

WALK 90.
RESERVOIRS 90.
26.7 miles. 7 hours 35 minutes.
Map Dark Peak. SK28/38. SK29/39.



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Start at car park near the Lady Bower Dam (202859). Walk N on the road, cross the viaduct then turn R and walk NE as far as the Lady Bower Inn (205865). Go L at this point and walk NE on a good wide track, with the road on the R. come to a gate with a sign indicating Nature reserve; continue on the wide path; wall on R, to cross a stream by massive stones to another farm gate. The track continues, narrowing as it does. Cross a small stream in a minute Clough. Stannage Edge lies to the R.

The track leads to a black, gritstone wall out of which protrude stone steps. From here the path is on grass, wall on L, and soon come to another farm gate; nearby is a metal sign erected by the P.D. and N.C. footpath Society number 75 erected in 1933. Continue on a good grassy track, wall on R to approach an isolated Farm, Moscar House (222881), solidly made of gritstone with rustication over the door (unusual out here).

Leave the farm on a wide grass track between walls, climbing a little until a gate is reached, then continue with wall on the R. the wall gives way to a fence; away to the R is a stile but do not take it but turn and walk NNW and proceed on a narrow path.

Arrive now at a boundary wall; over the other side a welcome hostelry can be seen (222906), now turn L and walk close to the wall on the R; there are shooting butts on the L. leave the wall and walk on the hillside, going SW, the Strine Stream down on the R. the path soon drops down to it and then walk up the Clough which is wide but not spectacular; the path is poor

but there is plenty of room to walk. Eventually take to the open moorland at Running Moss (208897) and come to acres of featureless heather to the path at Derwent Edge.

Turn R and walk N. the views are superb. The path comes to a junction of paths with another metal sign P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society. Continue N to the trig point at Back Tor (198910). The track now at the back of Back Tor is grassy but featureless moorland. Go NW on Cartledge Stones Ridge; a stone set on the L of the path has W F. carved on it; away to the L, the upper reaches of Abbey Brook carve their way down Abbey Clough, higher still walk quite close to Cartledge Brook on the L.

Soon cross a path (the Dukes Road; a cairn marks the spot (207934), and a gritstone upright has R W. marked on it. Continue walking N then NW as the path curves round passing shooting butts. Eventually, with the greatest of care, it is difficult to find a continuous path through the heather: one day worn and clear paths will be established here as elsewhere. Eventually after much struggle the edge path is reached; again the staggering views a clear day can bring.

Turn R on the edge path and walk N to Margery Hill (189957). The next marker to head for is Cut Gate or Cart Gate as it was once designated because light carts used it. This way was kept in repair by farmers who used it to get to Penistone Market.

Cross the Cut Gate path at a large cairn and follow the track NW; it is marked with a few posts, this comes to another Trig-Point (177969) at Outer Edge. Drop down to the flat shelf below and make for Crow Stones (169970). The gash, of the Upper Derwent Valley in front, and the upper feeders. Now however, the route turns and goes back S on a narrow but clear path to Bull Stones (179962). The view in front affords a reminder of the value of these wildernesses to the walker who comes here to get away from civilisation if only for a short while. On the way to Bull Stones pass the sad wreckage of a plane at 177966, the scant remains of a consul TF-RPM which crashed, killing all the crew on 12 April 1951. It is interesting to note it was found by a lone walker. It is to be hoped that parts of the plane will not be taken and the grave of the plane will be respected.

Proceed to Bull Stones then make for Cut Gate again; do not drop down, but having crossed Cut Gate, make for the top path along Wilfrey Edge and continue S along Howden Edge. This vantage point on a fine day gives almost an aerial view over the gritstone area. The eye will also be drawn to the higher land: Grinnah Stones and Bleaklow Stones, and the distant ridges beyond them.

Towards the S end of Howden Edge, be careful to leave the path which drops down SW to the reservoir. Go L off the path and walk E on high ground towards Robin Hood Moss; on the R the land falls away into the huge scoop of Gravy Clough which drains into Abbey Clough which can be traced on its way round several spurs to the reservoir. High up front stands Back Tor. Work round and drop slowly down on a clear path that skirts the hillside above Berristers Tor, descending to Abbey Brook at 200925. Cross the brook, bear R, climb up a steep bank, drop down to the Bus Stop, (site of former hut), then take the excellent walk through Abbey Clough.

The track is wide and cut out of the hillside; below on the R, the abbey Brook flows; Gravy Clough really demonstrates its proportions on the other side of the water. Now walk through a sheltered valley in the hills that tower above; this is a delightful section of the route. Now enter Cogman Clough and climb steeply out of it. Come to a ladder stile then take a gateway into Abbey Tip Plantation and emerge on to the lake-side road at 170919 where a P.D. and N.C. footpath Society sign reads: Public Footpath to Bradfield and Strines.

A long slog on a wide, hard road leads to the Derwent Dam where if fortunate can see the water flowing over the top of the dam wall in impressive cascades. Cut across the valley here through the Fairholmes Car Park to the road where a sign (171897) points to a concessionary path to Lockerbrook; take this and enter the woods and begin to climb W; soon come to a leat and stile, then continue climb steeply through trees, to eventually leave over another stile and see Lockerbrook Farm lying across the field to the W. go through the buildings and come out onto a

road. Bear L; go through a wooden gate at the side of a farm gate, then continue on the road to a well-known junction of routes at 164810.

Walk SE with fence and plantation close on the L (extensive views) and walk on pleasant grass. Go over a two-step stile near a footpath sign and a ladder stile to boot, then continue on an easy route to another ladder stile, fence and trees close to L, though these move away as the walk makes for a wooden gate in a wall ahead. A dream of a path goes over the hillside. Pass two posts on the way to a similar gate to the previous one and go forward with the view of Crook Hill ahead; a fine view this of those two peaks. Make for a gate and stile then bear L down to a wall.

Crookhill Farm approaches. Go R through the farmyard, through two gates, then bear L and go downhill, trees on L, to a prominent ladder stile over a wall. The view over the reservoir and viaduct arches cannot fail to attract attention. Go through a gate and keep descending on pleasant grass to a gate and so out on to the road. Go across the viaduct and hence back to the start.