



19 NORTH YORKSHIRE BUCKDEN PIKE & UPPER WHARFEDALE

▶ Distance: 8½ miles/13.6km ▶ Time: 4½ hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



SEE
FEATURE
ON PAGE 32



Winter snow in Upper Wharfedale.

PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY... PHILIP THOMAS

There's nothing quite like the lure of a cosy inn awaiting you at the end of a winter walk. But why wait until the end for that hot chocolate, when you can refuel along the way, stopping off to wallow in the warmth of crackling log fire. This is a pub crawl with a difference, sampling three of Upper Wharfedale's finest watering holes. It's not all about ale in the dale though; your first pint is well-deserved after a yomp up Buckden Pike with unbeatable views over Langstrothdale and the surrounding hills. Leaving its windswept heights for the shelter of the White Lion

at Cray, we press on to the George at Hubberholme before following the Dales Way back to the Buck Inn in Buckden. Finding somewhere for a spot of lunch won't be a problem – the choice is up to you.

1 Start From YDNP car park at Buckden, head through gate at N exit marked 'Upper Wharfedale' onto bridleway. For a more leisurely walk of 4¾ miles, follow the bridleway towards Cray, where you'll pick up the route down from Buckden Pike shortly before point 4. Otherwise, immediately turn R onto the permissive path marked 'Buckden Lead Mines,' which



PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking YDNP car park in Buckden, grid ref SD942773

Is it for me? The initial ascent (1500ft+) is briefly steep and sketchy, after which it's pretty much downhill all the way on well-marked paths and a quiet road. The shorter variation (4¾ miles, skipping Buckden Pike) is easy/moderate

Stiles 3

PLANNING

Nearest towns

Grassington & Hawes

Refreshments

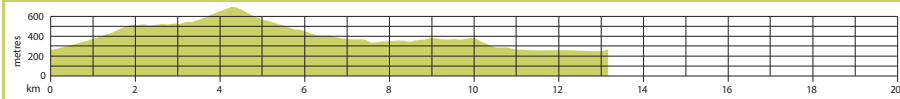
The Buck Inn at Buckden, The White Lion Inn at Cray, The George Inn at Hubberholme

Public toilets

Buckden
Public transport Bus 874 from Wakefield, via Leeds, Ilkley and Grassington (www.dalesbus.org)

Maps OS Explorer OL30; Landranger 98

GRADIENT PROFILE



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► OS Explorer map OL30 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapshop

fords Buckden Beck before following the wall south and easing its way across the hillside. Veering up above a patch of woodland, the path curves around to the north, climbing to meet a right of way at SD950766.

2 1 mile/1.6km

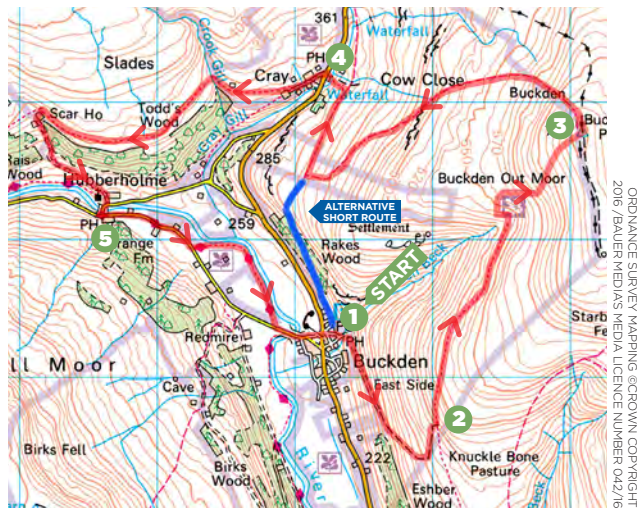
Turning L at the signpost for 'Buckden Lead Mines,' follow the path NNE up and across the shoulder of the fell. Contouring round into the gill, the path peters out as you reach the loose spoil tips of the lead mines and the entrance to the level becomes visible up ahead (SD955781). Cross Buckden Beck again and pick up the permissive path beside the wall on your L, following this uphill before veering NE towards the top of Buckden Pike. Reaching a stile, cross over to the cairn, trig point and wooden post marking this well-appointed summit.

3 2¾ miles/4.4km

From the summit of Buckden Pike, take the obvious



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



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bridleway by the wall heading NW, soon curving SW downhill to meet the bridleway coming up from Buckden. Turn R for Cray Bridge along a level promenade and after 650m, turn L onto a signed path down to Cray Gill, crossing by stepping-stones to reach the The White Lion.

4 5 miles/8km

Continue on path around the RH side of the pub, along a farm track through un-gated fields. Ignoring path down to L, continue for about 700m until the path forks through a gate L of a stone barn, crossing the footbridge over Crook Gill. Skirt above Todd's and Hubberholme Woods along a terrace of limestone pavement until you reach Scar House. Turn L onto a concrete

track downhill, which brings you to the church at Hubberholme. Cross the bridge over the River Wharfe to the George Inn.

5 7 miles/11.2km

L onto Dales Way, taking care as it briefly follows the road before turning L, where the trail picks up a footpath along the banks of the Wharfe. Where the trail meets the road again, turn L over the bridge into Buckden, turning L again up to car park. **CW**

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