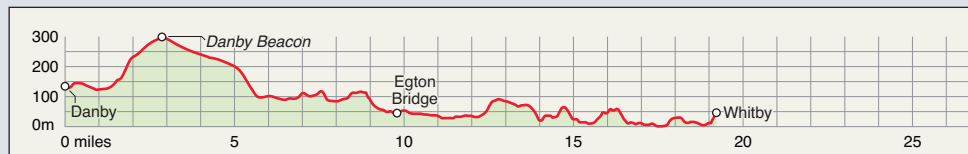


PRACTICAL INFORMATION



● **Terrain** Mainly well-maintained paths over grass, rough-paved packhorse routes, and farm tracks.

● **Difficulty** Moderate

● **Directions & GPS*** 018.pdf, 018.gpx, 018.kml at <https://trailblazer-guides.com/press>

* See p10-11 for more information on downloads

ROUTE OVERVIEW

19.3 miles (31.1km)

Although there is a fair bit of up and down on this walk, the views more than make up for the effort involved. The Esk Valley Railway (eskvalleyrailway.co.uk) shadows the route, meaning you could access the start at Danby by train from Whitby, or choose other start and end points along the way.

Danby to Egton Bridge

9.9 miles (16km)

● **Time** 4hrs 30mins actual walking time

● **Total ascent** 610m/2001ft

● **Map** OS Explorer OL27 *North York Moors Eastern Area*

The route follows the Esk Valley Walk throughout, its roundels depicting a black salmon against a yellow arrow, and it is reasonably well signposted. Shortly after Danby, the route climbs steeply out of the valley onto the moors, reaching Danby Beacon in **2.7 miles**, before descending gently to Lealholm (**2.7 miles**) then running close to the River Esk, reaching Egton Bridge in a further **4.5 miles**.

Egton Bridge to Whitby

9.4 miles (15.1km)

● **Time** 4hrs 15 mins actual walking time

● **Total ascent** 218m/715ft

● **Map** OS Explorer OL27 *North York Moors Eastern Area*

Today's walk is gentle until the very end, following the river via Sleights (**5.2 miles**) and Ruswarp (**2.1 miles**), reaching the centre of Whitby in **1.6 miles**, before the climb up 199 steps to Whitby Abbey, reached after a further **0.5 mile**.

Day walk options

The Esk Valley Railway shadows this route, meaning you can start and end at several different points along the way (eskvalleyrailway.co.uk).

● **By public transport** The Esk Valley Railway connects Middlesbrough and Whitby. Along the course of this walk there are stops at Danby, Lealholm, Glaisdale, Egton, Grosmont, Sleights & Ruswarp.



Where to eat or stay along the way

● **Danby** Stay at the *Duke of Wellington* (☎ 01287-660351, dukeofwellingtondanby.co.uk, 2 West Ln), a cosy village pub.

● **Egton Bridge** Stay at *The Postgate* (☎ 01947-895241, postgateinn.com; food from 6pm) a friendly country inn and restaurant with hearty food.

● **Whitby** Stay at *The Belfry* (☎ 01947-600860, thebelfrywhitby.co.uk, 2 Church Sq) a boutique family-run B&B with great Yorkshire breakfasts. Eat fine fish and chips at family-run *Hadley's* (☎ 01947-604153, hadleysfishandchips.co.uk; Sun-Thur 11am-7.30pm, Fri & Sat 11am-8.30pm) at 11 Bridge St.



PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS

● **Views** all the way to the coast from Danby Beacon and from atmospheric Whitby Abbey.

● Attend Mass (Sun 9.30am) at **St Hedda's, Egton Bridge** (middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk/parishes/st-hedda-egton-bridge) with its stained-glass window portraying Blessed Nicholas Postgate and collection of mementoes of the man.

● Visit **St Mary's church, Whitby** (achurchnearyou.com/church/19387; 11am-3.30pm, Abbey Plain) with its cross telling the story of Caedmon, the first English poet, and **Whitby Abbey** (english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/whitby-abbey, Apr-Sept 10am-6pm, Oct-Nov 10am-5pm) to learn about St Hilda and the legend of the headless stone snakes.

St Hilda's feast day: 17 November (Roman Catholic church), 19 November (C of E).

*Nicholas Postgate Rally: First Sunday in July, venue Egton Bridge (2021),
Ugborough (2022) and alternating from there.*

			Walk 18 Danby to Whitby
Distance from start	Distance from last direction	OS references	Direction
0	0	NZ 70783 08462	Beginning at Danby station, turn right onto Dale End and cross the bridge over the railway line, then over the River Esk.
330yds/300m	330yds/300m	NZ 70751 08189	Just after the first house on the left, turn left off lane onto footpath. There is no Esk Valley Walk sign (a black salmon on a yellow arrow) at this point, but they do appear fairly regularly throughout the walk.
440yds/400m	110yds/100m	NZ 70776 08112	Reach Easton Ln and bear slight left to follow it along the valley, the river to your left.
0.75mile/1.2km	880yds/800m	NZ 71433 07907	Turn left off lane onto footpath, shortly after Kadeldands House, heading over the valley floor.
0.8mile/1.3km	110yds/100m	NZ 71543 08082	CAUTION Cross railway and continue straight on.
1mile/1.6km	330yds/300m		Continue straight on over stream to reach Yorkshire Moors Centre.
1.1mile/1.7km	110yds/100m	NZ 71716 08341	Reach lane and turn right onto it.
1.2miles/2km	330yds/300m	NZ 71918 08179	Shortly after the passing the Yorkshire Moors Centre car park, take footpath leaving lane to the left, over field. Pass through Park House farmyard and follow farm track to lane.
1.6miles/2.6km	660yds/600m		Reach lane and continue straight on.
1.7miles/2.7km	110yds/100m	NZ 72550 08007	Turn left off lane onto footpath, crossing the area marked as Oakley Side on OS maps.
2miles/3.2km	550yds/500m	NZ 72650 08491	Reach lane at junction and take option bearing slightly right uphill onto moors.
2.2miles/3.5km	330yds/300m	NZ 72604 08755	Turn right off lane onto track over moors.
2.8miles/4.6km	0.7mile/1.1km	NZ 73643 09243	Reach Danby Beacon and continue past it on track bearing slightly right.

4.5miles/7.3km	1.7miles/2.7km	NZ 76212 09163	At Y junction of tracks take right hand option, heading downhill towards Lealholm
5.1miles/8.2km	990yds/900m	NZ 76591 08252	Turn right into lane and continue downhill to Lealholmside.
5.3miles/8.5km	330yds/300m	NZ 76634 08079	At Y junction of lanes in Lealholmside, take right hand option into Lealholm.
5.5miles/8.9km	440yds/400m		Reach Lealholm station and continue straight on.
5.6miles/9.1km	220yds/200m	NZ 76323 07615	Just after passing the primary school, turn left off lane onto footpath.
6.3miles/10.2km	0.7mile/1.1km		At Underpark Farm bear right then left through yard.
6.7miles/10.6km	440yds/400m	NZ 77543 06958	At T junction of paths alongside railway line, turn right.
6.8miles/10.9km	330yds/300m	NZ 77655 06709	Bear right to cross River Esk either via footbridge or ford and follow track which becomes a lane.
7miles/11.3km	440yds/400m	NZ 77579 06333	At Thorneywaite, turn left off lane onto footpath between houses and pass through woods.
7.6miles/12.2km	990yds/900m	NZ 77679 05533	Where footpath joins a lane called Arncliffe View on the outskirts of Glaisdale, bear left to follow it, then left again towards Carr End.
8miles/12.9km	770yds/700m	NZ 78218 05449	At T junction of lanes in Carr End, cross over Arncliffe Terrace then bear slight left to pick up footpath between houses, that then runs through woods.
9miles/14.5km	1mile/1.6km	NZ 79301 04642	Where footpath meets Delves Ln, bear left to follow it towards Egton Bridge and continue over the river.
9.9miles/16km	0.9mile/1.5km	NZ 80442 05301	Reach St Hedda's Church, with Nicholas Postgate memorial, to your left. <i>If you plan to stay at The Nicholas Postgate Inn overnight, or for trains at Egton Bridge station, continue straight on.</i> To continue the walk, turn right off lane onto track (Barnard's Rd) opposite church, passing Egton Manor. Continue along under the railway line, following the track as it runs close to the River Esk and meets a lane.

11.3miles/18.3km	1.5miles/2.4km	NZ 82369 05533	Turn left off track onto lane, close to Priory Farm.
11.4miles/18.4km	110yds/100m	NZ 82362 05610	At Y junction of lanes, take the right-hand option, passing to the right of Priory Farm.
11.7miles/18.8km	440yds/400m	NZ 82743 05815	Where lane turns sharp left, continue straight on along track.
12.8miles/20.6km	1.1miles/1.8km	NZ 83178 06409	At Y junction of tracks just after Grosmont Farm, take the right-hand option.
14.2miles/22.9km	1.4miles/2.3km	NZ 83344 06812	Shortly after Fotherley's Farm, at T junction of tracks in a belt of trees, turn right. You now have a field to your left and trees to your right.
14.6miles/23.5km	660yds/600m		At T junction of tracks, turn right.
15miles/24.2km	770yds/700m	NZ 86674 08217	At Sleights, where track meets A169 just north of Sleights bridge, cross over to continue straight on along lane called Briggswath.
15.2miles/24.5km	330yds/300m	NZ 86840 08194	Turn right to cross river over footbridge, then after crossing railway at Sleights station, bear slightly right to follow Lowdale Ln.
15.4miles/24.8km	330yds/300m	NZ 86949 07892	Turn left off lane onto footpath and cross Iburndale Beck. After the cricket pavilion continue straight ahead on Echo Hill, passing Little Acres. Follow signs for a right turn, initially past houses then continuing along field boundaries towards Hagg House.
16.3miles/26.2km	0.9miles/1.4km	NZ 88106 08103	At Hagg House, turn left to skirt farmyard and walk downhill towards railway line.
16.5miles/26.6km	440yds/400m	NZ 88293 08558	CAUTION cross railway at unattended crossing. After crossing railway turn right and walk along towards Ruswarp. The track crosses the line again at a level crossing, then continue along lane to B1416 Sneaton Ln.
16.9miles/27.2km	660yds/600m	NZ 88742 08842	Where track joins B1416, bear left to follow it towards the bridge over the River Esk into Ruswarp.
17.3miles/27.8km	660yds/600m	NZ 89044 09061	Cross the river and the railway line, then continue straight on past Ruswarp station.

17.4miles/28km	220yds/200m	NZ 88912 09314	Take footpath on your right, initially a narrow alley running between houses. Follow it as it curves away from the railway line and then past allotments to an old railway track. There is an Esk valley sign at this point.
17.9miles/28.9km	0.6mile/1km	NZ 89434 09903	Descend steps to cross old railway track and climb steps on other side to continue straight on across playing fields and past a school to the A171.
18.2miles/29.3km	440yds/400m	NZ 89732 10183	Reach A171 and turn right, crossing over.
18.3miles/29.4km	110yds/100m	NZ 89807 10167	Turn left off road onto footpath just before bridge, which runs up to the junction of Gledhill Drive and Waterstead Ln.
18.6miles/29.8km	440yds/400m	NZ 89852 10330	Where footpath joins Windsor Terrace, continue straight on past Whitby station to the junction.
18.8miles/30.3km	550yds/500m	NZ 89782 10853	At the junction turn right and at the roundabout, continue straight on into New Quay Rd running alongside the harbour.
18.8miles/30.3km	330yds/300m	NZ 89913 11039	Bear right to cross Whitby Bridge.
18.9miles/30.4km	110yds/100m	NZ 90032 11106	Turn left into Church St.
19miles/30.6km	220yds/200m	NZ 90037 11290	Bear right to take steps up to St Mary's Church and Whitby Abbey.
19.3miles/31.1km	550yds/500m	NZ 90233 11278	Reach Whitby Abbey.