

FALCON MANOR

Follow in the footsteps of the 'Walking English Man'...

YORKSHIRE THREE PEAKS WALK

This is undoubtedly the most formidable challenge walk in the Yorkshire Dales. The walk is approximately 25 miles in length depending on the slight variations available on the route. What is compulsory though is that you must climb Pen-y-ghent (694m), Whernside (736m) and Ingleborough (723m). Though I am not one of the collectors of trophies there is an accomplishment badge to be earned if you register at the starting point of the walk and if you can complete the walk in under 12 hours. Starting at Horton in Ribblesdale the walk takes you on a superb circular of the hills.

I have done the walk in both directions on a number of occasions.

Walking route kindly provided by www.walkingenglishman.com

START: Horton in Ribblesdale

DISTANCE: 25.0 miles (40.2 km)

CLIMBING: 1,672 metres

GRID REF: SD810723

TIME: 8-14 hours

RATING: Strenuous

START The walk is traditionally and best started from Horton in Ribblesdale from where you track to Pen-y-ghent via Brackenbottom climbing to Brackenbottom Scar steadily until you reach the joining of paths with the Pennine Way at which point the imposing face of Pen-y-ghent looks down on you.

Scale up the steepening face of Pen-y-ghent to the plateau on top of the mountain and then walk to the trig point. You will be exhilarated and warmed up now for the long haul to Whernside.

Head down from Pen-y-ghent on the due west path and if you can take the time to visit the brilliant sink hole of Hull Pot (map ref SD824747) near to where the Pennine Way is crossed. As you approach the pot you wonder where it is but then the sound of the water leads you in. Be careful as it opens up very quickly in front of you to reveal the abyss below.



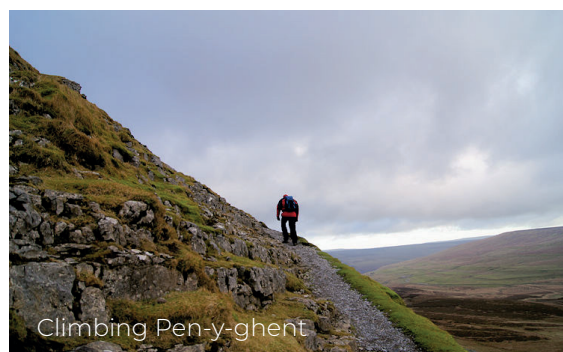
Climbing from Brackenbottom Scar



The south face of Pen-y-ghent



Hull Pot



Climbing Pen-y-ghent

FALCON MANOR

Once you leave Hull Pot the tracks can become less distinct though the paths which were once difficult to follow on this section and often under a quagmire of mud have been improved. If you have time I recommend a detour from Dismal Hill to the lovely Ling Gill (SD802786). Not too long a detour though as there is still a serious amount of walking to do! After retracing your steps to Dismal Hill, if you have visited Ling Gill that is, or if you have not detoured at all, follow a track from Dismal Hill to Nether Hall and then on to Lodge Hall before reaching the B6479 and following it north to Ribbleshead Viaduct. Look east as you do to spot Ingleborough for the first time as it appears from behind Simon Fell.

You cannot miss the beautiful and awesome sight of Ribbleshead Viaduct. It is a wondrous sight and you can allow yourself a break to look at the structure as you prepare yourself for the long haul up Whernside via a walk near to the railway line past Blea Station and up the Dales Way track before leaving it after sighting Force Gill to your left. The walk up is not too difficult but it is a monotonous ascent which I have seen sap the strength and spirit of many an unprepared Three Peaks challenger.

Once you have reached the summit of Yorkshire then take a break at the trig. You will have deserved it. If the weather is clear look over to Ingleborough while trying to imagine there is no valley below to drop down to which you will then have to climb out of. Leave Whernside in your wake and after a little walk along its ridge descend down a steep path (be careful in the wet as it can be very slippery) to Philpin Farm.

Philpin Farm has a welcome refreshment caravan at an appropriate quick break spot (open between April and October at weekends and Bank Holidays only). The refuelling will do you good for Ingleborough is a good climb once you have passed the Hill Inn at Chapel-Le-Dale (pints at your peril).



Ribbleshead Viaduct



On Whernside Top



Ribbleshead Viaduct from Bruntscar



Three Peaks refreshment stop



Souther Scales

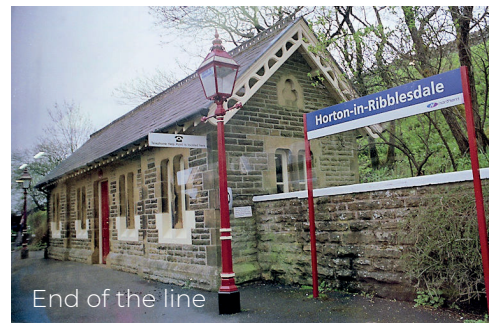
FALCON MANOR

The climb from Souther Scales to Ingleborough used to have an awful length of duck boarding which is now thankfully paved and after a half mile of gentle gradient is over it is a good old steep ascent to the top. Huff and puff if you must, it is the last climb of the epic walk.

On the table top plateau of Ingleborough itself you will be blessed by, weather permitting, brilliant views including hemsides, all of Ribblesdale including the viaduct, a panorama of the Dales and on a good day the hills of the Lake District too. While you celebrate the achievement of capturing the Three Peaks do not forget there is still some six miles back to Horton, all downhill and on the route back are some great examples of Limestone Paving.



Sun glinting over Ingleborough



End of the line

