

The UK Peak District Buxton to the Hope Valley

This is a lovely two-day walk (including travel) through the White Peak, including river, dale, moor and a great hill view.

1. Walking days

The first day is about three hours, the second six with a very good pub in the middle.

2. Getting there and away, overnight stay

Buxton is on a branch line from Stockport. Bamford station is on the Manchester-Sheffield line. The Ravenstor Youth Hostel is recommended - it has a bar, a restaurant, lots of double rooms, and a spectacular setting (with hardly any Youth).

3. Navigation

OS Explorer OL24, The Peak District (White Peak Area) at 1:25000 and OL1 (Dark Peak Area) or equivalent are essential. Phone tracking is recommended - 4G signal is not always available, Downloading maps beforehand is prudent (I didn't).

4. The Route:

Day 1: Go out of the station, down to the roundabout and look for the A515 going south. Join the Midshires Way (there is a nice earlier turn through 'Allot Gdns'). I tried to go north to the River Wye at Deep Dale but found it blocked (2025) with a possible path but no clear signage; so I recommend coming off earlier, through King Sterndale and beside the A6 until you join the trail by the river. This becomes the Monsal Trail going all the way, including a spectacular (lit) tunnel. You can come off at Millers Dale 'Station', going down the road and turning left onto the small road through the village and beside the river, or come off about a mile later where there is a footbridge across the river to the road, and a prominent sign uphill to the Youth Hostel.



Day 2: Go back down to the river, turn left towards Litton Mill. At the Mill entrance, turn left up an (unsigned) track to Littonslack, and on up to join a larger road. At the next choice point take the right hand fork and follow the signs into the delightful Tansley Dale. At the dale junction, turn left into Cressbrook Dale and follow it to Wardlow Mires. Carry on north up the path to Stanley House, swing right and follow the lovely path through the fields to Foolow. Go along Bradshaw Lane (see photo) to the Barrel Inn at Bretton. Take the road to Nether Bretton, then when it turns right, go on down the path along Bretton Clough (if that path is overgrown, go right, then left when you see a path down). It looks confusing here, but there is a good path all the way down to the meeting of the ways at Stoke Ford, and the woods are a delight. At the ford turn right along the path signed to Hazelford, and then take a left at another ford up to Highlow Hall. Opposite the Hall is a road (green dots on the OS map) going via Offerton Hall to the River Derwent, where turn left until a footbridge takes you to the A6187. As you go towards Bamford Station there is a Garden Centre with a good café while you wait for the train.

