

Ingleborough Walks

Walk 8 Chapel le Dale and Souther Scale Ingleton - Ribbleshead



A walk on less frequented paths in the Ingleborough area, following Kirkby Gate, the old packhorse route above Twistleton Scars to the lovely little valley of Chapel le Dale, before curving around access land and the edge of Ingleborough National Nature Reserve to Ribbleshead Quarry. Spectacular views and limestone features on this walk, including several large areas of limestone pavement and deep, water-carved sink holes.

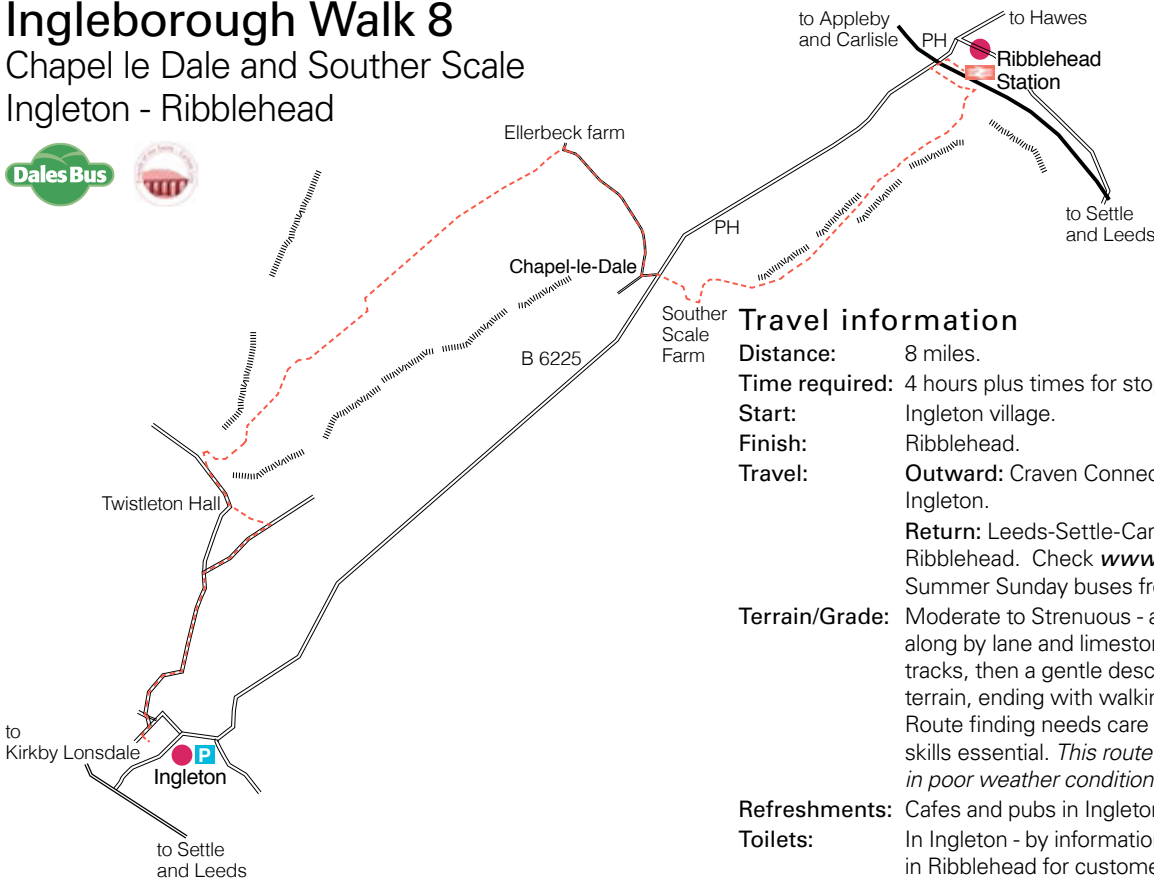


The Walk

From Ingleton bus stop and Community Centre, descend the steps from the corner of the car park beyond the public toilets, alongside the viaduct and down to the main road at Bank Top, bearing left down on the lane signposted to the Waterfalls to cross the bridge over the River Doe. Turn first right into Oddie lane, a narrow, quiet road with little traffic. This soon climbs quite steeply winding past the old Meal Bank Quarry, now a nature reserve, on the narrow strip of land between the famous Ingleton Falls, With Ingleton Quarry soon a dominant feature to the right, but increasingly spectacular views of Ingleborough as the gradient eases. Continue for over a mile, past the turn off to Twistleton Hall, to where, an iron pedestrian gate indicates where

the Waterfalls Walk down to Beazley Farm crosses. Turn left up the narrow, usually busy path (this part of the Waterfalls Walk is a public right of way). Head up the slope towards Twistleton Hall Farm at a gate to join a track. Continue past the farm along the track as it curves up to a second gate, about 100 metres beyond which a wooden post indicates a narrow path on the right which curves steeply up the hillside. This is the start of Kirkby Gate, the ancient packhorse way between Dent village and Kirkby Lonsdale. Follow the path as it angles steeply up the hillside, soon giving wonderful views along the limestone scars of Kingsdale before it hairpins sharply back, up the hillside, then turning left through an area of limestone pavement. Follow the grassy path keeping some hundred metres from the wall on the right heading for the craggy area of

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Travel information

- Distance:** 8 miles.
- Time required:** 4 hours plus times for stops.
- Start:** Ingleton village.
- Finish:** Ribbleshead.
- Travel:** **Outward:** Craven Connection bus 581 to Ingleton.
Return: Leeds-Settle-Carlisle Line train from Ribbleshead. Check www.dalesbus.org for Summer Sunday buses from Ribbleshead.
- Terrain/Grade:** Moderate to Strenuous - an extended climb along by lane and limestone pavement. track tracks, then a gentle descent over rugged terrain, ending with walking over open moorland. Route finding needs care - good map reading skills essential. *This route is not recommended in poor weather conditions.*
- Refreshments:** Cafes and pubs in Ingleton; pub at Ribbleshead.
- Toilets:** In Ingleton - by information Centre. At Station Inn in Ribbleshead for customers only.

limestone ahead where you will see a narrow gap where the ancient path squeezes between high limestone clints, a path partly natural, partly man-made between rocks to soon reach Ewe Top. Whernside is a dominant feature ahead with magnificent views of Ingleborough to your right. The gradient eases to level walking, soon with a slight descent. The path winds slightly left to about 100-150 metres from the wall to the left - follow cycle tracks and footprints as you wind between amazing swallow holes and areas of limestone pavement. Continue over Raintree Moss, with more extensive limestone pavements to your right, swerving round the outside of more pavement below the end of the great ridge of Whernside, with fir plantations directly ahead. The path eventually cross Blake Bank Moss - with spectacular views of Ribbleshead Viaduct ahead - to the ford below Ellerbeck farm, where you meet a track. Turn right here, descending to woodland, through a gate, downhill into a narrow, atmospheric, romantic valley at the bottom of which is Chapel le Dale, the tiny Dales chapel alongside the burial ground of many railway navvies who died building the Settle Carlisle line in the 1870s. Continue to the main B6255. Unless you want to call at the Hill Inn (quarter of a mile up the busy road) cross the narrow stile ahead, and the step stile in the next field, to reach the path to a gate below Souther Scale Farm. Climb past the farm to the ladder stile in the wall above. Cross, following the grassy path right signed to Douk Cave. Pass the Cave, a deep pothole (access for experienced cavers only) bearing left to a pedestrian gate and then, on the right, a second gate. Turn left to follow the wall side over access land above Souther Scale Nature Reserve (access by stile). The narrow wall side path eventually bears half right to a (locked) metal gate some 50 metres from the wall corner ahead. Cross, again keeping the same direction above Fell Close Rocks and below Keld Bank to eventually join the right of way from Sleight Pasture. Head for the pedestrian gate. Follow this narrow path, but about 100 metres beyond the gate, look out for a narrow path on the left crossing Gauber High Pasture. Head for the pedestrian gate in the wall below. The path winds between limestone pavement. Go through the gate, bearing right at the junction marked by a post with green waymark, and follow the path as it winds down to the quarry floor, turning right to the entrance of the Nature Reserve. Follow the old quarry drive to the main road and railway bridge by the viaduct. Turn right under the bridge to the Station Inn and right again into Ribbleshead Station drive. Allow 10 minutes to walk from the Inn to the station platform to be sure of catching your train.