

Ingleborough Walks

Walk 9 Colt Park Meadows



This walk from Ribblehead to Horton in Ribblesdale, provides an excellent introduction to the northeast corner of Ingleborough National Nature Reserve, crossing a nature reserve, flower rich meadows and areas of limestone pavement as well as following paths across upland pastureland on the slopes of Ingleborough.



The Walk

From Ribblehead Station, walk down the stony drive past the Station House towards Station Inn (bus stop). Turn left under the railway bridge and left again along the track by sidings towards old Ribblehead quarry. Past the car park and turn right through the gate into the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve with Interpretive Panel and map.

Follow the short green waymark posts which indicate the Nature Trail through the old quarry, an area rich in

wild flowers in early summer, towards the small pond, where the Trail turns sharp left, marked with green posts, away from the quarry floor, above and behind the steep and dangerous old quarry face. Please keep to marked path. The path curves right to join a track, soon going through another gate. Look for the grassy path that leaves the track, forking right, still with green waymarks, towards the top pedestrian gate leading into Gauber High Pasture.

Keep ahead through limestone pavement, but after 20 metres look for a narrow path (unmarked) branching left

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Travel information

- Distance:** 6 miles (9.5km).
- Time required:** 3½ hours plus times for stops.
- Start:** Ribblehead Station.
- Finish:** Horton-in-Ribblesdale Station.
- Travel:** **Outward:** Leeds-Settle-Carlisle Line train to Ribblehead. Check www.dalesbus.org for Summer Sunday buses to Ribblehead. **Return:** Leeds-Settle-Carlisle Line train from Horton in Ribblesdale.
- Terrain/Grade:** Easy to Moderate - Tracks and both moorland and field paths, with some sections of moorland path that require care. One short section (300 metres) of busy road.
- Refreshments:** Station Inn at Ribblehead, also light refreshments at Ribblehead Station Heritage Centre (open weekends); two pubs and two cafes in Horton in Ribblesdale,
- Toilets:** At Station Inn and Heritage Centre for customer use only. Public toilets in Horton main car park.



though the pavement heading due south towards Park Fell ahead. Follow this narrow way for 400 metres to where it bears left to join the public path from Chapel-le-Dale, leading towards a stone step stile marked by a pole and yellow waymark ahead. Take the public path east across to Colt Park House, through the gate to join the main access track, but turn sharp right through another field gate. This leads to a track in front of the house (now Natural England offices) towards twin large barns, continuing through gates above the meadows. Continue through three fields, but at Rigg Barn where the track ends take the narrow waymarked path on the left which leads through the centre of the meadow, above a linear wood. At the next pedestrian gate and NNR waymark, turn left though a (signed) field gate which leads to a slippery path (care needed) through a narrow limestone gorge. At the bottom, the path turns right, south-eastwards, heading for a pedestrian gate in the field wall below. Through here, the path goes around outside of enclosure fence, then turns left to a pedestrian gate on the right, then heads half left to a gate and signpost in the far wall corner. Turn right. Walk on right by verge to face fast oncoming traffic on the B6479.

Turn right along the stony track leading up to Alum Pot (private access to Alum Pot - £1 fee payable at farm). Otherwise keep to the public track which bends sharp left to ascend to gate and ladder stile. Where the track ends (780752), the path bears half left - head for ladder stiles in the walls, above Gill Garth and Borrins Farms.

Where the path meets a green track southwest of Borrins, turn left through the fieldgate, crossing a shallow ford. This joins the drive from Borrins Farm. Follow this, keeping right at a junction, heading up to South House Farm. Continue past the farm and outbuildings to enter a field.

Go through the gate on the left (waymarked) across a slope and tiny beck to the stile on the left. Go through here. Do not take the stile ahead but bear right following yellow waymark posts over access land, which leads above the wall on the left - a level path marked by waymark posts. This joins the main Three Peaks route north of Beecroft Hall to cross the railway at Horton in Ribblesdale Station. Keep ahead down the road to the village for cafe and pubs. Buses leave below the station drive or opposite Pen y Ghent Café.