

The UK Peak District Glossop to Edale

from www.weekwalks.co.uk/shortwalks.htm

This is a great introduction to the High Peak, being a fairly short two day walk including travel from most parts of the UK. It relies on the splendid location of the Snake Pass Inn, right in the middle of this grand area. The paths are well-signed, and could be followed in any weather. It is good (and quite different) in either direction. There are no killer climbs.



1. Walking days

Two. The first is about 7 miles along the Doctor's Gate path (there is a more challenging version via the Harry Hut trig point and the Snake path - waterproof boots essential). The second is 7½ miles, going down the valley, then turning right into the Edale valley (or with boots, and longer - up the Snake path from the Inn and down the Pennine Way to Edale).

2. Getting there and away

Glossop station is about 20 minutes from Manchester. Edale is on the Manchester-Sheffield line.

3. Navigation

OS Explorer OL1, Peak District (Dark Peak Area) at 1:25000 (or electronic equivalent) is essential.

4. The Route:



Setting off up the Doctor's Gate path

Day 1: Go up the road opposite Glossop station, and careful map-reading gets you on a path up below a church, then on to a path going round Shire Hill to join the Doctor's Gate path, signed to Hope. It's a steady climb (a bit steeper at the end) to the top, crossing the Pennine Way. Go straight on down to the A57 and follow it (there is a sort of pavement on the right hand side). Soon you are looking for a path to the right, alongside the river; try by a road sign, or where the barrier is railings; or (later) scramble down at the start of the wood.

Follow the blue-marked track through the wood, first alongside the river, then up, then down. After a bit

you come to a junction and a map sign; keep alongside the river. At a footbridge there's a path going up left to the road, and a right turn takes you to the Inn in about five minutes.

Day2:

Go back up the road, and just beyond yesterday's path, on the other side, take a clear track up to the path marked Roman Road on the map. We followed this (splendid) path down to the road at Alport Bridge. The only navigation issue is just before the road, at Hayridge Farm; go round the top and up the farm road, keeping an eye out for the path right down to a sign and stile; it's not clearly marked. Then over the main road and up the obvious slanting path. Continue to the junction marked 334 metres on the map, where you turn right and follow the obvious track to Nether Booth and Vale of Edale. Go left to the station or right to the pubs.

Food: There are no facilities on this walk. The Inn can provide picnics.

Scenery: There are no dull bits. We did this trip in mid-August 2017; the purple vibrancy of the heather was stunning. (An over-used word I know, but we mean it.)

Boots: even on these tracks there are boggy sections, involving slight detours or stepping stones. On the more adventurous variations of these routes the ground (for example, at the top of the Snake path) can be seriously boggy - sodden trainers would really spoil your pleasure.