating Village from where there is a choice of easy walks along marked lakeside, wetland and woodland trails - 1 to 3 miles, with bird hides, viewing areas and children’s play areas. The Visitor Centre has exhibition areas and refreshment facilities - an ideal family day out.

1. If you are coming from Preston Bus Station get off your Ribble Valley Express at the Tickled Trout Motel, just before the M6 junction. Walk back over the river bridge, taking the first track on the right by a metal crash barrier fence.

2. If coming from Clitheroe or Whalley direction, alight at the first bus stop past the M6 which is the Tickled Trout. Either cross the A59 carefully at the refuge, turning left to cross the river bridge to the track on the right, or cross the bridge to locate steps leading to an underpass, left, under A59 which joins the cycle path as below.
3. Walk 50 metres along the track, before going through the metal kissing gate on the right which leads onto the cycle track, now the Guild Wheel Cycle Way.

4. Follow this level tarmac track which soon goes alongside the river and under the concrete arches of the slip roads, motorway and along the vehicle access road to the main entrance to the Reserve.

5. You can follow this drive to the Visitor Centre, but a metal kissing gate on the left 20 metres before the entrance gives access to a traffic free walking route parallel to the drive which leads to the Centre.

If walking back directly from the main Visitor Centre to your bus stop at Tickled Trout, allow 40 minutes for the full walk.
Walk 2

Whalley & Wiswell Moor

Start and finish: Whalley Bus Station.
Distance: 4¾ miles (7.7km).
Terrain: Mainly fieldpaths but some steep sections; paths not always waymarked. Total ascent: 250m (820ft).
Time: 2½ - 3 hours.
Toilets: Spring Wood Visitor Centre.
Map: OS Explorer 287 West Pennine Moors.

A walk to include Whalley’s beautiful Spring Wood Nature Reserve and the ridge of Wiswell Moor, which extends down from Pendle Hill, from where there are fine views up the green valley of Sabden and along Pendle Hill itself. Once over the ridge there is a spectacular vista across the Ribble Valley from Preston to the Bowland Fells and towards Yorkshire. The return is through the pretty hamlet of Wiswell and via Spring Wood back into Whalley.

1. From the town centre bus station/bus stop, follow the main road towards Clitheroe. At the roundabout turn right into Brookes Lane. Follow the street until it forks and take the right turn going through the gate and taking the track which follows the stream.

2. At the next gate take the footpath heading right, over the stream into a field. Then take the left fork towards the trees and over the stile into the woods. Follow the path under the A671 bridge up to Spring Wood.

3. Where the path meets another path turn right and follow this path along the edge of the woods to drop down to the Nature Reserve entrance and Visitor Centre.

4. Head for the road exit and take the footpath by the gate, signed as “Concessionary Footpath”, and follow the yellow waymarks up the slope, along the edge of the golf course. The path passes the top end of Spring Wood then goes over a footbridge.

5. After the small plantation the path keeps to the right side of the field, heading up hill (note the waymark on the gate on the way up) to where the field narrows; continue up to the stile at the top.

6. Turn right over the next stile and follow the path behind the stone wall of Clerk Hill, and joining the track, following as it curves round to the a gate and gap stile. Turn left along the lane.

7. At the road, turn left onto the tarmac lane and follow for 1km (¾ mile); by the second group of houses (Wiswell Moor Farm) take the footpath leading off left between the house and sheds to go up the track. (The right of way is in a straight line but the
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7. At the road, turn left onto the tarmac lane and follow for 1km (¾ mile); by the second group of houses (Wiswell Moor Farm) take the footpath leading off left between the house and sheds to go up the track. (The right of way is in a straight line but the track is easier to follow). Where the track bends towards the radio mast, take the right fork, a grassier track to a gate and stile on the ridge top. Go straight ahead to a ladder stile over a wall.

8. Head downhill in a direction of 11 o’clock, to a line of trees below enclosed by barbed wire. Keeping to the right side of the trees descend steeply downhill, over a stile into a wood. Continue down to meet a path leading down to a stile and then continue to the lane.

9. Continue down into Wiswell. Turn left down the street and at the phone box turn left to go up Moor Lane (the pub is up a passageway on the right here).

10. At the end of the lane at Sheepcoate Farm take the right fork, through the gate to an enclosed lane. After 50m take the path right heading across the field to Deer Park Wood. On leaving the wood take the stile which leads to the right side of the fence (not the track on the left). Follow the fence then by a fenced tree turn right to descend to the stile, back by Clerk Hill.

11. From the stile descend again straight down the hill to the golf course and Spring Wood. At the car park take the path left, following the edge of Spring Wood and turn off again under the bridge to retrace the path back through the woods and down into Whalley.
Walk 3

Chatburn & Downham to Clitheroe

Start: Chatburn.

Finish: Clitheroe.

Distance: 6 miles (10km).

Terrain: Footpaths, can have very muddy sections after wet weather; paths not always waymarked. Total ascent 100m.

Time: 3 hours.


Toilets: in Chatburn and Downham. Clitheroe has a choice of pubs and cafés.

Map: OS Outdoor Leisure 41 Forest of Bowland & Ribble Valley.

A walk into the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty enjoying some fine limestone country above the Ribble with extensive views across the Ribble Valley towards the high Bowland Fells. Beyond the lovely village of Downham, the walk is dominated by the great bulk of Pendle Hill. After skirting the lower flanks of Warsaw Hill the route follows Worston Brook which forms an attractive green corridor, past Worston village, into the centre of Clitheroe.

The X80/180 bus stops in Chatburn are in the centre of the village. Head in the Skipton direction to the road junction and turn right into Downham Road.

1. Follow Downham Road up through the village and over the bridge over the A59 Clitheroe bypass. Just past the bridge turn left to take the track leading down through the gates. The track bears right below fields.

2. Follow the hedge and the kissing gate at the start of an enclosed path. Follow this lane to the end and then towards a barn, passing its right side, then go through the gate on the left to continue in the same direction. Head towards a gate and a path that descends into a shallow valley. Cross over a footbridge and go straight ahead.

3. At the junction of paths by the wood, turn right to go up the slope and under the railway bridge, following the edge of the wood to the road.

4. Cross the road then follow the track opposite for about 40 metres, then take the footpath right which climbs up by the limestone knolls. Following the waymark post, the path veers right by the rocky outcrops and heads for the right side of the ridge ahead, which is lined by trees.

5. Once on the ridge, follow the line of trees down the other side to a gate and after a second gate turn right into the village of Downham. Turn left to follow the road down through the village and over the bridge.
6. After the bridge take the right fork, and follow the lane past the Information centre (left). At the next junction, take the track straight ahead (wooden footpath sign). Take the gate stile by the farm and go straight ahead, and across the field the path becomes a lane.

7. At the next field follow the wall to the end then veer left (in an 11 o’clock direction) passing the fence corner to the twin gates ahead. Take the right gate and the next to follow the edge of Warsow Hill, passing Warsow End.

8. By Warsow End House take the gate left just past the farm, and descend into a small paddock, bearing right to cross the stile by the gate below. The footpath now follows the stream; go through a gate, and along the edge of the pastures to a kissing gate. Go over the wooden footbridge ahead to join the track. Bear left along the track to continue into the hamlet of Worston.

9. At the junction with the road, turn right. Follow the road past the pub up the junction. Take the left fork and follow for about 140m. Take the footpath
right, via a stile by a gate which leads up to the A59. Cross the A59 (fast traffic) with great care.

10 The path directly opposite continues to follow the stream; at the footbridge do not cross but instead follow the side of the stream, the path hugging the bank at first, before bending off left. At the end of the field there is a stile and the path crosses the A671.

11 Over the A671 the path continues, as signed, following an old embankment above the stream; after an enclosed section the path runs along the field edge before crossing another bridge towards Twinbrook Farm.

12 Go over the stile by the gate, and follow the tarmac lane past the houses to the junction. Cross straight ahead joining the road signed as “Upbrooks leading to Taylor Street”. Continue along this street passing the schoolwear factory and terraced houses as far as the end of the street.

13 Cross Shawbridge Street at the bridge, then turn right and head for the traffic lights to cross the main road at the pelican crossing. Cross the main road, head back along the main road taking the first left, Wellgate marked by 20 mph signs. Follow Wellgate up the hill, taking the right fork to get to (the old) Market Place and York Street in the centre of Clitheroe. To get to the bus station turn left and take the next road right, King Street, down to the Interchange by the railway station. The bus stands for X80/180 are on your right.
Start and return: Skipton Bus Station.

Distance: 2½ miles (4km) easy.

Terrain: Towpath and woodland tracks and paths. Easy, but with one short ascent.

Time: 1¼ hours.

Refreshment facilities: Choice of cafés and inns in town centre.

Toilets: Behind Town Hall or in Coach Street Car Park (near Trueman statue).

Map: OL2 Yorkshire Dales Southern & Western Areas.

An easy but dramatic walk along the old Springs Branch canal towpath, behind the huge defensive wall of the Castle. This leads into picturesque Skipton Woods, a natural gorge dominated by rushing Eller Beck and two fine tree-lined mill ponds.

1 From Skipton Bus Station entrance turn left towards the town centre and roundabout in Caroline Square, left again along Swadford Street past shops, then first right into Coach Street. Continue past now refurbished canal wharfs and warehouses. Just beyond the canal bridge, (noting the statue of cricket legend Fred Trueman on the canal wharf, left), turn right through a narrow gap in the wall into a small park area. Walk across to the canal towpath. Turn left along the picturesque narrow embankment between the Springs Canal and the stream, Eller Beck.

2 Follow the towpath under the Mill Bridge behind the Parish Church, passing the old High Corn Mill (now shops) still with its waterwheel, continuing along the narrow embankment between stream and canal. You soon walk directly behind the awe-inspiring combination of natural cliff and man-made fortification that forms the impregnable north wall of Skipton Castle that even Cromwell’s cannons in the Civil War could not destroy. The canal terminal basin which is soon reached was once fed by a unique tramway and gravity system which loaded limestone from nearby Haw Bank Quarries onto waiting barges for transport to the towns and cities of West Riding along the Leeds Liverpool canal. One of the old iron loading shutes can still be seen.

3 The path turns left over a steel bridge and up steps over the stream into an unsurfaced lane. Turn right to reach the entrance into Skipton Woods past the old sawmill (now holiday cottages). Follow the main path as it climbs gently through beautiful beech woods, with the stream to the right below and a narrow mill race to your left.

4 After quarter of a mile cross Eller Beck to reach the Round Dam, an attractive mill pond. Continue past the dam, at the junction of paths keeping straight ahead past the long, narrow mill pond
known as Long Dam that here fills the narrow valley. Where this becomes a rushing stream though a moss lined gorge you reach a fork by a bench, just below the high embankment carrying the Skipton bypass.

5 Take the right fork here which leads to wooden steps and another lovely path which goes back along the top of the Woods, with views through the trees down to Long Dam. Ignore steps down to Round Dam but keep ahead to where the path bears left and emerges out of the wood. Follow this uphill to join the main A6131 road opposite Skipton Building Society.

6 Turn right here along the pavement which soon becomes an attractive elevated way with view across the town. This follows the Castle Wall and Bailey to the Castle entrance and Parish Church at the top of the High Street. Cross with care. Shops, cafés, courtyards, inns and four days a week a famous market on the cobbles await you. The bus station is directly ahead past the Caroline Square roundabout where you started the walk.
Walk 5

A Taste of the Yorkshire Dales - Cracoe, Linton & Grassington

Start: Cracoe (service 872).
Return: Grassington.
Distance: 4½ miles (7km) Moderate.
Terrain: Mainly green tracks, with one shallow stream to cross which could be tricky after heavy rain.
Time: 2½ hours.
Refreshment facilities: Cracoe, Linton, Grassington.
Toilets: Grassington.
Map: OL2 Yorkshire Dales Southern & Western Areas.

This full or half day trip to the Yorkshire Dales National Park can be done every Sunday and Bank Holiday. Catch the morning 280/X80 bus from Preston through to Skipton where it meets the popular Witch Way double decker DalesBus 872 for Grassington. Enjoy splendid views from the top deck before enjoying this fine walk, or stay on the bus all the way to visit and enjoy the picturesque village and walking centre of Grassington.

For the start of the walk, get off the bus in the centre of Cracoe opposite the Devonshire Arms. Walk back along the pavement 350 metres to the road junction for Hetton, but take the stony track, signposted Linton 3 miles, to your right.

1 This track goes underneath the former Yorkshire Dales Railway, (closed to passengers since 1930 but still a busy freight railway to Swinden Quarry). About 100 metres beyond the bridge the track turns sharp right, along Swinden Lane.

2 Walk ahead for 400 metres. Do not go through the gate ahead, but the gate left (waymarked) following the track slowly and steadily up the hillside. At the next corner turn right again.

3 At the next gate, your route is through the gate slightly to the left (waymarked) into an open field. Follow the path as it slopes half left uphill, heading towards a stone barn with standing gateposts ahead.

4 At the barn take a few moments to enjoy panoramic views all around - the great curve of Cracoe and Rylstone Fells to the east, with the finger-like column of Cracoe War Memorial a landmark almost directly opposite; further along the skyline Rylstone Cross is easily distinguishable and to the south a great sweep of hills dominated by the twin peaks of Sharp Haw and Rough Haw to the south. Your way continues in the same direction, heading towards the right hand side of a line of trees immediately below you. The bridleway follows a ditch into the shallow valley below, where the path swings left through a gate down to a shallow and stony ford across Ellerbeck.
At the barn take a few moments to enjoy panoramic views all around.

At the next gate, your route is through the gate slightly to the left ahead for 400 metres. Do not go through the gate ahead, but the gate left (waymarked) following the track slowly and steadily downhill.

This track goes underneath the former Yorkshire Dales Railway, signposted Linton 3 miles, to your right.

For the start of the walk, get off the bus in the centre of Cracoe and walking centre of Grassington. This full or half day trip to the Yorkshire Dales National Park can be done every Sunday and Bank Holiday. Catch the morning 280/X80 to/from Skipton (Photo: Neil Coates).

**Terrain:**
- Mainly green tracks, with one shallow stream to cross which could be tricky after heavy rain.

**Distance:**
- 3 miles

**Time:**
- 2½ hours.

**Refreshment facilities:**
- Cracoe, Linton, Grassington.

**Toilets:**
- Near Cracoe and the X80 towards Preston.

5 Cross at the informal stepping stones - this can be tricky after heavy rain. Bear left along the clear path up the slope, but at the top of the slope take the path which turns sharp right along the edge of the moor towards the gate you see below. You are now walking behind the great artificial crater of Swinden Quarry. Swinden was one of seven unique limestone reef knolls but has now been quarried for its pure limestone, used for a variety of industrial purposes. The hillside behind the quarry has been carefully landscaped with trees. Follow what soon becomes a narrow raised path along the edge of Linton Moor to reach the gate you see below. You are now walking towards a clump of trees by a stile.

6 Cross with care, heading up the lane directly opposite, over a low flagged path ahead - locally know as Snake Walk - uphill to where the path swings left through a gate down to a shallow and steady downhill. At the next corner turn right again.

7 Your route continues to just before the main road bridge where the path turns sharp right, along Swinden Lane.

8 Cross the road, and turn right and go through twin gates into a field path which curves over a low hill and over the railway line, towards a clump of trees by a stile.

9 You take the narrow enclosed track left, Well Lane, following towards a field path which curves over a low hill and over the railway line, towards a clump of trees by a stile.

Linton Moor to reach the gate you see below. You are now walking towards a clump of trees by a stile.

Bus Stops

**Map not to scale**

**The Old Footbridge at Linton** (Photo: Neil Coates)
6 Cross with care, heading up the lane directly opposite, over a low hillock and bridge over the trackbed of the old railway. You join the lane. Walk 200 metres along the lane to Linton with its village green, with a sparkling stream and stone hump back bridge, fine buildings, including almshouses (reputedly built to the designs of Vanbrugh) and a comfortable village inn.

7 Your route continues to just before the main road bridge where you take the narrow enclosed track left, Well Lane, following Linton Beck downstream, bending gently to the right. At the fork, keep right, signed Threshfield B6160. Go under the railway bridge ahead to cross a beck at a slab bridge and stile, then up towards a clump of trees by a stile.

8 Cross the road, and turn right and go through twin gates into a field path which curves over a low hill and over the railway line, through gates to emerge alongside Threshfield’s ancient Grammar School (reputedly haunted by a Fiddler known as Pam) but now the village Primary School.

9 Turn left along the lane for 150 metres to where a gate, right, leads to the riverside path past the weir and newly restored hydroelectric power station. Keep ahead to a tiny stone bridge and stile that leads into the path alongside the site of former Linton Mill. Turn left here to the bridge over spectacular Linton Falls where the River Wharfe cascades over limestone crags formed by the Mid Craven Fault. Follow the enclosed, winding flagged path ahead - locally know as Snake Walk - uphill to where a pedestrian gate left gives access to the car park, bus interchange, toilets and National Park Visitor Centre. Hopefully you will have given yourself time to explore this fascinating former lead mine village with its cobbled Square and narrow “folds” or courtyards of cottages and shops, popular Folk Museum, inns and cafés, before your return on DalesBus 872 back to Skipton and the X80 towards Preston.
Great Fare Deals

1-day **Silver tickets** are available for unlimited travel on all bus services mentioned in this guide - just buy them from the bus driver on the first journey you make.

<table>
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Family 1 Day Silver tickets are valid for 2 Adults travelling together, 2 Adults and up to 2 Children or 1 Adult and up to 3 Children.

More Information

**telephone** 0845 2 72 72 72

**online** [www.lancashirebus.co.uk](http://www.lancashirebus.co.uk)

**email** info@lancashireunited.co.uk

**post** FREEPOST LUL (no stamp required)

The country walks described in this booklet require strong trainers or boots. Carry rainwear, a spare sweater, water and refreshment with you at all times, and a large scale map (OS Explorer OL41 and OL2 are recommended) for pathfinding.

Follow the Country Code - keep to public paths, and your dogs on a lead; take only photographs, leave no litter and close gates behind you.

These are recommended easy to moderate walking routes, but Transdev can take no responsibility for any accident or loss when out on a walk.

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Researched, designed and produced for Transdev by 3Zero Graphics Ltd. ([www.3zerographics.com](http://www.3zerographics.com)), Simon Holt Marketing Services and Transport for Leisure.

Photography within this guide by Dorian & Colin Speakman unless indicated otherwise.

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