

Cheddar Walking



in partnership with the

National Trust



TRAIL TYPE

Walking

GRADE

Hard / Strenuous in places

DISTANCE

5.5 km (3.5 miles)

TIME

2 to 2½ hours

OS MAP

Explorer 141

Landranger 182

CONTACT

contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

FACILITIES

Full facilities within the main lower Gorge visiting area but none on the walk itself

TERRAIN

Varied terrain with open grassy paths with some steep, rocky and muddy (when wet) stretches. Some steps, one long set on decline. Stout walking shoes or boots recommended. It can be exposed along the top of the Gorge.

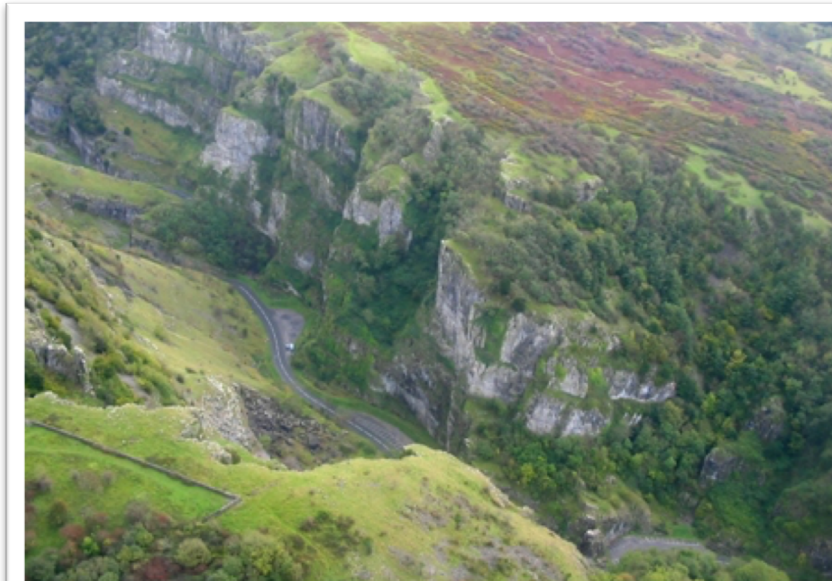
WHAT TO SEE

Lion Rock. Soay sheep, goats, deer. Views of Glastonbury Tor, Brent Knoll and Bridgwater bay. Pavey's lookout tower. Cheddar Pinks, Peregrine Falcons.

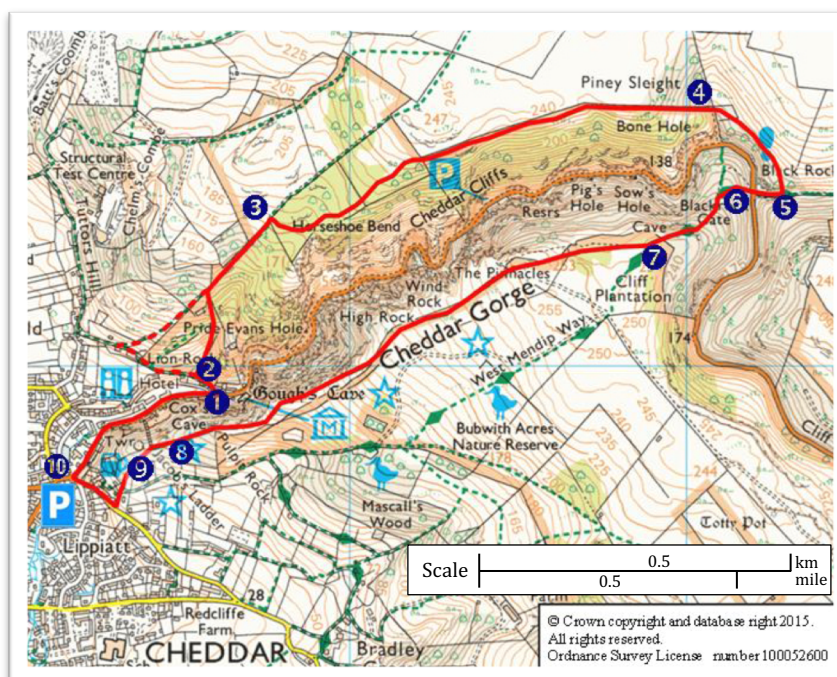


5. Gorge Circular Walk

Iconic Cheddar Gorge walk with magnificent views of the gorge and beyond. At almost 400ft (122m) deep and 3 miles long, this is England's largest gorge, and with its weathered crags and pinnacles, one of our most spectacular natural sites.



Map



Cheddar Walking



START/END

National Trust
Information Centre
Cheddar Gorge, grid
ref ST 468543
GPS (Start):
N 51.28189
W 002.76690

HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

By bike from the
Strawberry line
(National Cycle
Network route 26).

BY BUS

Services 126
Weston-super-Mare to
Wells stop at
Tweentown close to the
bottom of the gorge.
For bus times see
www.travelinesw.com

BY CAR

There are a pay-and-
display car parks
nearby in Cliff Street
and in the gorge.



Directions

① Take the stony track (Cufic Lane) diagonally left opposite the National Trust information Centre/Café Gorge in the lower Gorge area; the gatepost has markings for the Cheddar Gorge walk.

② Turn right at the first finger post to join the permissive path leading up through the woods for between 15 and 20 minutes. This ascent is on a stony path with steps in places which can be muddy when wet. Half way up note the large cave off to your left.

If very wet a slightly better alternative is to continue past the first finger post, up the track and follow the footpath behind Cufic cottage and then immediately right to follow a parallel path up through the woods (marked on the map with a dashed line). This route follows the official signed West Mendip Way route, so look out for the blue roundel markers).

When you reach the top of the ascent go through the gate and join a wide grassy path leading diagonally upwards (*the alternative route joins slightly to the left at this point. You are on the official West Mendip Way route at this stage*). Keep the stone wall to your right as you ascend, you will see some wooden marker posts en-route. This was the site of many of the cliff scenes from the film "Jack the Giant Slayer".

③ Follow the path to the top, through the kissing gate marked with the gorge walk sign. Look back from this point for magnificent views of Cheddar, Glastonbury Tor, the Somerset levels and Bridgwater Bay.

The following section is rocky in places and can become very muddy in wet weather. Follow the obvious path along the side of the Gorge before descending via a long set of steps to a deep valley.

④ At the bottom of the steps go through the wooden kissing gate straight ahead of you. Once through the gate, the path leads through a wooded area and descends to meet the "Black Rock" stony path. This stretch can become muddy.

⑤ Where the path joins the stony track (*the common route with the West Mendip Way ends here*) turn immediately right through a farm type gate and onto another gate to join the main Gorge road.

Cheddar Walking



WALKING ADVICE

Please observe the Countryside Code:

- Wear sensible clothing and footwear, and sun or rain protection if needed
- Take a drink or snack if on a longer walk
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and wildlife and take litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Be considerate of other users

If you find any animal in distress please contact the RSPCA help line:
0300 1234 999



⑥ Carefully cross the road and slightly diagonally to your right join the path which rises to the other side of the Gorge (signposted Draycott). This path is steep, rocky and uneven as it rises through the woods.

⑦ At the top the path levels out and passes through a gate to join a wide grassy path. Keep to the right. Follow the path through a set of high gates with a wooded area to your right with glimpses of the other side of the Gorge beyond. Rise to the brow of the hill before starting to gradually descend. Keep the wire fence to your left and do not approach the sheer side of the Gorge over to your right.

At this point you have fantastic 180-degree views. Keep to the obvious wide grassy path for your decent. This section can become exposed in windy weather so ensure you wear suitable layers. Towards the bottom of this section keep your eye out for a rocky outcrop to your right which offers excellent views of the lower Gorge. However, exercise caution – there's a sheer drop off on the Gorge side.

⑧ Follow the rocky path downwards through the woods passing through another tall gate with Pavey's lookout tower in front of you.

Please note Pavey's lookout tower and Jacob's Ladder steps are only open to Cheddar Gorge and Caves Explorer Ticket holders.

⑨ Before the tower follow the path heading left and downhill through the woods (no signs) to join Lynch Lane. As you join Lynch Lane turn right and then at the end right again to walk down the narrow Lippiatt road.

⑩ At the bottom of the Lippiatt at the junction with the main Gorge road turn right to follow the pavement back to the National Trust Information Centre.

Cheddar Walking would like to thank the National Trust for their help and support in developing and publishing this walking route, a large part of which crosses National Trust land. You can find out more about the National Trust at their shop and Information Centre where this walk starts, or on their website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Cheddar Walking



Cheddar Walking is a voluntary group promoting the wonderful walking to be had in and around Cheddar, Somerset.

Our walks are designed for all types of people from those looking for a short simple walk, through those wanting something a bit more stretching up on to the Mendips or out on to the levels. We also have historic walks, bus walks (bus out, walk back) and walks suitable for buggies and wheelchairs.

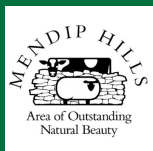
We have met the strict criteria that allows us to be a certified member of the national **Walkers are Welcome** association.

We get great ongoing support from several key groups in the area, without which we could not function:

Mendip Hills AONB
Sedgemoor District Council
Cheddar Parish Council

And we partner with other non-profit groups including the National Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust, the Mendip Society and Mendip Ramblers.

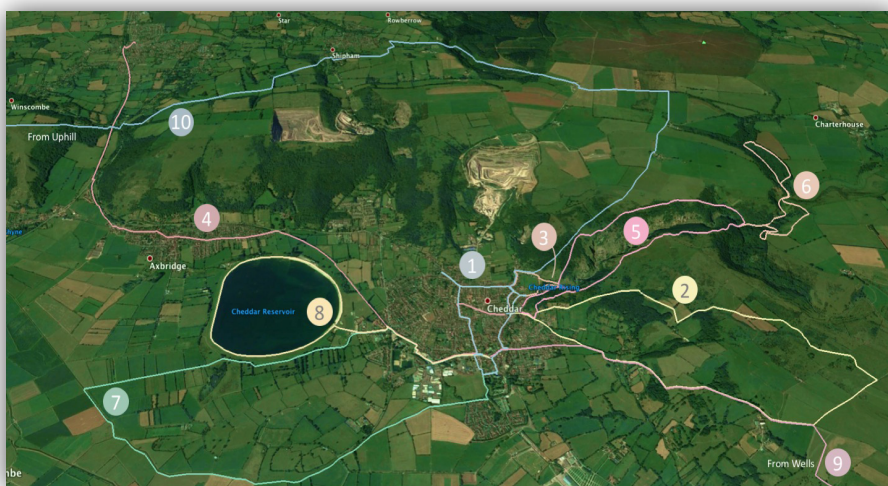
www.cheddarwalking.org.uk
contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk



If you liked this walk you might be interested in the others we have checked and written up. All of them are downloadable from our website, www.cheddarwalking.org.uk, or for a donation as a printed sheet at the National Trust Shop near Cheddar Caves. The full set is:



- 1 – Historic Cheddar Walk (2.1 miles)
- 2 – Middledown (4.2 miles)
- 3 – Cufic Lane Loop Walk (1.1 mile)
- 4 – Strawberry Line [Bus-Walk] (5.2 miles)
- 5 – Gorge Circular Walk (3.4 miles)
- 6 – Black Rock Nature Walk (2.6 miles)
- 7 – River Yeo Loop Walk 4.9 miles)
- 8 – Reservoir [wheelchair-friendly walk] (2.2 miles, or 4 from village centre)
- 9 – West Mendip Way from Wells [Bus-Walk] (12.2 miles)
- 10 – West Mendip Way from Uphill [Bus-Walk] (20 miles) [in two parts]



Cheddar has many businesses supporting us and all ensure 'Walkers are Welcome'

Restaurants and cafés

Café Gorge
 Cheddar Fish Bar
 Edelweiss
 Franks Restaurant
 Holly House Tea Rooms
 Kebab Kitchen
 Lao Thai Restaurant
 Lion Rock Tea Rooms
 Mousehole Café
 Simply Gorgeous Tea Room
 Tuckers
 The Café

Pubs

Bath Arms
 Black Dog Saloon
 Gardeners Arms
 Riverside Inn
 White Hart

Accommodation and camping

Bradley Cross Farm
 Bramblewood B&B
 Bucklegrave Holiday Park
 Gorge View Cottage
 Nyland Manor
 Petruth Paddocks
 Webbington Farm Holiday Cottages

Stores / other

A Special Occasion
 Cheddar Cycle Store
 Cheddar Library
 CJ Hole
 Edinburgh Woollen Mill
 Hansford's Deli and Food Store
 National Trust Shop
 Old Rowlands Gift and Christmas Shop
 Post Office
 The Gorge Outdoors