

PENNINE BRIDLEWAY

NATIONAL TRAIL 

Looking for adventure?

The Pennine Bridleway is the only National Trail specifically designed to be used by horse riders and cyclists as well as walkers, and runs parallel to the Pennine Way. Explore 205 miles of the Pennines' ancient packhorse routes, drovers roads and bridleways; call at historic towns and villages, discover canals, craft workshops, breweries, cafes and pubs.

What will I discover?

The route traverses a great variety of landscapes from open moorland to steep-sided wooded river valleys and passes through the Peak District, the South Pennines and the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Highlights include the rich wildlife of Chee Dale Nature Reserve, stunning views over the Kinder plateau, the exhilarating Roych Clough (one of Britain's classic mountain bike rides) the tranquillity of the Rochdale Canal and Wycoller with its ancient packhorse bridge. The Yorkshire Dales section features spectacular limestone landscapes, including great views of Malham Tarn and the Three Peaks of Pen-y-ghent, Ingleborough and Wharfedale. From Pennine villages to the remote open uplands, the views just keep coming.

Something for Everyone

The Trail can be tackled in many different ways – you don't have to do the whole thing in one go! You can do it in stages or enjoy circular routes that take you through some of Northern England's most spectacular landscapes.

There is a range of accommodation, cafes and pubs along the trail. Some can accommodate horses; many will have bike storage. There are also companies that will arrange your trip for you and carry your bags to your overnight accommodation. You can seek inspiration or plan your own visit using the interactive map on the website www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway.

The Settle Loop

The Settle Loop is a 10 mile circuit from Settle through the wonderful limestone uplands of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, with spectacular views across Malham Tarn. There are many other bridleways in the area which can be used to extend your journey.

Settle is on the iconic Settle to Carlisle Railway line and is a working town with a popular market and a good range of independent shops and plenty of places to eat and drink.

A trail for all seasons

Summer is the most popular time to enjoy the Pennine Bridleway, when the weather is more reliable and the days are long. From mid-August the heather comes in to flower, creating a purple blanket over the moors. Autumnal colours on the moors and in ancient Pennine woodlands can create spectacular scenes, and when winter comes expect snow and ice on the hills.

How do I get there and back?

You can reach both ends of the Pennine Bridleway, and many places in between, by public transport. The nearest rail station to Middleton Top, at the southern end of the trail, is Cromford. It is on the Derwent Valley line between Derby and Matlock.

Horse riders are advised to start at Hartington Station on the Tissington Trail.

At the northern end the trail ends in Ravenstonedale, though there is an alternative link to the nearest train station in Kirkby Stephen, approximately 6km away, which is on the Settle to Carlisle line.

How hard is it?

The route runs through the Pennines so expect hills and changeable weather! The Trail is well maintained and signposted and provides an amazing long distance route through classic Pennine scenery with miles of off road tracks, safe road and river crossings, and no stiles or steps to negotiate. But don't underestimate those Pennine hills; there are steep climbs, exhilarating descents and some challenging terrain. However, at the southern end the trail follows disused railway lines and provides an easily accessible route for all the family. Horse riders and walkers could expect to cover around 15 miles a day, cyclists as much as 30.

Further information

The official Twitter handle for the Pennine Bridleway is @PBridleway

The official Facebook page for the Pennine Bridleway is @PennineBridleway N T

The official Instagram account for the Pennine Bridleway is @penninebridleway n t

The official website for the Pennine Bridleway is www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway