



18 CUMBRIA MALLERSTANG EDGE & HIGH SEAT

▶ Distance: 9 miles/14.6km ▶ Time: 5-7 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



SEE
FEATURE
ON PAGE 18



Looking south along Mallerstang Edge towards Whernside and Ingleborough.

PHOTO: DAVID MARSH



CHOSEN BY...

DAVID MARSH

Mallerstang valley is a little-visited jewel in Cumbria's walking crown. It's a mix of tranquil, riverside pastureland surrounded by high, empty fells. Many of the visitors that do make it here turn their attentions to Wild Boar Fell on the west side of the valley. However, on the east side is the dramatic escarpment of Mallerstang Edge, above which is High Seat, the fourth-highest peak in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This route features an exhilarating, pathless assault on Mallerstang Edge from the hamlet of Outhgill, followed by a more sedate descent along the edge itself. After visiting

Hellgill Force, the return is on a scenic section of Lady Anne's Way passing the Water Cut Sculpture which provides a striking foreground to Mallerstang's bucolic backdrop.

1 Start

Walk 20m back towards The Thrang and take track down to the river. Cross bridge and turn R, crossing the field, to climb a wall stile. Follow the river to a gate. Pass through farmyard to turn R on track, then immediately L, on grass, to another wall stile. Cross the field to meet the river once more and follow it into the beech wood. Emerging, turn R over the bridge then L, through gate, and cross field to Outhgill's church.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Limited parking in lay-by on E side of B6259 just S of The Thrang, postcode CA17 4JX, grid ref NY783005

Is it for me? Some excellent tracks and paths but ascent of Mallerstang Edge is pathless and very steep. Good visibility essential in order to see the navigation cairn on Mallerstang Edge. Boggy in parts

Stiles 3

PLANNING

Nearest town

Kirkby Stephen

Refreshments None on route, nearest K. Stephen

Public toilets None on route, nearest K. Stephen

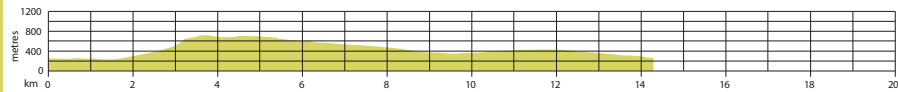
Public transport None

Maps OS Explorer OL19; Landranger 91 & 98

2 ¾ mile/1.4km
Go through narrow kissing gate and pass through the



GRADIENT PROFILE



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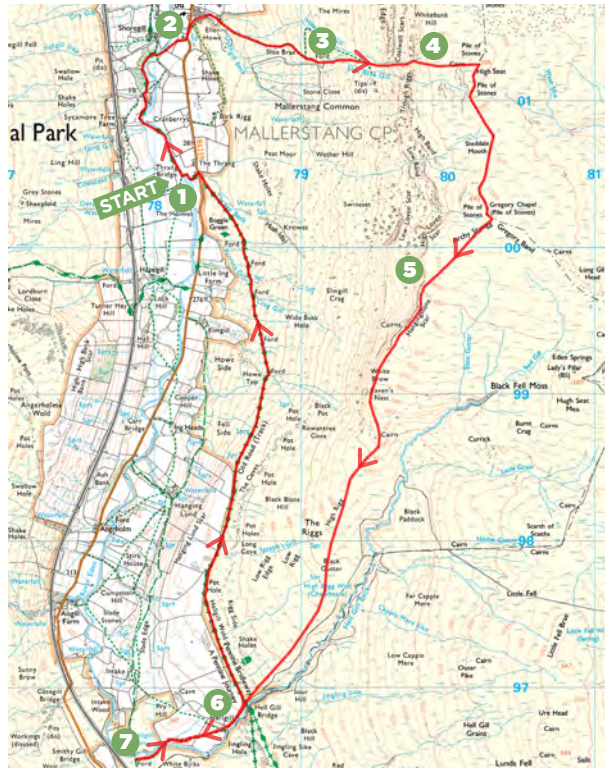
► OS Explorer map OL19 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

churchyard to road. Turn L then R at phone box. Follow lane uphill to its end. Pass through gate and bear R to cross beck. Follow faint path uphill, passing standalone stile, gradually approaching wall. Immediately after wall turns abruptly south, descend to ford Sloe Brae Gill.

3 1½ miles/2.6km
Turn L and climb S bank of Sloe Brae Gill. If the faint path is lost, aim for the grassy rampart directly beneath the prominent navigation cairn atop Mallerstang Edge. The Edge is best ascended on R side of this grassy rampart, crossing to L higher up. After a reedy ledge, easiest route is beside the rocky gully on the L which delivers you to the cairn.

4 2 miles/3.3km
Walk due E from the cairn, between peat hags and boulders, and climb to the flat summit of High Seat using another faint grassy path. From the summit, head S on clear, grassy path, dropping to boggy col, then up to the cairn and shelter of Gregory Chapel. Take the path heading SW to the edge of the escarpment.

5 3½ miles/5.5km
Follow the Edge SW, passing another navigation cairn, to where it loses definition at 570m, again marked by a cairn. From there follow quad bike path S to above Hell Gill where it swings SW to deliver



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you to the small plantation at Hell Gill Bridge.

6 5½ miles/8.8km
Detour to Hellgill Force by turning L, as if to cross Hell Gill Bridge, then turning R through gate. Follow path downhill, passing large house. From there follow track as it descends to the falls.

7 6 miles/9.8km
Retrace steps to Hell Gill Bridge. After passing through

the gate follow the stony bridleway that heads NW. Follow this past the Water Cut sculpture to where it meets the B6259, a few metres south of the lay-by. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING