

The Nidderdale Way

Yorkshire Dale and Moor

from www.weekwalks.co.uk/walks.htm,
which also links to a photo album

This is a lovely introduction to the Yorkshire Dales and Moors. It's essentially a figure of eight centred around Pateley Bridge - wilder to the north and west, gentler to the south and east. (You could do just the top or bottom bits.)

1. Walking days and practicalities

The excellent website www.uppernidderdale.org.uk divides the walk into four stages, with detailed downloadable PDF instructions for each. Three of them are 14 miles, a bit long for us, so we modified them, and took 5 days in all.

2. Getting there and away

From London, train (King's Cross) to Harrogate via Leeds, bus 24 from the bus station (right next door) every half-hour to Pateley Bridge. Or car to Pateley Bridge.

3. Navigation

The waymarking is good but not infallible; ditto the PDFs; so we suggest you have OS Explorer 298 for those uncertain moments, and also for the shortcut we took.

4. The Route

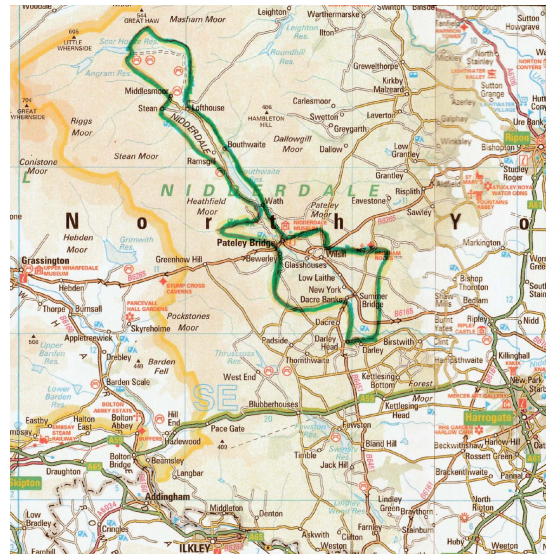
Stage 1, Pateley Bridge to Middlemoor: This is 14 miles with a number of climbs, so we walked to Wath (two miles) the day before and stayed at the up-market **Sportsman's Arms**. Next time we would get an earlier train and walk for four hours to **The Crown Hotel** in Lofthouse, to get as near an authentic Nidderdale experience as a tourist can have. Then there is plenty of time the next day to explore the upper valley. The final walk to Middlesmoor (and another delightful **Crown Hotel**) is easy.

Stage 2, Middlesmoor to Beverley: A picnic lunch from the Hotel is needed. We did this as described, but be warned: Pateley Bridge is a most successful town, and B&B bookings in the area, including Beverley, are difficult, especially at weekends in summer.

Stage 3, Beverley to Ripley: This is another 14-miler, and we shortened it by stopping at the **Wellington Inn**, Darley Head. Lunch was at **The Royal Oak Inn**, Dacre Banks.

Stage 4, Ripley to Pateley Bridge: Another shortened day. With picnic lunches from the Inn, we

rejoined the Nidderdale Way but soon left it at the river crossing to White Oak. We followed footpaths to Hartwith, then yellow roads to rejoin the trail near Brimham Lodge (about two hours). The last section was slower going, but leaves time to explore Brimham Rocks and Pateley Bridge before the journey home.



Looking towards the Scar House reservoir, Great (L) and Little Whernside in the distance