
The walk is along a quiet peaceful valley and into a wooded Nature reserve. The second of the included loops provide panoramic views of the surrounding Mendip hills.

**TRAIL TYPE**
Walking

**GRADE**
Easy/Moderate

**DISTANCE**
3 miles

**TIME**
Approximately 1hr 15minutes in total. Approximately 50 minutes excluding the two loops

**OS MAP**
Explorer 141
Landranger 182

**CONTACT**
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. The two included loops both have a gradual ascent and decent. One stone stile 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)
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 has two loops included both of which have a gradual ascent and descent. Whilst recommended these loops can be omitted if required thereby providing a fairly level walk and reducing the overall time by just under half an hour in total.

Black Rock is clearly marked with a National Trust marker post. Park in the layby and enter through the wooden gate. As you enter there is an information board and maps provided by the National Trust and managed by the Somerset Wildlife Trust.

1. Follow the wide stony track to pass through a wide wooden gate, carry straight on the main track ignoring the 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 lose and unsafe.

2. The stone track then turns into a wide grassy path, carry straight ahead ignoring the stone stile and marker post on your right.

3. The path then bears left, do not take the right hand gate which connects to a separate walk to Velvet Bottom and Charterhouse. The track narrows to a stony track at this point. Head straight ahead to a wooden kissing gate. Keep right to follow the path through another gate which is the entrance to Long Wood nature reserve. You will now pick up the starter signs for the permissive footpaths.

4. After approximately 30 yards take a right turn up through the woods for the first of two loop walks. Alternatively follow the path on the valley floor to a stream and retrace your steps back. Ascend up the loop trail by the provided steps and well defined path which is well marked with waymark posts. This area is normally covered with blankets of bluebells and wild garlic in the late Spring After 5/10 minutes the path levels off and there is a wooden bench for a welcome stop. As the path levels out keep the stone wall to your right. The path is well marked. The path then gradually starts to descend with some steps although it can become slippery when wet.
Descend to the valley floor and turn left for the return part of the walk. If you turn right in about 100 yards you will come to a pretty stream which is a most welcome stop for dogs! As you walk back along the valley bottom you pass Longwood swallet to your left (this stream re-emerges by Cheddar caves) and the entrance to a large caving system on your right. The path gradually opens out until you return to the main entrance gates to the Nature reserve.

Start retracing your steps and pass the turn to Velvet bottom and Charterhouse on your left, past the National Trust sign for Black Rock.

Soon you will reach a stone stile on your left marked with a marker post (2) with a red and green band. This is the start of the second loop. Alternatively continue to retrace your steps. Go over the stile and ascend the rocky and grass path keeping the stone wall to your left and the waymark (3) to your right. At the top follow the stone wall around to the right. Walk along the wide grassy path again keeping the wall to your left. The point offers excellent views behind you over the Mendip Hills to Black Down.

Keep on the path past Waymark (4) again with the wall to your left. Keep straight on to the metal gate ahead. Pass the waymark (6) through the gate and follow the track until you come to a gate and waymark (7) on your right.

After passing through the wooden gate follow the path heading right until it comes to another wooden gate. Follow the steps down over the grassy bank and down into a wooded area. Through another wooden gate and descend to the valley floor. Pass through the wooden gate, turn left and retrace your steps back through the two gates (ignoring the sign and path to Cheddar) to Black Rock Entrance.

*Special thanks to Somerset Wildlife Trust (http://www.somersetwildlife.org) for their support in producing this walk.
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
- Sedgemoor District Council
- 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 we have checked and written up. All of them are downloadable from our website, www.cheddarwalking.org.uk, or for a donation at the National Trust Shop near Cheddar Caves. The full set is:

1. Historic Cheddar Walk (2.1 miles)
2. Middledown (4.2 miles)
3. Cufic Lane Loop Walk (1.1 mile)
4. Strawberry Line [Bus-Walk] (5.2 miles)
5. Gorge Circular Walk (3.4 miles)
6. Black Rock Nature Walk (2.6 miles)
7. River Yeo Loop Walk (4.9 miles)
8. Reservoir [wheelchair-friendly walk] (2.2 miles, or 4 from village centre)
9. West Mendip Way from Wells [Bus-Walk] (12.2 miles)
10. West Mendip Way from Uphill [Bus-Walk] (16 miles)

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

Restaurants and cafés
- Café Gorge
- Cheddar Fish Bar
- Fortes Ice Cream Parlour
- Franks Restaurant
- Holly House Tea Rooms
- Ice Dreams
- Kebab Kitchen
- Lao Thai Restaurant
- Lion Rock Tea Rooms
- Mousehole Café
- Simply Gorgeous Tea Room
- Tuckers
- The Café

Pubs
- Bath Arms
- Black Dog Saloon
- Galleries Inn
- Gardeners Arms
- Riverside Inn
- White Hart

Accommodation and camping
- Bradley Cross Farm
- Bramblewood B&B
- Bucklegrove Holiday Park
- Gorge View Cottage
- Nyland Manor
- Petrush Paddocks
- Webbington Farm Holiday Cottages

Stores / other
- A Special Occasion
- Cheddar Cycle Store
- Cheddar Library
- Cheddar Sweet Kitchen
- CJ Hole
- Edinburgh Woollen Mill
- Hansford’s Deli and Food Store
- National Trust Shop
- Old Rowlands Gift and Christmas Shop
- Post Office
- The Gorge Outdoors