

<p><b>Distance:</b> Approx. 13 miles</p> <p><b>Time Taken:</b> Approx. 5hrs</p> <p><b>Terrain:</b> River side paths and fields. Some short steep ascents and descents.</p> <p><b>Total ascent / descent:</b> 1655ft</p> <p><b>Dog Friendliness:</b> Very dog friendly, can be off lead for good portions of this walk.</p> <p><b>Toilets / Refreshments:</b> Toilets, pubs and cafes in Reeth and Gunnerside.</p> <p><b>Parking:</b> Good parking available in Reeth, limited parking in Gunnerside.</p> <p><b>OS Maps:</b> OL 30</p>	<p><b>032 – Reeth to Gunnerside</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> This is a linear 13-mile walk starting in the gorgeous village of Reeth, following the River Swale to Gunnerside and back again. We did this route in Summer as the long daylight hours allowed plenty of time to complete this walk and enjoy some time in Gunnerside.</p> <p>Today Reeth is considered the 'Capital of Swaledale' but one thousand years ago the neighbouring village of Grinton was much the larger community. Grinton had a church and burial ground, the only ones in upper Swaledale, while Reeth was just a scattering of cottages.</p> <p>Gunnerside's origins date back to the 10<sup>th</sup> Century. The name of the village derives from an Old Norse personal name Gunnar and sætr meaning hill or pasture.</p> <p><b>Route Description:</b> We started the walk in the center of Reeth in the car park on the village green, walking past the National Park Centre on our right. As you follow the road around through houses there is a sign on one of them pointing to the river, follow that footpath out onto the back lane and past a small park.</p> <p>Normally at this section we would take the footpath left and down to the river, however this footpath was closed due to issues with the riverbank collapsing in flood water. If you do this walk and the path is open take the path down to the river, otherwise follow the diversion at a higher elevation through farmland which eventually meets the river.</p> <p>Follow the river side path until it meets the B6270 and walk along the road for a few hundred meters until you reach Scabba-Wath bridge. Go across the bridge and follow the road right and up Low Lane until you reach a slight bend left. You want to join a footpath ahead here. You will now follow the river at elevation going past How Hill. This is an enclosed footpath which will join a road at Low Houses.</p> <p>Follow the road ahead (don't go over Isles Bridge) to The Gables Bed and Breakfast, take the footpath on the right past the Gables following the river again on Dubbing Garth Lane. This path will bring you back out onto the B6270, turn right going across the bridge and head into Gunnerside.</p> <p>The route back goes via Gunnerside Bottoms, be careful here as we got chased by a young bullock. Once through Gunnerside Bottoms the path again follows the river on the other side until you get to Isles Bridge. This time cross the bridge and then follow the path back to Low Lane, however, don't cross Scabba-Wath bridge here, follow Low Lane up into moorland for about half a mile, going past a small stone building on your left. The footpath marker will be on your left. This footpath follows the route of the river at a higher elevation through moorland, past Stubbin Farm and then drops down again to meet the river. At this point we crossed the stepping stones and followed our original route back due to the footpath from the suspension bridge being diverted, however you can continue on to the suspension bridge and back into Reeth that way if it is open.</p> <p><b>Points of Interest:</b> River Swale, Swaledale Festival if visiting at the right time, Swaledale museum and of course an abundance of wildlife.</p>
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