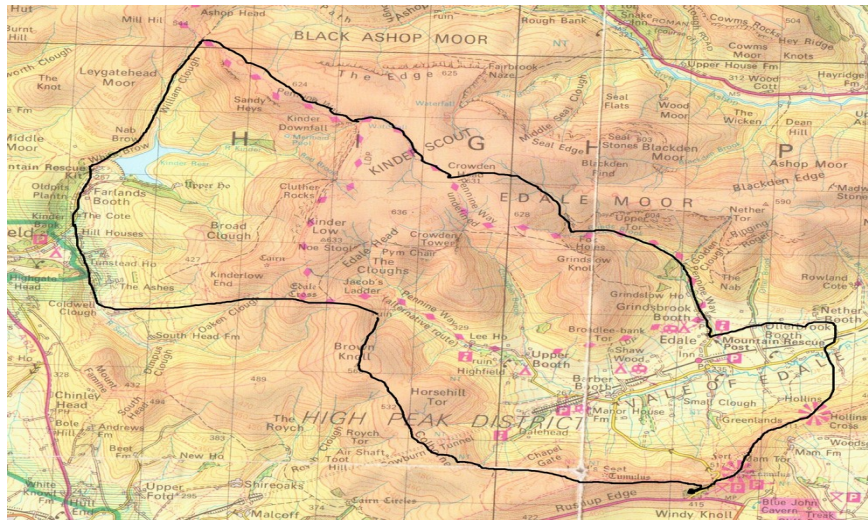


WALK 86.
KINDER. 86.
21.5 miles. 6 hours 5 minutes.
Map Dark Peak.



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Start at N.T. car park close to Mam Tor (123831). Walk up steps at the back of the car park, cross the road and go over a stile, then bear L and walk W along Ruship Edge, a fine ridge walk. Pass two step stiles, pass Lords Seat and continue until the third stile is reached at 099829 to bear R and walk N close to fence for several hundred metres. Bear L away from fence, but continue to walk N to come to a metal sign, number 98 erected in 1939 by the P.N.C. footpath Society to ale Head and Hayfield and Chapel en le Frith.

Bear LL and walk NNW on a good path over Brown Knoll; under Cowburn railway tunnel and its ventilation tower that can be seen. A prominent feature that can be followed is a straight ditch; soon arrive at a trig point at 084851. Continue downhill to wall and fence, then bear R and walk N with fence on the L. Tremendous views! Follow the wall when it turns L and come down to the Jacob's ladder path and sign to the Pennine Way. Bear L and take a N.T. stile.

Walk W with wall on the R and climb up to Edale Cross, tucked away in the corner of the wall where a metal sign states that this mediaeval cross is protected as a monument of national importance (077861). Another name for it was Champion Cross, a corruption of champagne which was the name of the southern part of the Peak Forest. Near this point the forest wards met: this is an ancient spot where many have trod including the packhorse men.

Continue W downhill on a stony path that passes Stony Ford where Oaken Clough goes off to the L where Mount Famine stands at the head of a prominent scoop in the mountainside. Continue downhill to a gate across the way and a sign Kinder Estate. Go downhill on a wide stony track for a few hundred metres to a sign which states: “This concessionary path provides a circular walk via South head Farm but continue downhill.

Walk now through Coldwell Clough. The stony track becomes a smooth road and pass, on the R, farm buildings with over the door the initials EB and 1804 are carved, over the doorway is a striking carving of a rose. It possibly came from a previous building. Continue downhill steeply to where the road levels out and go through a gateway and a sign, then walk along the base of the valley with trees on the L bank. Ignore a road going up R to a farm and walk through this pleasant

little valley, crossing the stream by a bridge then climbing up the L bank so look down the on the stream that, having spent so much energy cutting out Colwell Clough, now meanders about among the alluvial soil it brought down through the centuries

The road comes to a gate where a sign states that Ashes Farm lies back, then descend to a bridge over a stream do not go R or L but straight on up a steep lane through Hill House Farm which has mullioned windows; a date 1723 is carved on a cottage on the L. it is level going now as Booths Farm is approached, an interesting name: booth usually indicates a former packhorse or drovers track. Drop steeply down to a sign which points back from previous walking.

Just beyond the farm, go R uphill where a few dwellings stand and soon come to a lane that goes down L (054879). It descends steeply to the valley below Kinder Reservoir. Come out onto a drive from the reservoir, passing close to the metal gates on the R, then going R up a path that climbs steeply close to the wall on the R; that is the boundary of the reservoir; there is a fine view over the water; ahead lies Kinder Edge. The path now enters open country and ascends William Clough, walking N to climb up this interesting valley that has a good path all the way, worn by countless thousands. A few tiny waterfalls and a pool add to the scene, and always there is suspense created by the interlocking spurs that block the view.

Eventually reach the sign at 063902 where this path meets the Snake Path and crosses the Pennine Way. Just take a turn back and look at the glorious view of the scene just walked. Turn R, walk downhill then climb the short but steep bank up to Kinder Edge; the views are extensive. Make for the trig. Point at 077893.

The aim now is to explore the existence of tracks over this wilderness; this is best done in the hard frosty or dry summer months. Walk SE to Crowden Head; there are several posts to assist the walker. Turn and walk SSW to Crowden Tower (093970), turn now and walk L to arrive at the head of Grinsbrook Clough.

Instead of descending at this popular point, go a little further on a good path for several hundred metres in order to descend a prominent Clough between rock outcrops (106876). It begins steeply; ice could make it tricky; there is no worn path, but it is well worth doing. Soon reach the popular path down to Grinsbrook. Take it and make the way to Edale.

Walk through this interesting village as far as the church, then go L down a lane at the side of the cemetery; cross an indifferent bridge, take a stile to the R of a gate, then go straight ahead towards the Ollerbrook Farms which can be seen ahead pass through two fields and walk between farm buildings, first Ollerbrook then Nether Ollerbrook farms and note the quality of the buildings. Go forward along a lane then into a field taking care not to go up a drive to the L to Cotefield, but make for a gate below the house. Bear R in the next field and walk towards the corner of the house. Bear R in the next and walk towards the corner of the hedge where a footpath sign stands, then go to the next hedge where there is a good stile.

Go straight ahead and go along a green lane with a line of trees, soon come to a stile in front, then walk through a field close to a hedge and fence on the L to a gate with another to get to a drive that comes down from Woodhouse Farm. Go straight ahead into a field to a stile and a gate. Now arrive on the drive that comes down from the Rowland Cote Youth Hostel. Bear R and go down to the road at 142861.

Walk along the road towards Edale; go under a railway bridge then, in a few hundred metres, go L down a lane. Cross Back Tor Bridge, then climb up a lane as far as Back Tor Farm where the lane ends and take to a footpath. Go over a stile at a gate, cross a stream and walk with wall on the R up to a gate with a stile on its L. eventually reach Hollins Cross. Bear R and walk up to Mam Tor over several stiles, then descend to the road down a stone path, then to the start.