



The descent to the Snake Pass.



Dramatic wind-eroded gritstone outcrops are a memorable feature of Kinder Scout.



There are superb views of Edale village from the slopes of Kinder Scout.

Three circular walks from Stonecrotft

COUNTRY HOUSE ACCOMMODATION
in the heart of the Peak District National Park

Edale, Derbyshire



Upper and Barber Booth

4¼ miles: Fairly easy

Sample the opening of the Pennine Way and explore three of the Vale of Edale's pretty hamlets.

Mam Tor and Castleton

4 or 6½ miles: Moderate

Geological curiosities abound on this classic walk on the junction between gritstone and limestone.

Kinder Scout and Snake Pass

13¾ miles: Strenuous

A demanding but spectacular moorland crossing of Derbyshire's highest hill to visit an iconic coaching inn.

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Stonecrotft is ideal for the walker, mountain biker, naturalist, geologist or just plain lover of the outdoors with regular visits from badgers, cuckoos, herons and woodpeckers. Julia Reid, your host, is an award-winning chef who won a scholarship to study Catering and Hotel Management in Holland.

Upper and Barber Booth (4¼ miles: Fairly easy)

Allow 2–2½ hours. Muddy sections after rain, rocky in places.

1 From the end of the drive, turn left and walk into the centre of the village. **2** Opposite the Old Nags Head, turn left onto the Pennine Way and follow it along a hedged section then along paved paths through a series of fields. **3** Leave the Pennine Way just before it starts to descend, on a Concessionary Path to the right, which leads over bumpy ground to a gate below the craggy scar of a landslip. **4** Turn left, then descend to a small plantation. **5** Cross a stream and pass through a gate, climbing briefly to a second gate. **6** Descend until you meet a small side-stream, then turn left to meet the main path down the valley. **7** Turn left, with the main stream on your right. **8** Beyond a gate at the end of open country, the path turns right and down to a footbridge among the trees; climb up the other side to a gate. **9** Walk down the field and cross a stile just before a stone barn. **10** Follow the path along the stream to rejoin the Pennine Way at the road at Upper Booth. **11** Turn left then left again into the farmyard (*if wet, continue along the road to Barber Booth, as the footpath can be muddy*). **12** Beyond the farmyard, join a waymarked path through a gate straight ahead. **13** Follow this path past a series of hand gates and small footbridges, meeting a farm track after a field gate. **14** This track leads over a railway bridge to Whitmore Lea Farm. **15** Beyond the farm, walk through Barber Booth, passing the chapel on your left, and bear left at the next junction. **16** After the last (brick) house, take a track on the left and recross the railway. **17** Turn right and keep along the bottom of the next field, to a squeeze stile and gate. **18** Cross the next field half left to a short paved section, then bear left at the sign to Edale Station, aiming just right of Shaw Wood Farm. **19** Cross the driveway to a stile and gate, and aim across the field to an obvious track, where you will find a stile to the right of the gate. **20** Follow the hedge beyond to emerge via a grassy area between houses. **21** Turn left at the road to return to Stonecroft.

Mam Tor and Castleton (4 or 6½ miles: Moderate)

Allow 3 hours. Two stiff ascents and a rocky descent; muddy underfoot in places after rain. Optional shortcut via Mam Tor.

1 From the drive, turn right and walk past the church and then under the railway. **2** At a T-junction turn right, then left into the lane to Hardenclough Farm. Cross the river and continue past the farm. **3** Follow the lane as it drops to cross a stream and winds between high banks. **4** Just before Greenlands, go through a gate on the left and turn immediately right (signposted “Mam Tor”). **5** Follow the obvious bridleway, swinging left, then right in front of a small building and continuing ever-upwards to the road below Mam Nick. **6** A path left of the fence avoids any road walking and passes the bottom of the paved path to Mam Tor (*for a shortcut, turn left here and follow the path over Mam Tor to Hollins Cross, step 21*). **7** Otherwise, when the road bends right, take the footpath straight on, through a gate and down a sloping field. **8** Cross the road onto the footpath opposite;

just before a small quarry turn left, passing the entrance to Windy Knoll Cave before descending to the road. **9** Cross over and follow a path that passes to the left of a farm to meet the road at the top of Winnats Pass. **10** Walk down the gorge as far as Speedwell Cavern. **11** Just beyond the cavern, turn right onto a footpath that leads along the foot of Long Cliff to reach a lane in Castleton. **12** Join the lane and take the first right, to Peak Cavern. **13** Having inspected the cave entrance, leave the gorge via the footpath alongside the stream. **14** Back at the road, turn right across the bridge and walk up to the War Memorial. **15** Turn left along Back Street, passing the church. **16** At the main road, keep straight on past the Primary School, then cross over into Millbridge. **17** Follow the lane between houses and then out of the village. **18** After 1 mile, when the lane ends at the entrance to Woodseats Farm (The Liggate), follow the tree-lined bridleway ahead. **19** On reaching open country, turn half-left and follow the obvious path angling up the hillside. **20** Climb to the top of the ridge (Hollins Cross). **21** Cross the ridge path then take the left-hand path, which descends steeply towards Edale. **22** At a fork, take the right-hand path, along the wall. **23** At Hollins Farm, keep left over a short boardwalk and down a flight of steps. **24** Join the farm track and follow it downhill and over the river. **25** A short path on the left leads up to the road; cross over and follow a fieldside path to a squeeze stile, then cross diagonally to pass under the railway bridge. **26** Turn left at the end of the next field and pass to the right of a stone barn. **27** Follow the part-paved path beyond, to a track. **28** Turn left over Grinds Brook, then right onto a short stepped footpath up to the lychgate. **29** Turn right to return to Stonecroft.

Kinder Scout and Snake Pass (13¼ miles: Strenuous)

Allow 6–7 hours. **Experienced, well-equipped walkers only.** Do not attempt without boots, map and compass, or in bad weather. One long climb and two knee-jarring descents; much of the route is over rocky ground and wet peat, including a short section across the pathless moorland plateau.

1 From the entrance turn left to the village centre. **2** Continue past the Old Nags Head Inn. **3** At the gatehouse to Grindslow House, take a footpath on the right that descends to cross Grinds Brook. **4** At the top of the steps, turn left along the paved path. **5** Just before a stone building, take an obvious uphill path on the right. **6** After the gate at the end of Heardman’s Plantation, veer right, then left and follow the pitched path as it zig-zags up to The Nab. **7** Turn left and continue uphill, aiming for the end of the prominent rocks of Ringing Roger. **8** Follow a narrow path to the left of the main rocks, before regaining the path beyond. **9** After a cairn, join a partly paved/pitched path beyond a stream, which leads up behind the crag of Nether Tor to the left. **10** The edge path descends beyond Nether Tor to a small stream and a rock on the left resembling an eroded sphinx. **11** Turn right here onto the plateau (the “seven-minute crossing”). Pick your way across the pathless moor on a northerly bearing. A mushroom-like boulder is a useful marker; keep left to find yourself overlooking the

valley of Blackden Brook. **12** Turn left when you meet the northern edge path. **13** Cross Blackden Brook at the head of the valley. **14** After the Snake Woodlands plantations come into view, pass a second major rock outcrop. **15** 100 yards or so further on, look out for an indistinct path dropping diagonally to the right to a stile in the fence. **16** From the 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. **17** 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. **18** Follow this rocky track as it swings left, away from the stream, and then heads down the hillside towards the confluence of Fair Brook and the Ashop. **19** At the bottom, follow the path through a series of gates in the walls of a sheepfold to the stream at the bottom of the Fairbrook valley. **20** Ford the stream and pick up the path on the other side, turning right to the footbridge over the River Ashop. **21** Cross the river, then swing left and walk up through the pinewoods to emerge on the A57. Turn left to the Snake Pass Inn. **22** Beyond the pub, continue until you reach coniferous woodland on your left. **23** Shortly afterwards, go down some steps on your left and over a stile into the wood. **24** Follow the path downhill past the Snake Woodland sign. **25** At the bottom of the valley turn right, following the forest fence on your right. **26** Cross the footbridge and follow the path round the end of the wood and alongside the River Ashop. **27** Continue between river and forest fence, ignoring a gate into the (clear-felled) woodland. **28** Beyond the end of the wood, keep along the stream into open grassland and bracken. **29** 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. **30** 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. **31** Turn left and climb the steep pitched path that leads up a shoulder of Kinder Scout onto the plateau. **32** Bear right and follow the edge path for 1¼ miles to Kinder Downfall. **33** Cross the infant River Kinder and continue along the edge for another mile to the trig point at Kinder Low. **34** Leave the edge path here, aiming left of the prominent Edale Rocks. **35** Pick up a paved path that leads below the Swine’s Back hill, before veering off left and downhill. **36** Before an obvious crossing, turn left to cut the corner and then follow the stone-pitched track downhill towards Crowden Clough. **37** At the top of Jacob’s Ladder, by a round cairn, turn left and follow the steep footpath down to Jagger’s Bridge. **38** Follow the track beyond for a mile, past Lee House Farm to Upper Booth. **39** Turn left into Upper Booth farmyard and follow the waymarked Pennine Way back to the Old Nags Head. **40** Turn right to return to Stonecroft.