

# The UK Peak District Hope Valley - Chinley to Hathersage

from [www.weekwalks.co.uk/shortwalks.htm](http://www.weekwalks.co.uk/shortwalks.htm)

This is a lovely walk in, and above, the Hope Valley in the heart of the Peak District. If the clouds are low on the first day you won't see much, but the second day is completely flexible; we went to the Ladybower Reservoir and Stanage Edge.

## 1. Walking days

Two. The first is about 7 miles, climbing gradually to the superb view at Lord's Seat and then down to Castleton. Our version of the second is 12 miles.

## 2. Getting there and away

Chinley and Hathersage (and Edale, Hope and Bamford if you need to bale out) are all on the Manchester-Sheffield line. Sheffield is 2 hours from London.

## 3. Navigation

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

## 4. The Route:

**Day 1:** Go east out of Chinley on the B6062, then first left under the bridge and right to pick up a delightful little path at New Smithy. You are then trying to get SE to Wash, and the unsigned path at Breckhead is worth finding. At Wash follow the yellow road to Slackhall Farm, cross the Sheffield Road and walk up parallel to it, first on a yellow road, then on a white one with green dots, eventually joining it. Cross the Pennine Bridleway and pick up the path just to the left of the road, slowly climbing Rushup Edge. This is rather tedious, but if clouds permit the view of the valleys from Lord's Seat is worth it! Carry on down to the road, go right, then very soon take a leftish path down to the road leading to Blue John cavern. At the cavern go left on the path round Treak Cliff, soon seeing Castleton ahead and below.



Climbing out of the valley, on the shoulder of Win Hill

**Day 2:** Go east out of Castleton along the A6187, soon seeing a footpath sign to Hope. At Hope go left and right on yellow roads to pick up the continuation to Brough where you turn left, cross the main road and go up the yellow road to Aston Hall. Turn right, and soon left up a track climbing the shoulder of Win Hill. You can then take low or high paths to the reservoir - the higher the path the better the views. Eventually cross the dam and turn right on the A6013 to the excellent Yorkshire Bridge Inn. After lunch walk down the road and soon left up the New Road and the track

up to Stanage Edge. Soon see the well-worn path down to the yellow road below, then the track down past North Lees Farm, across the next yellow road and past Cowclose Farm, coming to the Church and into Hathersage and the station.

**Accommodation:** Castleton has lots of tourists. We stayed at the Castle Hotel - cheaper than lots of the B&Bs and recommended.

**Scenery:** It's fabulous as long as the cloud isn't low. Being above, then in, then above, the valley is very satisfying. There is lots of variety. We did this in early May, and everything was coming to life.

**Boots:** There is always the danger of mud, but there are no actual bogs. Trainers might work.

