



Hebden Bridge is the first community in Britain to have the accolade of a 'walkers welcome' town. This means that we try to ensure that footpaths and bridleways are in good condition, and to improve the facilities for local people and visitors wanting to walk in our beautiful countryside.

More information from www.hbwalkersaction.org.uk

Two suggestions for short strolls

Walk along the Rochdale canal towpath from the centre of the town, turning right (Todmorden direction). After about half a mile (2/3rd kilometre) of pleasant walking you will arrive at the Stubbing Wharf pub and Whiteley Arches railway bridge. If you continue for a further two-thirds of a mile (about 1 km) you will reach Rawden Mill lock. Return along the towpath.

Alternatively, explore Nutclough woods, only a short walk from the town centre. Walk up Keighley Road from the White Lion hotel. Just past the traffic lights (corner of Foster Lane), you will find a footpath on your right leading to the mill pond and woods.



Nutclough Woods photo: Mike Barrett



Hebden Bridge photo: Chris Ratcliffe



Footpath photo: Chris Ratcliffe



Hardcastle Crags photo: Chris Ratcliffe



View of Hebden Bridge from Heptonstall Road photo: Chris Ratcliffe



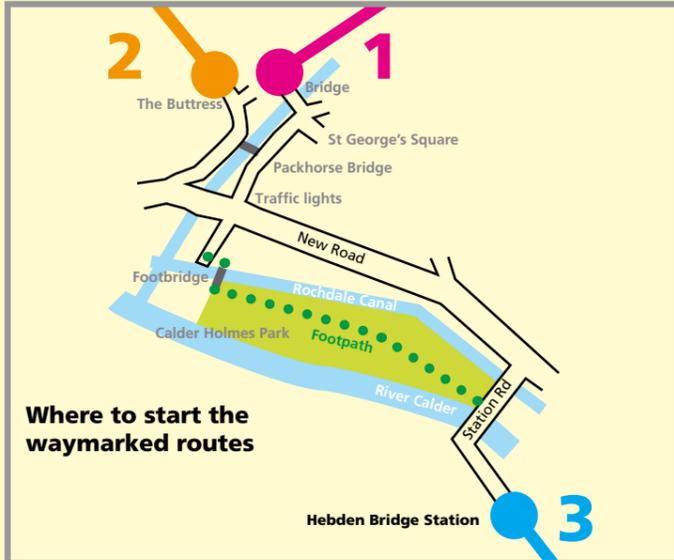
Hebden Bridge photo: Chris Ratcliffe



Stoodley Pike Monument photo: Mike Barrett



View from Stoodley Pike photo: Mike Barrett



Where to start the waymarked routes

Hebden Bridge's waymarked trails have been developed by Hebden Bridge Walkers Action with the support of Calderdale MBC.



Hebden Bridge for walking

Three waymarked walks from Hebden Bridge



Map and guide

50 pence

1. Hardcastle Crags

Easy walk

Hardcastle Crags has been Hebden Bridge's most popular visitor attraction for well over a hundred years. This walk is mainly flat, following the Hebden Water upstream. You will arrive at the start of the Hardcastle Crags woods (National Trust) in approximately two miles (3 kms), making a four mile (6 km) round trip. If you want to carry on, Gibson Mill, restored by the NT, is an additional 2.5 miles (4 kms) there and back. The route may be muddy in places by the river.

From St George's Square in the centre of Hebden Bridge, cross the bridge (between the Shoulder of Mutton and Bridge Mill) and turn right immediately on to the riverside path. When the path stops, beyond James Shepherd garage, follow the waymarks down Valley Rd and into Victoria Road. Turn second right (Windsor Rd) and first left, to find the old packhorse bridge over the river at Salem.

Cross the bridge and turn right along the riverside path. Immediately to the right is an old millpond, this land saved from development and now in community ownership.

Continue along the riverside path past the cricket and bowling grounds.

Just past the bowling green, the path forks. Take the left fork, and start walking up, past the pine trees on the left. The landscape changes. You can see sheep in the fields and old farm buildings.

Follow the path as it turns back on itself just beyond this point.

Almost immediately, turn right up an old flight of stone steps.

On the track at the top of the steps, turn right on to a tarmac track and follow this for about 200 yards/metres.

Take the next track off to the right which will take you back down to rejoin the Hebden Water.

As you approach the beginning of Hardcastle Crags proper, you pass the Blue Pig Social Club on your left.

Turn right just past the Blue Pig and over the old bridge

You have arrived at the start of the wooded valley known as Hardcastle Crags. From here, the National Trust have themselves waymarked a series of routes through the woods, which you may choose to follow.

2. Heptonstall

Moderate walk

The old hilltop settlement of Heptonstall offers much of interest, including the ruined former parish church, the early octagonal Methodist chapel and the old grammar school (now a small museum). The waymarked route follows the Buttress, a stiff climb and slippery in some conditions. From Heptonstall an alternative route back to Hebden Bridge is waymarked through woods. Total distance about two miles (3 kms), with 500 feet (160m) of climbing.

Starting off from the pedestrianised Bridge Gate, cross over the old packhorse bridge. Opposite the Hole in the Wall pub you will see a wide cobbled path going up, known as The Buttress.

At the top you come to Lee Wood Road. Turn right and briefly walk along the road then take the next footpath going up on from the road, on your left. Take particular care when crossing this busy road.

You will probably need a rest before you walk up the last stretch along the Heptonstall Road.

This is the point at which to explore the village of Heptonstall.

To return, take the lane ahead from the small memorial garden, past the old and new churches on your right. Continue at the end, turning right on to a footpath which runs between new houses to the edge of the hillside. Some stunning views of the upper Calder and Colden valleys are visible from here.

Follow this path past the museum on your left and the ruined old church on your right. Continue along the path to the left of the new church and then left on to Church Lane.

Continue straight on then take the right fork. Some stunning views of the upper Calder Valley are visible along the path back down to Hebden Bridge.

Follow the path down past Hell Hole Rocks until you rejoin the Heptonstall Road, much lower down than when you left it. Continue walking down the road until you come to a path on your left, known as the Cuckoo Steps.

Just over halfway down the Cuckoo Steps, turn left into Melbourne Street. You are nearly back in the centre of Hebden Bridge.

At the end of Melbourne Street, turn right and almost immediately left into Garnet Street. At the end of Garnet Street go down the steps, and walk left alongside the river until you return to the Old Bridge where you started.

3. Stoodley Pike

More strenuous walk

The Stoodley Pike obelisk has been a prominent landmark of the upper Calder valley since it was first erected in 1814. A platform reached via steps inside offers good views. This is a round trip of about 6 miles (10 kms), with over a thousand feet (300m) of climbing. Take care: the weather at Stoodley Pike can be much colder and wilder than at the valley bottom. When the weather is poor, this is a walk for more experienced walkers.

As you leave Hebden Bridge railway station turn right down the track to the road below and turn right under the railway bridge.

Continue straight ahead, slightly uphill, and almost immediately (just as the houses stop) turn right up a narrow track.

Follow this path diagonally up the hillside, enjoying the views of Hebden Bridge which open up below. Keep to the waymarked route, following the main path as it bears right as the woods are reached.

Walk through the wooden gate into the beech woods. The track may be muddy and ill-defined here, but there is a waymark post ahead to help keep you to the route. You are aiming for the far corner of the woods, near the TV transmitter.

Cross over the stone stile on to New Road. Continue straight across into open fields. The sign points to Pinnacle Lane and the path goes upwards, keeping to the left of the fields.

Towards the top of the fields, Stoodley Pike finally comes into view.

The next wooden signpost points straight on to Stoodley Pike, but our route is a left turn, on to a tarmac farm lane. In 150 yards/metres turn right on to Kilnshaw Lane, another tarmac lane. Continue at the lane's end at Swillington Farm, taking the Pennine Way to Stoodley Pike.

Return from the Pike to Swillington Farm, and now follow the Pennine Bridleway, turning left shortly on to a farm track, then right on to a field path and then left again, beside a little stream. At the bottom, as you enter a wooded area, leave the Pennine Bridleway and instead turn right to take the track above beautiful Beaumont Clough woods. At the end, when you meet a tarmac road, follow this down to the outskirts of Hebden Bridge.