

Muker, Keld and the Corpse Way

Distance: 8.5km (5.5 miles)

Time: a minimum of 2½ hours

Accessibility: a number of narrow stone stiles and paths that have tree roots and can be slippery. A strenuous walk with a long climb and steep descent.

Parking: car park at Muker next to the bridge (SD 91076 97812)

Other transport:

- bus 30 from Richmond

Toilets: Muker and Keld

Refreshments: pub and shop in Muker, café at Keld

Closest National Park

Centre: Reeth National Park Centre in Hudson House DL11 6SZ (call 01748 884059)

Route description

1. Go up through the village and turn right by the small post office. Take the flagged path, signposted to Gunnerside & Keld, across the meadows until the river is reached.
2. Go through the stile, down the steps and turn left, signposted Footpath, and follow the waymarked route upriver passing several disused farm houses, one of which is Hartlakes which is reputedly one of the most haunted places in the country. This part of the walk takes you through the old wood pasture of Muker, the remains of which, especially pollarded (a pruning system in which the upper branches of a tree are removed) Alder, can be seen on the opposite side of the river under West Arn Gill.
3. Before joining the Pennine Way National Trail, a detour can be taken by following a signposted path off to the right, to Kisdon Force waterfall, a spectacular waterfall after heavy rain. Take care down the narrow slippery path. Retrace your steps and continue ahead to the hamlet of Keld.
4. Leave the village heading southeast to the main Reeth to Kirkby Stephen road. Near the War Memorial, turn left at the road junction and follow the tarmac road, signposted Reeth & Richmond, for a 400 metres (¼ mile).
5. Take the track on the left, signposted Bridleway Muker 2. This is the old Corpse Road which led from Keld to the nearest burial ground at Grinton, until St Mary's church was built in Muker in 1580. Follow this track down hill and over a small footbridge. Continue ahead and start the climb onto the shoulder of Kisdon Hill. The route eventually levels out with extensive views down Swaledale, before dropping down to join the Pennine Way near Kisdon House.
6. Continue down the hill, signposted to Muker, until the village is reached and retrace your steps back to the car park.



Muker, Keld and The Corpse Road distance 5.5 miles (8.5km)

