

Cheddar Walking



TRAIL TYPE

Walking

GRADE

Hard / Strenuous in places

DISTANCE

5.5 km (3.5 miles)

TIME

2 to 2½ hours

OS MAP

Explorer 141

Landranger 182

CONTACT

contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

FACILITIES

Full facilities within the main lower Gorge visiting area but none on the walk itself. Do take water with you, especially on warm and hot days.

TERRAIN

Varied terrain with open grassy paths with some steep, rocky and muddy (when wet) stretches. Some steps, one long set on decline. Stout walking shoes or boots recommended. It can be exposed along the top of the Gorge. In wet muddy weather it can be slippery in places, and walking sticks are recommended

WHAT TO SEE

Lion Rock. Soay sheep, goats, deer. Views of Glastonbury Tor, Brent Knoll and Bridgwater bay. Pavey's lookout tower. Cheddar Pinks, Peregrine Falcons.

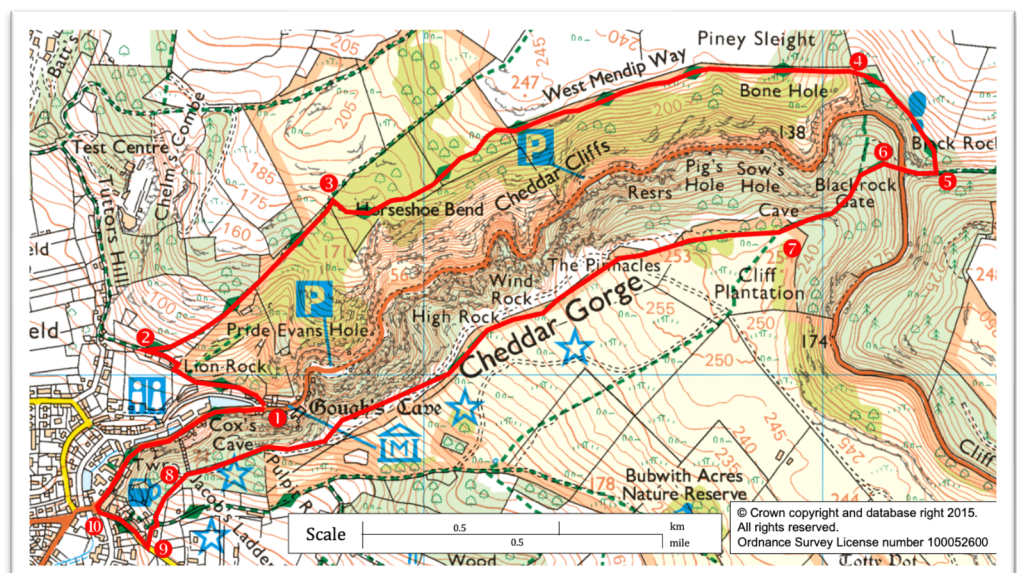


5. Gorge Circular Walk

The iconic Cheddar Gorge walk with magnificent views of the gorge and beyond. At almost 400ft (122m) deep and 2 miles long, this is England's largest gorge, and with its weathered crags and pinnacles, one of our most spectacular natural sites.



Map



Cheddar Walking



START/END

Visitor Information
Centre, Cheddar Gorge

Grid ref ST 468543

N 51.28189

W 2.76690

///slurred.engage.outermost

HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

By bike from the
Strawberry line
(National Cycle Network 26)

BY BUS

The nearest bus stop is at
Tweentown close to the
bottom of the lower gorge.

(near point 10 on this walk)

Bus schedule and
timetable subject to
change, please check
availability on

www.travelinesw.com

BY CAR

Pay-and-display car parks
nearby in Cliff Street and
in the gorge.



Directions

1 Take the stony track (Cufic Lane) diagonally left opposite the Visitor information Centre and Café Gorge in the lower Gorge area; the gatepost has a fingerpost for the Cheddar Gorge walk. *For the first half of the walk you are also following the West Mendip Way so look out for blue roundel markers.*

2 Continue up the track to where it reaches Cufic Cottage. Follow the path up to the right and behind the cottage and where it joins a wider track turn hard right and follow the track through a metal gate and upwards through the woods. The small pass gate can be opened by reaching over to find the latch)

Continue up through the woods including through a metal gate halfway up. This is hardest uphill part of the walk. Take it easy and rest if needed.

When you reach the top of the ascent go through another gate and turn sharp right. You now join a wide grassy path leading diagonally across and upwards. Keep the stone wall to your right as you ascend more gently. You will see some wooden marker posts on-route. This was the site of many of the cliff scenes from the film "Jack the Giant Slayer". You can go through a gate in the wall here to a viewpoint.

3 Follow the path to the top, through the wooden gate marked with the gorge walk sign. Look back from this point for magnificent views of Cheddar, Glastonbury Tor, the Somerset levels and Bridgwater Bay.

The following section has been upgraded to a wide stoned path along the side of the Gorge before descending via a long set of steps to a deep valley.

4 At the bottom of the steps go through the wooden kissing gate with a finger post straight ahead of you. Once through the gate, the path leads through a wooded area and descends to meet the "Black Rock" stony path. This stretch can become muddy.

5 At the bottom of the path go through a single gate. Where the path joins the stony track (*the common route with the West Mendip Way ends here*) turn immediately right through a farm type gate and on through another gate to join the main Gorge road.

6 Carefully cross the road and slightly diagonally to your right join the path which rises to the other side of the Gorge (signposted Draycott). This path is steep, rocky and uneven as it rises through the woods.

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



7 At the top the path levels out and passes through a gate to join a wide grassy path. Keep to the right. Follow the path through a set of high gates with a wooded area to your right and with glimpses of the other side of the Gorge beyond. Rise to the brow of the hill before starting to gradually descend. Keep the wire fence to your left and do not approach the sheer side of the Gorge over to your right.

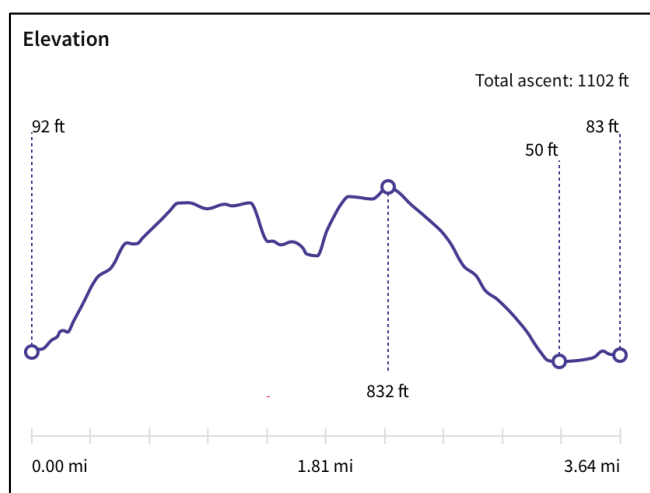
At this point you have fantastic 180-degree views. Keep to the obvious wide grassy path for your decent. This section can become exposed in windy weather so ensure you wear suitable layers. Towards the bottom of this section keep your eye out for a rocky outcrop to your right which offers excellent views of the lower Gorge. However, exercise caution – there's a sheer drop off on the Gorge side.

8 Follow the rocky path downwards through the woods passing through another tall gate with Jacobs Tower in front of you.

Please note Pavey's lookout tower and Jacob's Ladder steps are only open to Cheddar Gorge and Caves Ticket holders.

Before the tower follow the path heading left and downhill through the woods (no signs) to join Lynch Lane. Bear right and follow down Lynch Lane and then, at the end, right again to walk down the narrow Lippiatt road. **9**

10 At the bottom of the Lippiatt at the junction with the main Gorge road (The Cliffs) turn right to follow the pavement back to the Visitor Information Centre.



Cheddar Walking would like to thank the National Trust for their help in developing this walking route, a large part of which crosses National Trust land.

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 National Landscape
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



If you liked this walk you might be interested in the others that we have checked and written up. All of them are downloadable from our website, www.cheddarwalking.org.uk, or pre-printed for a modest cost 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
King's 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