

Nearby attractions

Upper Derwent Reservoirs



The dams of Howden and Derwent Reservoirs were used by the Dambuster squadron to practise their raids. Visitor centre and cycle hire at Fairholmes, trout fishing at Ladybower Reservoir (day tickets available). Satnav (Fairholmes): **S33 0AQ (8 miles)**

Chatsworth House



One of England's finest stately homes, with fabulous interiors and priceless antiques. Formal gardens, follies and grottoes and a vast woodland and riverside estate. Satnav: **DE45 1PP (20 miles)**

Eyam village



Historic Derbyshire village that underwent self-imposed quarantine during the plague of 1665–67. See the villagers' graves, visit Eyam Hall (NT) and Museum, and find the Anglo-Saxon cross in the churchyard. Satnav: **S32 5QW (16 miles)**

Castleton and the caverns



Pretty Derbyshire village with a Norman castle and four show caves, including the "Devil's Arse" (the largest cave entrance in Britain) and Speedwell Cavern (where you can take an underground boat trip). Satnav: **S33 8WS (14 miles)**

Mam Tor and Winnats Pass

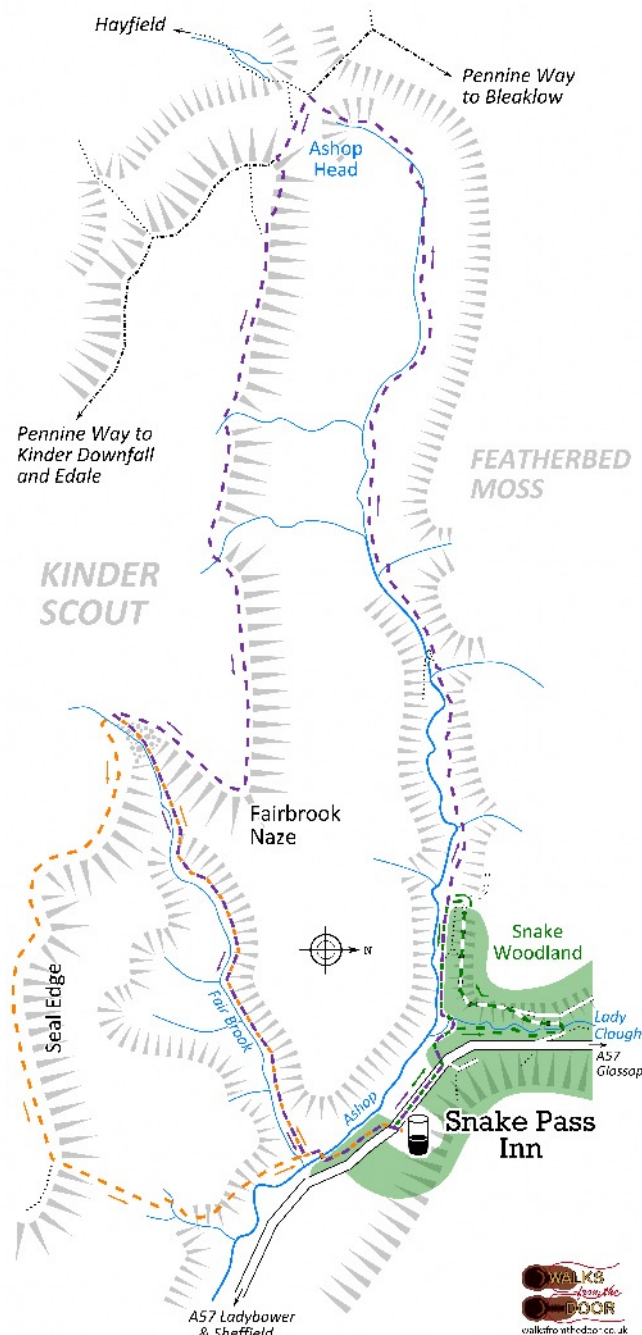


Iron Age hillfort and limestone gorge near Castleton. Below Mam Tor are the remains of the main road closed and abandoned in the late 1970s after repeated landslides. Satnav: **S33 8WA (14 miles)**

Padley Gorge



Pretty gritstone valley with good walks and a historic chapel where the Catholic Padley Martyrs were taken prisoner in 1588 prior to their executions a few days later. Satnav (Grindleford station): **S32 2HY (15 miles)**



Three walks from The Snake Pass Inn nr Ladybower, Derbyshire



Ladyclough Woods

2 miles: Easy

Riverside and forest walking with no major hills to climb.

Fairbrook Clough

4¼ miles: Moderately strenuous

An energetic climb is rewarded by stunning views over the Snake Pass from the northern edge of Kinder Scout.

River Ashop and Kinder Scout

8 miles: Strenuous

Two valleys, one quiet and remote, the second intimate and pretty, linked by a dramatic gritstone edge walk.

Ladyclough Woods

2 miles: Fairly easy

No major difficulties en route, but may be muddy or rocky in places. Allow 1½ hours for a leisurely circuit.

1 From the front door of the Snake Pass Inn, cross the A57 main road quickly but carefully. **2** Turn right and walk along the verge until you reach coniferous woodland on your left. **3** Shortly afterwards, go down some steps on your left and over a stile into the wood. **4** Follow the path downhill past the Snake Woodland sign. **5** At the bottom of the valley turn right, following the forest fence on your right. **6** At the footbridge over Lady Clough, don't cross, instead using the gate on the right to return to the forest. **7** Swing left and follow the stream for 500 metres upstream until you reach a forestry road and bridge. **8** Cross the bridge and follow the track beyond uphill. **9** Ignore a track that heads uphill to the right, keeping along the main track as it levels off and views of Kinder Scout appear. **10** As soon as the track leaves the woodland for the open moor, take a steep and indistinct path off to the left that leads through bracken down to the River Ashop. **11** Turn left and follow the path downstream, with the river on your right and the forest edge on your left. **12** When you reach the footbridge over Lady Clough again, cross and turn right. **13** Return the way you came: look out on your left for the path you descended earlier, follow it up through the conifers to the road, then turn right to return to the Snake Pass Inn.

Fairbrook Clough

4¾ miles: Moderately strenuous

Don't be fooled by the modest distance and gentle start: this route includes a strenuous rocky clamber to the plateau, a steep descent, and a stream that has to be forded. Not for the ill-equipped or unfit – avoid in bad weather, and allow at least 3 hours.

1 From the front door of the pub, cross the road carefully and turn left, then cross a stile on your right into woodland. **2** A sometimes vague path leads through the conifers, generally downhill, to a gate and a footbridge over the River Ashop. **3** Once across, turn left and follow the river downstream to its confluence with Fair Brook, the side-stream joining from the right. **Note: the return route descends via the obvious track down the hillside beyond the walled sheepfold ahead of you; before continuing, check that the side-stream is low enough to be forded later and choose another walk if not.** **4** Do not cross at this stage; instead, return to the path and follow it away from the River Ashop and up the Fairbrook valley with the stream on your left. **5** The path continues in similar vein, sometimes close to the stream, sometimes high above it, for a pleasant mile, passing small tree-shaded waterfalls, fording side-streams and negotiating patches of bracken and the occasional rocky spot or damp flush. **6** Eventually the stream dwindles to a trickle and the final scrambling ascent begins.

7 Towards the top you pass through a gate in a fence. **8** At the top of the boulder slope, as you reach the Kinder Scout plateau, the way out of the stream valley to your left may not be obvious, as there are several possible routes, most of them indistinct. Don't be tempted to leave the streambed too early, and look out for any obvious path crossing from right to left. **9** Ultimately, whichever route you pick, you should end up walking along the edge of the plateau with peat hags and moor grass to your right, and the upper slopes of the valley you've just ascended below you on your left. **10** Follow the edge for about 1½ miles, picking your way through the rocky tors of Seal Edge and peaty sections between them, but never straying too far from the plateau edge. **11** The way off the plateau, towards the end of the wide "bay" of Seal Edge, is easily missed. It begins at a fence stile marked by a taller post, but the fenceline is below the edge and could be overlooked. There's no obvious landmark, but keep an eye out for a ruined wall heading arrow-straight down the slope below you, aligned with the head of a stream valley further down and a farm on the opposite slope of the Snake Pass beyond. *If you find yourself swinging right (south) towards the head of the next major stream valley (Blackden Brook), then you've gone too far.* **12** From the fence stile, head down the slope, zig-zagging steeply through scattered rocky outcrops at first and then following the stunted remains of the wall as the slope eases. **13** At the top of the stream valley, cross a series of plank bridges over peaty side-streams until you reach the end of an obvious prepared path to the left of the deepening clough. **14** Follow this rocky track as it swings left, away from the stream, and then heads diagonally down the hillside in the direction of the confluence of Fair Brook and the Ashop. **15** At the bottom, follow the path through a series of gates in the walls of the sheepfold to the stream at the bottom of the Fair Brook valley, which you ford using boulders as stepping stones. **16** Pick up the path on the other side of Fair Brook, turning right (downstream) and back to the footbridge over the Ashop. **17** Cross the river into the pinewoods, swing left and retrace your earlier steps to the A57 and Snake Pass Inn.

River Ashop and Kinder Scout

8 miles: Strenuous

A long walk through remote moorland with a steep rocky ascent and descent from the Kinder plateau. Do not attempt in bad weather or without footwear and clothing appropriate to the conditions. Stiles and fences come and go on Kinder as grazing regimes change, but those described were in place in summer 2014. Allow 4–5 hours.

Follow steps **1** to **5** from the **Ladyclough Woods** walk to reach the footbridge over Lady Clough.

6 Cross the footbridge and follow the path round the end of the wood and alongside the River Ashop. **7** Continue between river and forest fence, ignoring a gate into the (clear-felled) woodland. **8** Beyond the end of the wood, keep along the stream into open grassland and bracken. **9** The path crosses a number of side streams, and passes a

small (often dry) pool before reaching a ruined shooting hut above a footbridge over the stream. Keep along the same path on the northern bank. **10** After a further mile or so the valley becomes wider and shallower, and the stream and path rather lose their identity among a maze of rushy channels and shaly banks as you approach Ashop Head. However, towards the head of the valley you should pick up a paved path that conveys you easily to the Pennine Way at a crossroads by a waymark post. **11** Turn left and climb the steep pitched path that leads up a shoulder of Kinder Scout onto the plateau. **12** Immediately beyond a cairn, turn left over a stile and follow an indistinct path that heads up through bilberry and moor grass to the first rocky outcrop ahead of you. **13** Here pick up the edge path proper and follow it left for a couple of miles with good views all the way. You will pass a series of gritstone tors and wind-worn outcrops, and minor stream crossings above the steep rocky cloughs of Upper and Nether Red Brook. **14** At the apex of Fairbrook Naze is a distinctive rock sculpted in the shape of a goblet, at which you swing right, keeping above the succeeding rocky outcrops. **15** When you reach the head of the Fair Brook valley, drop to the stream and leave the plateau heading down the valley, initially finding your way close to the streambed but soon on a more obvious path to the left. **16** Take your time picking your way down the bouldery slope, passing through a gate partway down. **17** As the gradient eases, keep along the ever-growing stream for a pleasant mile, passing shaded waterfalls and negotiating alternately rocky and boggy patches. **18** When you reach the river at the bottom of the main valley, follow the path to the left then cross the footbridge over the Ashop on your right. **19** Go through the gate and swing left, following a path that wanders mostly uphill through the trees to emerge at a stile in the far corner of the wood by the A57. **20** Cross the road and return the Snake Pass Inn.

SNAKE PASS INN

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Open: 12–10.30pm (11am Saturday and Sundays)

Food: 12–9pm daily



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