

<p>Distance: Approx. 5 miles</p> <p>Time Taken: Approx. 2.5 hours</p> <p>Terrain: Good paths with some ascent and descents.</p> <p>Total ascent / descent: 1045 ft</p> <p>Dog Friendliness: Great for dogs who love water. Dogs should be on leads in Malham and around livestock.</p> <p>Toilets / Refreshments: Toilets and refreshments available in Malham. Refreshments available at Gordale Bridge.</p> <p>Parking: Parking available in Malham.</p> <p>OS Maps: OL2</p>	<p>Malham Cove to Gordale Scar</p> <p>Background: Malham Cove stands north of the mid craven fault. Malham Cove is a curved crag of carboniferous limestone formed after the last ice age. Meltwater, particularly from Malham Tarn, cut back the cove as it fell over the edge as a waterfall. This erosion took place more actively at the lip of the fall, hence the curved shape.</p> <p>Malham is one of its most bizarre landscapes, looking almost lunar in places, with its massive slabs of rock and pitted fissures. The area's classic limestone scenery features cliffs, crags, and scars.</p> <p>Malham Cove is a limestone pavement formed after the last Ice Age by meltwater, largely from Malham Tarn. The cliffs are 80m high by 300 m across, and this amazing area is amongst the top ten geological wonders of Britain. The resulting limestone pavement on the surface of the cove is characterised by limestone blocks called clints and fissures called grykes.</p> <p>Gordale Scar is one of the jewels in the crown of the National Park, this awesome hidden gorge at Gordale has wowed visitors for hundreds of years and inspired famous artists and writers.</p> <p>Like Malham Cove, this impressive natural feature was formed on the Middle Craven Fault. Unlike the Cove, however, the torrents of glacial meltwater that flowed over it cut down through faults in the rock. Successive Ice Ages have carved it deeper and deeper over thousands of years to create the deep gorge we see today. It was not formed by a giant cave collapsing as some have suggested. However, several smaller caves collapsing over the centuries probably contributed to the gorge being so deep.</p> <p>Route Description: We started our walk from Malham, parking at the visitor's center. We headed north out of the village following the road which forms part of the Pennine way. Once you reach Town End Farm take the gate on the right. This is also the Pennine Way and this path goes all the way to Malham Cove. The path splits at the cove, take the right hand path to go and admire the cove from below and then back track taking the path on the left which ascends up to the top of the cove to the limestone pavement.</p> <p>Once you reach the top of the cove, follow the Pennine Way across the top of the pavement. The Pennine Way then meets the Dales Highway, follow this to the right and across Sheriff Hill and down to Gordale Bridge.</p> <p>Once you reach Gordale Bridge take the footpath sign posted for Gordale Scar on the left. This area is generally quite busy and there is a refreshment van serving food and drinks. Take the path to Gordale Scar, this is a nice place to stop for a picnic and for children to run around and dogs to play. Once you have enjoyed Gordale Scar, take the path back to Gordale Bridge and to Janet's Foss. From Janet's Foss follow the footpath along the beck until you rejoin the Pennine Way back to Malham.</p> <p>Points of Interest: Malham Cove, Limestone Pavement, Gordale Scar and Janet's Foss</p>
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