

Cheddar Walking



TRAIL TYPE

Walking

GRADE

Medium / Strenuous
in Places

DISTANCE

4.2 Miles

TIME

2 ½ hours

OS MAP

Explorer: 141

Landranger: 182

CONTACT

contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

FACILITIES

None on the walk itself, but lots of pubs, cafes and restaurants at the finish

TERRAIN

Varies from open heathland and pasture, to woodland paths and tarmac lanes.
Several stiles. One gate to climb over. Muddy and/or rocky underfoot in places. Stout walking shoes or boots recommended.
Can be exposed to wind on the top of Middle Down.

WHAT TO SEE

Views across the Cheddar Valley, nature reserves, farm animals, ponies, birds of prey, wild flowers. Cheddar Pinks, Peregrine Falcons

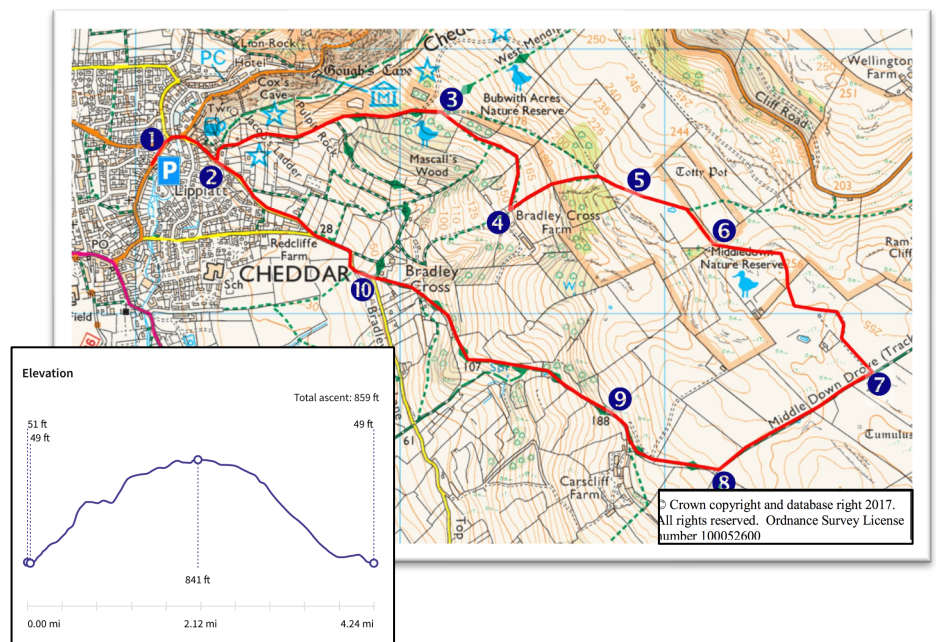


2. Middledown

A good circular walk for a dry and clear day. The walk climbs steadily up on to the hills to the east of Cheddar, through open farmland and nature reserves, descending back to the village with stunning views across to Glastonbury Tor and beyond. At the end of the walk is a pub, restaurant, and tea rooms.



Map



Cheddar Walking



START/END

Tweentown / Cliff Street roundabout.

Grid Ref: ST463537

GPS (Start)

N 51.27938

W 2.77388

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HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

From the Strawberry Line (National Cycle Route 26)

BY BUS

Service 126 Weston-super-Mare to Wells stop at Tweentown close to the bottom of the gorge

BY CAR

Pay and display car parks in Gorge and Cliff Street car park



Directions

① Starting from the mini-roundabout outside the Riverside Inn, start walking towards the Gorge, cross over the River Yeo, and then turn right at Edelweiss cafe, heading uphill, up the narrow lane with the cottages on the left. After a couple of hundred yards, turn left into Lynch Lane. Follow this lane around to the right and continue to bear right up the track when you see the gated drive ahead of you.

Follow the bridle path gently up hill. ② After a few hundred yards there is a gate across the track with pedestrian gate to the side (signposted West Mendip Way), continue on up, with views to the right over the Cheddar Valley. Further on up is a gated footpath leading off to the right, but keep straight on up. Here the path becomes steeper, passing Mascall's Wood Nature Reserve on the right. As the gradient eases, with an area of ferns and bracken on the left, continue uphill with the wood on your right.

③ After the wood ends there is a gate up ahead, but just before you get to it, go through the gate on the right and follow the public footpath sign. This is a short stretch of path which leads to a stile into a large meadow with big views to the right. These next couple of fields may have livestock in them so take care.

Follow the path straight ahead through the meadow to a gate, after which the path bears slightly right. At the tree with the large nest box, turn left here and head straight up hill ④ with the field boundary on your right. All the way up to the top corner of the field, with great views behind you, go over the double stone and wooden stile into Bubwith Acres Nature Reserve.

Do not go behind the Bubwith Acres sign but go straight ahead in the direction of the footpath arrow into an open field of bracken with a dew pond on the left, where the path becomes a little indistinct. Bear round to the right and keep heading uphill (remembering to check behind you for views towards Cheddar Reservoir); you will join another path coming up from the left and you will see another signboard for the Nature Reserve. Head for that, go over the stile and follow the footpath sign bending a little right. ⑤ Carry on to a metal farm gate, and on into the next field, passing a rusty shed and fenced pond on your right, and continue to the next gate, in the hedge line, then diagonally across the next field to a double gate with a Middledown information board. Do not go through the double gate but bear right across to the wider farm gate in the corner of the field.

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



⑥ Go through or over the gate (it is generally locked), may be muddy if wet, and into a field with blackthorn trees. Carry on straight ahead, gently uphill, and after about 100m, a grassy farm track will cross from left to right, go right. This track crests a rise and bears left, out into a large open meadow which may contain Exmoor ponies. Bear slightly left and follow this track for a few minutes, more or less straight ahead, up another small incline to run alongside a fence topped with barbed wire on your left. This is the summit of the entire walk, it is mainly downhill from now. Keep following this fence line on your left, round a left curve and down to a gate at the exit from the Nature Reserve, then out on to Middle Down Drove, and turn right. ⑦

Follow this straight track for about 10 minutes and it turns right ⑧, you are now on a section of the West Mendip Way which you will follow almost all the way back to Cheddar. Views begin to open up to the left across to Glastonbury Tor and beyond.

As the track bears right again and comes to a gate, you will then see Cheddar Village with the reservoir beyond. Continue descending past Carscliff Farm on your left, the source of Cheddar Spring Water, and site of an abandoned medieval village. ⑨ Continue downhill through the gate ahead into a wooded section of path - all waymarked with blue "West Mendip Way" and/or "Butcombe Trail" signs. Keep following the wooded path downhill for about 10 minutes - may be rocky and muddy in places - and eventually exit the wood after a water trough, via a gate into a wider, open stretch of path. Again, possible livestock presence here. With distinct Nyland Hill away on your left, keep following the curving path down and round the hillside towards the reservoir for another 10 minutes. Go through another couple of gates and eventually out into the hamlet of Bradley Cross on the outskirts of Cheddar. You will come out at a junction with a tarmac road and a small postbox with village notice board, which is where you leave the West Mendip Way.

⑩ Pass the postbox and notice board on your right and follow the tarmac road round the right-hand bend - look out for traffic along this stretch. Carry on into the 30 zone, and after another couple of hundred yards, bear right into The Lippiatt. Again, keep an eye out for traffic in this narrow lane, as the farm further along on the right is used for Gorge visitor parking. After a few minutes you will pass Lynch Lane on your right, continue on down the hill, coming out at the Edelweiss Restaurant. Cross over here and turn left over the River Yeo to return to the mini-roundabout at the Riverside Inn.

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 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
Deep Blue Fish & Chips
Edelweiss
Holly House Tea Rooms
Ice Dreams
Kebab Kitchen
La Rocca
Zen 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
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