

Cheddar Walking



TRAIL TYPE

Walking

GRADE

Hard / Strenuous in places

DISTANCE

6 Miles (9.5km) out
5 miles (8km) back

TIME

5 hours + pub time

OS MAP

Explorer: 141

Landranger: 182

CONTACT

contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

FACILITIES

Eating and drinking at all four pubs (but check opening times)

TERRAIN

Varies from open heathland and pasture, to woodland paths beside streams, and tarmac lanes. One major road crossing and one 200m stretch of lane with a 15% gradient. Several gates but almost no stiles. Likely to be very muddy and/or rocky underfoot in places. Possible wind exposure on plateau. Stout walking boots, weatherproof clothing and equipment recommended.

WHAT TO SEE

Views across the Mendip plateau and towards Glastonbury Tor, limestone and forestry landscapes, farm animals, birds of prey, wildflowers, and some classic country pubs.



#11. Four Pubs Walk (to Churchill)

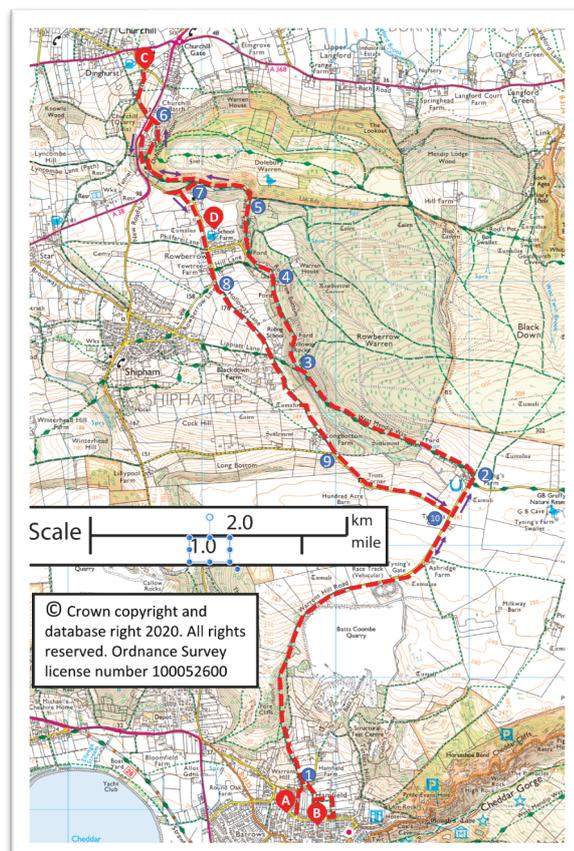
A day's walk starting from and returning to two of Cheddar's lesser-known pubs, the King's Head and Gardener's Arms. The route uses footpaths and bridle paths across the Mendip plateau with plenty of time to call in at popular walkers' pubs the Crown at Churchill and/or the Swan at Rowberrow. Both serve food but the Crown is cash only.

After a long climb out of Cheddar behind the quarry, much of the descent to Churchill is through Forestry Commission land alongside a babbling brook. The return trip is via Rowberrow, its church and pub, with some road walking, heading back across to the plateau before embarking on the long descent back to Cheddar. Strenuous in places with muddy and rocky sections. Start by 10am to give yourself a leisurely walk with time for lunch on the way.



Photo: Neil Owen (Geograph)

Map



Cheddar Walking



START/END

King's Head or Gardener's Arms pubs, Cheddar

Grid ref. ST 45697 53946

GPS (Start. King's Head):

N 51.282115

W 02.779995

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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 gorge.

BY CAR

Pay and display car parks in Gorge and Cliff Street. In pub car parks if you are paying customers.

Directions

1 Begin either at **A** the King's Head in Kent Street or **B** the Gardener's Arms in Silver Street. Both have car parks, or you can street-park in the road. From the King's Head, go through the kissing gate to the left of the pub as you look at it, and follow the path between stone walls all the way to the end, and turn right (Warrens Hill). After about 20 yards turn left up the track by the electricity pylon.

From the Gardener's Arms, facing the pub walk right and then left up Ham Lane following the footpath signpost. After the allotments, turn left to follow the footpath between two fences. Follow the path round a bend, over a stone stile, across a small field, and out over another stone stile onto the road and turn left (Warrens Hill). After about 20 yards turn right up the track by the electricity pylon.

Continue up this track, steadily climbing, through the gate into The Perch, and where the track bears left, carry straight on through the gate. Keep following this track steadily uphill through the woods, noting the quarry danger signs on your right. There are some steep and rocky sections here.

Eventually the path climbs a few steps up to a track by a gate go through the gate and continue up the track. Watch out for mountain bikers along this stretch. Continue ascending along the track which comes out by the top entrance to the quarry. Keep straight on, passing the raceway, with views out towards Glastonbury Tor on your right. Follow this road all the way to the fingerpost and continue on towards Charterhouse.

2 Pass Tynings Farm on your left, and where the road bends sharp right, carry straight on, following the West Mendip Way blue waymarkers, bearing left between the farm buildings and stables. Follow the track downhill, shortly entering Rowberrow Warren. The path can be wet and muddy after significant rainfall. At a crossroads of paths, keep straight ahead following the WMW blue markers. When the track starts to bear gently right, watch out for the WMW signposted down a narrower path dropping down to your left.

Follow this path down to a stream on your left and keep following it past a fenced waterworks area. **3** Cross over the stream via the ford / stepping-stones and continue following the stream with it now on your right (leaving the WMW). The path descends through woods (Rowberrow Bottom), keep following the stream on your right, and eventually leave the woods by a cottage. **4** Keep following the track round to the left. After passing some new build properties, don't follow the tarmac road up the hill but follow the Limestone Link waymark straight ahead towards Apple Tree Cottage.

After Apple Tree Cottage the stream (maybe dry in summer) crosses under the path from your right to your left, keep following the path and stream downhill. After a while another path and stream come in from the right **5**, keep following the path downhill to the left, eventually coming out to a gate with a parking area at the foot of Dolebury Warren.



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



Carry on through the gate, you will see and hear the traffic on the A38 at the top of the bank on your left, then after Brayford Cottage take the footpath signed up hill to your right. After Walnut House follow the path downhill round to the left. Continue down the hill past The White House, to the A38. If you do not wish to continue to the Crown (only 5-10 minutes more walking), don't cross the A38 but turn left at Rock Villa and pick up the return route from * below.

6 Cross carefully, heading for the bridleway sign on the other side of the road. You may need to be patient, but there are traffic lights a few hundred yards along to your right which will provide breaks in the traffic flow. Once across, follow the path up through the trees to come out on a track, by Dinghurst Cottage. Turn right here and descend about 200 yards to the Crown pub **C** on your right, for well-earned refreshments.

After leaving the pub, retrace your steps up the track to Dinghurst Cottage, bearing left on the bridlepath down to the A38. Cross over to Dolberrow and turn immediately right * passing the No Through Road sign. Continue along the lane back to the parking area, and through the gate back towards Rowberrow Bottom. Approximately 300m on, as the path straightens out, look for a gate opening on the right with a yellow public footpath waymark. **7** Take this path, slightly doubling back but climbing up out of the valley. At the top, turn left on the road and head towards the church. Pass the church on your left and keep straight on along Rowberrow Lane, climbing steadily. The Swan pub **D** appears shortly on your left should you require a refreshment break. Continue following the lane steadily up hill. Where Rowberrow Lane bears right, at a bench, continue straight ahead up the farm track **8**.

Keep following the track past stables and come to a gate. Don't follow the West Mendip Way signs left into Rowberrow Warren, but keep ahead through the gate, steadily climbing and then through another gate before starting a descent. A further gate follows before dropping down to the road at Longbottom. **9** Turn left and follow the tarmac road up hill (15% gradient), keeping to the right of the road. Continue for half a mile to the Charterhouse fingerpost you passed earlier in the day **10**. Turn right here to head back past the raceway and quarry entrance. Descend back down the track towards Cheddar, watching out again for mountain bikers, and for loose and slippery stones. At the gate, don't turn left down the footpath you came up, but carry straight on down, through another gate by a brick pool, and then, as the houses of Cheddar begin to appear ahead, through another gate and bear left down the slope, and bear round to the right at the bottom.

You are now back on the path heading back down to Warrens Hill. At the end, for the Kings Head **A** turn right and after 20 yards turn left down the path (after Tumari). The pub is at the end of this path on your left. For the Gardeners Arms **B** turn left and after 20 yards go right over the stone stile, following the path across a field to another stone stile, then following the path round to the left to come out on Ham Lane by the allotments. Turn right, and at Silver Street turn right again for the pub.

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.

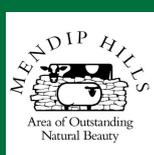
We have met the strict criteria that allows us to be a certified member of the national **Walkers are Welcome** association.

We get great ongoing support from several key groups in the area, without which we could not function:

Mendip Hills AONB
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 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
Kebab Kitchen
Lao Thai Restaurant
Lion Rock Tea Rooms
Mousehole Café
Simply Gorgeous Tea Room
Tucker's Fish & Chips

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
Petrueth 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