

FREE

Your official guide to the
Yorkshire Dales National Park

The VISITOR 2012

Distinctly Dales

Discover some of the legends, traditions and landscape features that make the National Park so special

Go out for the count

Get wildlife spotting and help us find out what's living where in the National Park

Saddle up for the Pennine Bridleway

The first National Trail designed for cyclists and horseriders

NEW for 2012! Accommodation listing



Main image: Force Gill (Gavin Duxbury).
Insert from top: Ribbleshead viaduct
(Gavin Duxbury), sheep through gate,
rowan berry.



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park

NATIONAL PARKS
Britain's breathing spaces

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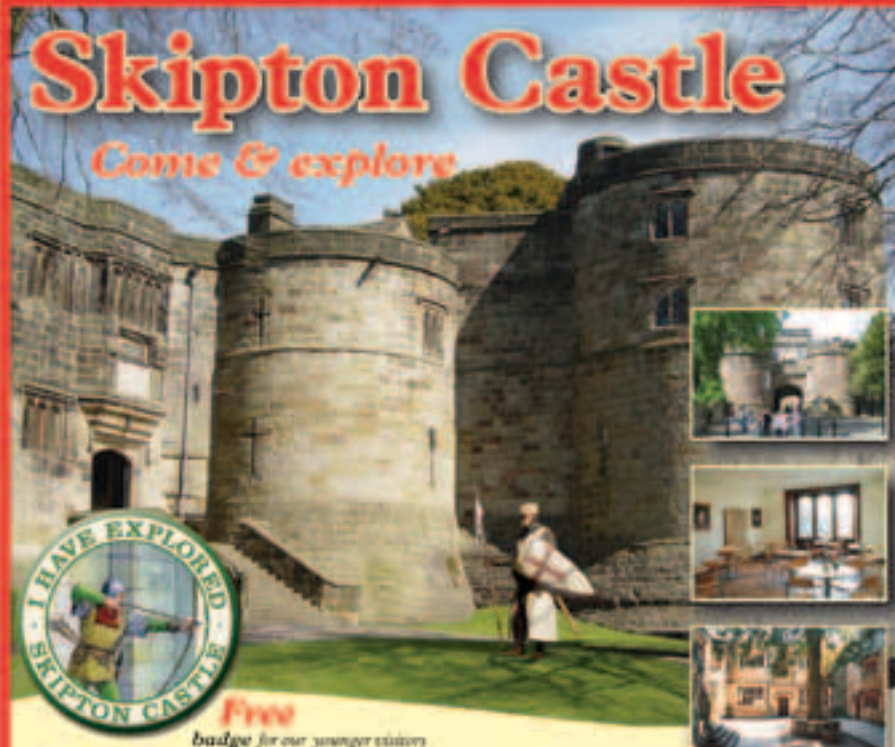

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A special place



Queue at the baa © www.rossmcginnes.com

The Yorkshire Dales landscape has many moods; it can be wild and windswept or quietly tranquil.

It includes some of the finest limestone scenery in the UK, from crags and pavements to an underground labyrinth of caves.

Each valley or 'dale' has its own distinct character, set against expansive heather moorland tops.

Stone-built villages sit amongst traditional farming landscapes of field barns, drystone walls and flower-rich hay meadows, and show how the area has been shaped over thousands of years by the people who have lived and worked here.

Spectacular waterfalls and ancient broadleaved woodland contrast with the scattered remains of former mine workings and other rural industries which remind us of the area's rich industrial heritage.

Together, nature and people have created a special landscape of immense beauty and character.

We're up for the challenge!

A very warm welcome to the Yorkshire Dales National Park, whether you are a first time visitor, returning to a much-loved place or just wanting to enjoy happy memories through *The Visitor 2012*.

In this special Olympic year we are making sure we are also up to the challenge after what has been a very difficult 12 months.

Less money and fewer resources have inevitably affected the number - and level - of services we can provide. But we are here for the marathon, not for the sprint.

Our primary focus will remain on conservation and recreation, and as a smaller, leaner organisation we are determined to deliver those activities we continue to undertake in the best way possible, so that our beautiful Yorkshire Dales National Park can be a winning landscape well into the future.

We hope you will continue to make the most of this national treasure and help us to keep it special - these pages show the many ways that you too can play a part.

**David Butterworth, Chief Executive,
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority**



Help us keep the Dales special

- Stay on rights of way, especially through fields and meadows, to reduce your impact on the landscape.
- Use your car less and think about other means of getting around.
- Stay overnight or shop locally rather than bringing food with you - this helps boost the local economy and ensures a sustainable future for those who live and work here.
- Respect the life and work of people who live here - remember much of the land is privately-owned.

Renowned for its great natural beauty, the diversity of its wildlife habitats, its rich cultural heritage and its fantastic opportunities for outdoor recreation, the Yorkshire Dales was designated a National Park in 1954.

Protected for future generations to enjoy, it is one of a family of 15 National Parks in the UK - truly Britain's breathing spaces.

Covering 1,762 square kilometres (680 square miles), the Yorkshire Dales National Park straddles the central Pennines in North Yorkshire and Cumbria and is a living, working environment, home to 20,000 people.

It is administered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and it's our job to protect the natural beauty, wildlife and history of this special place and to help people understand and share in it.

To find out more - including how to get here, what to do and where to stay - visit www.yorkshiredales.org.uk or call in at one of our National Park Centres (see page 5).

Swaledale & Arkengarthdale

The most northerly of the dales, Swaledale and Arkengarthdale have perhaps some of the wildest, most unspoilt scenery in the National Park. Many villages - such as Thwaite (meaning 'clearing') still carry the names given to them by the Viking farmers who settled here.

The River Swale is one of the fastest rising flood rivers in England. It flows along the dale through traditional haymeadows bright with wild flowers in summer and dotted with stone field barns - the classic 'barns and walls' landscape.

The hills above were once home to a thriving lead mining industry. Still famous for its breed of hardy sheep and knitting industry as well as locally made cheeses, a visit is an opportunity to see the local farming and crafts people keeping this very much a working dale

There are many lovely villages such as Muker, Gunnerside and Keld, providing walkers and cyclists with the perfect escape.

There are more lead mining remains to explore in rugged Arkengarthdale, along with wonderfully named hamlets such as Booze and Whaw.

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The Black Bull in Paradise Visitor Centre and Brewery Tap are open daily from 10.30am. Regular guided tours of the Brewery take place throughout the day. Please contact the Visitor Centre on 01765 680000 for tour times and availability.

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bookings@theakston.co.uk



Your visit starts here

Why not call in at one of our National Park Centres in Grassington, Malham, Reeth, Hawes and Aysgarth Falls for the perfect start to your trip.

Each is in a beautiful setting and you'll find plenty to do close by to make a real day of it.

Our knowledgeable staff can help with all the information you need - what to do, where to stay and all the happenings in 2012 (see our event pages 15-25). You can also shop for that perfect souvenir, from jams to woolly hats!

The National Park has nearly 1,500km of footpaths to explore, from gentle strolls to real leg stretchers - including the long distance Pennine Way and Dales Way - as well as being home to the famous Three Peaks of Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent and Wharfedale.

Discover a feat of Victorian engineering at Ribbleshead Viaduct and remains of the former lead mining industry in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale.

Let the splendour of the natural limestone amphitheatre of Malham Cove or the enchantment of ancient Freeholders' Wood when bluebells are in bloom take your breath away.

Be sure to enjoy it all at your own pace.

For more inspiration, visit our website
www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

Aysgarth Falls

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Email: aysgarth@yorkshiredales.org.uk

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Why not stay a while?



All the accommodation featured in this newspaper has been quality assessed by Visit Britain or the AA or is a member of Welcome to Yorkshire so you can be sure of a good standard when you make your choice. Don't forget to check out our new listing on page 37.



Train over Ribbleshead Viaduct © Gavin Duxbury



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Don't leave here without...

- Treading in Harry Potter's footsteps! The pattern of clints (blocks) and grikes (fissures) of limestone pavement above Malham Cove create a magical lunar landscape and were featured in the film 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1'.
- Witnessing the cascading thunder of the three stepped Aysgarth Falls after heavy rainfall.
- Being winched down Gaping Gill - one of the largest caves in the UK - by the local potholing clubs on their annual public meets. A not-to-be-missed underworld adventure.
- Humming the theme music as you go through the watersplash in Arkengarthdale - as seen in the opening credits of tv series about fictional vet James Herriott, 'All Creatures Great and Small'.

We hope you enjoy your free copy of 'The Visitor'. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the editor Sarah Nicholson on 01756 751618 or email sarah.nicholson@yorkshiredales.org.uk

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Through the seasons

January

New Year and above ground temperatures may dip to their lowest, but underground it's always 8°C. The National Park has some of the finest and most extensive limestone caves - known as karst - in Britain.



Visit one of the spectacular show caves - White Scar Cave, Stump Cross Caverns and Ingleborough Cave - or be winched down the incredible main chamber of Gaping Gill with the local potholing clubs on bank holidays (see event listing on pages 15 to 25). Local adventure companies can also help you explore the dramatic underground rivers and stunning potholes.

February

Winter brings frost and snow and a thin ground covering can highlight archeological features - ancient field systems, outlines of deserted settlements and the bumps of Bronze Age burial cairns.

Industrial heritage sites, like Ribblesdale Viaduct in Ribblesdale, Old Gang smelt mill in Swaledale and Yarnbury in Wharfedale (pictured), are worth a visit to help you appreciate the hardship faced by workers in these isolated places.



Or you can escape the cold by visiting indoor heritage attractions like Dales Countryside Museum, Bolton Castle or Gayle Mill in Wensleydale or Dent Village Heritage Centre in Dentdale. Check seasonal opening times and weather conditions before travelling.



March

The National Park turns into a nursery at this time of year. Spring lambs (known as hoggs until their first shearing at 8 to 14 months) are found in lower fields, and cows, which overwintered in barns, are turned out in April and May to share the fields with ground nesting birds like lapwing (pictured) and curlew.

Between March and July it is important to keep dogs on leads; however, if you feel threatened by cows let your dog go.

April

April showers swell the many rivers that, over the centuries, have helped shape the Dales. As they travel to the coast they thunder down 30 main waterfalls in the National Park, both deafening and delighting passers by. Visit Aysgarth Falls, Ingleton or Hardraw Force - the longest single drop waterfall in England - to experience just a few.



Gavin Duxbury

The unpolluted waters are also great for spotting wildlife, not only fish, but birds like grey heron and goosander. In late spring young Atlantic salmon, a UK priority wildlife species, make their way to the ocean; adults return in autumn, dramatically leaping up-stream to reach their spawning ground.

Children can get up-close to smaller water-loving beasts by joining one of our Wild Wednesday stream-dipping events at Aysgarth Falls, Malham and Bolton Abbey during school holidays - see page 22 for details.

May

If you go down to the woods in late spring you'll be in for a great delight. A carpet of flowers, bluebells and lily-of-the-valley, could welcome you, while the smell of wild garlic lingers in the air and birds sing from broad-leaved tree branches. If you're very lucky you might just see a roe deer (pictured) or red squirrel.



Whitfield Benson

There are public paths through Freeholders' Wood at Aysgarth Falls and Strid Wood near Bolton Abbey, or you could take our self-guided red squirrel trail to a special viewing point in Snaizholme reserve.

June

Upland hay meadows come alive with wild flowers, insects and small mammals like field voles. Swaledale is one of the best places to view. As you walk through the meadows around Muker, imagine what it was like during the hot, hard work of haymaking later in the summer and how welcome the 'drinkings' were - food and drink brought out and shared, while stories were told and company enjoyed.



Remember, haymeadows are fragile places - always stick to paths and walk single file through fields.

July

Look skyward in July and you may spot one of the favourite bird species in the Yorkshire Dales, the peregrine falcon. For almost 20 years a breeding pair has nested at Malham Cove, a huge natural amphitheatre that wows visitors and is topped by out-of-this-world limestone pavement.

As the young peregrines prepare to fly the coop in summer you will be able to spot them through telescopes at the public viewpoint at the base of the Cove run by the RSPB and National Park Authority.



Trevor Wood

As evening draws in, keep an eye out overhead too for bats chasing moths for their supper. Join a bat walk for expert help spotting and identifying the different species (see event listing on pages 15 to 25).

September

September is a fine month for walking, horse riding and mountain biking. Mild weather, fewer visitors and moorlands bursting with heather at the start of the month make it a perfect time to explore the many bridleways in the National Park.

Evening light and striking sunsets provide great photo opportunities and you'll share the countryside with farmers who work long into the night harvesting their second cut of silage. Walling repairs to the famous drystone walls of the Yorkshire Dales are also underway.



October

While the smell of wood burning stoves in stone cottages lingers in the air, the skies above come alive this month.

The lack of light pollution makes the National Park a great place for stargazing. At points between dusk and dawn you can spot Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Mercury and Venus, and the annual Orionid meteor shower can be stunning.

As the bright sun rises, the autumnal shades of the trees are illuminated, and blazing colours draw your attention to previously unnoticed corners.

November

Around now dormice go into hibernation. Along with hedgehogs and bats they are one of only three British mammals to do so. And as the nights become longer, humans are inclined to follow suit - sleeping, eating and seeking out good company by a roaring fire, locally-brewed beer in hand. It's also a great time to stock up on autumnal fare at farmers markets - wild mushrooms, game, chestnuts, hazelnuts and preserves made from the hedgerow pickings could be on offer.

Farmers put the sheep bought at auction in October to work as tuppings (mating) begins. The hundred-year-old Hawes Auction Mart is the only livestock market inside the National Park and a visit on sales day is great fun.



August

Traditional agricultural shows such as Malham (25 August), Kilnsey (28 August) and Muker (5 September) have long been at the heart of local communities in the Yorkshire Dales. Many can trace their origins back over a century and have their own distinct traditions.

With activities such as fell racing, sheep and cattle judging, baking and hay bale competitions, silver and brass bands, walking stick carving and sheepdog trials, the day has always been a chance for isolated farming families to get together and share skills, knowledge and experience and for visitors to have a great family day out.

The shows also offer a welcome break from haymaking, an important summer task for

farmers as they think ahead to feeding their animals through winter.



December

While towns and cities bustle with Christmas traffic, it's an ideal time to escape to the country. Why not jump on the train and take one of the world's best train journeys along the historic Settle-Carlisle line.

Travelling through the Three Peaks, over Ribbleshead Viaduct and past the highest mainline station in England at Dent, *you* might get the chance to take it easy, but work continues in the National Park. Hedgelaying is always carried out in the winter months whilst "the sap is down" and tree planting begins as they are less likely to get damaged in the dormant winter months. Rangers hurry to finish path repairs before the worst of the winter weather sets in.

Malhamdale, Ribblesdale & Settle

In the south west of the park lie Ribblesdale and Malhamdale, boasting between them some of the National Park's most spectacular limestone scenery.

The idyllic village of Malham is most famous for its spectacular natural limestone amphitheatre, Malham Cove, home to many species of plants and animals, including the famous resident peregrine falcons who nest here every year - much to the delight of avid bird watchers.

Nearby Gordale Scar is a towering limestone gorge which has been the inspiration for many artists and poets. A short walk from here takes you to the altogether smaller but no less enchanting waterfall of Janet's Foss, cascading through pretty natural woodland. A longer walk takes you to the nature reserve of Malham Tarn; nestled in the rugged scenery of Malham Moor it is one of only two natural lakes in the Yorkshire Dales.

Known as 'Three Peaks' country, Ribblesdale features the three highest mountain peaks in the area, Wharfedale, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent, offering plenty of fantastic walking opportunities. The famous gruelling annual fell race involves competitors running up all three in just a few hours.

The town of Settle has a market charter dating back to 1249 and has retained many of its old buildings, which now house a range of small independent shops.

Climb up Castleberg Rock from the market place to be rewarded with fantastic views or take a tranquil walk along the river Ribble to Stainforth Foss. The picturesque villages of Langcliffe and Stainforth lie by the riverside further up the dale.



Taking on Pen-y-ghent in the annual Three Peaks race (Pete Hartley)

From Settle, the famous Settle-Carlisle railway line runs up Ribblesdale and passes over the magnificent Ribblehead Viaduct before plunging into the longest tunnel on the line at Blea Moor. A tremendous feat of Victorian engineering and part of the national rail network, it is regarded as one of the world's most scenic train journeys. Visit www.settle-carlisle.co.uk for timetables.

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Love the Dales

The Yorkshire Dales is a unique and precious place. To keep it that way takes constant care.

Over the last 14 years the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has helped deliver over 1,200 individual projects to care for the Dales. We rely on support from people who love the Dales to continue the vital work that will conserve and protect this remarkable landscape for future generations.

If you love the Dales please help.
Visit www.ydmt.org
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**YORKSHIRE DALES
MILLENNIUM TRUST**

Saddle up for the new Pennine Bridleway

The Yorkshire Dales National Park section of the Pennine Bridleway - the UK's newest National Trail and the first designed specifically for horseriders, mountain bikers and walkers - will open this summer.

When finished, the full trail will run for 200 miles from Derbyshire to Cumbria, and the 52 miles which cross this National Park are nearly complete.

The route - which is on public rights of way and minor roads so is completely free to use - enters the National Park at Long Preston in the south and weaves its way north via Settle, Malham Moor, Feizor, Austwick, Selside, Newby Head and the Moorcock Inn, before exiting near Mallerstang in Cumbria.

To create the exciting new trail a huge amount of work has been carried out over the last eight years to link and improve existing rights of way as well as to create brand new ones with the agreement of landowners.

Care has been taken to select the best journey through the Dales from a safety, wildlife, landscape and local community point of view, and to incorporate interesting features along the way, including old packhorse trails and droving routes.

The surface is a combination of natural limestone grassland and new 'grass gravel' tracks over peaty areas. The materials - such as native grass seed,



and stone walls rather than fences where appropriate - should ensure that these new 'engineered' sections blend well into the landscape over time.

We have been busy putting in the final missing links and nearly all the physical works are complete - including the creation of over 6 miles of brand new bridleway, a mammoth undertaking.

Just the Network Rail legal agreements remain to be finalised for the three locations where the route crosses the Settle-Carlisle railway line, plus the final section where the route leaves the National Park south of the A65 at Long Preston, and then it will be time to saddle up!

Maps, cycle and horse services, places to stay and eat along the route, and all the information you need to help you plan your trip can be found on the Pennine Bridleway website

www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway

The timber-framed Far Moor Bridge - which crosses the River Ribble near Selside and is part of a new link section on the Pennine Bridleway - is believed to be the longest of its kind in the world. In recognition of its outstanding design and craftsmanship, it won the Judges Special Award at the British Construction Industry Awards 2011 and was also highly commended at the Wood Awards.



What are National Trails?

National Trails are long distance routes for walking, cycling and horse riding through some of the finest landscapes in the UK. There are 15 in England and Wales - 2,500 miles (4,000km) in length - created by linking existing local footpaths, bridleways and minor roads and by developing new ones where there were gaps.

The Mary Towneley loop in the Peak District was the very first section of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail to open in 2002 and is dedicated to the memory of Lady Mary Towneley who dreamed of a long distance route over the Pennines for horse riders and campaigned for many years.

The Pennine Bridleway will be the first National Trail suitable for horse riders and cyclists along its entire length.

How did National Trails come about?

The popularity of walking in the wild and beautiful parts of Britain and the desire to protect our most special landscapes from development after World War II led to the creation of National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Long Distance Routes (now called National Trails in England and Wales). The first such route, the Pennine Way, opened right here in the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 1965.

In England, funding for National Trails is provided by the Government through Natural England. Find out more at www.nationaltrail.co.uk

Looping the Loop

The popular 10 mile (16km) long Settle Loop offers a fantastic circular cycle, hike or horse ride and was the first section of the Pennine Bridleway in the Yorkshire Dales National Park to be opened in 2005.

It takes in some stunning limestone scenery including views of Malham Tarn, Attermire Scar and the famous peaks of Ingleborough,



Pen-y-ghent and Whernside. Much of the route was impassable to horse riders and cyclists and some sections along the Gorbeck Road were so badly damaged it was difficult to stand up before restoration.

Starting in Settle, the loop climbs steeply out of this lovely town, traverses a wonderful limestone upland, before descending back on mixed gravel and grass trails. There are many other bridleways in the area which can be used to extend your journey by linking to Malham Tarn and village, and over into Littondale and Wharfedale.

Please note that the route is steep, tough and remote in places - riders and walkers will need to be fit. Experienced off-road cyclists could expect to complete the circuit in around 2-3 hours, but for walkers and horse-riders this is an all-day activity.

Download the free Settle Loop leaflet from our website www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/settleloop or pick up a copy from National Park Centres.



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Visitor 12



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The perfect gateway to the Yorkshire Dales, Skipton is at its southernmost base.

Originally a trading centre for sheep and wool, this small and friendly town with its nostalgic cobbled streets grew up around the castle, nearby church and market place. It now boasts many pubs, cafes and shops along with a still thriving regular market and a vibrant night life.

The 130-mile long Leeds-Liverpool Canal, one of the early achievements of the Industrial Revolution, runs through its heart.

Skipton Castle, situated in the Aire Gap between the Craven limestone dales to the north and the gritstone moors to the south, was established here in the late eleventh century.

This 900 year old castle is one of the most complete and best preserved in the country, giving excellent views over the town and Skipton woods. It is an

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Not far from Skipton, the Bolton Abbey estate, owned for centuries by the Duke of Devonshire, lies on the banks of the River Wharfe.

Explore the romantic ruins of the twelfth century priory. Woodland nature trails and riverside walks are suitable for those less mobile or using wheelchairs. For the avid angler, the Wharfe offers some of great fishing experiences.


Hesketh Farm Park at Bolton Abbey has sheep, cattle, pigs and donkeys, an outdoor climbing frame and fun tractor rides - a great day out for all the family wanting a unique hands-on experience of farm life.

For steam buffs there is the nearby Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway. Now restored and run by enthusiasts, a trip on the steam train is a superb way to enjoy the area as the track winds between the village of Embsay and the abbey.





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Above Starbottan

Wharfedale is criss-crossed with miles of drystone walls running up to the limestone hills above, with picturesque villages along its length.

Kettlewell was a major location for the hit movie 'Calendar Girls' and is home to the well loved annual Scarecrow Festival. The 2,310 ft peak of Great Whernside is close by.

The memorial on Buckden Pike remembers a World War II crash site where all but one member

of an aircrew survived by following the wintry tracks of a fox which led them back to the village.

Further down the dale, the spectacular crag at Kilnsey watches over the annual show held in the fields below.

Grassington is the main centre and still retains its old world village charm whilst providing the facilities of a small town. The Dickensian festivities in December are a highlight of the year and it hosts a regular farmers market.

Nearby Linton Falls is the largest waterfall on the River Wharfe, cascading over limestone bedrock.

The southern part of the dale offers riverside scenery and great walking. Pretty Burnsall is a popular starting place for these.

The rocky outcrop of Simon's Seat looks down over the picturesque village of Appletreewick and the grandstand view over much of the southern Yorkshire Dales is well worth its ascent.

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Go out for the count!

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is home to some truly awe-inspiring and rare wildlife.

The fastest bird in the world, the peregrine falcon, has made its home at Malham Cove for the last twenty years and over half of the UK's limestone pavement - with its distinctive lunar pattern of clints (blocks) and grikes (fissures) - is found right here in the National Park.

Our biodiversity action plan *Nature in the Dales* identifies the National Park's priority habitats and species and sets out how all those who live, work, play and study here can make a vital contribution to their conservation.

Thanks to highly effective collaborations over the last decade with other organisations, professionals and highly skilled amateurs, many threatened species are now stable or improving. But there is still much to do.

You'll probably see us out and about surveying during your visit, but there are plenty of opportunities for visitors and beginners to get involved too - just a few are listed here.



© John Altrincham

There is a species of bat seen in the Dales - the brown long-eared bat (pictured) - that has ears that are three quarters the length of its head and body. Why not join a guided bat walk and learn more about our nocturnal woodlanders and why they need our protection? See the event pages 15-25.

If you're visiting the National Park between Saturday 14 July and Sunday 5 August why not take part in the national Big Butterfly Count 2012 - moths are included, too. Full details at www.bigbutterflycount.org

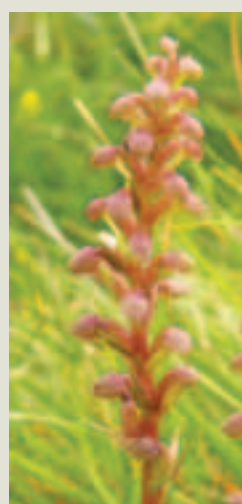


Green hairstreak: a butterfly's sense of taste is 200 times stronger than a human's.

Black grouse are probably best known for their elaborate courtship displays during the spring. Males will gather at traditional communal display sites known as leks, where they perform with wings drooped and tail fanned out, accompanied by a loud dove-like cooing and bubbling call intended to attract mates.



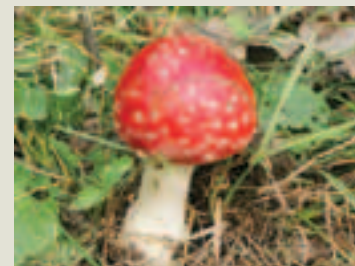
There are family friendly bird activities and surveys all year round available through www.rspb.org.uk/wildsquare - why not get involved during your visit to the National Park?



There are some wild plants in the Yorkshire Dales that you are unlikely to see elsewhere in England. The only naturally occurring site of the lady's slipper orchid in the country is in the National Park...but its location is a closely guarded secret! However, you can see this beautiful plant at a reintroduction

Beautiful bonnet, date-coloured waxcap, fen puffball, dark-purple earthtongue...the four fungi on our 'at risk' list certainly have striking names!

There is a lot that we don't know about even common fungi and everyone can help by submitting sitings online to the British Mycological Society at www.britmycolsoc.org.uk - follow links for 'Field Mycology' and 'Have you seen this fungus?'



The fly agaric is the archetypal red and white toadstool - but take care, it's poisonous!

site at Kilnsey Park in Wharfedale.

Elsewhere, you may chance across rarities such as carpets of frog orchids (pictured) or spy the prickly holly fern down a grike in limestone pavement.

A great range of wildflower activities for all the family can be found online at www.wildaboutplants.org.uk. Spotters guides are available from our National Park Centres and e-shop, or you could try identifying wildflowers using online tools at www.ispot.org.uk or www.botanicalkeys.co.uk



The slow worm is actually a legless lizard, the common frog can lighten or darken its skin in order to match its surroundings, and the common toad (pictured) secretes a toxic, foul tasting substance called bugafin as a defense against predators.

Find out more about our amphibians and reptiles on the species pages at www.natureinthedales.org.uk and what you can do to encourage them into your own garden at www.froglife.org

Come and see our high flying guests at Malham Cove! The RSPB and National Park Authority hope that peregrines will nest there and produce young again in 2012 and we will be setting up a free viewing point with high powered telescopes - everyone is free to drop by. Visit www.natureinthedales.org.uk/peregrines-visitus to find out more.

Did you know that a hedgehog has more than 5,000 quills, hollow hairs stiffened with keratin, and will shed its baby quills to make way for adult ones?



Help us find out more about the distribution of the west european hedgehog by logging sitings on the Mammal Society website www.mammal.org.uk - follow links for 'Getting Involved' and 'Recording and Mapping Mammals'.



You can find out more about the best places to see wildlife, as well as information on all the wildlife and habitats in the National Park and our work to look after them, at www.natureinthedales.org.uk

Dales Countryside Museum

Celebrating and sharing the story of the people and landscape of the Yorkshire Dales.

- Housed in a Victorian railway station, the Museum is a striking blend of old and new - and comes complete with train!
- Hear the stories of local people, watch archive film and find out why rhino once roamed the area
- Get close to wonderful objects like our bronze spearhead and gold Viking ring
- Have fun all year round at our 'creation station' in the railway carriages and get stuck into our Discover and Do Wednesdays during school holidays
- Weekends to fill? Demonstrations reveal the secrets of traditional crafts like drystone walling, spinning and weaving.

New for 2012 ...

- Uncover the 'Hidden Secrets' of our outdoor trail which opens in July - follow the clues, find the sculptures and enjoy a woodland wander.
- Family Pass - become a 'Friend' of the Museum and visit time and again with our exclusive new £20 a year family pass, plus free lectures and 'Now Then' magazine.
- Dip into your family history by making use of our Research Room - help now available on Mondays and Wednesdays.

There are many ways you can support the Dales Countryside Museum and help conserve the Dales heritage and bring it to life for current and future generations. Join the Friends of the Dales Countryside Museum, make a charitable donation, volunteer, make a legacy bequest or become a corporate partner - contact us to find out more.



Dales Countryside Museum, Station Yard,
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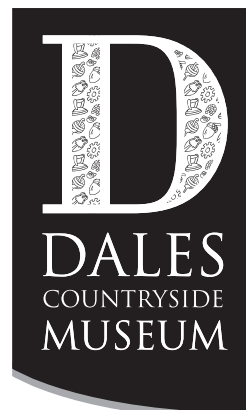
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Visit the National Park Centre inside the Museum for advice on planning your visit and booking accommodation. You can also rent an MP3 player

Exhibitions 2012

4 Feb to 26 March

Mongolian Links

Making connections between the cultures of contemporary Mongolia and the Dales.

Historic and current photography and artefacts presented by Laurence Cutting and exhibited alongside the work of artists Jane Carlisle, Lone Helliwell and Andrea Hunter.

31 March to 29 April

Frank Armstrong's Yorkshire

Original pen and ink drawings, many of which have featured in 'The Dalesman' magazine.

4 May to 1 July

Climb up to the Moor

Original paintings by Judith Bromley which explore moorland life through the seasons and highlight the fragility of this amazing landscape.

7 July to 4 September

Sporting Spirit

An exhibition celebrating the competitive spirit of Dales' communities.

8 September to 1 October

Northern Threads

Unique and beautiful work created by members of the Textile Pool.

10 October to 21 November

Waterfalls at Night

The beauty and drama of these special landscape features of the Yorkshire Dales, captured in the black and white photography of John Arnison.



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Get into National Parks!

I grew up in what is now the South Downs National Park and that is where my passion for nature began - roaming the Downs and canoeing down the River Arun.

Today, I am delighted to help protect Britain's finest landscapes as president of the Campaign for National Parks, the only national charity dedicated to protecting our National Parks so that they are available for everyone to enjoy.

We do this by campaigning passionately against the threats they face from things like climate change. We also encourage as many people as possible to discover National Parks, to enjoy the many activities that they have to offer and help us to look after them.

The success of the Campaign for National Parks depends on public support.

Without your help we would not have been successful in securing the designation of the South Downs and New Forest National Parks, or in protecting our National Parks from many damaging developments.

To support our campaigns, get involved in our work, make a donation or find out more, please visit www.cnp.org.uk

Ben Fogle,
President, Campaign for National Parks

