

TRAIL TYPE
Walking

GRADE
Moderate to Hard

DISTANCE
9.5 Miles (15.3 km)
additional 1 mile for Yeo Valley Canteen

TIME
4.5 hours approx.
excluding Yeo Valley visit

OS MAP
Explorer: 141
Landranger: 182

CONTACT
contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

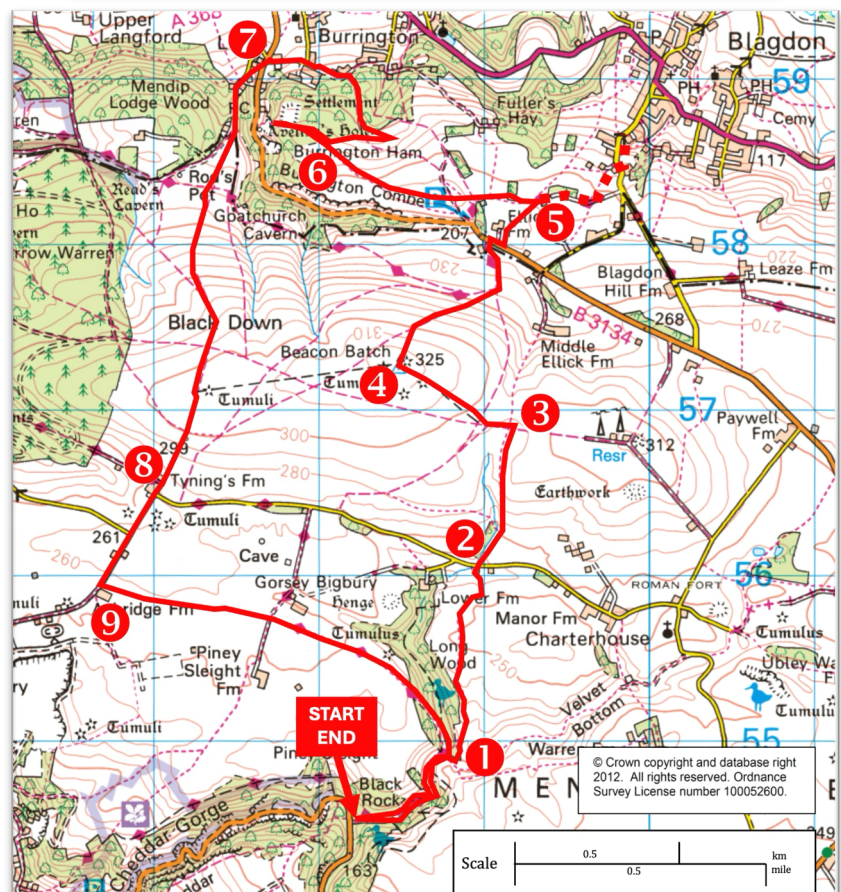
FACILITIES
Full facilities in Cheddar village and Gorge, and in Blagdon.

TERRAIN
Mixed terrain with stone tracks, fields and some muddy areas when wet. A mixture of gates and wooden/stone stiles. Some steady ascents with one long steep ascent to Blackdown

WHAT TO SEE
Iron age fort, Rock of Ages, Decoy town (WW2), deer, Exmoor ponies, Blagdon and Chew lakes.

#18. Burrington Combe Loop via Black Down

An excellent walk to view the best the Mendips have to offer. Starting at Black Rock gate in Cheddar Gorge and then taking in Blackdown and Burrington Ham with its Iron Age fort. This walk takes you to the top of Blackdown with views across to the Bristol Channel and Wales as well as across to Blagdon Lake and Chew Valley. There is an option to visit the highly recommended Yeo Valley HQ canteen (*check their website for opening hours*).



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) to

Tweentown, Cheddar.

**Use Walk 5 to reach
Black Rock.**

BY CAR

Access is via the B3135

Cheddar Cliff Road.

Parking is free in the

limited rough lay-by

outside Black Rock gate

which is on the left 1.7

miles from the

**roundabout at the bottom
of Cheddar Gorge.**

Directions

Starting at Black rock gate walk along a wide stony track in a wooded valley. After about ½ mile, this soon opens out, and you take a path to your right (signposted Charterhouse) to Velvet Bottom, through a wooden kissing gate.

- 1 In about 45 metres, there is a path uphill on your left, leading to a wooden stile then slightly further on to a metal gate. After going through this, cross the next three fields following the direction of the footpath waymarks.

At the far end of the last field, in the right-hand corner, there is another metal gate leading down steeply through a wood.

Following this path, cross two streams, the last one via wooden sleepers and then over a stone stile to reach a minor road.

- 2 Bearing slightly diagonally right, cross the road to go through a metal kissing gate, following the footpath sign into another field.

Keeping the fence and stream on your left, walk straight up this field to a wooden stile. In this next field, after winding through gorse bushes, carry on straight across the middle of the field towards a wooden stile at the far end. There are two masts in the distance on your right.

- 3 Crossing this stile, turn left and follow the narrow path, through another gate to Blackdown. There are several paths here – take the path straight ahead with the ‘no bikes/no horses’ sign on the marker.

- 4 This leads to the trig point, where there are fantastic views on a clear day. Several ancient monuments (barrows) are just feet from the path. At the trig point, take the right path, leading down towards Blagdon Lake in the distance.

The path, after going through a gate, comes out on the B3134 by Ellick House. Cross the road, turn right and go over the cattle grid and then follow a farm track (Lower Ellick Farm) on your left, following the footpath sign.

Just before the farmhouse, turn right through a metal gate. Follow the footpath signs across the field to a metal kissing gate in the hedge (sometimes hidden!).

- 5 There is an option here to walk to the Yeo Valley Canteen for refreshments (check opening times on-line) or to The Seymour Arms in Blagdon village. This adds on another 1 mile to the walk. If you don't want to take this option, jump to *.

Follow the hedge line to your right, which leads to a metal farm gate and tarmacked track beyond. Look out for a footpath on your left just before some large metal gates. Take this footpath, which leads around the buildings, through two gates, and then go straight on along a grass track between hedges to reach the main road leading down to Blagdon village. Turn left down the road, and Yeo Valley HQ is on your left after 200 yards. The village is just on a bit further downhill.

After your visit to Yeo Valley, or further down to Blagdon itself, retrace your steps to the metal kissing gate in the hedge. But instead of going back through it, (*) or turn left if not going to Yeo Valley), continue following a path alongside the hedge. This track arrives at a metal gate at the entrance to Burrington Ham. There is an information board here.



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 straight on with the board slightly to your left, to a marker on your left. Another wider path intersects, but keep straight on, taking the path with the marker indicating that it is a footpath only; no horses or bikes. Keeping to the right-hand track, you come to a large rocky outcrop. With the rocks facing you, make your way around the outcrop keeping the outcrop to your left then turn immediately left downhill. The grass path arcs round to the left towards the remains of an information board about Burrington Camp.

6 There is an option here - carry on for about 400 yards for a view of the old Iron Age enclosure and a bit further for a view down to Burrington Combe and the cleft in the rock which inspired the hymn "Rock of Ages". Then retrace your steps to the remains of the information board. With your back to the board and the Iron Age fort, take the path immediately on your left down through the woods meandering through an avenue of Silver Birch trees. After about 800 yards this joins another wider path, turn left down this path and follow down to a minor road. Turn left along the road until it joins the B3134.

7 Cross over here and walk up the tarmac road opposite - Link Lane. A steep climb here up to a cattle grid followed by a further rougher track.

By the information board on your left, opposite a private gateway with black timbered buildings, take the left path to take you onto Blackdown once again.

Carry straight up on a wide green track, keeping right on approaching the brow of the hill. (Rowberrow and Dolebury Warren are on your right). Crossing another bridleway, keep straight on, keeping the woods to your right. This leads to a wooden gate and information board. On the right here is what remains of the Decoy Town. Go through the gate, straight down the stone track to Tynings farm (on your right).

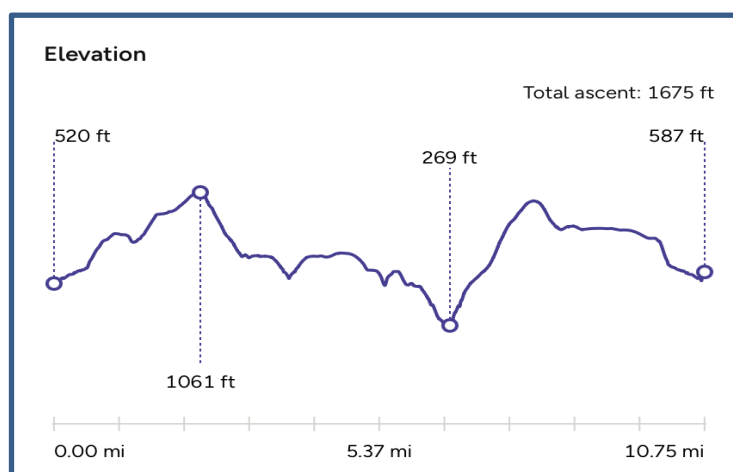
8 Joining the road at Tynings Farm, carry on straight along the road toward the Mendip Raceways stock car track (Warrens Hill Road).

Keep an eye out for a wooden fingerpost on the right-hand verge, pointing left, (just before Ashridge Farm).

9 Go through the metal gate, following the footpath waymarks through some farm buildings. Follow the direction of the footpath waymarks, and, after going through another three metal gates, you come to a track leading to Piney Sleight Farm.

Cross the track and continue along the right-hand boundary of the next field to another metal gate. Take the left hand track down to the start of Long Wood.

Carrying straight on to your right, you are now back in the Black Rock Nature Reserve. Follow the main path to the Gorge Road, and if doing the Gorge Walk also follow Map No 5 from point 6 on that map.



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 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. **Burrington Combe via Blackdown** (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
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
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