

THE TAN HILL INN

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On a lonely hill high in the Yorkshire Dales stands a unique and historic inn dating back to the 17th century with its exposed beams, stone-flagged floor and welcoming fire. The world-famous Tan Hill Inn is Britain's highest public house at 1,732 feet (528m) above sea level. Situated in Swaledale, just near Keld, the highest inn in Great Britain is a warm meeting place known internationally, where walkers and cyclists brush shoulders with bohemian like-minded individuals. You're likely to converse with people from the arts, music, film and theatre, and possibly a sprinkling of celebrity, as well as sports-minded people who have made their way up to the "Top Pub", all set against the backdrop of some of the most stunning scenery to be found in the UK.

You're all very welcome at The World-Famous Tan Hill Inn.

The views down **Swaledale** from the ruined farmhouse of Crackpot Hall are exceptional. The river is reckoned to be the fastest-flowing in England, draining much of the northern Dales before flowing through Richmond to the River Ure.



Kisdon Force is one of the more dramatic waterfalls on this section of the Swale. The water level drops 10 metres over the upper and lower falls, which canoeists have graded as IV ("difficult") and V ("extremely difficult") respectively.



Route descriptions, mapping and photography
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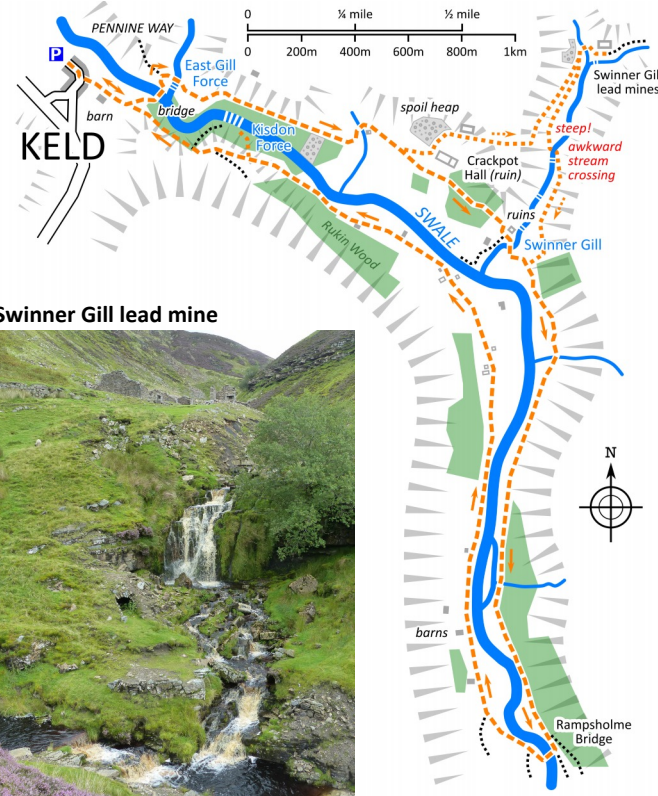
Keld & Swinner Gill 4¾ or 5½ miles: Easy/strenuous

Start: Park Lodge Farm car park, Keld (4¾ miles by car, 4 miles via Pennine Way). Payment by honesty box (£2 all day in 2021).

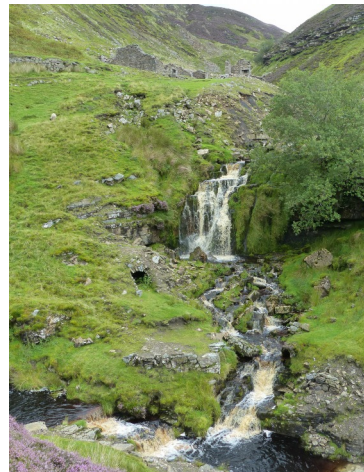
Allow 2–3 hours. The shorter route presents no particular difficulties, but the optional route beyond Swinner Gill lead mine uses a narrow and slightly exposed path with a short scramble and an awkward stream crossing (which could be impossible if the water is high).

This walk can be combined with the **Ravenseat, Keld & the Pennine Way** route (see overleaf) to form a 15-mile figure-of-eight route starting and finishing at the Tan Hill Inn.

- 1 From the car park entrance in Keld, walk out past the farmhouse and take the track ahead, with an information board on your right and a stone barn on the left.
- 2 Pass another barn in the field on your right, then turn left and descend the steep wooded path to the River Swale.
- 3 Cross the footbridge and climb the hill to a track by East Gill Force (the Pennine Way to the left provides a return route to Tan Hill).
- 4 Turn right above the waterfall and go through a gate.
- 5 Climb to a second



Swinner Gill lead mine



gate and contour above the woods leading down to the Swale. **6** The track bends left and right past a barn. **7** When it divides, for the shorter, easier route stay on the lower (right-hand) track, descending to cross Swinner Gill at a footbridge by the ruins of a lead mine and rejoining the described route at step **17**. For the longer and more difficult route to Swinner Gill lead mine, take the left fork and climb the hill to the ruin of Crackpot Hall. **8** Just before the ruin, take a stony track on the left, climbing alongside spoil-heaps to another, higher ruin. **9** Continue to a gate with a dramatic view of Swinner Gill. **10** Follow the narrow path along the valley side, then descend to a stone arched bridge over the stream which gives access to the ruined building at the lead mine. **11** Returning over the bridge, turn left and take a lower path that runs along the top of the crags to the right of Swinner Gill (take care). **12** As you descend towards the stream there is a short rocky scramble where you may need to use your hands. **13** Pick your way across the stream above a small waterfall and locate a narrow path in the bracken beyond that leads to a stile over a wire fence. **14** Follow the path along the steep valley side until the crags above peter out. **15** On reaching a fence, turn right and descend steeply to the track at the bottom. Turn left. **17** Cross a small side-stream and follow the track with the River Swale on your right. **17** Continue along the track for a mile. **18** When the track starts to climb, take a narrow path on the right that leads along the top of a small cliff and then turn right again (signposted Muker) and descend to Rampsholme Bridge. **19** Cross the bridge and turn right, now heading upstream with the river on your right. **21** Ignore the path to Muker on your left and continue to a stone barn. **22** The path continues along the valley across fields, passing another barn on the left before dropping through a gate and continuing through riverside fields. **23** Below a wooded slope, the path leaves the river and passes some more old barns (to left and right). **24** Level with a ruined farm the path climbs gently above the valley bottom, passing more barns with views over the river to the spoil-heaps and assorted buildings of Beldi Hill Low Level lead mine, a scheduled monument with several visible remains including the mine level. **25** Beyond a gate in a wall, the path enters an area of trees and bracken and continues to climb, becoming rather rocky underfoot. **26** Just beyond an old lime kiln on the right, the trees open up and there is there is an optional detour to Kisdon Force, via a gap in the wall that gives access to a narrow path that descends through bracken to the river, steeply at the bottom (care). **27** Returning to the main path, turn right and continue towards Keld up the bracken hillsides. **28** The path then descends below a limestone cliff and the Pennine Way joins from the left. Pass a signpost to Kisdon Upper Force. **29** Continue along the top of a wood with fields on your left, passing the junction with the outward path, and continue back to Keld.

three walks from the world-famous

Tan Hill Inn



Tan Hill Colliery

2 miles: Easy

A straightforward out-and-back stroll sampling the atmospheric local moors, with wide views and hidden mining relics.

Keld & Swinner Gill

4¾ or 5½ miles: Easy/strenuous

An easy walk in scenic Swaledale, with an adventurous option to witness the austere beauty of Swinner Gill.

Ravenseat, Keld & the Pennine Way

10¼ miles: Fairly strenuous

A varied all-day walk with sweeping moors, pretty villages, plunging waterfalls and a taste of rocky Swaledale.

Tan Hill Colliery

2 miles: Easy

Allow 1 hour. Route-finding is straightforward on this there-and-back walk and the going underfoot relatively good throughout, but weather-appropriate clothing and footwear should be worn.

1 From the the front door, cross the road and follow the Pennine Way across the moor, passing a peaty tarn on your right. **2** After about 500 metres, the track bends left. **3** At a wooden fingerpost, stay on the track, leaving the Pennine Way (which heads off to the right). **4** The track bends right by the fenced remains of an old mineshaft. **5** After a further 300 metres, stay on the track as it bends left (ignoring a grassy path across the moor ahead of you). **6** Stay on the track when it bends right, ignoring another vague path ahead. **7** After a further 350 metres, you reach the circular remains of a horse gin, with some scant stone ruins. **8** Turn round and retrace your steps along the track to the Pennine Way, with views to the distant cairns of Nine Standards Rigg. **9** Follow the track as it bears right and leads back to the Tan Hill Inn.

Ravenseat, Keld & the Pennine Way

10¼ miles: Fairly strenuous

Allow 5–6 hours. Moorland paths are likely to be boggy, and there is occasional rocky ground and several moderate climbs and descents. Walking boots and waterproofs strongly recommended.

This walk can be combined with the **Keld & Swinner Gill** walk, overleaf, to create a figure-of-eight route of around 15 miles.

1 From the front door of the Tan Hill Inn, turn right. **2** At the road junction, turn left (signposted to Keld and Thwaite). **3** Follow the road for just under 300 metres, then turn right onto a signposted footpath by a marker stone. **4** The path, boggy in places, bears left down into the valley, with a shallow gully to the left. **5** At the bottom of the slope, just before the stream, turn left and walk parallel to the stream past a ruined sheepfold on the opposite bank. **6** At the second sheepfold, cross the stream by the second bridge. **7** Follow a grassy path up the opposite side of the valley, to the left of the shaly valley of Thomas Gill, heading towards a waymark post visible at the top of the slope. The gill deepens beyond a circular sheepfold in the bottom of the valley on your right; as you approach the waymark, a hidden waterfall is revealed by taking a few steps off the path to peek down into the valley. **8** At the waymark post, turn left, away from the stream, and follow an obvious path straight up a broad, grassy ridge. **9** After a fairly level stage, the path follows a low, bouldery bank to a stile over a fence with a footpath sign. **10** Beyond, it passes to the left of a small ruin and starts to descend towards Ravenseat, passing another wooden sign. **11** After another stile, bear left to the edge of a fenced stream gully on the left, which you follow right and downhill. **12** A stile gives access to a track that heads downhill towards a larger

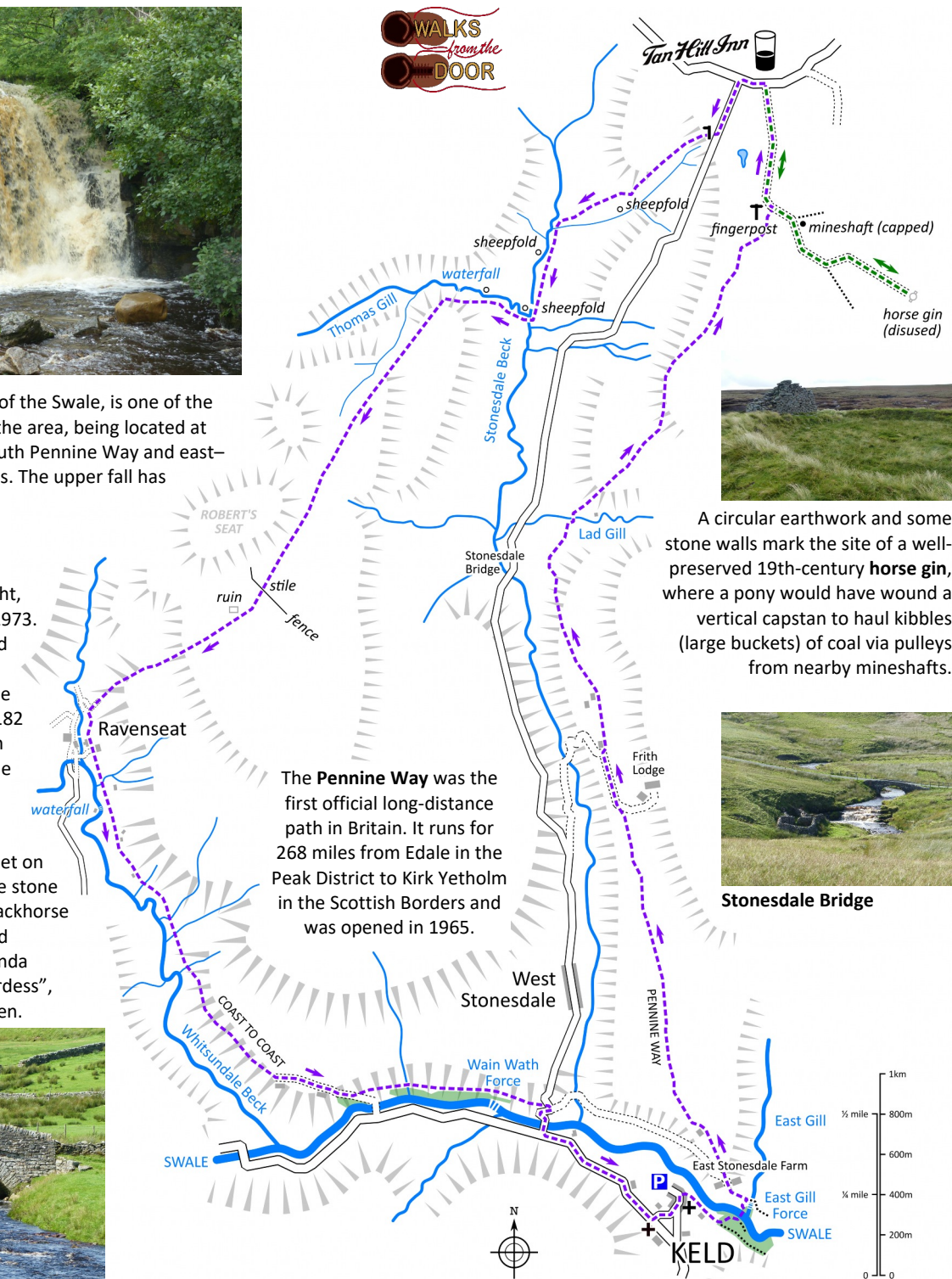
stream and ford. **13** Just before reaching the stream, turn left through a gate and cross the field above the stream on your right. **14** Pass to the left of a large stone barn and walk in front of a house on the left. A brief detour to the right to view the packhorse bridge and ford is recommended. **15** To continue, go through the gate beyond the house, by a footpath sign to Keld. You are now following the route of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk. **16** Cross a couple of boggy fields, passing a small waterfall on your left and a larger one in Whitsundale Beck (on your right) below a barn. **17** The path then climbs to a barn and disused farmhouse and then contours past another barn, before running along the edge of the Whitsundale Beck gorge above a couple of waterfalls. **18** After a moorland interlude, you reach the ruined farmstead of High Smithy Holme, and beyond a gate another, occupied, farmhouse. **19** The track beyond descends towards a bridge over the River Swale; partway down, beneath some trees, leave the track for a path along a wall on the left, staying high above the valley. **20** This path leads along the bottom of a series of fields above Cotterby Scar, with intermittent trees on your right, crossing occasional boardwalks and footbridges, and latterly with views down to Wain Wath Falls on the Swale. **21** Eventually the path drops down onto a metalled lane. **22** Turn right and walk down the road, round a steep hairpin bend, and cross the bridge over the Swale. **23** Turn left at a T-junction, passing a bunk-barn on your left and climb to pass a house on the left. **24** Continue to Keld and turn left just before the Methodist Chapel, down a walled lane signposted "Keld only". **25** Walk down into the village, and turn left past the public conveniences, Countryside and Heritage Centre and United Reformed Church. **26** At the bottom of the village, turn right onto a track past an information board on the right and a small stone barn on the left. **27** Beyond another barn on the right, turn left and walk down a steep wooded path to the river. You are now on the Pennine Way. **28** Cross the Swale on a footbridge and climb the hill opposite, to East Gill Force, on your right. **29** *The Keld & Swinner Gill walk departs here – see step 4 overleaf.* Otherwise, turn left and follow the track up to East Stonesdale Farm. **30** Walk between farmhouse and barn and then take the grassy track straight ahead that leads uphill. **31** Beyond a gate the track climbs between walls to an isolated stone barn. **32** After the barn, bear left along the wall, following a Pennine Way signpost, and then climb across the moor along the obvious path. **33** After a stream and gate the path meets the drive from Frith Lodge, which it follows to a barn. **34** Leave the track here and continue along the valley side to a gate in a wall and thence to another couple of barns. **35** After another gate, continue along the Pennine Way across open moorland. **36** The path joins a miners' track briefly above Stonesdale Bridge, then reverts to a moorland path as it descends to the footbridge over Lads Gill (look upstream for glimpses of a waterfall beyond the small stone building). **37** The last significant climb of the walk follows, until the Pennine Way levels off beyond a signpost. **38** The path passes peat hags on the right, until the Tan Hill Inn comes into view. **39** Bear left at a waymark and then, at a Pennine Way fingerpost, join a track coming from the right. **40** Follow as it curves to the right and back to the Tan Hill Inn.



East Gill Force, on a tributary of the Swale, is one of the more accessible waterfalls in the area, being located at the point where the north–south Pennine Way and east–west Coast to Coast Walk cross. The upper fall has a drop of about 15 feet.

The **Coast to Coast Walk** was conceived by Alfred Wainwright, and first described by him in 1973. Although not formally adopted as a National Trail, it is one of the most popular long-distance walks in Britain, and runs for 182 miles from St Bees on the Irish Sea to Robin Hood's Bay on the North Sea coast.

Ravenseat is a delightful hamlet on Whitsundale Beck. Most of the stone buildings, including the fine packhorse bridge over the beck, are listed buildings. TV personality Amanda Owen, the "Yorkshire Shepherdess", lives here with her nine children.



A circular earthwork and some stone walls mark the site of a well-preserved 19th-century **horse gin**, where a pony would have wound a vertical capstan to haul kibbles (large buckets) of coal via pulleys from nearby mineshafts.



Stonesdale Bridge