

ENJOY WALKING IN TEESDALE

Walk 1 - Barnard Castle & Abbey Bridge Circular

Walk 2 - Abbey Bridge & Whorlton Circular

Walk 3 - Barnard Castle & Lartington Circular

Walk 4 - Barnard Castle to Cotherstone

Walk 5 - Cotherstone to Barnard Castle

Walk 6 - Cotherstone East Circular

Walk 7 - Cotherstone West Circular

Walk 8 - High Force Circular

Walk 9 - High Force & Upper Teesdale Circular

Walk 10 - Staindrop Circular

Walk 11 - Bowes East Circular

Walk 12 - Bowes West Circular

Walk 13 - Barnard Castle & Stainton Circular

Walk 14 - The Nabb Bridge Walk - Barnard Castle West Circular

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3 Horse Market, Barnard Castle DL12 8LY

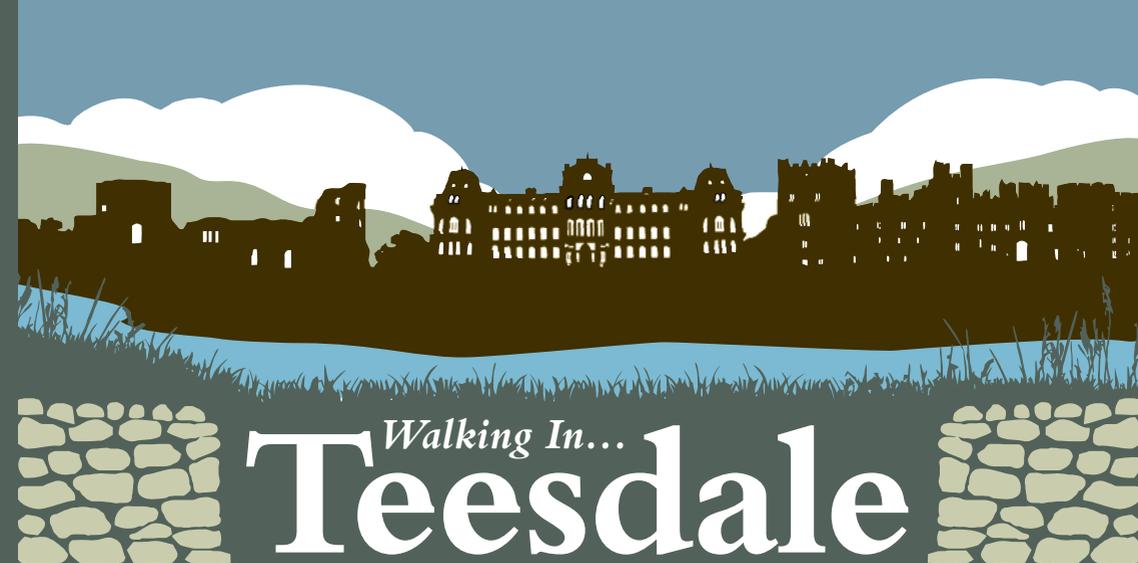
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Walking In... **Teesdale**

BARNARD CASTLE & ABBEY BRIDGE CIRCULAR

START AT: SCAR TOP,
BARNARD CASTLE

DISTANCE: 3 MILES

TIME: 1.5 HOURS

Series Walk...

N^o. 1

A picturesque leisurely walk of 3 miles, along lanes and across fields by the banks of the River Tees to the Abbey Bridge and back. On the way you will pass the ruins of Egglestone Abbey.

PART OF THE TEESDALE WAY

Route Information

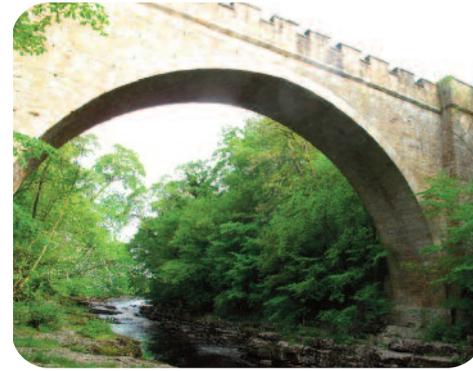
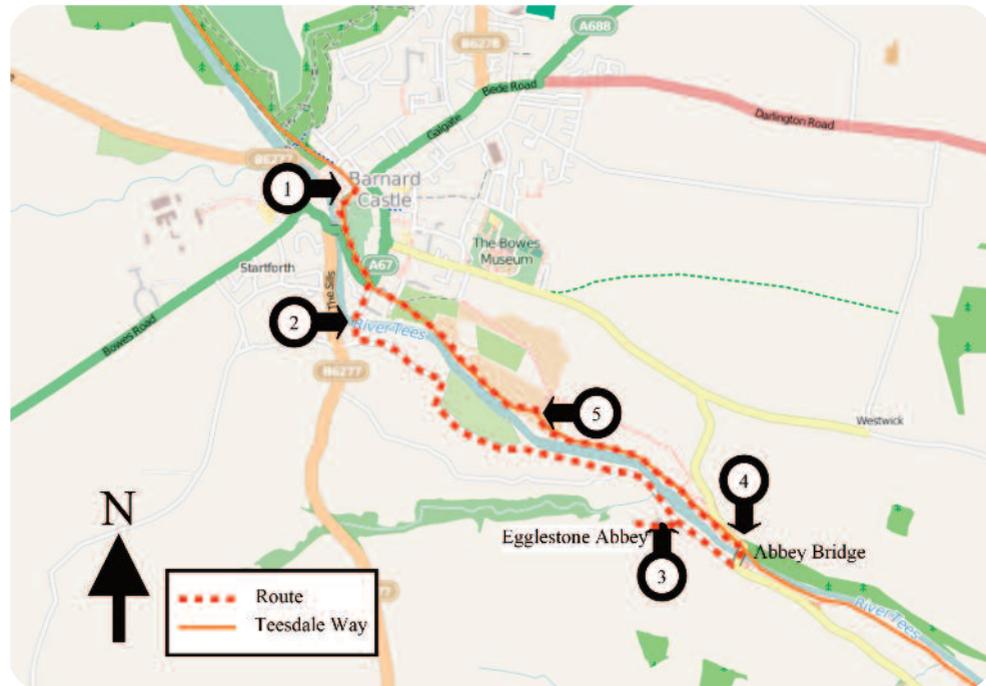
Ordnance Survey
Landranger Map 92
Outdoor Leisure Map 31

Leaving from Scar Top down the footpath by the castle wall, you will cross the river by The Green Bridge, and from the south side will get panoramic views of the river and the old mills. The walk will then lead you through the caravan site, across fields, down the lane past Egglestone Abbey, and across Abbey Bridge. You will then return on the north side of the river, through woods and across fields.

From the Scar Top (1), keeping the castle on your left, follow the steep path downhill, which brings you to the River Tees above the County Bridge. The bridge was built in 1569 and until 1974 was on the boundary between Yorkshire and County Durham. Do not cross the bridge, but continue on the pavement along Bridgegate, keeping the castle on your left, for about 250 metres as far as the street corner. Turn right here along

Thorngate, an attractive street with a number of fine restored houses, and continue over The Green Bridge which crosses the River Tees(2).

Once over the bridge, go up the steep path ahead and turn left at the top to proceed along a path and then a road, with fine views over Barnard Castle. At the end of the road, go through a small gate in the stone wall and bear right



Abbey Bridge

through the caravan site. Staying on the tarmac road, head uphill and, shortly after leaving the site, go through the kissing-gate in the fence on your left. Keeping to the left, now continue through four fields.

Pass through the narrow "squeeze stile" at the end of the last field and onto a narrow lane, where you turn left downhill to Bow Bridge, a 17th century packhorse bridge which you can use to cross Thorsgill Beck. On the high ground beyond the beck stand the remains of Egglestone Abbey(3), founded in about 1198. It is an English Heritage site, and entry is free of charge. Continue along the lane to Abbey Bridge(4), a former toll bridge built in 1773. The remains of the circular toll buildings can be seen on the southern end of the bridge.

Cross the bridge, taking great care of vehicles on the road, and go through a small gap in the stone wall on your left at the end of the bridge. You are now on The Teesdale Way, which stretches from the moorlands of Cumbria and Durham to the industrial landscapes of Teeside and the coast. From here a narrow, twisting path follows the north bank of the River

Tees through an area of woodland. Across the river on your left you will see Egglestone Abbey again and below, right next to the river, the remains of an old paper mill where paper used to be laid out to dry on the rocks. From the higher ground on your right, the famous English painter JMW Turner painted a view of the abbey and of the mill when it was still in operation in the early 19th century.

On reaching a hand-gate, cross over into a field and follow the river bank, passing through several gates and alongside a high metal fence on the right. At the end of this fencing, bear slightly right across a field to the ruins of a small stone building (5). Turn left and through the gate, keeping close to the river, across the field, through Mill Farm, and along the track across the Lower Demesnes. Keep straight ahead to Thorngate, with Bridgegate in front of you. Return along Bridgegate and up the side of the castle wall back to the start.

If you wish to return through the town, turn right at the ruined stone building (5) up to a wooden gate in the stone boundary wall. Go through the gate and follow the diagonal path to your left over the grassy area. Skirt around the edge of the sports pitches on your left and then follow the wall to a high-walled lane. Go through the gate, along the lane, to come out into Newgate, close to the main entrance to the Bowes Museum along on your right. To complete the walk, turn left along Newgate to the attractive, circular 18th century Market Cross building, which in the past has been used as a town hall, a fire station and a "lock-up". By turning right into the main shopping street you will arrive back at the Scar Top, where you started your walk.