

## TOP RMHT Stage 12: Edale to Buxton

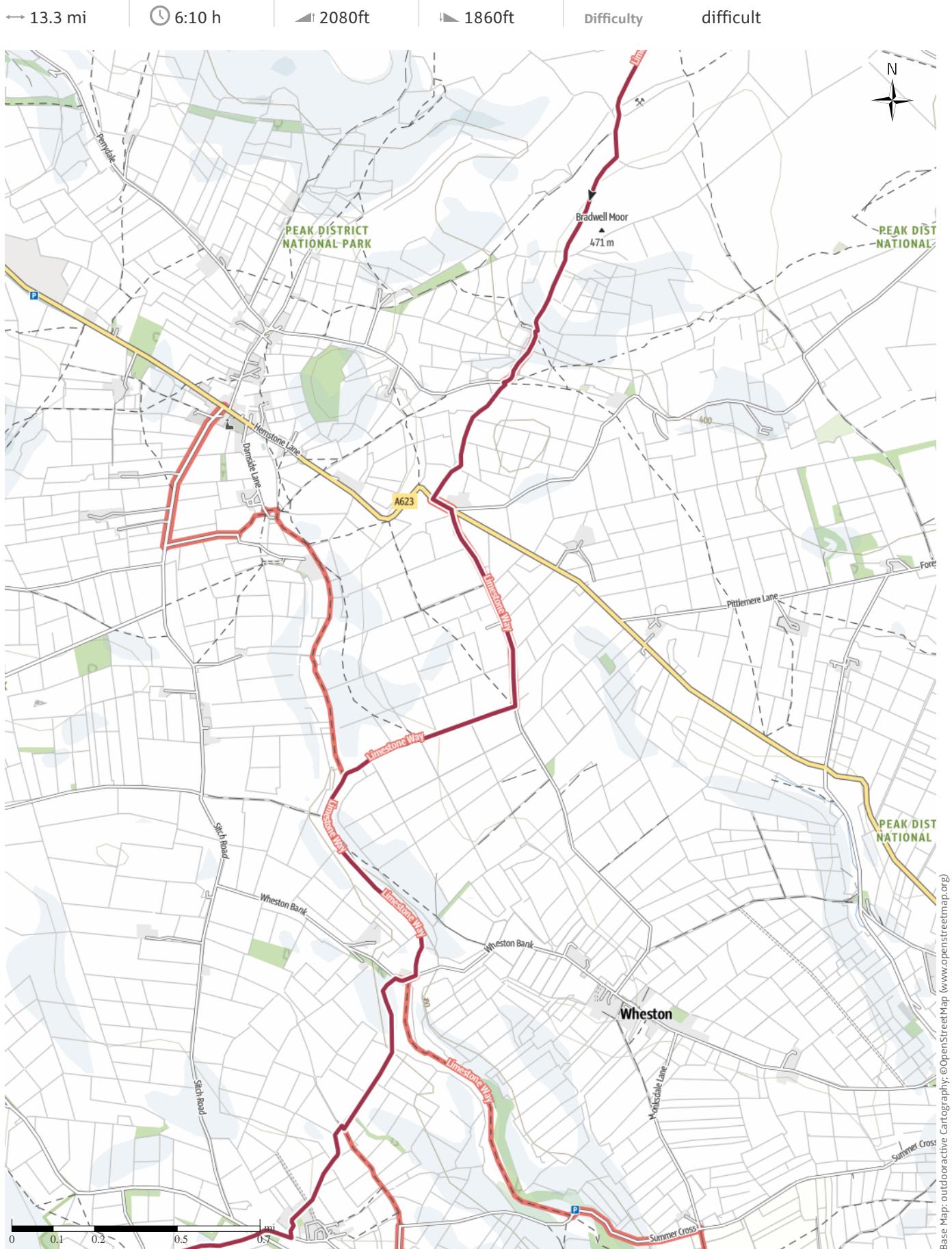


**TOP RMHT Stage 12: Edale to Buxton**

→ 13.3 mi | 6:10 h | 2080ft | 1860ft | Difficulty | difficult



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1860ft

## Difficulty

difficult



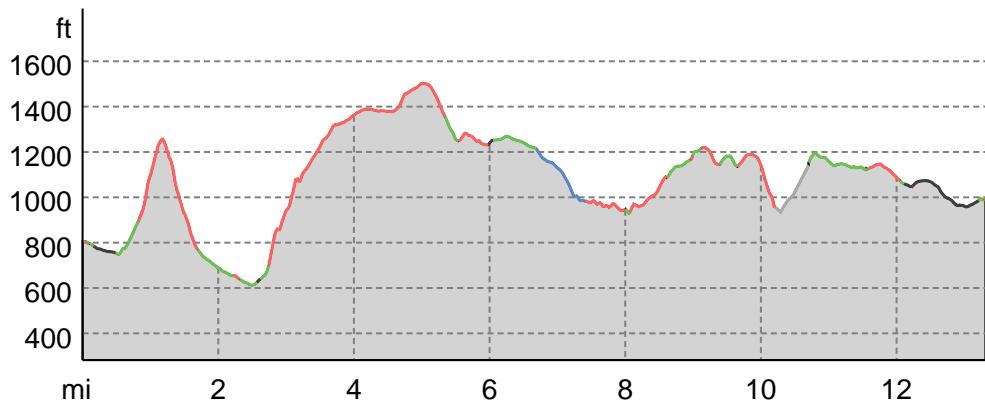
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**Road surface**

Asphalt	0 mi
Dirt road	0.7 mi
Way	4 mi
Path	6.6 mi
Street	1.5 mi
Unknown	0.5 mi

**Elevation profile**

**route data**
**Hiking route**

Distance	13.3 mi
Duration	6:10 h
Ascent	2080 ft
Descent	1860 ft

Difficulty  difficult

Stamina  5

Technique  5

Altitude 

**Best time of year**

JAN | FEB | MAR  
APR | MAY | JUN  
JUL | AUG | SEP  
OCT | NOV | DEC

**Ratings**
**Authors**

Experience 

Landscape 

**Community**

Route (1) 

**More route data**
**Properties**

Public-transport-friendly Linear route

Multi-stage route Scenic

Geological highlights Botanical highlights

**Awards**

 Refreshment stops available



**Matthew Ball**

Update: September 16, 2021

**Stage 12 of the Round Manchester Hiking Trail: Edale to Buxton via Hay Dale**

Starting from the car park opposite Edale Railway Station, we head south-eastward over the Great Ridge at Hollins Cross, affording great views of the Vale of Edale and the surrounding areas of Derbyshire. We

then continue to Castleton, where we join the Limestone Way, which we then follow for several miles through spectacular "White Peak" scenery of, first, Cave Dale, then the uplands of Bradwell Moor and then finally Hay Dale. We then head through the villages of Hargatewall and Tunstead before crossing the spectacular Tunstead Works and then coming back to Buxton via quiet country lanes. Most of the scenery and terrain is Limestone, unlike the Gritstone that characterises most of the hills around Manchester, so do be prepared for this to take an extra toll on your feet, as limestone can be tiring to walk over. All things considered, this is a strenuous and difficult walk, and not really for beginners.

**Author's recommendation**

*This route was walked by Manchester Weekend Walkers (a branch of the Ramblers) on Saturday 13th July 2019.*

*As well as being a walking route in its own*

right, it is also Stage 12 of the Round Manchester Hiking Trail, a 13-stage long distance walk that completely encircles the city of Manchester. The Trail is designed to be accessible by public transport, and to take in a varied selection of the best scenery in the Manchester area. It is 157 miles long in total and has about 6,000m of ascent.

The Trail starts in Macclesfield, and then proceeds in a clockwise direction via the other twelve staging points (Wilmslow, Knutsford, Lymm, Leigh, Blackrod, Entwistle, Rawtenstall, Todmorden, Marsden, Hadfield, Edale, and Buxton) before the last stage takes it back to Macclesfield again to complete the loop.

Since 2019, Manchester Weekend Walkers (a branch of the Ramblers) have been walking each of the stages in order roughly once every four weeks (pandemic permitting), which results in the full loop being completed once every year. The first five stages cover mostly lowland territory, and so are walked in the winter months, leaving the sunnier parts of the year in which to tackle the hills that otherwise nearly surround Manchester on three sides.

As of the summer of 2021, it is intended that the Trail will at some point be registered with the Long Distance Walkers Association as an "official" long distance path, although this hasn't yet happened at the time of writing. However, all 13 stages are available on the Outdoor Active website and can be downloaded as GPX files.

#### Safety information

Take care crossing the A623.

#### Equipment

Good walking boots and otherwise sensible hiking gear.

#### Additional information

##### Tips and hints

Assembly Point:

After rounding people up at the platform at Edale, the most obvious plan is for everyone to make their way to

the toilet block in the large car park on the other side of the road and provide the pre-walk briefing whilst people use the facilities.

#### Toilets:

As well as the big toilet block in the car park at the start, there is also another large public toilet block at Castleton, although this is about 200 yards off the actual route. After this there is not really very much in the way of shelter until we reach a wooded area just before the Tunstead Works.

#### Obstructions:

None known as of September 2020.

#### Timings:

0:45 - Hollins Cross

1:15 - Castleton

3:00 - The A623 crossing

4:00 - Dale Head (where we leave the Limestone Way after Hay Dale)

5:15 - The Tunstead Works

6:15 - join Waterswallows Road

6:45 - Buxton

#### Bail-Out Points:

Castleton is an obvious bail-out point, if very early on in the walk. After this the A623 crossing provides an opportunity for pickup by taxi, or alternatively to catch the 190 bus service from the nearby hamlet of Peak Forest. Later on there we cross roads that a taxi could reach near Hargatewall, and then again after climbing up from the Tunstead Works (although this is now near the end).

#### Alternative Routes:

The most obvious alternative route I can see replaces Castleton with Mam Tor on the way to the Limestone Way. The waypoints would be: Greenlands, Windy Knoll, joining the Limestone Way at Old Moor.

Doing it this way reduces the distance to 12.1 miles, and also decreases the amount of ascent, as it stays on the higher ground without descending to Castleton. But as well as Castleton, this does mean missing out on the spectacular Cave Dale. You could further tweak this

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alternative by climbing to the summit of Mam Tor (slightly to the left of the route), adding 62m to the ascent and ½ mile to the distance.

Lunch Stop:

Castleton is a possible early lunch stop, with plenty of cafes and pubs.

After this, there is not much shelter on the route, but the sloping grass near Brood Low just before the A623 offers somewhere to sit. In Hay Dale there are some trees that offer shelter.

Post-Walk Refreshments:

The two main choices are the Weatherspoon's Wye Bridge Inn (about 10 minutes before the end of the walk at the railway station) and the Holt's The Railway (right opposite). Both have plenty of space inside and outside and a big selection of drinks.

## Turn-by-turn directions

**Starting point / trailhead**

Edale Railway Station

**Coordinates:**

DD: 53.364800, -1.817144

DMS: 53°21'53.3"N 1°49'01.7"W

UTM: 30U 578709 5913504

w3w: //wage.botanists.crumble

**Point of arrival**

Buxton Railway Station

**Turn-by-turn directions**

Out of Edale Station, we go in to the car park opposite where there is a toilet block. After this, we head out of the car park to the south and follow the road eastwards for about 500 yards. Then there is a clearly signposted footpath to the right, which we now follow uphill and southwards. The path gets increasingly steep after Peter Barn and eventually reaches Hollins Cross, a busy intersection of ways at which we can pause to take in the view from all sides.

From Hollins Cross we head downwards and south-east on a well defined path that takes us towards Castleton along what becomes Hollowford Road. On reaching the town, we head straight through it on the main road, carrying straight on until we find a sign to Cave Dale, which we then follow. This takes us steeply uphill on a limestone surface that is quite difficult to navigate with your feet. Once we get out of Cave Dale, the Limestone Way takes us across high ground with beautiful views

of Derbyshire.

We carry on uphill until reaching a high point of 470m near Starhouse Mine (on Bradwell Moor), before descending another mile to the A623. To keep following the Limestone Way, we turn left and then cross the A623 to turn right onto a tarmacked road. After 2/3 mile the Limestone Way turns right, and we follow it along a bridleway from which you can see Wincle Mint radio transmitter straight ahead in the far distance. After about another 2/3 mile the Limestone Way bends around to the left and enters Hay Dale, which we now process through for the next 2/3 mile.

On exiting Hay Dale, we reach a road, called Wheston Bank - we turn right to follow it. But, whereas the Limestone Way takes the first left off the road we ignore this to leave the LW and instead take the second footpath to the left just 50 yards later, taking a very steep stone turnstile onto a rickety footpath uphill south-west towards Hargatewall. After we pass by some buildings in the hamlet, we reach a farm which we pass by to the left (i.e. heading south) until we reach a road, at which we take a sharp right.

This road, after about 200 yards, then meets Hargate Hall Road, which we cross straight over to join a footpath that continues eastward towards the village of Tunstead. Once we hit the main road through the village we turn left and follow that for another 200 yards. Then we reach a bridleway turning to the right, at which there are also signposts warning about blasts from the quarry on weekdays. We head across the stone stile along the bridleway (which has no physical presence, just being a line on the map) due west, keeping some upcoming woods to our left. On reaching these woods, we follow their northern edge until we reach a path crossroads, at which we turn left to head downwards through the woods.

The path then gets quite sketchy but keeps heading west and quite steeply downhill into the Tunstead Works, a cement factory that dominates the surrounding area. The rather tortuous path downhill takes some twists and turns which won't be obvious from the map, but as you keep the factory and the bridge across the railway line in view you should be able to work it out. After reaching ground level, we now cross a bridge over the railway line, before heading uphill again, fairly gently across a car park at first, but then a bit more steeply as we head upwards west away from the Works along a footpath that sports lots of warning signs about the quarry.

After about 1/4 mile, this westward path from the Works meets Green Lane, which we have to turn left to join, but which immediately bends right to carry on

westwards (the alternative would take us north-west, to Hardybarn Farm, which we don't want). After another mile heading west across fairly flat (but beautiful) countryside we reach Townend Farm, at which we have to take a right-left shimmy to join Waterswallows Road, which after another 1/2 mile merges with the A6. Another 1/2 mile after that takes us to the Wye Bridge Inn, and another 1/2 after that to Buxton Railway Station.

## Getting There

 This route is conveniently accessible by public transport.

### Public transport

Trains to Edale leave from Piccadilly once an hour on Saturday mornings, and take about 40 minutes to get there. The best ticket for this walk is likely to be the GM Wayfarer at a cost of (as of August 2021) £14.70. This will cover Edale, Buxton and the surrounding areas all the way back to Manchester. See

<https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/wayfarer-adult> for more details.

### Getting there

Trains back from Buxton are once an hour on Saturday evenings, and take about an hour to get back to Piccadilly.

### Parking

If using the car to travel part of the way you would have to park somewhere near Piccadilly Station in Manchester.

### Protected areas

National park Peak District

Some or all of the following may apply in protected areas:

Observe local conservation rules and information

## Comments & Ratings



September 16, 2021 · Hiking Route · RMHT Stage 12: Edale to Buxton

Reviews



## Takeaway route for iPhone and Android



Scan QR code, save this route offline, share with friends and more...

Website

<https://out.ac/l1ncLe>



Cave Dale

Photo: Matthew Ball, Community

## Legend

### Topography

	Wood, forest
	Moor, swamp, marsh
	Moorland
	Residential building area with single building
	Industrial real estate with single building
	Cemetery
	Golf course
	Sportsfield, stadium
	Stadium
	Open-air pool
	Vineyard
	Petrograph
	Country border
	State border
	District border
	Contour line
	Special use area
	Nature reserve

### Topographic single signs

	Summit cross
	Elevation point
	Rock
	Cave
	Church
	Chapel
	Cemetery
	Palace/Castle
	Abbey
	Monument
	Ruin
	Mine
	Cairn
	Broadcasting tower
	Windwheel
	Water-/windmill
	Viewpoint

### Streets and ways

	Freeway with number
	Highway with number
	State, country, district street
	Village road
	Main agricultural road
	Agricultural road
	Trail
	Via Ferrata

### Lifts, Railway

	Ropeway lift
	Gondola lift
	Chairlift
	Ski-, draglift
	Aerial ropeways
	Railway
	Suburban train
	Subway
	Tram
	Railway station