

4 miles (7 km)

VISIT PEAK DISTRICT & DERBYSHIRE



Peak District Children's Walks

Castleton

Hollins Cross

This 4 mile walk in the hills around Castleton is perfect for adventurous kids and their adults! The route takes you past Peveril Castle and the show caves of Peak Cavern, Speedwell Cavern and Treak Cliff Cavern, offering incredible views of the Hope Valley. It then treks along the 'Broken Road' beneath Mam Tor, past Odin Mine and up to Hollins Cross (390m/1,280ft), once a stopping point on an old coffin path, before descending downhill following field paths back to Castleton. There are steps, stiles and gates on this route and the terrain is often rocky and uneven, so get your climbing legs ready and wear good boots. Castleton has public toilets and plenty of cafes for refreshments before or after the walk, and there is a cafe and toilets at the halfway point at Treak Cliff Cavern if needed.

Start/Finish Point

The Car Park at the Castleton Visitor Information Centre (S33 8WN; [///chilled.campsites.keyboards](http://chilled.campsites.keyboards))

A Walk out of the car park with the Visitor Information Centre on your right. Turn left on to Cross Street and follow the signs to Peveril Castle.

Look out on your left here for the Town Ditch Fields, the remains of Castleton's defences in medieval times.



Cross the road with care and take the road on your right immediately beyond The Castle pub, Castle Street. Walk along Castle Street, with Peveril Castle visible above you on the hill. At the end of the street turn right, following the signs for Peak Cavern. You will pass the entrance to Peveril Castle here on your left if you have time to visit.



Peveril Castle is one of England's earliest surviving castles - its 'Keep' (the main tower) was built by King Henry II in 1176. If you visit you can still see the medieval garderobe (toilet) inside!

Walk along this narrow lane, heading downhill. Cross the bridge over the stream of Peakshole Water at the bottom and continue straight on, up the hill between houses. As a brief diversion, after approx 50 metres a public footpath on your left takes you to the impressive entrance of Peak Cavern if you want to look or have time to visit.

Peak Cavern is the largest cave in the Peak District. It is also known as The Devil's Arse because of the rude noises made by the water inside! People still lived and worked inside the cave until 1915.



To continue the walk, return to the lane and carry on walking uphill, following the signs to Speedwell Cavern. After a short distance the lane narrows to become a stony path. Go through a wide metal gate and carry straight on, walking to the left of a dry stone wall. The hills of Winnats Pass and Mam Tor are visible ahead of you, and to your right you will see the Great Ridge and Hollins Cross, to where you're headed. Look out for fossils in the stone wall!

B Follow this clear path beside the wall for approx 800 metres, passing through a further metal gate on the way. There are wonderful views of Castleton to your right. The path eventually emerges through a wooden gate and meets the road. You will find Speedwell Cavern on your left just here if you have time to visit.



Speedwell Cavern is a former lead mine, used until 1771. Visitors are now taken through its tunnels and caves by boat!

C To continue the walk, cross the road with care and take the public footpath immediately opposite, following the signs to Treak Cliff Cavern. Follow this clear path over the fields for approx 500 metres, passing through a wooden gate and beside woodland on the way. You will eventually reach a concrete path with Treak Cliff Cavern visible ahead of you. If you have time to visit or want a break at the cafe, turn left and head up to the Cavern. It is open from 10am every day except Christmas Day.

Treak Cliff Cavern and Blue John Cavern (on the other side of the ridge) are home to a very rare and beautiful mineral, Blue John. This is the only place in the world that it's found! Visitors can see it within the rocks in the caves and Blue John jewellery is available to buy from local gift shops.



To continue the walk, turn right on the concrete path. Head down a set of steps and through a wooden gate to reach a quiet road. Turn left on the road and enjoy the views of Mam Tor to your left and the Hope Valley to your right.

After approx 500 metres you will see a National Trust sign on your right for the Crushing Circle. As a brief diversion, head down the steps here to see this enormous stone wheel with its steel circular track. Retrace your steps back to the road to continue the walk. Very soon afterwards, on your left hand side, you will see the entrance to Odin Mine, an old lead mine.



This area was once one of the most important parts of the country for lead mining. Odin Mine is one of the oldest lead mines in the UK, in use since 1280. The Crushing Circle was once used to crush lead ore from Odin Mine and the surrounding area.

Castleton

Continue straight on past Odin Mine and through a wide metal gate leading to the 'Broken Road'. This was once part of the A625 that curved beneath Mam Tor, but after a series of landslides it was abandoned in 1979.

After approx 500 metres the road bends sharply to the left, but you should carry roughly straight on, taking the wide stone path to Mam Farm. (Ignore the narrow hill path through the wooden gate that leads off to the left of the stone path.) Continue following this wide stone path as it passes to the left of a barn.

After approx 250 metres, just before you reach a cattle grid and a small cluster of buildings, take the footpath off to the left that leads uphill through trees. Continue following this clear path through the trees, onto the moor, and up to the very top of the ridge ahead of you. Take the time to rest and look behind you to see Peveril Castle on the opposite hillside in the distance, standing at the top of the huge entrance to Peak Cavern.

When you reach the top of the ridge, go through the wooden gate to see the stone memorial that marks Hollins Cross. To the left of you at this crossroads of paths is Mam Tor, to the right is Lose Hill and then Win Hill. Ahead of you is the Edale Valley, and beyond that the moorland of Kinder Scout, the highest point in the Peak District.



Before the village of Edale had a church built, villagers had to carry their dead to be buried in Castleton or Hope, walking up the steep path from the valley and over the ridge you're standing on. They rested the coffins at Hollins Cross before making the careful descent.



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D To continue the walk, go back through the gate that you have just come through. Don't retrace your steps on the path you came up, but instead take the paved path off to your left that leads down towards Castleton in the distance. Follow this clear path for approx 400 metres until you see a path off to your right with a signpost low to the ground. Take this path to the right and follow it downhill to emerge at a wooden gate that leads onto a farm track.

Cross straight over the farm track and take the field path directly opposite, signposted to Castleton. Go through the gate and head roughly straight on, walking to the left of a small stream. Follow the line of this stream for approx 600 metres through a series of fields, eventually reaching a gate in the corner of a field with a narrow footbridge beyond.

Go over the footbridge and head diagonally right across the next field to reach a set of double gates with stiles beside. Go through the gates or over the stiles and then turn immediately left, signposted to Castleton. Follow the clear path beside a fence and trees to your left.

You will eventually reach a wooden gate into a further field. Head diagonally right across this field to reach a gate with a stile at the far end of the woodland ahead of you. Go over the stile and turn right on the lane to quickly reach another set of gates at a cattle grid. Turn left and take the path signposted to Castleton Via The Flats.

Follow this clear path for approx 650 metres through a succession of gates to eventually emerge between two high stone walls and back onto the main road through Castleton. Turn left on the road and walk on the pavement for approx 150 metres, reaching the Visitor Information Centre and the start of your walk on the left.

Follow your progress!



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