



Pateley Bridge Circular via Brimham Rocks

Map needed: OS Explorer 298 – Nidderdale

Distance: 8.5 miles

Time: 4 – 5 hours

Description

Starting from the pretty market town of Pateley Bridge this varied walk passes through Brimham Rocks – amazing geological formations approximately 320 million years old before dropping down into Low Laithe. The route passes through woodland and rolling fields, providing delightful views across the valley. The walk is 8.5 miles and should take about 4 to 5 hours but you can take as long as you want exploring Brimham Rocks. The gradient is moderate to steep in places and the terrain varies from woodland paths, graveled tracks and fields.



Directions

From the High Street head up hill. Follow the road round to the right (along Ripon Road) and then turn left onto a public footpath (just past the Methodist Church). Carry on up the hill passing Bishopdale House on the left.

About 30 yards after the summit take turn left of the road on to a track. Follow this path; at the junction continue round to the right and down the hill. At the end of the path turn left and walk up the road. Turn right on to a footpath going behind a row of houses. At the road turn left and carry straight on re-joining the footpath as the road curves to the left. Walk along this path to the end then turn right onto the road. Walk down the hill then turn left on to the footpath going over the stile.

Go through a gate and straight on over a crossroads, past White Houses. Continue on this path and turn right just before a row of houses. Walk down the side of the house and then down through the fields following the way markers. Go over another stile and walk down the field to the cattle grid and gate. Go through the gate and follow the path round to the right, then turn left onto a footpath.



You will cross over a small footbridge then take the left fork and carry on along the path. Follow this path uphill eventually passing a dwelling on your left. The stile past the dwelling takes you into National Trust land where you are free to explore the rock formations. If you climb up the hill you will join the main path, turning right will take you to the Visitors Centre.

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At the main entrance turn right down the road. After half a mile join a bridleway on the right signposted to Smelthouses. This gated bridleway will eventually take you to a track where you turn left going downhill into Smelthouses. As you join the road turn left and walk along the road for a short while until you come to a bridleway on the right. Follow this bridleway downhill into Low Laithe.

Going onto the road turn right and follow the road out of the village. Outside the village and on the left a footpath will take you off the road and down to the River Nidd via a small bridge over a tributary. Once by the river walk upstream until you come to a footbridge. Cross the bridge and proceed upstream the path will eventually reach a road where you will turn right over a bridge. After the bridge and on the left join a path that follows the line of a track by the side of Glasshouses Dam. Follow the path along the river back into Pateley Bridge.