

Barnard Castle 06 September 2015



Today we have two coaches for our trip to Teesdale. The Blackburn and Burnley coaches will rendezvous at Burton-in-Kendal Services and travel together via Brough to Barnard Castle.

We had our coach meeting on Thursday; it was productive with interesting suggestions for destinations and how things are run. Full details will be handed out once we're on our way.

Finally, due to lack of interest the extra trip to Church Stretton has had to be cancelled.

Today's Walks

A Walk Robert Eccles Off First 11 miles Strenuous

Starting on the A66 where the Pennine Way comes in from Tan Hill we head north towards Balderdale. At Race Yate Rigg we turn east to Ladyfold Rigg; during this section there is an optional yomp to the West Hare Crag trig point. Initially skirting the Danger Area we eventually go through it to Loups's Hill to emerge safely at Scur Beck. North East across the moor brings us to another trig point and then the Butter Stone. At Naby we turn south and cross fields and gills to pick up the disused railway that gets us into Deepdale. Now we follow the woodland beck down to its aqueduct and Barnard Castle.

Overall, a mixture of moors, valleys and woodland with just 300m of ascent over the whole walk.

B Walk Michael Counter Off Second 9 miles Moderate

We alight the coach in Barnard Castle and follow the Teesdale Way to Abbey Bridge where we cross over the River Tees and follow the Way along the far bank. Our route now takes us to Meeting of the Waters and the Dairy Bridge and Mortham Tower, the most southerly of the border pele towers.

We cross back over the Tees at Whorlton Bridge, originally a toll bridge and then follow the rivers northern bank over Whorlton Bank to Mains House and then field paths to Demesnes. We emerge onto the road opposite the Bowes Museum, a purpose build museum that houses a large collection of treasures.

C Walk Sue Baxendale Off Second 8 miles Moderate

From the coach park we walk back through the town to the bridge over the river and then take the river path passing a little piece of Accrington on the way. We then take the path up through the wood to follow the path along the field edges passing East Holme House and West Holme House. Dropping back down through the woods to cross the River Tees and Balder to climb up to the village of Cotherstone. From here it is minor roads and tracks down Mire Lane to Copper House. We then follow the Teesdale Way back to Deep dale Aqueduct to recross the river and the final climb back into Barnard Castle.

Although we follow the Teesdale Way this is not a riverside walk and there are not many views of the river. The paths and stiles are in good condition but paths narrow in places in the woods so care needed. A few ups and downs to cross streams but nothing too strenuous.

D Walk Paul Brown Off Second 5 miles Fairly Easy

This is a walk with a history theme, stopping at a number of places in Barnard Castle town and the local area which have interesting historical connections. We start at the coach park, walk from there to the River Tees for a view of the castle, then on to the castle and County Bridge. From here we walk to Thorngate, cross the river by footbridge, follow riverside and field paths to Lendings, then walk along a lane to Egglestone Abbey.

After crossing the river again at Abbey Bridge we follow woodland and field paths to Demesnes, coming out on the road by the Bowes Museum. From here it's a pleasant walk back into the town, with still more to see before returning to the coaches.

Pick-Up Times and The Return Journey

Today we have just one pick-up point:

18:00 Barnard Castle Galgate Car Park Walks: B, C, D

Any additional stops on the return journey are at the discretion of our drivers and couriers but need to take into account everyone's desire to get home quickly.

Our Next Trips

Today we will be taking bookings for Hawkshead (04 October), Niddersale (01 November) and Windermere (06 December). Ticket cost is the usual £13:00 / £6:50. After today, or to book beyond October, then contact Robert by email at bookings@coach-rambles.org.uk, telephone on 07795 250502 / 01282 798145 or on-line at www.coach.rambles.org.uk/book.