

Distinctly Dales

Celebrating & sharing what makes
the Dales so special



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park



Nidderdale
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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Introduction



Welcome to the Distinctly Dales Toolkit. Its purpose is to help you to use the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in order to improve the performance of your business.

This document is just one of the tools that can help you to achieve this, and other useful resources are available through www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sustainabletourism. To make sure you receive updates on what is happening become a member of the Dales Tourism Business Network – you can find out more on www.dalestourism.com.

The information in the toolkit has come from tourism businesses and local communities who, like you, are keen to think about why their place is special. That 'place' could be a village, a town, a dale – whatever felt personal to them. This was all part of a project funded by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty who want to encourage more sustainable tourism in the Yorkshire Dales.

The idea was to draw out the essential details, large and small, natural and man-made which combine to create a 'sense of place'.



We considered:

- Natural features such as the landscape, flora, fauna
- Heritage, culture, traditions – people, events, festivals
- Produce and industry – food, drink, crafts, farming, textiles
- Man-made features like buildings
- Words, dialect, local sayings, quirky anecdotes



Marketing company, The Tourism Network was commissioned to undertake this Distinctly Dales project. The places, activities, information, and quirks in this toolkit are a result of those events and your input.

Please note this is not intended to be a comprehensive overview of everything that's special about the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There is far more information on our websites. These pages are just a sample of what's on offer, distilled from the ideas and recommendations generated during the workshops that were held around the Dales.

It is not intended that businesses should copy and use all of this information, but we hope that you will pick and choose the most relevant bits for your business and location and use this as a starting point to provide more targeted information for your visitors.

3 simple things we'd like you to do right now:

1

Please use the description of your local area on your website. You are welcome to edit and change this. This version is just a starting point, developed to make it easier for everyone to move from saying "we're in a lovely location" to actually giving more detail, attracting the right kind of visitor and encouraging them to stay longer and spend more. Consider what other additional information might interest your visitors and make sure you offer it, either on your website, in person or through special displays. Visitors really want this inside knowledge and so if you provide it, they won't need to go elsewhere!



2

Please signpost these websites and encourage visitors to use them: www.yorkshiredales.org.uk & www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty have developed an enormous amount of more detailed information about the Yorkshire Dales, and we have lots of ways for visitors to enjoy being here. This includes ideas for short walks, cycle rides, events and guided walks, and phone apps and MP3 trails. Using the information on our websites will help your visitors get more out of their visit, and encourage repeat visits.



3

Please read and use the practical handbook written to accompany this toolkit. It's called Using Local Distinctiveness to Boost your Business. The handbook is available to tourism businesses working in, or close to, the National Park and Nidderdale AONB. If you don't already have a copy please email susan@tourismnetwork.co.uk.



Thank you once again to everyone who got involved, offered ideas and encouragement. This project has generated so much enthusiasm, passion, and interest. We all know we live and work in a fantastic area – now it's time to share more of it with our visitors.

A brief history of the Yorkshire Dales

A glance at a map of the Yorkshire Dales shows that the area is aptly named. The peaks rise to over 700m (2,300ft) above sea level and large areas are over 600m (2,000ft) but the eye is attracted to the 'dales', a Norse word for valley, which dissect the 'moors' or 'fells'.

The rocks which dominate this landscape – limestone, shale, sandstones and millstone grit – were laid down as marine sediments in a period beginning about 350 million years ago. Older rocks survive in the Howgill Fells where erosion has produced a distinct and dramatic landscape of smooth, rounded hills and steep-sided valleys.

All of the Yorkshire Dales, with the exception of some of the higher peaks, was covered with ice during the last glaciation. Once the ice sheets had melted and the climate began to warm, the landscape of the Yorkshire Dales gradually changed from open tundra to dense woodland. The people of this time (8000 BC) were hunter-gatherers, and evidence shows that open land around water sources such as Malham Tarn and Semerwater were important hunting areas.

The first farmers appeared sometime after 5000 BC, clearing woodland to provide grazing for sheep, goats and cattle and somewhere to plant cereal crops.

The Roman invasion of AD 43 brought profound changes to the economy and society of large parts of Britain. In the Dales there is evidence of a marching camp on Malham Moor and a permanent fort at Bainbridge linked to other sites by a typical straight road across the hills. However, Roman influence never seems to have penetrated very far into the Dales. Life for the mass of the native population probably went on much as it had done for their ancestors, and this way of life would have continued after the Romans left in AD 410.

The next invasions came from northern Europe – with Saxon and Viking warrior-farmers coming to the area from Denmark and Norway. This Anglo-Scandinavian period continued through to the Norman invasion of 1066.

The opposition to the rule of the Norman Duke William by northern landowners, led to a dreadful revenge called the Harrying of the North where estates were burned and crops and stock destroyed. In order to maintain control over their new territories, William's landlords built castles. Castlehew, near Sedbergh was an early example, followed by stone castles such as those at Skipton, Middleham and Richmond. Once settled, the Norman lords gradually began to give away their least profitable lands to the church in return for intercession in the next life. As a result, the great monastic houses like Fountains Abbey and Bolton Priory came to own three-quarters of the land defined by the boundary of the National Park.

One of the greatest changes to take place in the countryside came about after 1539 with the Dissolution of the monasteries. The huge monastic granges were broken up and a new class of tenant came to be established.

During the seventeenth century, the yeomen farmers of the Yorkshire Dales increased their fortunes and land holdings, usually at the expense of a growing class of landless poor. Further wealth plus work for the poor, was created through the manufacture of knitted textiles and the exploitation of mineral resources, such as lead and coal.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Industrial Revolution swept through the Yorkshire Dales. Small communities were transformed by the arrival of cotton and wool processing mills. Mineral resources such as lead and coal were exploited as never before. Canals and better roads meant that farmers no longer needed to grow their own corn and during the eighteenth century more and more farmland was given over to grazing cattle and sheep. The numerous stone field barns of the Dales mostly date to this period.

By the end of the nineteenth century, both the lead and the coal industries were nearing their end along with nearly all the textile mills. Farming continued as the backbone of the Dales' economy, but the early 1900s saw the beginnings of a rival - tourism. Back then, rambling became a popular leisure activity with urban workers yearning for the peace and quiet of the hills.



You can discover more of the history and archaeology of the Dales on www.outofoblivion.org.uk



Distinctive features of the Yorkshire Dales



Over 20 named **dales**, cut by rivers, each distinctive in character and sense of place. Names like Swaledale, Wensleydale, Wharfedale, Ribblesdale and Dentdale are evocative and known to lovers of nature and outdoors throughout the country.

Small, **compact villages, hamlets and market towns** with a strong sense of community and continuity.

Unfenced roads across **open moorlands** with dramatic panoramas across the landscape and into the valleys below, and **hay meadows**, rich in grasses and wildflowers.

Spectacular **waterfalls**, such as Hardraw Force, Aysgarth Falls, Cautley Spout and Thornton Force.

A sense of **tranquillity**, enhanced by the natural sounds of wind, water and birdsong, and an amazing **night sky**, with dramatic effects from the moon, stars, and planets.

Classic **limestone scenery**, with its crags, bare flat areas of rock known as pavements and extensive

cave systems in the south of the National Park and valleys with stepped profiles in the north, separated by extensive moorland plateaux.

High winding moorland passes and **heather tops**: a great seasonal indicator when they change colour from brown to green, purple and white.

Millstone grit **outcrops** such as Simon's Seat and sandstone tors like Brimham Rocks.

The Howgill Fells, a series of grassy rounded **hills** with deep ravines.

Ruins and remains of the **lead mining** and the lime burning industry, particularly just below Coldstones Cut in Nidderdale and the Hoffmann Kiln between Langcliffe and Stainforth.

Sheep!

Look closer and you'll eventually be able to spot the different breeds – Swaledale, Dalesbred, Rough Fell, Texels and others. The influence of sheep is everywhere, from the grass terraces on the hills to the amazing architecture of great abbeys like Fountains and Jervaulx, built with the riches from wool and sheep farming. It is not surprising that the face of a Swaledale ram appears on the Yorkshire Dales National Park signs. There are sheep dog demonstrations, opportunities to view lambing time and farms to stay on.

Lines of dry stone walls

There are over 8,500km of dry stone walls in the Yorkshire Dales so it is difficult to miss them.

Look closely and you will see that there is a lot of variety. This can be due to the underlying geology, but the wall's age and function also play a part

A cross section through a typical dry stone wall shows it is A-shaped, with two outer faces formed of relatively large stones. The core is made up of smaller stones (hearting) which are often used to level up the face stones. Larger stones (throughs) are used to tie the two outer faces together. The top row are called coping stones.

Walls can last a surprisingly long time, especially if they are built on a firm foundation. Over the years they tend to sag and slump but the loose nature of the filling means that collapses can be easily rebuilt and a good dry stone waller can build five metres a day.



Traditional stone-built field barns

Field barns or laithes are a distinctive feature of the Yorkshire Dales landscape. Barns were used as a combination of cattle housing and fodder storage.

You'll notice that most are in fields and hay meadows, away from main farm buildings. Hay was stored on the first floor, ready to feed the cattle on the lower floor. Muck from the cattle could then be spread on the hay meadows ready for the next crop. This saved farmers the effort of carrying hay or muck to and from the main farmstead.

Before the early eighteenth century many of these had wooden cruck frames and a heather thatched roof. You can see a fine example in Wharfedale at Grimwith High Laithe next to Grimwith Reservoir.

In places like Upper Swaledale where winters can be more severe, you'll also find some hogg houses, built to over-winter young sheep or hogs.

Caves and crags

The Yorkshire Dales is a fantastic destination for those who want to enjoy caving, climbing, walking and exploring unusual geological features.

Visitors can safely explore the crags and caves of the Dales with a guiding company or visit a show cave. Here are just a few examples:

Caves

Kingsdale Master System, Gaping Gill System and Alum Pot on the slopes of Ingleborough, and Hull Pot and Hunt Pot underneath Pen-y-ghent.

Show caves

Ingleborough Cave near Clapham and White Scar Caves near Ingleton, How Stean Gorge in Nidderdale, and Stump Cross Caverns at Greenhow.



Crags, gills and other distinctive features:

- Malham Tarn and Semerwater
- Malham Cove and Gordale Scar
- Dry valleys such as above Malham Cove
- Sink holes such as Braithwaite Wife Hole and Churn Milk Hole
- Thieves Moss in Crummackdale
- Beggar's Stile
- Limestone pavements at Malham, Selside, Oxenber, Moughton
- Norber erratics near Austwick
- Drumlins between Coniston Cold and Hellifield and south of Ribbleshead
- Castleberg Crag above Settle
- Brimham Rocks near Pateley Bridge
- Fremington Edge above Reeth
- Great Shunner Fell
- The Three Peaks – Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent and Wharfedale
- Cracoe reef knolls
- Earl's Seat and Simon's Seat on Barden Fell
- Kilnsey Crag
- Troller's Gill near Appletreewick
- Buttertubs Pass between Hawes and Muker

Waterfalls

The Yorkshire Dales is famous for the sheer number and variety of its dramatic waterfalls – seeing them is a great wet-weather activity.

- Stainforth Foss/Force: a picturesque waterfall where the salmon leap on their way upstream to spawn.
- Janet's Foss: a small and pretty waterfall near Malham.
- Ingleton waterfalls: a trail takes in a series of lovely waterfalls.
- Catrigger Force: a hidden gem located in a small wooded copse one mile upstream from Stainforth village.
- Force Gill Waterfall: an often overlooked beautiful 6 metre waterfall just a short detour from the Three Peaks route between Ribbleshead Viaduct and Wharfedale.
- Aysgarth Falls and Cotter Force in Wensleydale both of which can be seen using easy access footpaths.
- Hardraw Force – the longest single drop waterfall in England: pay at the Green Dragon pub.
- Scaleber Force
- East Gill Force
- Catrake Force
- Richmond Falls
- Kisdon Force
- Wain Wath
- Cautley Spout: in the Howgills



A special place for wildlife



The Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are special places for wildlife including many rare species of plants and birds. They are important breeding grounds for many birds, including grouse, curlew, lapwing and skylarks – which nest on the ground. There are heather moorlands, famous wildflower meadows, limestone pavements and species-rich limestone grassland.

In springtime look out for:

- the return of the curlew with its beautiful call
- the spring lambs
- the tumbling display flight of the lapwings
- the oystercatchers with their long, bright orange beaks
- the woodland flowers – bluebells, wild garlic and lily-of-the-valley - in Grass Woods or at Hackfall Woods

In summer:

- Walk one of the paths through a hay meadow as they come alive with flowers
- Take the chance to see the spectacular peregrine falcons at the public viewpoint at Malham Cove
- Hear the chatter of swallows and watch as they swoop low over rivers and meadows to catch insects
- See the heather moorlands turn purple as they come in to flower

In autumn:

- More pheasants and grouse can be seen as the shooting season begins
- You can pick some blackberries for tea
- See the salmon make their way up river to spawn and watch them jumping up the falls on the Ribble and Wharfe
- Witness tuppung time at the end of the season when rams (male sheep) are put to work to produce next year's spring lambs



For many more details about these precious habitats and to find out more about our wonderful wildlife, as well as many ways to understand them better, please visit www.yorkshiredales.org.uk and www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk

A selection of quirky traditions and legends



The Dales are full of curious stories and folk tales passed down the generations which stir the imagination. Here are just a few of them.

According to tradition, the people of Austwick saw the **cuckoo** as the harbinger of spring and good weather and so when one roosted in a tree they built a wall around it in the hope of keeping it there. Unfortunately the wall wasn't high enough so the cuckoo simply flew away...A Cuckoo Festival is still held there in summer.

Malham Safari takes place over eight days in May when the villagers and local school build themed sculptures all around the village.

The **Tossie Fox Festival** is held in July when families and businesses make a fox and dress it to a theme before putting it on public display. In Kettlewell the **Scarecrow Festival** sees quirky and often intricate models around the village.

Held at The George Inn in Hubberholme, the annual land-letting auction is known as the **Hubberholme Parliament** and is on the first Monday night of the year. It dates back centuries. Local farmers gather to bid for 16 acres of pastureland owned by the church, the proceedings of which go to help the poor people of the parish. The vicar oversees the auction and sits in the 'House of Lords' (dining room) while the bidding takes place in the 'House of Commons' (the bar). The highest bid made when the candle flickers out wins the auction.

The **Barguest** is a legendary monstrous black dog with huge teeth and claws said to frequent **Troller's Gill** in Wharfedale and rumoured to be the inspiration for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Hound of the Baskervilles.

The nooks, caves and crannies of Troller's Gill are also said to be the home of trolls and perhaps other sorts of similarly diabolical and fiendishly unpleasant beings lying in wait for the unsuspecting rambler...

A grisly event took place in **Grassington** in April 1766, when local blacksmith Tom Lee killed Dr Richard Petty. The doctor had treated his wounds following a robbery and threatened to expose him to the authorities.

Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned at **Bolton Castle** in 1568. She would appear to have been well treated – taking the best apartments and having a retinue including cooks, grooms, hairdresser, embroiderer, apothecary, physician and surgeon.

Clapham's man-made lake was expanded in the nineteenth century, and provided pressure for water turbines to supply electricity to the Ingleborough Estate, apparently making **Clapham** the first village to have electric street lighting.

Tunnels were reputedly built over Thwaite Lane near Clapham so the Farrer family from Ingleborough Hall could enjoy their estate and lake without having to see people using this popular drovers' route!

In **Swaledale**, tradition has it that the dead were carried in wicker coffins down the dale for burial in the churchyard at Grinton. The paths used became known as the Corpse Way. For many hundreds of years the burial ground at Grinton was the only consecrated ground in the dale – if you were not buried in consecrated ground your soul was damned for eternity. A number of long flat stones have been found along the route, such as at Ivelet Bridge, and these were supposedly where the wicker biers were placed while the pall bearers rested.

In 1692, Adam Barker was the last person in Swaledale to be fined for sticking to the local tradition of burial in linen, breaking the law which required bodies to be buried in wool, in order to support Britain's wool industry. His daughter, Ann, is buried inside Grinton Church, and a stone slab records the £5 fine he was forced to pay.

Neddy Dick was the nickname of Richard Alderson of Keld who died in 1927. His fame spread far and wide in the dales after his creation of a musical 'rock' instrument, made of limestone rocks fashioned to sound a full scale of notes when hit with a special hammer. He took it around the local shows and fairs, to the great delight of all who heard it.

The so-called **Terrible Knitters of Dent** were the most famous hand knitters of the Dales. Their amazing skill is recounted in full at the Dent Village Heritage Centre, and there are displays of the special tools involved both there and at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

George Hodgson of **Dent** died in 1715 aged a remarkable 94, and his grave can be seen in front of the church porch. Years before his death, there were many rumours about his health and longevity, attributing it to dealings with the **Devil and vampires**. A popular story surrounds a small piece of metal buried in the gravestone which is said to be the end of a stake driven through George's heart. Unfortunately, the truth is simpler – it is only the remains of a brass plaque which had been attached to the stone.

In common with many bridges of the same name, legend holds that at the **Devil's Bridge** in Kirkby Lonsdale, the Devil appeared to an old woman, promising to build a bridge in exchange for the first soul to cross over it. When the bridge was finished the woman threw bread over the bridge and her dog chased after it, thereby outwitting the Devil.



Distinctive Dales

Each of the valleys that make up the Yorkshire Dales is different, in both landscape, history and tradition. This section pulls together a few of those key aspects to bring out that distinctiveness of the main dales and a number of key towns.



Around Swaledale and Arkengarthdale

As James Herriot wrote, "... on the empty moors, with the curlews crying, I have been able to find peace and tranquillity. It is a land of pure air, rocky streams and hidden waterfalls."

The River Swale is one of England's fastest rising spate rivers, rushing its way between Thwaite, Muker, Reeth and on to Richmond. At the head of Swaledale is the tiny village of Keld, the crossing point of the Coast to Coast Walk and the Pennine Way long distance footpaths. Keld was once a more populous place at the peak of the leadmining boom. Learn some of its history at the Keld Countryside and Heritage Centre.

Moving further north, the moors start to take over and the landscape becomes wilder and more remote. Arkengarthdale is perfect for those who prize their solitude, unless they want to sample local beers at England's highest pub at Tan Hill. On the moors you're likely to see the small, shaggy and hardy Swaledale sheep. They are key to the livelihood of many Dales farmers and the emblem for the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

In the lower areas, you'll see tranquil hay meadows (at their best in the early summer months) bordered by a myriad of dry stone walls and punctuated by field barns. The hay meadows are filled with wildflowers, insect and bird life. It's hard to believe these calm pastures and wild moors were ever a site for industry but at Gunnerside Gill you can still see the remains of the former leadmining industry. Find out more about local life by visiting Swaledale Museum in Reeth or Hazel Brow Farm.

Many people will recognise a special part of Swaledale from the title sequence of the TV series All Creatures Great and Small, when Siegfried's car splashes through the stream. This beautiful spot sits in a dip in the moors beside the minor road from Low Row to Arkengarthdale, and is the perfect place to relax and take in the scenery while you enjoy a picnic of delicious local food.

Swaledale's main town is Richmond, where the 100ft high Castle walls and sloping cobbled market place dominate the town. The Georgian Theatre has an intimate feel and fascinating history and at nearby Richmond Station you can enjoy a film and visit six artisan food producers.



Don't leave Swaledale and Arkengarthdale until you've...

- Taken your own classic Swaledale view on a Camera Ramble with the friendly folk from Scenic View Gallery
- Swooped down some of the Swaledale hills on two wheels from the Dales Bike Centre, Fremington (you might want to sample their excellent cake first)
- Enjoyed a Friday night drink with the colourful locals at the Punchbowl – and tasted the chips from the fish and chip van!
- Learnt some natural navigation skills with Mark Reid and his colleagues at Team Walking
- Tried your hand at fly fishing on the Swale with the angling club at Reeth
- Watched some world class running at one of the agricultural shows' fell races or the Swaledale Offroad marathon in June.
- Been to the sheepdog trials at the Muker Show
- Had some wonderful food at one of the CB Inn's Specialty Nights
- Bought a locally-made woollen jumper from Swaledale Woollens
- Been pony trekking with the Arkle Moor Riding Centre at Reeth
- Followed the Corpse Way and learnt its grim story
- Bought some Damson Cheese from Garden House Pottery in Reeth
- Visited Swaledale Museum and had a glimpse into the past working life of the dale
- Bought an original artwork from one of the many artists in Swaledale
- Gone outward bound at Marrick Priory
- Visited the award winning Hazel Brow Farm, met the animals including the Swaledale sheep, and bought some local cheese
- Stopped for a drink at the Tan Hill Inn and admired the view from the country's highest pub
- Given your dog a treat at the King's Head in Gunnerside where they serve a special beer for dogs
- If your dog doesn't deserve a treat, then don't leave until you've taken a special training session with Clare Ackroyd at Healthidog

Around Wensleydale

Wensleydale is one of the best known of the dales, not just because of its beauty but probably also thanks to Wallace and Grommit! Wensleydale cheese is still made in Hawes. Unlike other dales, Wensleydale is not named after its main river (River Ure) but after the village of Wensley which used to be a larger market town. Wensleydale's best-known market towns and villages are Hawes, Leyburn, Askrigg, Bainbridge and Aysgarth. England's shortest river, the Bain, links Semer Water to the River Ure at Bainbridge. Nearby are several beautiful waterfalls: Hardraw Force, Aysgarth Falls, Mill Gill Force and West Burton Force.

Hawes is where you can find excellent cafés and shops to wander around as well as being able to see cheese being made. You can also see how rope is made at Outhwaites, which is next door to the Dales Countryside Museum. Run by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, the Dales Countryside Museum is a great starting point for any trip to the Dales, explaining more about its history and the life of farmers, lead miners and crafts people.

Water is the power behind nearby Gayle Mill, an atmospheric eighteenth century cotton and later saw mill which has been recently restored, and which represents nearly 230 years of industrial and social heritage.

Middleham was once home to Richard III and Middleham Castle is regarded by some as the 'Windsor of the North'. The town is now known for its racehorses: you can often see them training on the out-of-town gallops in the morning. Visitors can give their car a rest and enjoy a journey on the Wensleydale Railway which runs from Leeming Bar, to Redmire, near Castle Bolton. Bolton Castle, in the contrarily named village of Castle Bolton, is a fantastic vantage point from which to admire the Wensleydale countryside. Children love playing hide and seek there and at Jervaulx Abbey.



Despite its popularity, it is still easy to find tranquil places to rest and admire the scenery, such as on the Buttertubs Pass and in the villages strung along Coverdale, a branch off Wensleydale.

In a place where much of the wealth was originally built on wool, it's not surprising the dale has its own breed of sheep: the Wensleydale with a fleece that looks like silky ringlets. Leyburn draws visitors to its market place with an array of independent shops and farmers come to exchange their news and beasts at the Auction Mart.

Don't leave Wensleydale until you've...

- Been for a ride on the Wensleydale Railway from Bedale via Finghall, Leyburn and Redmire
- Taken the vintage bus that goes from Ripon via Masham up through Wensleydale stopping at Jervaulx Abbey, Middleham, Leyburn, Redmire, Bolton Castle, Carperby, Aysgarth, Bainbridge and Hawes, finishing up in Garsdale
- Visited the formal gardens of Constable Burton Hall
- Warmed your feet in front of the open fire whilst sipping an ale at the Cover Bridge Inn
- Spotted a scarecrow on the Bellerby Scarecrow Trail
- Walked to the top of Penhill or Castle Bolton to admire the view
- Gone to an auction at Tennant's auction house
- Explored the ruins of Jervaulx Abbey, followed by coffee and cake at the nearby café or an ice-cream sundae at Brymor
- Take a walk on the Shawl near Leyburn with a picnic made from the delicious food from Campbells
- Sampled some of the tasty local produce at The Dales Festival of Food and Drink in Leyburn
- Seen hawks flown at Bolton Castle
- Admired the Falls and artworks at Aysgarth on the 3km walk through Freeholders' Wood
- Stepped back in time to the 1940s Weekend at Leyburn, perhaps arriving by Wensleydale Railway
- Watched the horses being trained at Middleham
- Spotted a red squirrel on the Snaizeholme Red Squirrel Trail and seen salmon leaping in Walden Beck near West Burton
- Watched the famous cheese being made at the Wensleydale Creamery
- Admired the waterfall at West Burton, visited the cat pottery and read the pavement (really!) at West Burton
- Had a pint of George and Dragon at the pub of the same name in Aysgarth
- Had a bracing swim in Semer Water
- Seen how ropes are made at Outhwaites in Hawes
- Solved the riddles at The Forbidden Corner in Middleham
- Taken part in a woodworking weekend at Gayle Mill where you can smell the wood being cut on a rack, hear the click of the belts running over the wheels as the turbines drive them and see the machines cutting. They also have other courses such as crochet, spinning yarn and knitting
- Visited the Dales Countryside Museum at Hawes to discover the story of the people and landscape of the Yorkshire Dales, past and present



Further down Wensleydale is **Masham** which is famous for its two breweries, The Black Sheep and Theakstons. It's also becoming known for its thriving artistic community. The Masham Gallery, Nikky Corker Gallery and Desiree Hope Gallery showcase the work of local artists and makers. Uredale Glass was established 30 years ago and glass blowing still takes place there. Visitors seeking to explore their own creativity can enrol in a workshop at ArtisOn, a vibrant arts centre. Masham holds a quirky and eclectic biennial arts festival celebrating poetry, music, literature, visual art and dance.

Masham boasts the largest market square in the Yorkshire Dales and much of the town's life is centred on it. There is a twice weekly market and it is the site of the popular autumn Sheep Fair. Vehicles from the annual Traction Engine Rally and Steam Fair also parade to the square for visitors and residents to admire.

St. Mary's Church dates back to medieval times. Visitors come to see the ancient Saxon Cross in the churchyard. Not far away on the hills is Druids Temple, a folly near Ilton and now home to Bivouac, part of the Swinton Estate which also includes Swinton Park Hotel with its award winning restaurant and cookery school.

Masham is situated on the banks of the River Ure offering lovely riverside walks including along the Ripon Rowel to nearby Hackfall Woods with its historical follies, waterfalls and fountain.



Don't leave Masham until you've...

- Been to the Masham Community Office to pick up a leaflet and followed the Leaves Trail around Masham, spotting the stone sculptures along the way
- Visited all four of Masham's galleries and glass makers
- Been to Marfields Nature Reserve, hidden in a hide and watched the wetland birds
- Had a coffee and met some locals in Suncatchers Café
- Lounged around the market cross, eating an ice-cream from Bah Humbugs, Jonevas or Bordar House
- Watched a game of cricket on the recreation ground by the river
- Eaten a meal in Vennell's award-winning restaurant
- Looked for the Lost Cemetery and found the site of the 58 skeletons dating from pre-Norman times
- Been on a tour of both the breweries and enjoyed a local beer in one of the pubs



Around Nidderdale

Nidderdale is the long dale of the River Nidd running from Great Whernside towards the Vale of York, a wild gritstone landscape with moorland to the west and a pastoral landscape to the east.

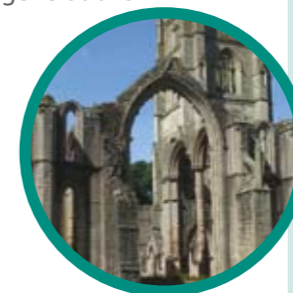
Reservoirs such as Gouthwaite and Scar House are a distinctive feature of the dale and their stories are told at the Nidderdale Museum. Sandstone crags and tors punctuate the landscape – visitors love to marvel at the curious shapes of Brimham Rocks.

Spectacular views across the dale reward those who take the short walk up to the Coldstones Cut, Yorkshire's largest public artwork.

Nidderdale is home to internationally important species of bird such as golden plover and merlin. It includes the World Heritage Site at Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal, a vast estate comprising the largest abbey ruins in the country, a deer park and a Georgian water garden designed by John Aislabie. The Aislabie connection continues at nearby Hackfall where his son William designed a woodland garden complete with follies, waterfalls and a fountain.

Traditional hamlets and villages, such as Middlesmoor and Lofthouse, are scattered throughout Nidderdale, some on old drovers' roads snaking over the moor. At Nidderdale's heart is the small town of Pateley Bridge which winds its way up the hill and is renowned for shops selling local produce and The Oldest Sweet Shop in England! This is a great place to stop and buy local food before a trip 'up dale'.

Towards the top of the dale you'll find some remarkable attractions: How Stean Gorge; and the Studfold Adventure Trail, established on land farmed by 16 generations of the same family.



Don't leave Nidderdale until you've...

- Explored Brimham Rocks
- Discovered some of the hidden nooks and crannies of Fountains Abbey
- Visited How Stean Gorge and scrambled along the gorge, traversed narrow bridges and pathways to explore Tom Taylor's Cave, and had a go at the Via Ferrata (one of only two in England)
- Explored Hackfall, and discovered some of the geocache boxes hidden there
- Walked around one of the reservoirs and counted how many different species of bird you can see
- Understood Nidderdale's story at Nidderdale Museum
- Bought glass, jewellery or artwork from the workshops at the King Street Studios at the Old Workhouse
- Climbed the hill to see the amazing view from Coldstones Cut and come down to explore the old lime working industry
- Gone underground at Stump Cross Caverns
- Eaten a pork pie from Kendalls Farm Butchers or H. Weatherhead & Sons
- Trekking with a llama at Nidderdale Llamas
- Bought some sweets from England's oldest sweet shop
- Tried all of the ice-creams available in Nidderdale
- Found the clues in the secret boxes or built dens along the Studfold Adventure Trail



Around Dentdale and Sedbergh



The River Dee flows down the lovely valley of Dentdale on the western side of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, before joining the River Rawthey close to Sedbergh.

Dentdale has its own brewery and is notable for having the highest mainline train station in the country, one of the stops on the famous Settle-Carlisle railway. The town of Dent is steeped in history, from its cobbled streets to its twelfth century church with altar flagstones made from lustrous black Dent marble. It was the birthplace of geologist Adam Sedgwick who discovered the Dent Fault. His name is given to the trail that can be enjoyed by visitors wanting to explore the unique geology of this beautiful area. Another of Dent's claims to fame are the Terrible Knitters of Dent: visitors can find out more about them at the Dent Village Heritage Centre.

Today's Dent is a much calmer place, with hidden surprises tucked away such as blacksmith Lucy Sandys-Clarke, the Meditation Centre and Sophie's Wild Woollens.

The stone-built market town of Sedbergh is a great base for walkers exploring the Howgill Fells but has increasingly become a destination in itself for those with more sedate hobbies. Sedbergh became England's Book Town in 2003.

There are many fascinating second-hand and specialist bookshops to browse in as well as several great cafés and other shops. Just down the road from Sedbergh, is the restored Victorian woollen mill, Farfield Mill Arts and Heritage Centre. It's a hive of creativity with galleries, artists' workshops, café and regular craft demonstrations.



Don't leave Dent and Sedbergh until you've...

- Learnt the story of the Terrible Knitters of Dent at the Dent Village Heritage Centre
- Relaxed and stilled your mind with a retreat at the Meditation Centre in Dent
- Taken a train from the country's highest mainline railway station on the Settle-Carlisle railway
- Explored the book town of Sedbergh and discovered a good read or three!
- Been on a stone carving workshop with Pip Hall in Cowgill and commissioned some work from blacksmith Lucy Sandys-Clarke
- Watched one of Farfield Mill's resident artists creating something wonderful, bought one of the many beautiful handmade items in the galleries or created your own woolly wonder by joining the 'Knit and Natter' group in the Weavers' Café
- Walked a part of the Dales Way and admired the rivers and the Howgills
- Eaten a hearty plate of Cumberland sausage at the Sun Inn
- Admired the interesting rock formations walking the Sedgwick Geological Trail
- Gone 'free range' with shepherdess Alison O'Neill on a barefoot walking holiday at Shacklabank Farm
- Explored the lovely countryside on one of the many guided walks during the Dentdale Walking Festival
- Followed the Heritage Trail up Flintergill
- Ridden a bicycle or horse along parts of the Pennine Bridleway, or cycled the Pennine Cycle Way
- Relaxed with a pint of locally brewed beer in one of the many traditional pubs
- Selected some sweet treats from the Green Door in Sedbergh
- Found out more about the early years of the Quakers at Fox's Pulpit at Firbank and Briggflatts Quaker Meeting House
- Visited the pub with no beer (from the days of the temperance movement): the Cross Keys Inn at Cautley

Around Ribblesdale and the Three Peaks

Ribblesdale is home to Yorkshire's famous Three Peaks, Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent, a popular challenge for walkers and fell-runners. At 2,415 ft, Whernside is the highest point in Yorkshire

With the highs, go the lows – in this case deep into the ground. On the southern slopes of Ingleborough lies Gaping Gill, one of the largest underground open chambers in the country and just one of the numerous potholes and cave systems to explore with a guide. Water disappearing underground into Gaping Gill resurfaces at Ingleborough Cave – a show cave close to Clapham.

The nearby village of Ingleton not only has White Scar Cave to visit, but also a popular walk visiting the beautiful waterfalls along the banks of the Rivers Twiss and Doe.

Situated amongst dramatic limestone countryside and at the base of the imposing Attermire Scar, the market town of Settle is the starting point of the famous Settle-Carlisle railway which wends its way through the western dales crossing the magnificent Ribblesdale Viaduct. With its weekly market, museum, historical buildings, narrow back streets and eclectic mix of galleries, cafés, outdoor suppliers and shops selling local produce, Settle is a popular base for visitors. It also boasts the smallest art gallery in the world, Gallery on the Green, housed within a former BT phone box!

This area's history is written in its landscape. You can find the remnants of walls dating from the pre-Roman era, old drovers' lanes, dry stone walls, sheep creeps, wash dubs, bee boles, packhorse bridges and lime kilns. Many ancient traditions are kept alive with events such as the Austwick Cuckoo Festival and maypole dancing at Long Preston.

Don't leave Ribblesdale and the Three Peaks until you've...

- Seen the Ribblesdale Viaduct and joined a guided walk to discover the old railway construction camps in July and August with the Friends of Settle-Carlisle Railway
- Discovered the bee boles at Taitlands near Stainforth and enjoyed cake and coffee there in the old stables
- Visited Grade I listed Settle Folly, built in 1679, home to the Museum of North Craven Life
- Experienced the Three Peaks – walked them, run them or just admired them from the lowlands and seen the check-in machine at Pen-y-ghent Café
- Seen Dick Unsworth, the one-armed potter at work in the pottery in Ingleton and bought some Bentham Blue
- Shopped at Settle market and attended a cattle sale at Bentham Auction Mart – how much can you understand?
- Visited Santa – in Ingleborough Cave
- Joined the Yorkshire Dales Guides deep underground on a caving expedition
- Enjoyed a performance at the Richard Whiteley theatre in Giggleswick
- Watched salmon leaping at Stainforth Foss in the autumn
- Visited the Hoffmann Kiln and understood its role in lime-burning
- Walked around Attermire Scar and admired the scenery – taking the time to really drink it all in
- Journeyed on the Settle-Carlisle Railway, getting off and enjoying walks along the way
- Followed the Ingleborough Estate Nature Trail that commemorates the exploits of Reginald Farrer who travelled the world in search of new plant species
- Picked up some local food treats from Country Harvest, ready for a long walk or riverside picnic
- Seen the latest exhibition is what is believed to be the smallest art gallery in the world – in a red telephone kiosk in Settle!



Around Malhamdale

Malhamdale is famous for its limestone pavements and crags. The natural limestone amphitheatre of Malham Cove is home to rare peregrine falcons and has inspired many poets and artists.

J.M.W Turner spent time sketching at Malham Tarn, England's highest freshwater lake. Charles Kingsley was inspired to write *The Water Babies* after a visit to Tarn House. A unique range of flora grows between the clints and grikes of the limestone pavement, where they get some protection from the grazing sheep.

Hardy breeds of beef cattle also graze the limestone grassland as a result of the Limestone Country Project set up to protect the special ecology of the area. Perhaps more surprisingly, Malham is also home to spicy sausage production: Yorkshire Chorizo!

The towering gorge of Gordale Scar is another striking feature of Malhamdale, within walking distance of the pretty and much visited village of Malham with its busy National Park Centre.

Janet's Foss is nearby, a lovely woodland waterfall and pool. Janet, the queen of fairies, is said to live in the cave behind the falls. A little way down the path from the waterfall are a couple of dead tree stumps with hundreds of pennies pressed into them where people have made a wish to the queen of the fairies.



Don't leave Malhamdale until you've...

- Seen the nesting peregrine falcons through the RSPB telescopes at the foot of Malham Cove (April to July), before enjoying a pint in a nearby hostelry
- Seen Gordale Scar and Malham Cove and made a wish at Janet's Foss
- Developed some new butchery skills on a real Dales farm run by a fifth generation butcher and tasted Yorkshire's version of chorizo – thanks to Chris Wildman at Paganum
- Been on a walk to see the limestone pavement at Malham
- Gone from Stainforth to Halton Gill on a clear day, stopping at the Queens Arms for refreshments and enjoying Littondale along the way
- Visited Town Head Barn to see how early barns looked and viewed the small exhibition of farming in the Dales
- Walked up to Pikedaw then down to the Town Head Farm Shop for coffee and cakes
- Explored the nooks and crannies of Kirkby Malham



Around Wharfedale

Wharfedale runs from Cray southwards passing Buckden, Kettlewell, Kilnsey, Grassington, Burnsall and on to Bolton Abbey.

It encompasses limestone hills, moorland, waterfalls, rivers, and ancient woodland at the Strid on the Bolton Abbey Estate. Steep hills, great views and rocky crags make Wharfedale popular with walkers and it's no surprise it's also known for the fell races at the Kilnsey Show and Burnsall Feast.

This area is particularly rich in wildlife and local folklore. Whilst keeping an eye open for rare orchids or listening to the lapwing and curlews, you can contemplate the legend of the ghostly black dog of Troller's Gill and the sad demise of the Boy of Egremont at the Strid.

From the stony outcrop of Simon's Seat it is possible to see much of the southern dales stretching before you. You can look down the Valley of Desolation (now full of life), to the pretty village at Appletreewick (pronounced 'Aprick!'), and along the river towards the beautiful ruins of Bolton Priory.

Wharfedale has many attractive and characterful villages such as Buckden and Burnsall where a five-arched bridge spans the Wharfe and there is a popular paddling spot. You may recognise Kettlewell from the *Calendar Girls* film. It's also where models of another kind can be found in August when its much-loved scarecrow festival takes place.

At nearby Kilnsey Park you can see red squirrels which are part of a breeding programme, fish for your supper or simply marvel at the height of the crag and the climbers trying to scale it.

Grassington is a lively centre with plenty of atmosphere, particularly in December during its Dickensian festivities. It has a summer arts festival and many small shops, including one that sells an amazing range of Yorkshire beers!

Don't leave Wharfedale until you've...

- Enjoyed a Penny Plain theatrical production in and around Grassington
- Caught a trout at Kilnsey Park
- Gone to the Burnsall Feast, Kilnsey or Buckden shows and watched a classic fell race
- Seen the scarecrows at the Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival
- Watched the spring lambs being born at Hesketh Farm Park and joined farmer Chris on a trailer tour of the farm
- Eaten at one of the original gastro pubs focusing on local food - the Angel at Hetton
- Seen the land-let candle at The George, Hubberholme or the famous rood screen at Hubberholme Church and spotted the 'Mouseman' pews
- Discovered the Yockenthwaite Stone Circle near Buckden
- Found Parcevall Hall and explored the gardens, and taken a walk up nearby Troller's Gill
- Spent a day on the Bolton Abbey Estate where you can:
- Press a coin for good luck into one of the 'money' trees
- Hop across the 57 stepping stones across the River Wharfe
- Visit Bolton Abbey and discover the story behind Hey Diddle Diddle
- Collect a card from the Cavendish Shop for children to follow the I-Spy trails in Strid Wood
- Discovered the Bodger's Camp in the woods and bought a bird table, stool or dibber



Many people come into Wharfedale via **Skipton** – although this is actually in Airedale.

Skipton is one of the most northern points of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, and is dominated by its magnificent medieval castle. The vibrant town has built up around the Castle and was originally a trading place for sheep and wool. Skipton still celebrates its heritage with Skipton Sheep Day, an annual event in July. Sheep racing, shearing, showing and all things sheep related take place and attract visitors from afar.

The bustling market is said to date back to medieval times. Among the interesting cobbled streets and pedestrianized areas are pubs, cafés and independent shops. Craven Museum and Gallery is the home of the Skipton Shakespeare First Folio, one of only four First Folios on permanent display in the world. It also tells the story of many other aspects of life in the Dales and the former leadmining industry.

The artistic community of Skipton hold exhibitions in the Castle. Every year the Auction Mart is turned into a gallery when Art in the Pen invites artists from all over Yorkshire to exhibit and sell their work. It is also the unusual setting for the Mart Theatre, with its programme of professional touring productions.



Don't leave Skipton until you've...

- Taken a trip on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal on a narrowboat
- Watched a re-enactment or discovered the Long Drop at Skipton Castle
- Visited Craven Museum and Galley and seen Shakespeare's First Folio
- Taken a trip on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway
- Found a bargain and enjoyed some banter in the market
- Bought some contemporary art from Art in the Pen
- Been to one of Skipton's friendly pubs such as the Woolly Sheep Inn or Narrowboat
- Smelt wild garlic and counted the wildflowers in Skipton Woods
- Watched sheep and sheepdogs being bought and sold at Skipton Auction Mart
- Discovered the amazing restorative properties of Laycocks Udder Cream – also brilliant for chapped hands!
- Spotted a UFO from Carleton Moor (you may be there for a while....!)

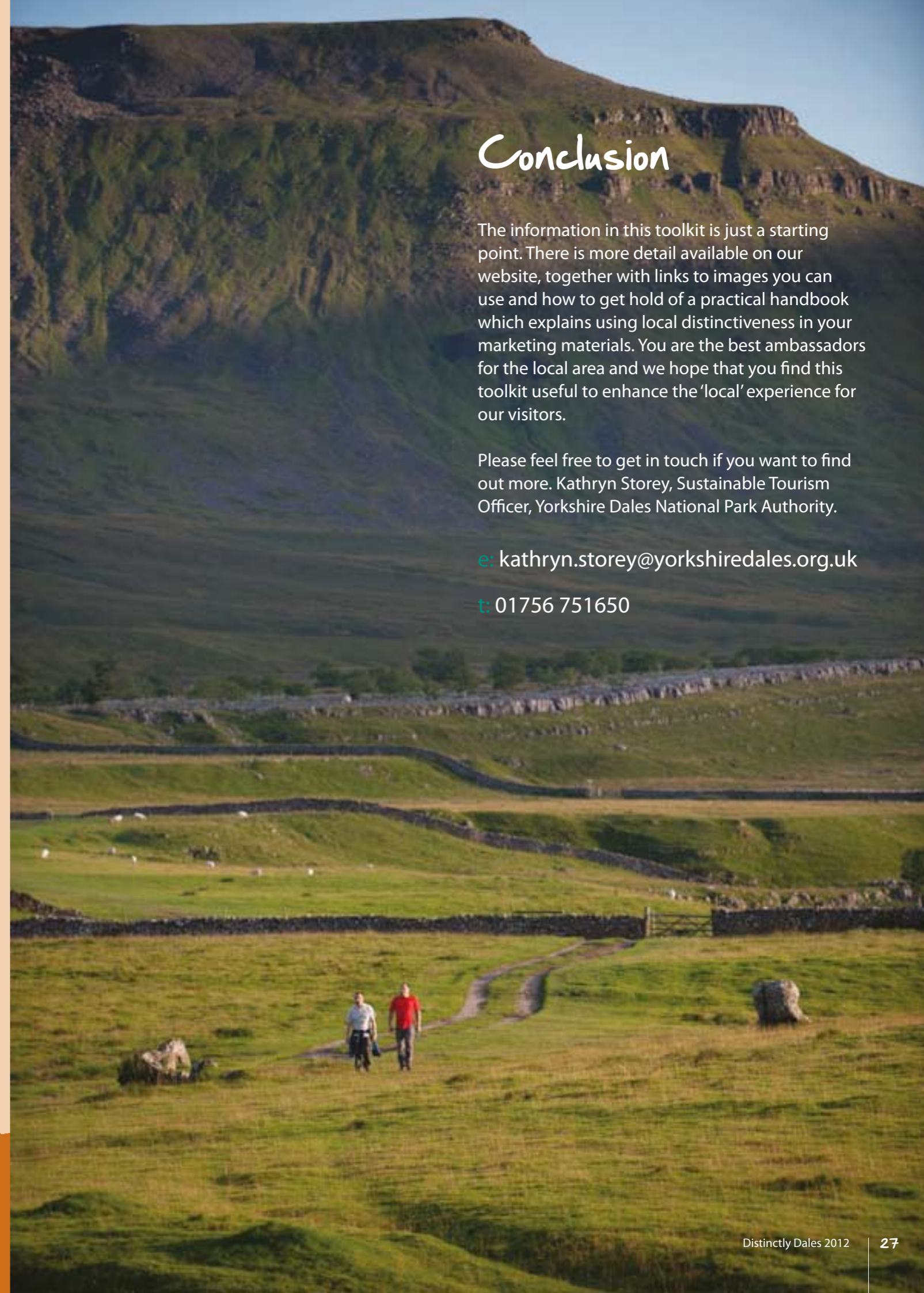
Conclusion

The information in this toolkit is just a starting point. There is more detail available on our website, together with links to images you can use and how to get hold of a practical handbook which explains using local distinctiveness in your marketing materials. You are the best ambassadors for the local area and we hope that you find this toolkit useful to enhance the 'local' experience for our visitors.

Please feel free to get in touch if you want to find out more. Kathryn Storey, Sustainable Tourism Officer, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

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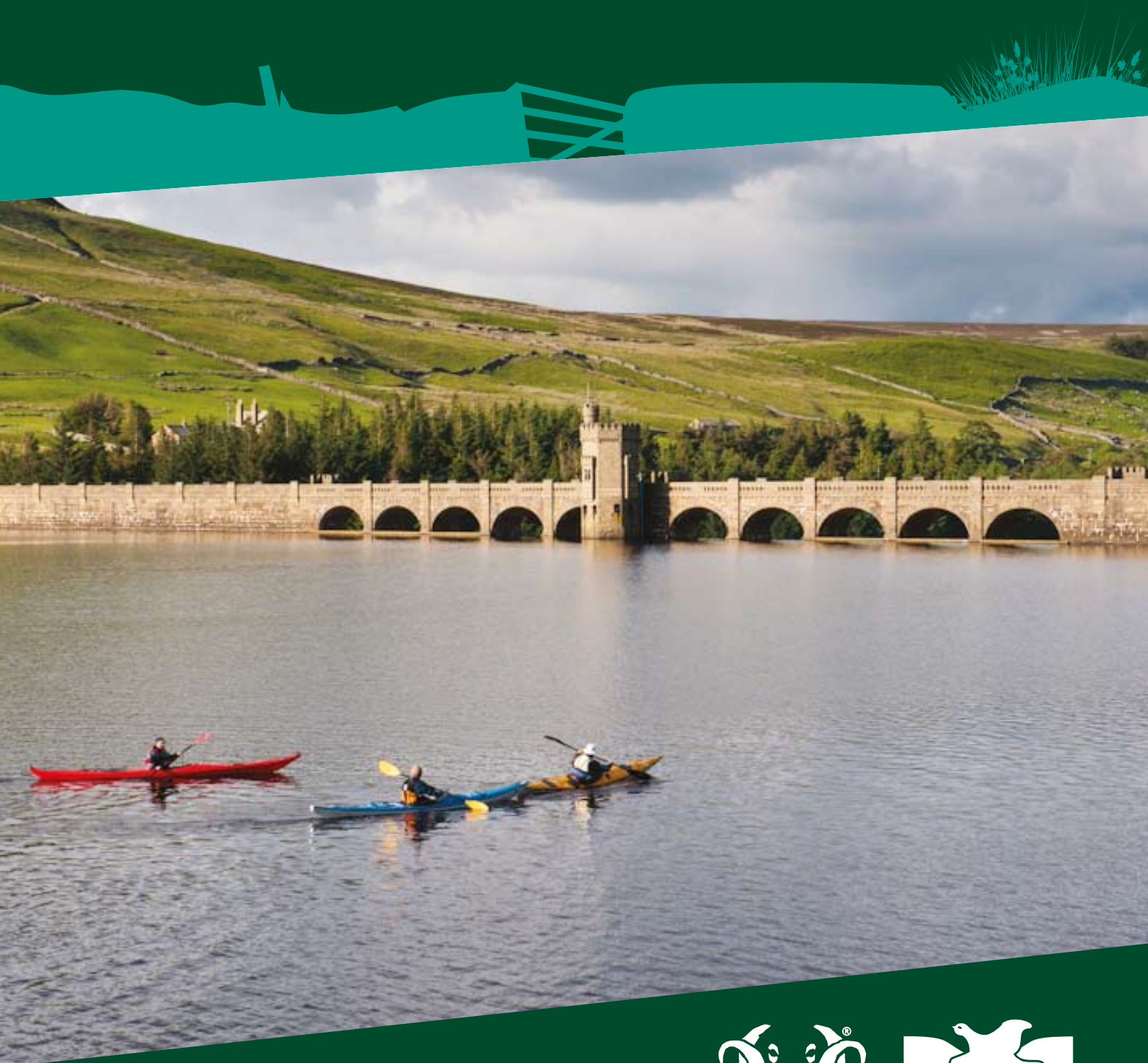
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YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park



Nidderdale
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty