

# Cheddar Walking



## TRAIL TYPE

Walking

## GRADE

Easy/Moderate

## DISTANCE

3.0 miles

## TIME

Approximately 1hr 15 minutes in total.

## OS MAP

Explorer 141  
Landranger 182

## CONTACT

[contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk](mailto:contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk)

## FACILITIES

Full facilities in Cheddar village and Gorge. None on walk.

## TERRAIN

Generally, level along stony and grassy tracks, some uneven rocky paths and muddy in the wet. A gradual ascent and descent with shorter steep sections. Two stiles and several gates.

## WHAT TO SEE

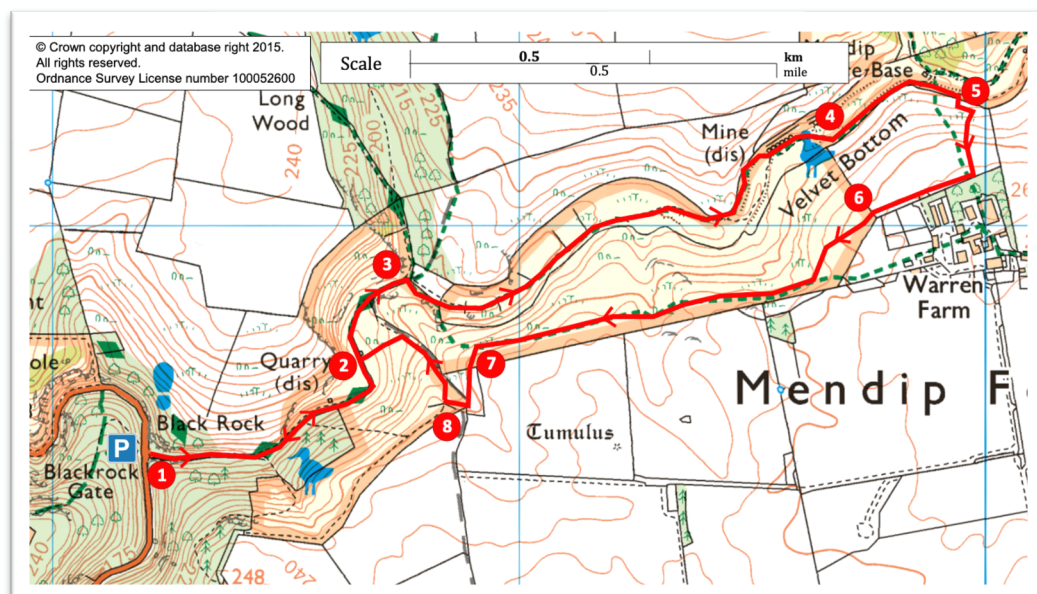
Roe deer in the nature reserve (best at dawn and dusk), Peregrine falcons, fantastic show of bluebells in Long Wood (in Spring)

## 6. Black Rock and Velvet Bottom Nature Reserves

The circular walk is along a quiet peaceful valley and into a second nature reserve with ancient workings. The walk then returns along a higher route providing panoramic views of the surrounding Mendip Hills.



## Map



# Cheddar Walking



## START/END

**Black Rock (NT) gate on B3135 Cliff Rd, Cheddar Gorge**

Grid ref: ST482546

GPS (Start)

N 51.28773

W 2.74422

/// husky.apply.property

## HOW TO GET THERE

### BY BIKE

Access via the B3135 Cheddar Cliff Road.  
Steep ascent and descent!

### BY BUS

None – nearest Service 126 (Wells/Weston-Super-Mare) Tweentown, Cheddar

### BY CAR

Access is via the B3135 Cheddar Cliff Road. Parking is free in the lay-by outside Black Rock gate which is on the left 1.7 miles from the roundabout at the bottom of Cheddar Gorge.



## Directions

The walk starts and finishes at Black Rock gate which is 1.7 miles by road from the roundabout at the bottom of Cheddar Gorge. The B3135 has no pavements in the upper Gorge so access by car is recommended.

The walk can be a loop which has a short but steep ascent and descent. Whilst recommended this loop can be omitted, returning back along the valley bottom, thereby providing a fairly level walk and reducing the overall time a little.

Black Rock entrance is clearly marked. Park in the layby and enter through the wooden gate.

**1** Follow the wide stony track for 150m and pass through a wooden gate, carry straight on the main track ignoring the small gate to your right leading up through the woods. The track opens up with a grassy bank to your left. You soon pass an old lime kiln to your left (dating back to 1904). Further on also on your left is the old Black Rock quarry. Please exercise caution as some rocks may be loose and unsafe.

**2** The stone track then turns into a wide grassy path, carry straight ahead.

**3** Where the track turns sharply left, turn slightly right to go through a wooden kissing gate marked with footpath waymarks. This is the Velvet Bottom Nature Reserve, as the information board to your right states. The path is a wide one, leading into a different landscape due to the lead mining that was carried out from Roman times. Once the valley widens, the footpath is lovely and open and gives a true Mendip view.

Continue through a hilly terrain on a well-defined path, which leads to a path of black stones- the 'spoils' of lead mining. After approx. ½ mile there is a sharp left turn in the path, and a concrete foundation can be seen on your left. Bear right here (almost straight on) onto a narrow path up the embankment to walk along a fence on your right.

**4** After 50m climb the stile ladder over the wall into the field and turn sharply right, following the fence which is now again on your right. There is no definitive path here, being open ground, once approximately opposite the original sharp left turn in the path (and the concrete foundation) turn left and head uphill towards the trees and farm at the top. Reaching the perimeter farm fence, turn right to walk along the top of the hill, hedge on your left, heading towards a wooden stile. There are wonderful views ahead of the Mendips and beyond including Brent Knoll hill through the gap

# Cheddar Walking



## WALKING ADVICE

### Please observe the Countryside Code:

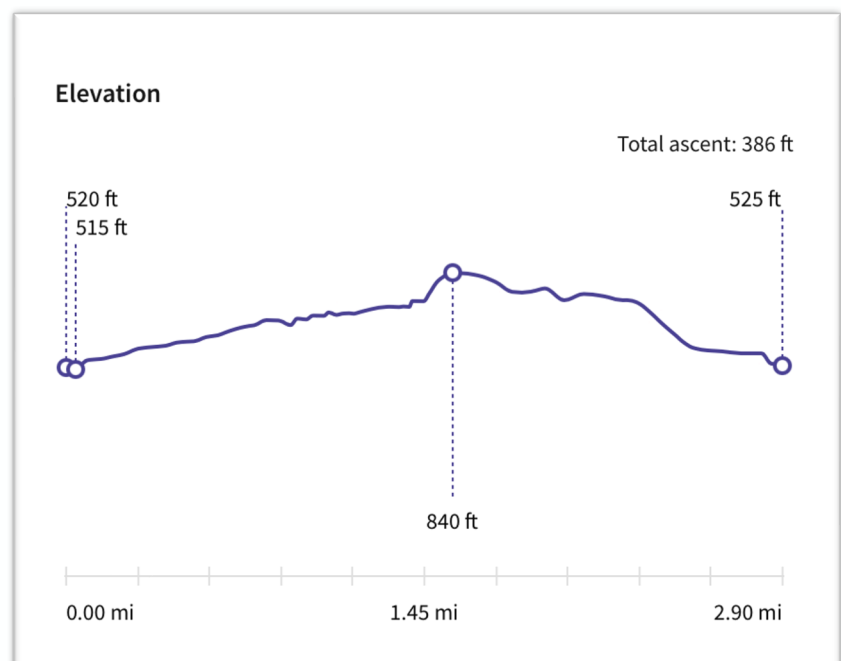
- Wear sensible clothing and footwear, and sun or rain protection if needed
- Take a drink or snack if on a longer walk
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and wildlife and take litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Be considerate of other users

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



- 5 Cross the wooden stile and continue in the same direction, keeping the fence on your left until you reach a wooden footpath signpost, pointing downhill diagonally. Take the wide track on the brow of the hill, down keeping fir trees and wall to your left. Keep to the higher path where the path splits again. Looking down you can see Velvet Bottom and the path in the valley.
- 6 There is now a stone wall on your left and you can see Blackdown in the distance on your right.
- 7 When the disused quarry comes into view below, and the path starts downhill, go through a metal farm gate on your left. The path continues straight ahead, down and then immediately up again to a second metal gate, with a white sign on it. Go through this gate
- 8 Turning right follow the path downhill until a wide-open path appears on your left. Turn left and take this path diagonally downhill, to reach a wooden gate at the bottom, right opposite the old quarry face. Pass through the gate and retrace your steps back to Black Rock entrance.

\* Special thanks to Somerset Wildlife Trust  
(<http://www.somersetwildlife.org>) for their support in producing this walk.



# 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.

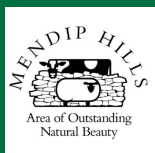
We have met the strict criteria that allows us to be a certified member of the national **Walkers are Welcome** association.

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](http://www.cheddarwalking.org.uk)  
[contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk](mailto:contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk)



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](http://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  
Deep Blue Fish & Chips  
Edelweiss  
Holly House Tea Rooms  
Ice Dreams  
Kebab Kitchen  
La Rocca  
Lao Thai Restaurant  
Lion Rock Tea Rooms  
Mousehole Café  
Simply Gorgeous Tea Room  
Tuckers

## 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  
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