

TRAIL TYPE

Walking / bus

GRADE

Strenuous in places including one steep incline.

DISTANCE

12.2 Miles

TIME

Approx 6 hours walking

OS MAP

Explorer: 141

Landranger: 182

CONTACT

contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

FACILITIES

Supermarkets, shops and public toilets in Wells (Market days Sat and Weds mornings), a public house in Priddy, and pubs, cafes, restaurants, and public toilets in Cheddar

TERRAIN

Varies from open heathland and pasture, to woodland paths and tarmac lanes. Many gates and stone stiles, some very tall. Likely to be very muddy and/or rocky underfoot in places. Possible wind exposure on plateau. Stout walking boots, weatherproof clothing and equipment recommended. Walking sticks strongly recommended after rain.

WHAT TO SEE

Views across the Cheddar Valley and Glastonbury Tor, limestone landscapes, farm animals, birds of prey, wild flowers.



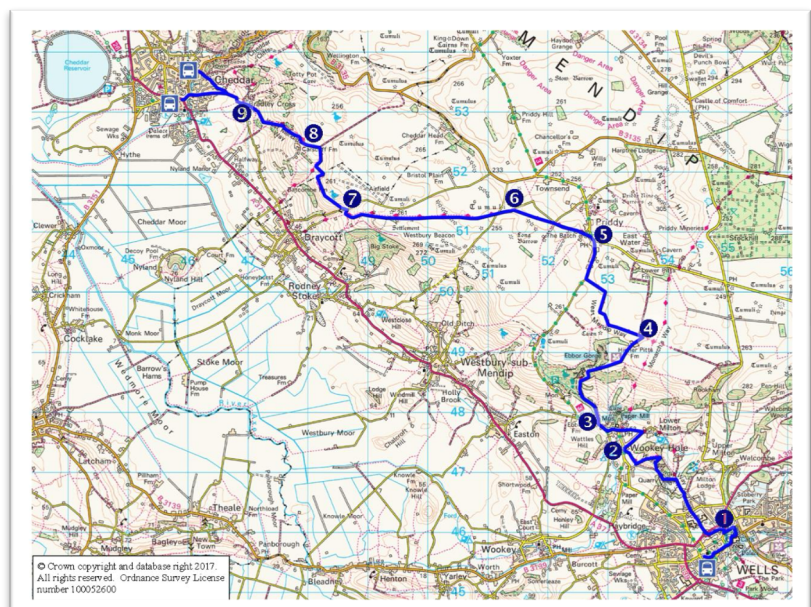
9. West Mendip Way From Wells

A full day's walk from Wells back to Cheddar using the 126 bus outwards to Wells bus station. The walk passes through the delightful historical city of Wells, Wookey Hole before climbing through Ebbor Gorge to reach the Mendip plateau. A varied landscape through open farmland and a nature reserve, descending back to Cheddar, with stunning views across the Cheddar Valley. Choice of two start and end points in the village.



Photo: Greentraveller

Map



Cheddar Walking



START/END

Bus stops at :

Tweentown (ST463537)

///potato.baseline.villager

or Market Cross (ST459532)

///inversely.attending.petition

HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

From the Strawberry Line (National Cycle Route 26)

BY BUS

Service 126 Weston-super-Mare to Wells

BY CAR

Pay and display car parks in Cliff Street and Church Street

CREDITS

The West Mendip Way is a joint project from:



Directions

Catch the 126 bus to Wells bus station (approx. 20minutes) either from the stop at Tweentown Corner opposite the Riverside Inn, or from the Market Cross in the village centre.

To start the walk, alight from the bus and walk in the direction the bus is pointing, into Market Street which runs around the back of the bus station. Look for the black signpost pointing towards the Cathedral and at a T-junction turn left. Turn right at the City Arms/ The Old City Jail. Carry straight on up the High Street.

Once at the market square, carry on ahead, keeping to the pavement on the left side, towards and through Penniless Porch. Cross the front of the Cathedral and walk towards the Wells and Mendip Museum. Turn right, passing the exterior face of Wells Cathedral Clock on your right.

Under the archway turn immediately left into Vicars Close, the famous 14th century cobbled street. Continue to the far end and up the narrow steps by the chapel, which brings you out to a pedestrian crossing. Cross over and turn left, following the road to the mini roundabout. Turn right here ("all through routes" and Wookey Hole).

① At a postbox on the left a sign marks the start of the West Mendip Way - from here on the route is well signposted by the blue waymark discs (see example on left). Follow this lane round to the right and then left, then straight ahead along a narrow footpath to the skate park. Turn right here and go over the footbridge. Cross the Blue School playing fields, and between buildings, and, where the path turns left, carry straight on through the green gate. This path continues gently uphill between back gardens and across a couple of residential roads.

After a short stretch of metalled road there is a finger post for Monarch's Way, turn left here going slightly downhill before continuing a gentle climb. Shortly there is a fork with waymarks leading off to the right, with a post marked Wookey Hole, passing some lime kilns on the right. Continue uphill, following the blue signs alongside then through the wood and at the top, bear left towards the next signpost. The path descends along a ridge in the direction of a distant tall chimney. Good views of Glastonbury Tor in the distance.

② Turn right through a gate onto a boarded path when houses come into view following the blue waymark, walking downhill through a field to Milton Lane. Turn right here, continuing past all the houses but just before Myrtle Barns (opposite the turning to Lower Milton Farm). Cross two fields, going downhill to Wookey Hole village. Following the road straight ahead out of Wookey Hole, after about 500 yards turn right beside "Elm Batch" bungalow, and the Wookey Hole village sign.

Cheddar Walking



3 Carry straight on to enter Ebbor Gorge Nature Reserve, turning right where signposted for Priddy, climbing through the Gorge via some steep steps and a narrow path on the edge of the wood.

The path continues slightly uphill through the trees and through a gate, straight ahead out into open scrubland, giving great views once out of the nature reserve. Follow the path round to the left and there are clear signs how to walk around Higher Pitts Farm, with the farm buildings on your right.

4 Follow the track straight ahead and turn left, then straight ahead following the West Mendip Way blue discs. This track starts to descend more steeply downhill after a few hundred yards, and our path is now waymarked off to the right. This is a narrow path along edges of fields to bring you to the road leading to Priddy. Turn right and follow the road- the Queen Victoria pub is about 500 yards up on the left.

5 From the pub, continue towards Priddy village green, at the signpost bear left towards Cheddar, past the defibrillator phone box and bus shelter. Continue along this road, past the West Mendip Way sign to Draycott. After a few hundred yards, there is a road junction to the right and the path is waymarked left over a stile and gate. The path continues diagonally across the two fields to join the road once more via a stile in the wall.

6 Turning left, follow the road to a T-junction, then cross the road diagonally left to a stile in the wall on the opposite side of the road. For the next mile or so the path follows a direct westerly direction, across fields bounded by dry stone walls with stiles in them. Some of these are quite hard to spot from a distance! Head for buildings and a copse in the distance which you eventually pass on your left. Continue with the drystone wall on your left. The descent to Cheddar now begins with views ahead to Flat Holme, Brean Down, Crook Peak and across the Cheddar Valley. The path descends to another road, which you cross to enter the Draycott Sleights Nature Reserve.

7 Here the route follows a reserve track for a short distance then forks off left slightly downhill. Good views to your left. Keep on along a straight path with a fence on your right, to a gate. Turn right here for a short stretch of steep uphill to leave the nature reserve via the gate on the left. Continue along gently uphill to another gate in the distance, in the corner of the field, and out onto a gravel track. Turn left and keep descending towards Cheddar, following the signs.

Eventually, you reach a track with Carscliff Farm on your left, the source of Cheddar Spring Water, and site of an abandoned medieval village

8 Continue through the gate into a wooded section of path - all blue waymarked - proceeding downhill, walking in the direction of Cheddar reservoir. Eventually, you reach 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

9 Follow the road downhill - beware of traffic as there are no pavements. Carry on into the 30mph zone, and after another couple of hundred yards, there is a fork in the road.

If you are returning to Tweentown, bear right into The Lippiatt. At the end, down the hill, you come to the Edelweiss Restaurant on your left. Cross straight over the road and turn left over the River Yeo to return to the mini-roundabout and bus stop by the Riverside Inn.

If you are returning to the Market Cross, keep straight on down Redcliffe Street, after a few minutes entering a 20mph zone, crossing the River Yeo, and at the junction, continue straight on to arrive back at the Market Cross, which is adjacent to the Bath Arms.



Mendip Hills
National
Landscape



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 others 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
Kings Head
On the Rocks
Riverside Inn
White Hart

Accommodation and camping

Bradley Cross Farm
Bucklegrove Holiday Park
Gorge View Cottage
Nyland Manor
Petruith 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