





27 DERBYSHIRE/STAFFORDSHIRE DOVEDALE & THORPE CLOUD

▶ Distance: 13km/8 miles ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging   



Stepping stones across the River Dove, beneath Thorpe Cloud.



PHOTO: STEVE GOODIER

DELIGHTFUL DOVEDALE



CHOSEN BY...
STEVE GOODIER

A walk along Dovedale is one of the 'classic' outings in the Peak District. If you throw in an ascent of Thorpe Cloud too, you have a really great day on

your hands. This route does both of these things and returns down little-known Hall Dale. The scenery is very dramatic throughout and this strenuous walk is at its very best on a bright day of settled weather.

The view looking down into Dovedale from Thorpe Cloud.

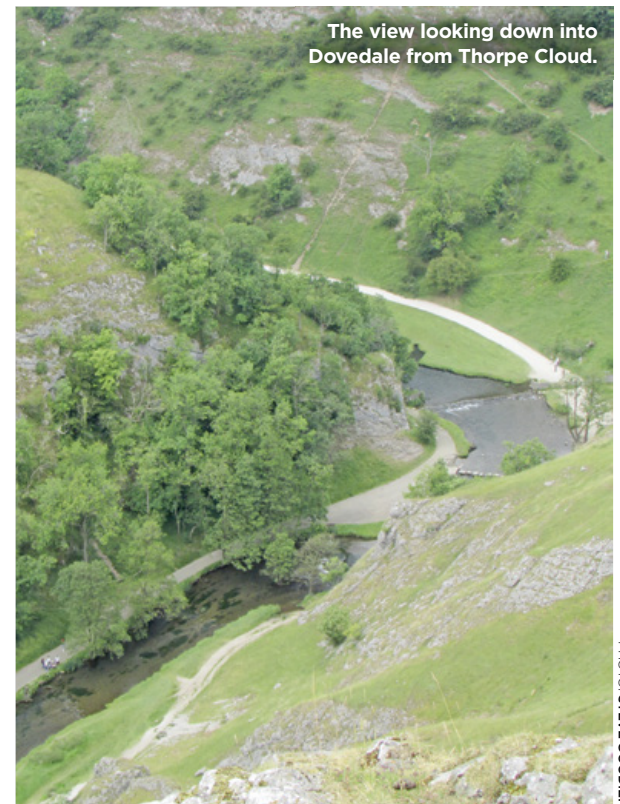


PHOTO: STEVE GOODIER

27 DERBYSHIRE/STAFFORDSHIRE DOVEDALE & THORPE CLOUD

► OS Explorer map OL24 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapshop



1 Start
Exit car park going R of toilets. Pass 'Snack Bar' to follow track with river R. Just before next food van go R over bridge to path junction. Go ahead and when fence ends continue short distance to stay ahead at path split and begin climbing stony path. Continue when path becomes grassy and stay ahead when it becomes indistinct keeping wall below R. Just before stone barn stay L at fork (higher path). Once level with stone barn R go L rising steeply on faint path. Cross grassy track climbing steeply beyond following faint path towards rocky tor above. Higher up (below outcrop) go L on good path to climb/scramble up rocky tor to summit Thorpe Cloud. Follow ridge to main summit overlooking Dove Dale.

Now descend steep North Ridge cutting R down eroded groove near bottom. Cut L to carefully scramble down rocks. Go L on path to River. Go R to pass through squeeze stile (wall).

2 1.7km/1 mile
Go ahead with River L following path. Further on climb steps steeply. Cross flatter area staying ahead at R fork to descend steps to river again. Follow path passing through gate to continue ahead crossing board walks further on. Follow path through gate to stay ahead at junction by bridge L. Pass through another gate continuing to rise then drop curving R/L past caves. Follow path through three gates to reach Viator's Bridge. Go L crossing bridge via gate. Cut R to Milldale.

3 6.3km/4 miles
Exit Milldale E on lane leaving it after houses to take rising path L past house. This climbs steeply through trees to cross gated stile. Cross field passing over stile. Follow L side field rising to pass through gate. Cross field exiting via stile near gate. Rise on R side field passing through stile to track junction. Go ahead down going L over stile. Cut half R over field crossing stile. Descend field picking up wall at corner. Descend to path crossroads before stile. L following path over stile. Descend Hall Dale passing through gate lower down. Continue in trees to cross stile. Continue down to path junction in Dove Dale. Go R (signed 'Illam Rock Bridge') passing over stile. Stay ahead at next junction to bridge.

4 9.9km/6¼ miles
Cross bridge to go R on outbound route following it through two gates and up/down steps over rise. Continue through (wall) stile staying ahead to stepping stones.

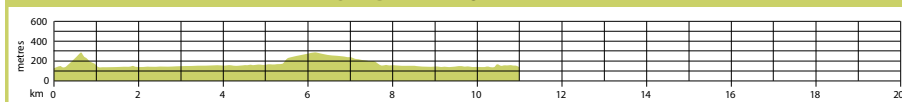
5 12.4km/7¾ miles
Go R on stepping stones over river. Go L down lane to bridge/snack hut. Take outbound route to car park. **CW**



The green, wooded valley is one of the most visited tourist sites in the UK.

PHOTO: STEVE GOODIER

GRADIENT PROFILE



PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking: Dovedale car park (fee) near Illam/Thorpe, grid ref SK146509
Is it for me? Good tracks/paths/some lane walking. Steep and rough in places. Some overgrown paths. Avoid crossing stepping stones if river high – follow path to bridge near start
Stiles: 14

PLANNING

Nearest town: Ashbourne
Refreshments: At start
Public toilets: At start
Public transport: Bus 443 runs between Ashbourne and Dovedale entrance
Map: OS Explorer OL 24; Landranger 119

TRAILZILLA ID:
TZID26776

Use the TZID to download the walk from www.iftto.com/routes or search for it in the **Country Walking Best Walks in Britain App**

► Download OS maps for PC, iPhone, iPad and Android from £12.50

memory map



© Country Walking July 2015