

The UK Peak District Matlock to Hathersage

This is a satisfying two-day walk (including travel) through the White Peak, including both Dale and Moor.

1. Walking days

The first day is about eight miles, but with the climb to Stanton Moor seemed longer. The second is about ten, but was easy (no major climbs), and could be shortened by stopping at Grindleford station.

2. Getting there and away

Matlock station is about thirty minutes from Derby. We arrived about 12.30, and with the benefit of hindsight should have caught an earlier (more expensive) train. Returning, Hathersage and Grindleford are on the Manchester-Sheffield line.

3. Navigation

OS Explorer OL24, The Peak District (White Peak Area) at 1:25000 (or some electronic equivalent) is essential. The route just strays into OL1 (Dark Peak Area) to get to Hathersage.

4. The Route:

Day 1: Go right out of the station. We were confused by meeting a major road not marked on our map; however, cross it and the river is there. Take the path going up-river and follow it to Darley Bridge. We went over the bridge to the Knight and Compass, but there is also the Three Stags Heads on the left hand side (it depends which one is open on the day of the week you go).



Lathkill Dale, winter

We then went west along Oldfield Lane. Just before Cowley Knowl, it's the upper path. Thence to Birchington, where there are two pubs. Just before the first there is an alley on the right up to the path that takes you to a car park and Birchover Road. Past the quarry company, a path goes right up to Stanton Moor. The path that goes past the Nine Ladies stone circle is recommended. Then down to Stanton in Peak and the junction of the Alport Road. Here we were tired, and late, so we walked along this and took the Dark Lane path over the hill and into Bakewell for the night. A better alternative is up the river Lathkill - first on the left, then the right. A trudge up the hill

leads to Over Haddon, which would be a good place for a B&B. Then north up the (quiet) yellow road until you reach a path on the right going into Bakewell.

Day2:



Grindleford cafe

We took footpaths north, making for Rowland; then north-east, making for Calver (the junction of the A623 and A625) for lunch. We got slightly lost here but it didn't matter; the phone mast on Calver Peak will tell you which path you are on. A short walk round on the A625 takes you up the Derwent (either side), then up Spooner Lane on the right. Through the woods, eventually joining the B6521 up to the Grindleford café and station. (You can get tea there by the pint.) Past the café, follow the road round to the left, past the houses of Upper Padley until you can cross the railway line. Go west and north to join

the river. Carry on up the right hand side of the river (you are off the White Peak map now), past the sewage works, and when the path meets the road (B6001) turn right on it to Hathersage station.

