Cheddar Walking

TRAIL TYPE
Walking

GRADE
Medium

DISTANCE
8km (5 miles)

TIME
2 hours

OS MAP
Explorer 141
Landranger 182

CONTACT
contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

FACILITIES
None after leaving Cheddar. Tesco, Sainsbury and Bath Arms close to start and finish point.

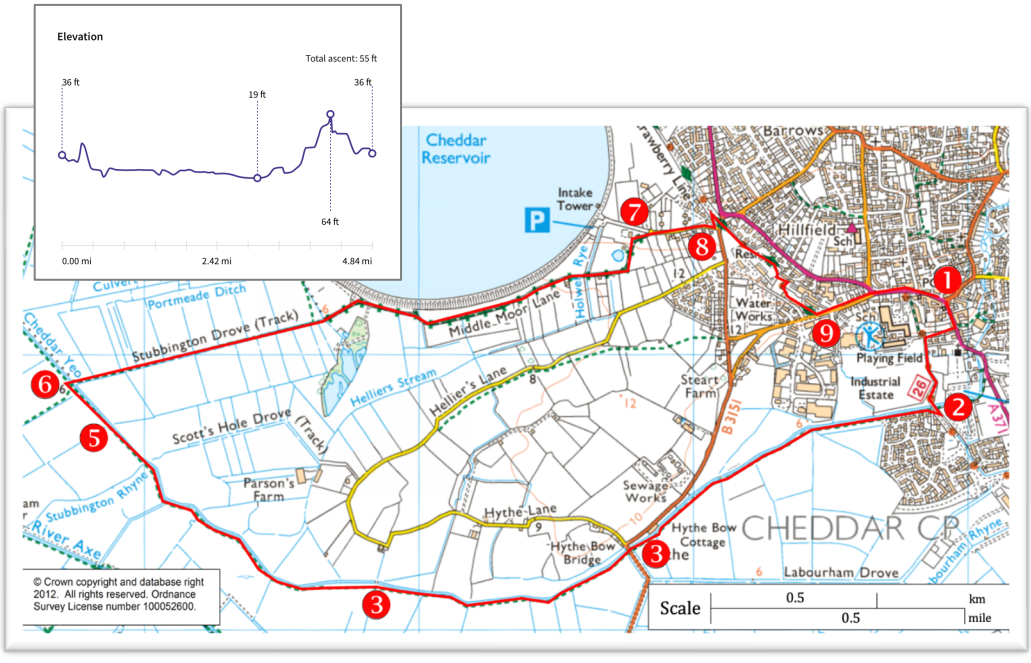
TERRAIN
Flat, a few steps and slopes, mostly on footpaths, farm tracks and public footpaths along edges of fields. Paved roadways and pavements nearer the village centre. Lots of gates, and two stiles. Wear good walking shoes – the route can be muddy in places after wet weather.

WHAT TO SEE
Great views back to the Mendip Hills. Take binoculars and a camera, you never know what you might see! Plenty of farmland and water birds, dragonflies, farm animals, wildflowers and hedgerows. Very tranquil walking out on the moor.

7. Yeo River Loop Walk

An ideal walk for a warm sunny day. Starting from the Market Cross by the Bath Arms in the village centre and following the river bank out of Cheddar on to the Levels for about an hour. Returning via a farm track and part of the Strawberry Line railway path to the village centre, ending back at the Bath Arms.

Map



Cheddar Walking

START/END

Cheddar Market Cross
OS Grid Ref ST 458 532

GPS (Start)
N 51.27542
W 2.77688

///careful.tickling.over

HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

The walk is on Cycle Route 26 (the Strawberry Line) and cycle parking can be found outside Tesco and Sainbury stores.

BY BUS

Services 26 and 126 Weston-super-Mare to Wells stop at the Market Cross.

BY CAR

There is a pay-and-display car park in Church Street next to the Sainsbury store.

Directions

❶ Leave the Market Cross heading south towards Wells with Court House on your right. At the church turn right into Parsons Pen. Continue to the end, along the short stretch of footpath and turn left at the playing field fence.
This is a short stretch of the Strawberry Line railway path and cycleway. Look out for cyclists.

❷ Continue up to the top of the old railway bridge and then turn right to descend the flight of steps to the footpath below. The river is just on your right. Keep walking out of Cheddar along the track by the river and keep the river on your right (this will be your mantra for the next hour or so).
Where the track bends away to the left, shortly after starting along the river, keep walking ahead, following the path along the river bank. Over to your left the tree-covered hill is Nyland Hill. Look behind you any time, for a great view of the Mendips. Keep ahead through a few gates. Depending on the time of year some sections may be bordered by electric fences and others can get overgrown. After a while you will pass the attractive Hythe Bow Cottage across the river on your right and eventually emerge at Hythe Bow Bridge, which up until medieval times had a quayside serving Cheddar.

❸ Cross the road carefully via the two stiles and keep following the river on your right. Again, parts of the path can get overgrown and watch out for nettles. This is now a path of many pedestrian gates taking you along the sides of about half a dozen fields which abut the river. These fields may contain crops or animals. Remember to close all the gates behind you. The path may become indistinct at times but keep along the field edges with the river on your right. After a short time you will realise you are in the middle of absolutely nowhere with just the sounds of nature around you.

❹ After about half an hour of riverside walking you come to a narrow metal footbridge across the river which is the approximate halfway point of this riverside section. The footpath stays on the left of the river, but you can stand on the bridge to watch the water flowing beneath you. Do not cross the river, continue as you were, heading out of Cheddar with the river on your right. There are about another six field boundaries with gates to pass through. You are starting to walk in the direction of Crook Peak, which is the hill in the distance with the “tweaked” summit.

Cheddar Walking

WALKING ADVICE

Please observe the Countryside Code:

- Wear sensible clothing and footwear, and sun or rain protection if needed
- Take a drink or snack if on a longer walk
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and wildlife and take litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Be considerate of other users

If you find any animal in distress please contact the RSPCA help line: 0300 1234 999

❺ After some meandering, the river takes a straight course, and up ahead you will see a large pipe crossing the river, with a bridge beyond. This is where we will cross the river and turn back towards Cheddar. Immediately behind the pipe is a gate with footpath signs on it, go through it. This is a good place for a break to stop and dangle your feet, you are about half way through the walk. The next section of farm track has some geocaches on it for those who would like to seek them out.

❻ Across the bridge, follow the dead-straight track heading away from the river, heading directly towards Cheddar Gorge on the skyline. There can be some patches of mud on this track after rain. After about ten minutes you will start to see the banks of Cheddar Reservoir looming up on your left. As you get close to the Reservoir there is a small gravel parking area to the left, but you continue along the track to the right, Middle Moor Lane. Keep along this track for about twenty minutes. It's a quiet and pretty lane lined with trees and hedgerows, but keep an ear out for traffic as you return towards the village centre.

❼ You come out to a junction at Sharpham Road with sports fields entrance on your left. Keep on along the road in the same direction with Clinton House and Dunsley Field, both on your left.

❽ Immediately after the last of the new-build houses on your left, you will see an old railway bridge, with a ramp and steps down to the old railway line path. Go down to this path and turn right, to pass under the railway bridge. This is the Strawberry Line path again, so look out for cyclists. Continue along behind back gardens and round a couple of dog-legs in the path. On your left will be a stonemason's yard based at the former Cheddar railway station. On your right is a builder's yard. Exit through an industrial estate and continue on to the main road, and turn left for the village centre ❾

Pass the entrance to the Leisure Centre on your right, and on the left is Station Road (a cul-de-sac). If you would like to see the old Cheddar station frontage go up here about 100 yards and it's on your left.
Then retrace your steps to the main road. Continue on to the village centre, passing the war memorial on your left. After another 100 yards on the right you will pass one of Cheddar's oldest buildings, Hanam Manor. After this, continue onwards to come back to where you started and a well-earned drink at the Bath Arms.

Cheddar Walking

Cheddar Walking is a voluntary group promoting the wonderful walking to be had in and around Cheddar, Somerset.

Our walks are designed for all types of people from those looking for a short simple walk, through those wanting something a bit more stretching up on to the Mendips or out on to the levels. We also have historic walks, bus walks (bus out, walk back) and walks suitable for buggies and wheelchairs.

We have met the strict criteria that allows us to be a certified member of the national **Walkers are Welcome** association.

We get great ongoing support from several key groups in the area, without which we could not function:

Mendip Hills AONB
Cheddar Parish Council

And we partner with other non-profit groups including the National Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust, the Mendip Society and Mendip Ramblers.

www.cheddarwalking.org.uk
contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

Mendip Hills National Landscape

If you liked this walk you might be interested in the other walks we have checked and written up. All of them are downloadable from our website, **www.cheddarwalking.org.uk**, or for a donation at the Visitor Information Centre near Cheddar Caves. The full set is:

1. **Historic Cheddar** (2.1 miles) [Grade: Easy]
2. **Middledown** (4.2 miles) [Grade: Moderate, strenuous in places]
3. **Cufic Lane Loop (**1.1 miles) [Grade: Easy]
4. **Strawberry Line** [Bus-Walk] (5.2 miles) [Grade: Moderate]
5. **Gorge Circular** (3.4 miles) [Grade: Hard, strenuous in places]
6. **Black Rock** [Nature Reserves] (2.6 miles) [Grade: Easy/Moderate]
7. **River Yeo Loop** (4.9 miles) [Grade: Moderate]
8. **Reservoir** [wheelchair/buggy friendly] (2.2 miles, or 4 miles to/from village) [Grade: Easy]
9. **West Mendip Way from Wells** [Bus-Walk] (12 miles) [Grade: Moderate, one steep incline]
10. **West Mendip Way from Uphill** [Bus-Walk] (20 miles) [Grade: Hard, Strenuous]
    Can be split in to two separate stages 10a (11 miles) and 10b (8.5 miles)
11. **Four Pubs** (11 miles) [Grade: Hard, strenuous in places]
12. **Quarry Loop** (4 miles) [Grade: Moderate, long continuous climb for first half]
13. **Shute Shelve** (7.5 miles) [Grade: Hard, strenuous in places]
14. **Cheddar Moor Loop** (9.5 miles) [Grade: Easy. One optional steep climb]
15. **Wedmore via Nyland Hill** [Bus-Walk] (6 miles) [Grade: Easy. One optional steep climb]
16. **Strawberry Special (Draycott)** (3 miles) (Grade: Easy)
17. **Labourham Drove Loop** (2 miles) [Grade: Easy]
18. **Blackdown and Burrington Combe** (10 miles) [Grade: Moderate to Hard]

Cheddar has many businesses supporting us and all ensure 'Walkers are Welcome'

Restaurants and cafés

Café Gorge
Cheddar Fish Bar
Edelweiss
Holly House Tea Rooms
La Rocca
Kebab Kitchen
Lion Rock Tea Rooms
Mousehole Café
Razoi
Simply Gorgeous Tea Room
Tucker's Fish & Chips
Zen Thai Restaurant

Pubs

Bath Arms
Gardeners Arms
Kings Head
On The Rocks
Riverside Inn
White Hart

Accommodation and camping

Bradley Cross Farm
Bucklegrove Holiday Park
Gorge View Cottage
Nyland Manor
Petruth Paddocks
Velo Loft
Webbington Farm Holiday Cottages

Stores / other

A Special Occasion
Cheddar Library
Hansford's Deli and Food Store
Old Rowlands Gift and Christmas Shop
Post Office
The Gorge Outdoors
Visitor Information Centre

v5 December 2024