



# 19 NORTH YORKSHIRE MUKER & SWALEDALE

▶ Distance: 7½ miles/12km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



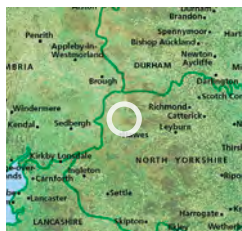
**CHOSEN BY...**  
**PHILIP THOMAS**  
Distilling the Yorkshire Dales

into half a day's outing, the walk from Muker to Keld is a heady concoction of flower meadows, waterfalls and drystone workmanship. Even outside the month of June, when Swaledale's meadows are at their most vibrant, it's an exceptional walk. It opens with a fanfare of lush pasture as a flagstone path leads out of Muker, between the dale's quintessential cowhouses and drystone walls. Twisting past ruined farmsteads, a grassy trail climbs into shady woodland towards Keld. But before you cross the river ahead, it's worth diverting to

see the waterfalls of Kisdon Force. Swaledale's industrial past emerges as you rise across opposite bank of the river, where exposed paths turn into Swinner Gill. Beyond the ruin of Crackpot Hall, the ravine is scarred by centuries of lead mining. Gentle riverside tracks return you Muker, and the excellent Farmers Arms.

**1 Start**  
Turn L from car park entrance on road over bridge. Fork R up lane before Village Store. Pass Public Hall, fork R, signposted 'Gunnerville & Keld' and R again at postbox. Follow track R of barn to pick up path through meadows/squeeze stiles and gates to riverbank.

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

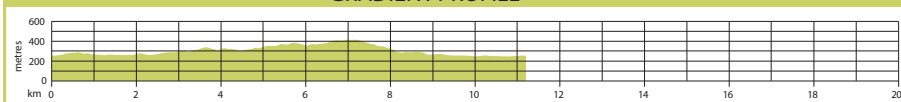
**Start/parking** Muker long stay car park (P&D), DL11 6QG, grid ref SD910978  
**Is it for me?** Mostly good, well-signed paths and tracks, with a few gentle ups & downs. Two steeper, rougher detours to Kisdon Force & Swinner Gill can be skipped.  
**Stiles 2** (& several smaller squeeze stiles/gates)

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Hawes/Richmond  
**Refreshments** The Farmers Arms and Village Stores in Muker. Keld Lodge & Park Lodge Campsite  
**Public toilets** Muker & Keld  
**Public transport** Summer bus 830 Hawes-Richmond  
**Maps** OS Explorer OL30; Landranger 98 & 91/92

**2 ½ mile/0.9km**  
Turn L along wall past barn to follow path up dale/beside

## GRADIENT PROFILE



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► OS Explorer map OL30 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

river signed for 'Keld'. Continue through gates, and follow path as it veers L away from river through gaps in walls.

Eventually, the path curves uphill past old cottages/barns of Hartlakes (marked with yellow dots). After signpost for Keld, follow path along LH side of wall ahead up to gate into woodland.

## 3 2 miles/3.2km

Follow a stony, undulating path through the trees to emerge at junction/signpost. Stay ahead for 'Pennine Way Keld 1/3 mile.' At next junction, turn R for detour down narrow/steep path to Kisdon Force. Otherwise, continue straight on towards Keld. After gate, follow Pennine Way swinging R down track to cross footbridge.

## 4 3 miles/4.7km

Go L up to junction, then follow signed 'Swale Trail' R – a broad track, which climbs the side of the valley. Shortly, fork L up track to Crackpot Hall.

## 5 3½ miles/5.6km

If you want to avoid the rough terrain of Swinner Gill, retrace your steps from Crackpot Hall and re-join the main track L. Otherwise, pick up grassy path (not on map) through gap in wall behind the ruins, which dips and curves L over stile, then into ravine of Swinner Gill. Follow this narrow path up towards old mine workings at head of gill, but

before bridge, double back L up onto higher path. Follow this through gate and R onto track above Crackpot Hall. Return to Point 5 and re-join main track L down to gate. Cross footbridge and follow track for another 1¼ miles through dale.

## 6 6½ miles/10.5km

At fork, take path down R to cross Ramps Holme footbridge. Follow riverbank R, re-walking some of outward route, but this time swing L

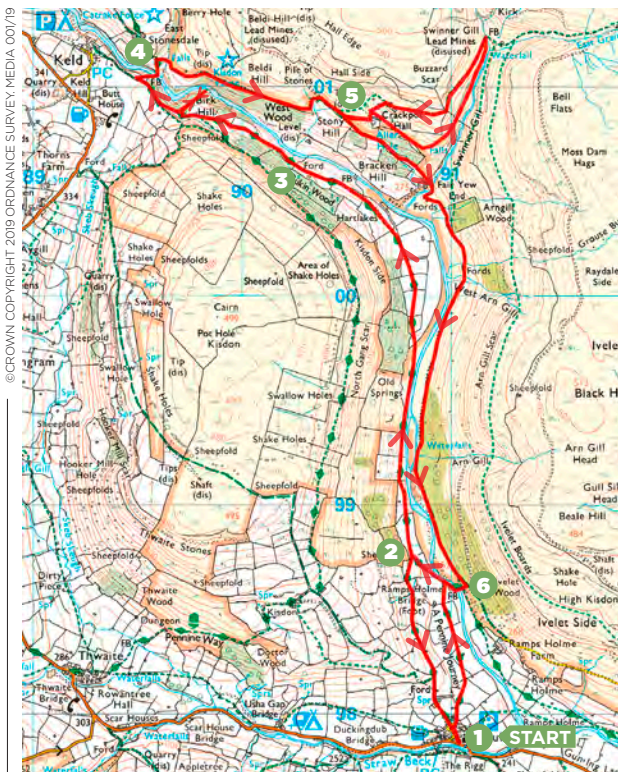
behind barn and follow track up to gate. Follow track through several gates to junction with gravel track. Go L down into village. Go L then R on outward route to finish. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**  
[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

