

## Yorkshire Three Peaks Weekend Trek



Duration: 3 days

The Yorkshire Three Peaks, in the Yorkshire Dales, represents a challenge for the keenest of walkers. To scale three mountains in two days is no mean feat and provides an exhilarating and demanding trek in some of the most spectacular countryside England has to offer.

This region was shaped by glaciers many thousands of years ago, and there are plenty of geological landmarks – striking limestone outcrops and unusual rock formations – to pique our interest as we walk. We will also see the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct en-route, part of the scenic Settle to Carlisle railway line.

Our base is a brilliantly-located, friendly campsite with great facilities and views. This is a tough and rewarding weekend in steep, rugged country, offering an unforgettable sense of achievement.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

## Day 1: Arrive Camp, Yorkshire Dales

We meet late afternoon at our campsite near Chapel-le-Dale, nestled between two of our three peaks. After dinner and a thorough trip briefing we prepare our kit and get a good night's sleep, ready for tomorrow's strenuous challenge!

## Day 2: Ingleborough &amp; Whernside

After a good fuelling breakfast in camp, we set off, walking south through the broad green dale, criss-crossed with dry-stone walls. Ingleborough's stepped shape - due to its alternating layers of limestone, sandstone and shale – rises before us. Whernside, our second peak, dominates the landscapes behind us. We pass through the village of Chapel-le-Dale and soon reach the base of Ingleborough (723m), where a stepped path zig-zags fairly steadily to the summit of our first peak. We soak up the views over the surrounding dramatic landscapes, an area of rocky outcrops and limestone scars, and the impressive sight of the famous 400m-long Ribbleshead Viaduct, built in the 1870s.

We then descend along a ridge to the valley below, where we walk parallel to the Settle – Carlisle Railway, enjoying a flattish section! We pass through Ribbleshead, at the head of Chapel-le-Dale, and can admire the Viaduct from close quarters. From here we can also see the distinctive whale-back shape of Whernside (736m). We pass numerous limestone escarpments and outcrops; this amazing scenery provides wonderful motivation to keep our legs moving! We gradually begin our ascent, following a slabbed path all the way to the summit. The last section is particularly steep but our efforts are rewarded with the views – on a good day you can see across to Morecambe Bay on the west coast – and the knowledge that it's not far back to camp! After a

## DETAILED ITINERARY (cont)

short break we come down steeply off the mountain and trek the relatively short and flat distance to camp, where we enjoy a great evening meal in camp with our fellow trekkers. Night camp.

Trek approx. 12 miles (6-8 hours)

### Day 3: Pen y Ghent; Depart

A short drive (15-20 mins) takes us to Horton in Ribblesdale, where we take the Pennine Way towards our third and final peak – the distinctive stepped outcrop of Pen-y-Ghent. As we ascend, we enjoy good views back towards Horton and across to yesterday's achievements: Whernside and Ingleborough. Clear, well-worn paths lead us quite steeply up to the summit; there are some steep stone steps too. We enjoy time at the summit (694m) to take in the views before taking a westerly path down off the mountain and loop round to Horton once more (exact route may depend on group ability), feeling pretty pleased with ourselves and our accomplishments! We say goodbye to the new friends we've made and the incredible scenery we conquered, and head home, taking a huge sense of achievement with us.

Trek approx. 6-8 miles (4-5 hours)

*Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.*

Copyright DA2011 / Updated 2019



## CHALLENGE GRADING

Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trek lies within the **Orange** range.

The grade is determined by factors such as terrain, distance, climate, altitude, etc. Each colour grade has a spectrum which reflects the difficulty of these factors; trip duration, accommodation and living conditions are also taken into account.

The Challenge Factor icon shows the most challenging aspect – the terrain, which is rugged with long ascents and descents.

The grade reflects the overall trip; some sections will feel more challenging than others. Unusual weather conditions also have a significant impact, and not all people are tested by the same aspects.