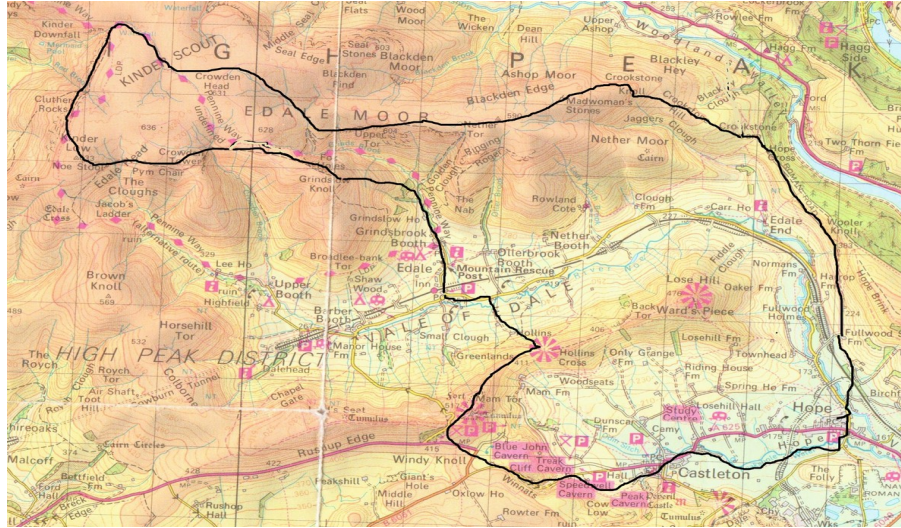


WALK 80.
KINDER SCOUT 80.
23 miles. 6 hours 30 minutes.
Map Dark Peak.



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Start at Hope at 172835. Walk N from the church on the Edale road. In about 400 metres, go R down a lane signed cul-de-sac, cross the bridge over the river and continue under the railway bridge to then turn L. Walk along the lane to a fork and go straight on towards a cottage on the R is a gate, and on the R of that is a stile between uprights. Walk NNW through a field, wall on R, railway close on L, then through a second field to Full wood Stile Farm through a stile then bear L and continue in the same direction as before along a lane, ascending at an easy angle with views becoming more fascinating as ascending, the bulk of Kinder looming up in front.

Come to a gate with a good step stile on its L and continue climbing on what was probably the way the Romans came before this countryside was tamed and mapped. Soon to reach Hope Cross (161874), a mediaeval landmark that has been restored. Go through the gate, then up a worn path, wall on L. past a two-step stile and a four finger sign. Keep to the same direction, wall on R, the path now a sunken one. Come now to another stile and an open country sign. At this point, turn off track and climb W up Crookstone Hill along a path through grass; climbing gently. In front there are two lone trees close together sheltering a footpath sign to a junction of two paths which becomes one, through another stile at a gate and continue on the path.

Climb steadily through open moorland; on the L the dark cutting of Jaggers Clough lies. Now rise towards a prominent rock face, and then climb a steep bank to the summit. Take the worn path that skirts the outer edge, near R and make for Crookstone Knoll, a fine edge with views the Ashop Valley. The aim is now to look for a path in the terrain that lies between the N and S edges of Kinder. So continue W until a feint path breaks off towards Mad Woman's Stones (137880), isolated grits with characteristic shapes of pillars worn by wind and rain; there is one that is shaped like a toadstool; the name of these stones leaves to much imagination. Go SW on a good path that comes to more stones in several hundred metres and another one beyond them. Look for the next landmark: a trig. Point at 129878 and soon reached on a winding path. Strike out SW and soon reach the S edge of Kinder overlooking Grindsbrook Clough.

The next stage of this walk follows the edge for a while then breaks out NW for Kinder Downfall, so walk along the edge path passing Hartshorn and Upper Tor. Before reaching the point where the top of Grindsbrook is attained and the path from Edale, go NW into no man's land, crossing the grough that runs down the Grinsbrook and look for a path that goes the way needed. Such paths exist and can be followed over Edale Moor in the direction of the Downfall, negotiating the peaty groughs and swampy mud that demands a thorough wash for boots and legs at the end of the day. This is one of the routes of the Pennine Way to eventually joining the flat base of the River Kinder; in very wet weather the Grinsbrook and the Kinder can be torrents and difficult to progress on or cross.

So continue on the bed of the river on a good path to the Downfall at 083889. After admiring the view and imagine the waterfall in full flood it is said it can be seen from Stockport. Turn now and walk S along the edge. The route marked at one point by the sharp cut made by Red Brook. Avoid dropping to the R on deceptive paths, and make for Kinder Low with its Trig. Point at 079871; then turn E over Edale Head until the edge is reached near Noe Stool. Walk E on a good edge path that goes past Pym Chair, the Wool Packs and Crowden Tower that, in mist can loom out with frightening effect. Pass Crowden Head and carry on in the same direction on a good path to arrive at the probably overpopulated head of Grinsbrook. Descend on a well-worn path down to Edale.

Pass through Edale, and, having gone underneath the railway bridge, turn L and walk E along the road for 400 metres, then go R over a stile with sign. Cross the river; take a stile on the L of a gate, then begin the long steep climb up the hillside to Hollins Cross, passing Peters Barn to the summit. Hollins Cross provides a fine viewpoint where one is assisted by an orientation table (136845).

Turn R and walk SW on a good path, rising to Mam Tor (128836), then descend to the road on a new stone path. Take a stile that allows to go S through a field and so out on to a road at 126831. Cross the road to another stile, then go through a field (Windy Knoll); pre historic finds have been made here. Go SE to a stile and onto the road. Cross it to a stile then walk across the field to Winnats Head Farm (N.T.). Go through adequate slot in the wall, then pass the farm building where a dutifully sheepdog barks; rain or shine, and come to the road at 131829.

Walk down the road through this magnificent gorge to a point just below Speedwell Cavern to go R through a slot on the R of a gate; signed Castleton. Go along grass on a level path, and then proceed to Castleton which is entered by a metal gate. Do not forget to look at Peak Cavern in its spectacular position, then pass through the town to a sign on the R erected by the Peak District and Northern Footpaths Society. No.25 in 1908. It directs one to Hope down a lane on the R which is now taken. Enter a field by a slot, then leave the river and go R to a fence to a wooden step stile. From here the company is on the R; is a cement works. Pass three walls whose stiles lead to a railway line used by the cement works. Cross the line and continue on a meadow route with the river on the L. take a stile with a good stone base and proceed with the special feeling that such scenery gives after the stern and unrelenting moorland. A good stile enters a road to turn L and walk up to Hope, passing the ancient Church with its C.14 Tower. Cross the main road and go through a jitty at the side of the Blacksmith's cottage to a sign erected in 1932 thence back to the start.