

SUMMIT WALKS | CIRCULAR WALKS | NATURE WALKS

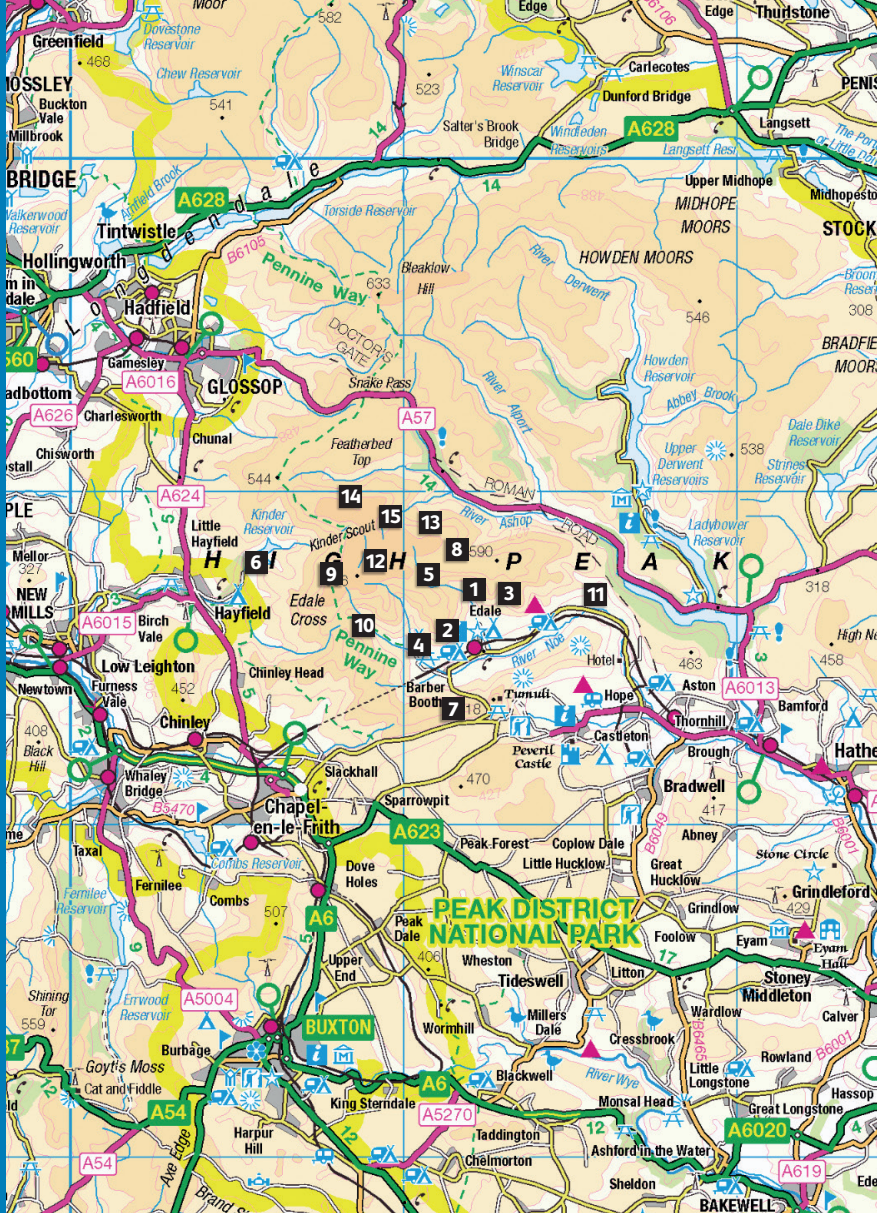
MOUNTAIN WALKS

KINDER SCOUT

15 ROUTES TO ENJOY ON AND AROUND KINDER



SARAH LISTER



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THE ROUTES

| | |
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| 01 Picnic & Paddle along Grinds Brook ●○○○○ 3.5km/2.2 miles | 1 |
| 02 Booths & Bridges Valley Walk ●○○○○ 5.5km/3.4 miles | 5 |
| 03 Oller Brook & The Nab ●●○○○ 4.5km/2.8 miles | 11 |
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| 15 Three Trig Pillars ●●●○○ 20km/12.4 miles | 93 |

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102



Download the
Mountain Walks Kinder Scout
GPX files from
www.adventurebooks.com/MWKS-GPX

ROUTE GRADES

| | |
|--------|-------|
| Easy | ●○○○○ |
| Medium | ●●○○○ |
| Hard | ●●●○○ |



INTRODUCTION

Kinder Scout is a mountain to return to time and time again, with routes around the foothills, up its cloughs and on its plateau. This collection aims to offer you plenty of options so that you can choose a walk to suit the weather, your fitness or how many sandwiches you can fit in your rucksack. The routes highlight notable landmarks and wildlife to encourage you to pause and connect with this remarkable landscape.

Rather than being a peak-shaped mountain, Kinder Scout is characterised by its large central moorland plateau. Reaching its rocky edges can feel like a hard climb, but it's worth the effort once you're walking along them, enjoying the expansive views around you. Kinder Scout is the highest point in the Peak District, and you can see Manchester from the western edges, Bleaklow and Alport Castles from the northern edges, and the beautiful Hope Valley and beyond from the southern and eastern edges. On a really clear day you can see as far as the mountains of Eryri (Snowdonia) in Wales.

You can expect to encounter many fascinating geological features here, including wind-carved rock formations and exposed tors. Kinder Scout is situated in the Dark Peak area, which is characterised by dark-toned gritstone laid down between 360 and 300 million years ago when the area was a vast river delta. It contrasts dramatically with the White Peak in the southern Peak District, where the gritstone has eroded away, leaving light grey limestone rocks visible on the surface.

Although you will become well acquainted with bogs on some of these walks, the black peat is much less exposed these days thanks to the work of the Moors For The Future Partnership (www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk) to restore and conserve blanket bogs across the Peak District. The results include an increase in biodiversity and the restoration of many moorland bird habitats, improvements in water quality, and reduced flood risk downstream. Curlews, golden plovers and dippers are just some of the birds that you'll hear or see in the area.

I predict that these walking routes will merely whet your appetite for Kinder Scout as it has a habit of drawing people back in.

Sarah Lister

Purple heather on Ringing Roger in summer.



THE NATIONAL TRUST
HIGH PEAK LITERATE
JACOBS LADDER

THE DESIGNATION OF THIS ROUTE AS THE 'JACOBS LADDER' PATH WAS THE RESULT OF A JOINT MAP MADE BY THE NATIONAL TRUST AND THE NATIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION IN 1988. THE PATH WAS DESIGNATED AS PART OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

13km/8.1 miles

10 / JACOB'S LADDER & THE WOOLPACKS

A high-level circular walk from Edale up on to the Kinder plateau via Jacob's Ladder and the Woolpacks, visiting Edale Cross.

ESSENTIAL INFO

GRADE ●●○○

DISTANCE 13KM/8.1 MILES

ASCENT 550M

TIME 4.5 HRS (WALKER)/2.5 HRS (RUNNER)

START/FINISH EDALE

START GRID REF SK123 853

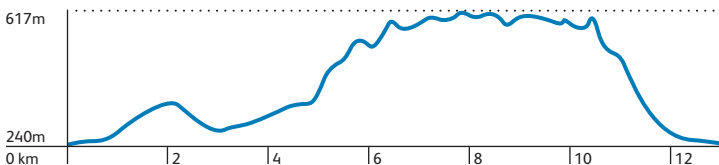
START GPS 53.3648, -1.8160

OS MAP OLI THE PEAK DISTRICT: DARK

PEAK AREA (1:25,000)

OVERVIEW

This walk is full of intriguing rock formations, relics of packhorse routes and awe-inspiring views. It will be especially appealing to landscape photographers, artists and rock clamberers. The route begins fairly gently along the start of the Pennine Way, then climbs steeply up Jacob's Ladder and on to Edale Cross (ancient boundary marker) and the rocky outcrop of Swine's Back. From here, it drops down to the giant boulders of Noe Stool, then the Pagoda, and then heads through the Woolpacks (an impressive sprawl of weathered boulders that resemble mythical creatures). After the boulder maze it continues to Crowden Tower, over Crowden Brook and along the rim of the plateau, then climbs up Grindslow Knoll before descending steeply back to Edale (and the pub!).



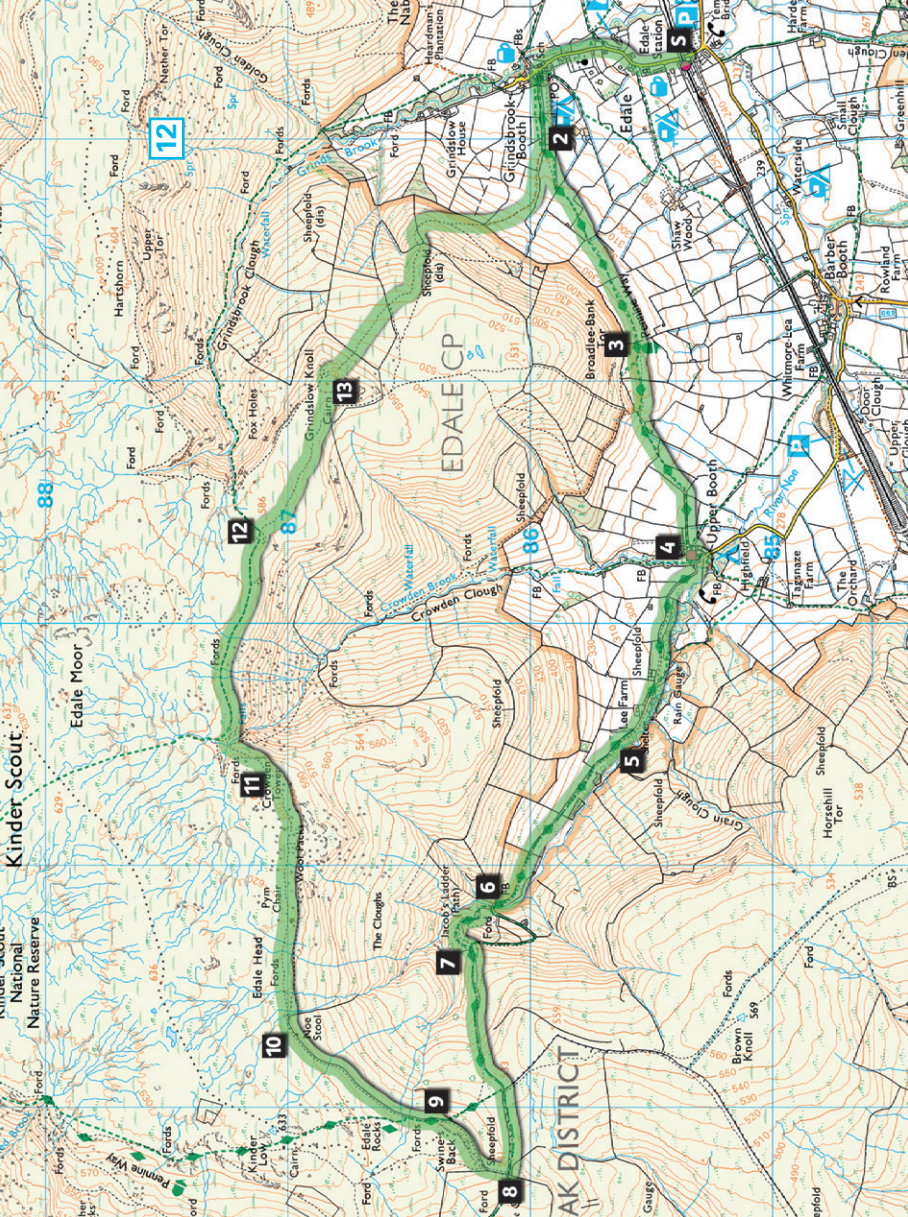
Jacob's Ladder.



Fingerpost in Grindsbrook Booth.

/ DIRECTIONS

- 1** From underneath the railway bridge on the road into Edale village, head up into the village. Pass the visitor centre on your right and the church on your left. A short distance further on, immediately before reaching the Old Nags Head, the Pennine Way is signed **left** on a fingerpost – **take this** narrow tree-lined footpath alongside a stream.
- 2** After 300m the path splits; **take the left fork** through the gate, following the signposted Pennine Way. Keep going for 900m through open pasture and listen out for the call of the curlew if you're walking this route in the spring or summer. There's a good bench for a sit along the way.
- 3** After going through a gate the path briefly ascends more steeply. **Keep straight on**, walking towards a drystone wall with a gate in the middle. Go through the gate and descend the path that winds between two hillocks. After another gate you will pass a ruined farm building on your left. Continue along the footpath towards the farm and houses at Upper Booth.
- 4** At the end of the footpath, go through the gate that brings you to a T-junction. **Turn left** along the lane and walk through Upper Booth hamlet and farmyard. **Turn right** on to the road and follow it to Lee Farm where there are a few houses and farm outbuildings (ignore the sign on the metal gate that says *Residents only beyond this point* as this only applies to vehicles, not walkers). Pass the houses at Lee Farm and before going through the gate ahead, note the National Trust barn on the left which has a public information display and provides a really good shelter from the rain or wind if you need a tea break.




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Evening light on the Woolpacks.

- 5** Go through the gate and continue along the track until you reach a narrow stone bridge over the River Noe. Cross the bridge and if the sun is shining consider sitting on the riverbank for tea and snacks – you’ve got a steep climb up Jacob’s Ladder coming up next! While you sit and listen to the cascades, imagine lines of packhorses and their drivers or ‘jaggers’ passing through here along the historical trade route between Edale and Hayfield on the way to Stockport.

- 6** From the National Trust sign for *Jacob’s Ladder*, ascend the steep staircase on the **right**, which is named after Jacob Marshall, who created the original shortcut up the bank in the 18th century. Jacob would walk up this while his packhorses were sent up the gentler winding track – now a bridleway busy with mountain bikes. It’s quite a slog up the staircase so take your time. Eventually you’ll reach a large stone cairn where you can have a rest and enjoy the reward of the climb – a great view!

 If the weather is poor, you may wish to turn back and retrace your steps at this point because the Kinder plateau is exposed to the elements and can be tricky to navigate.



Noe Stool.

- 7** From the cairn, follow the bridleway ascending west for about 500m. At the junction, turn **left** along a narrow footpath (not the flagstone path). Go through the gate and continue **west** for 350m along a wide bridleway. Go through a gap in a stone wall; immediately to your right is a small stone enclosure containing the Edale Cross, a mediaeval boundary marker or guidestone.
- 8** Retrace your steps back through the gap in the stone wall; almost immediately to your **left** is a gate and an uphill footpath. **Take this**, initially following the line of the stone wall uphill. After passing the stone ruins on your right (SK 077 862), **fork right** to follow a faint path up the crest of Swine's Back hill, passing a few large boulders and leading to a rocky outcrop. Enjoy this unique perspective of Kinder Scout and beyond!
- 9** With the rocky outcrop to your right, descend the short, steep moorland path to join the flagstone path below. Follow this for about 100m, passing three cairns. At the larger third cairn, take the rough and rocky path on the **right** for about 550m until you reach Noe Stool – an impressive anvil-shaped boulder overlooking the River Noe below. Lunch here if you have any left.



Pym Chair at the Woolpacks.

- 10** Walking past Noe Stool, **head east** along the path that drops down slightly to a large cairn. Follow the flagstones up towards a giant boulder formation called the Pagoda – another excellent viewpoint and a great place to have a clamber about (the OS map only mentions Pym Chair, a smaller but still noticeable boulder behind the Pagoda). **Keep heading east** towards the Woolpacks – a sprawling cluster of weathered boulders named for their resemblance to the bales of wool carried by packhorses. There are pathless, boggy sections through the maze of boulders, which can get confusing. It may be worth **walking on a bearing of 75°** from the Pagoda to Crowden Tower to keep on track for 550m. Crowden Tower is an outcrop of boulders overlooking Crowden Brook – a remarkable view!
- 11** Pick up the path just behind the boulders of Crowden Tower to drop down steeply to the stream crossing at the head of Crowden Brook (SK 094 872). Enjoy the view here of Mam Tor framed by Crowden Brook's ravine. After crossing the shallow stream, cut up the steep bank to rejoin the easterly path along the edge for about 750m.
- 12** **Turn right** at the junction (SK 103 871) to join a flagstone path that leads to the top of Grindslow Knoll. Where the flagstones end, walk up the steep grassy path to the highest point at the top of the knoll where there are the remains of a cairn. How far can you see from here? Take a final look before you start walking back down to Edale.
- 13** From the summit cairn of Grindslow Knoll, walk about 50m on a compass bearing of **130°** to pick up the direct path to Edale. This heads steeply south-east for about 1km, eventually reaching a gate into open pasture. Take your time as there are a lot of loose rocks. Walk down through the pasture until you reach a fingerpost marking the Pennine Way. **Turn left** to follow the tree-lined path back to Edale.

GOOD TO KNOW

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

Edale sits on the Manchester–Sheffield railway line and is well served by trains daily.

There are pay & display car parks in Edale village and at the station; these can fill up early on sunny weekends. The Edale Valley is situated just north of the Hope Valley and is easily accessible from the main A6187 road in Hope, or from Mam Nick on the Rushup Edge road west of Mam Tor.

WHEN TO WALK IT

This is a great outing all year round, although as the plateau is a raised blanket bog it is best avoided after prolonged periods of rain.

It is best avoided in bad weather which can hang around on the plateau. The reduced (and at times zero) visibility and lack of landmarks make it easy to get lost on the plateau.

TERRAIN AND NAVIGATION

There are steep paths and rocky sections on the ascent, descent and along the edge, and the section through the Woolpacks can be particularly boggy following wet weather. It is advisable to carry map and



The Woolpacks on a fine summer day.

compass, and to know how to use them.

FACILITIES AND REFRESHMENTS

There are toilets at the car park and at the Edale visitor centre. The visitor centre also has a shop and can provide local information; it's next to the Fieldhead Campsite. The Penny Pot Cafe by Edale station is perfectly placed for pre- or post-walk refreshments. There's also a cafe at Newfold Farm further into the village, as well as a general store. There are also a couple of pubs in the village – the Rambler Inn and the Old Nags Head

DOGS AND KIDS

Livestock and ground-nesting birds mean Kinder is a dog-on-lead kind of place, particularly between 1 March and 31 July when it is the law under the CrOw Act that dogs must be on short leads.

This walk is a great choice for fit and

adventurous youngsters, who will really enjoy the boulders. It's quite an energetic walk so pack extra snacks and water. There is the option to turn back down Jacob's Ladder as an escape route.

POINTS OF INTEREST

The bridge at the foot of Jacob's Ladder forms part of a packhorse route from Hayfield to Edale, a trade route for lead, coal, salt and wool from mediaeval times until the railway was opened in 1894.

Edale Cross, thought to be mediaeval, is a boundary cross and guidestone at the top of the ancient packhorse route.

Interesting rock formations including the anvil-shaped Noe Stool, the giant gritstone outcrop of the Pagoda, and a large cluster of curiously shaped boulders known as the Woolpacks, all formed by weathering and erosion on the moors.