



27 NORTH YORKSHIRE THE YORKSHIRE THREE PEAKS

▶ Distance: 24¼ miles/39km ▶ Time: 10 hours ▶ Grade: Extreme



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The Ribbleshead Viaduct, between Whenside and Ingleborough.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY

THE ORIGINAL THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE...



CHOSEN BY...
PHILIP THOMAS

Forget racing between the nations' highest peaks, this is the original Three Peaks Challenge, initiated in 1887 by two local teachers. The aim is to climb Pen-y-ghent, Whenside and Ingleborough in under 12 hours. At 736m, Whenside is the trio's loftiest peak, pipping Ingleborough

for the title of Yorkshire's highest mountain. Popular with charity walkers, the challenge is a test of endurance, involving over 24 miles of ups and downs, cross-dale yomps and a net ascent of over 5000 feet. Best attempted in spring and summer (when weather and daylight hours are favourable), it's a gruelling but hugely rewarding walk.

Pen-y-Ghent as seen from Sulber Nick.

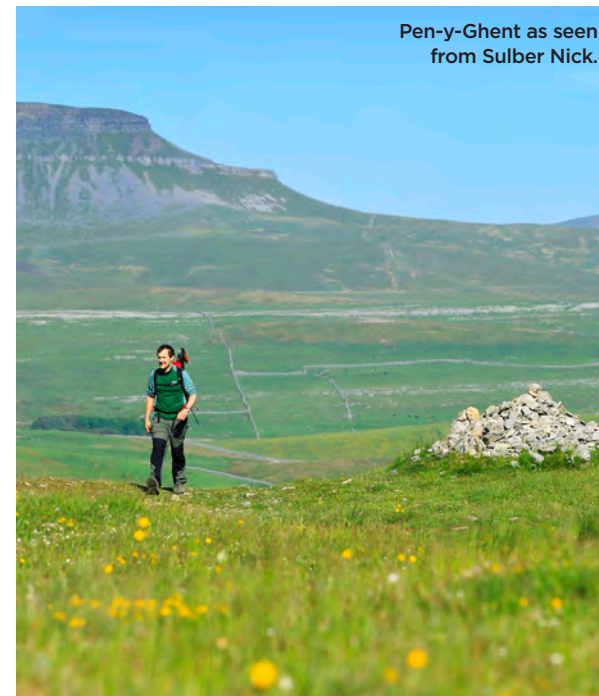


PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



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► OS Explorer map OL2 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

1 Start
Turn R out of car park along pavement. Follow road for ½-mile, which bends L and cross road to take second L down lane after church. Follow lane for ½-mile and just before Brackenbottom Farm, turn L up path signposted 'Pen-y-Ghent Summit 1¼-miles'. Go through gate ahead, then follow path uphill along LH wall. Continue through gates and up steps to junction with Pennine Way (PW) under the 'nose' of Pen-y-ghent. Turn L following trail twisting up and around crags. After final scramble, pick up flagstone path to summit trig point and shelter of Pen y ghent.

2 2¼ miles/4.4km
Turn L over squeeze stile/gate and follow PW descending north across escarpment. Swing L with trail at signpost and follow it downhill. At crosstrack/signpost after 1 mile, go straight on up gravel path signed 'Yorkshire Three Peaks' (Y3P). Follow it northwest over Whitber Hill, down over footbridge crossing Sell Gill Beck, then L after kissing gate to junction. Turn R and rejoin signed PW north. After ¾-mile, turn L through kissing gate, signed Y3P. Follow gravel path along LH wall and through squeeze stile, then

follow grassy path northwest merging with farm track. At junction after gate, follow waymarked grassy footpath northwest over stream ahead. Join gravel track ahead (Ribble Way, signed 'Ribblehead 3 miles') and cross Brow Gill Beck at God's Bridge. Follow track to cross wooden footbridge just east of Nether Lodge. Go through gate ahead and turn L to wide, gravel farm track.

3 7¼ miles/12.5km
Turn R (waymarked 'Ribblehead 2½ miles') and follow track west over tross bridge, curving up into farmyard of Lodge Hall. Follow paved access track ahead up to main road (B6479). Turn R and carefully follow road for 1 mile to T-junction with Blea Moor Road (B6255) at Ribblesdale.

4 10 miles/16.1km
Cross B6255 and follow waymarked path ahead. Join wider track R towards viaduct. As it bends L under viaduct, follow footpath straight on parallel with railway (signed 'Wherside 4½ miles, which joins Dales High Way (DHW) bridleway ahead. After passing Blea Moor signal box and fording streams, follow trail L over railway bridge. After

½ mile, leave DHW, turning L over stile on path signposted 'Wherside'. Path climbs beside wall, eventually trending L and steepening to reach ridgeline of Wherside. Turn L to follow crest of the fell south along wall to the summit shelter/trig point.

5 14½ miles/23km
Descend south along ridge for ¾ mile and turn L down a clear but initially steep and twisting path towards a large barn down in the dale. Pass through a few gates to reach junction by barn. Turn R for 'Hill Inn 1¼ miles', then shortly L past barns to pick up paved lane ahead. Follow lane for about 1 mile, past Philpin Farm (seasonal snack bar) to Low Sleights Road (B6255) in Chapel-le-Dale.

6 17 miles/27.4km
Turn L up road, passing Old Hill Inn, and after 200 yards, turn R through gate, signposted 'Ingleborough'. The gravel footpath bends south, through gates, then curves L between Southerscales Scars and through wall. Follow flagstone and duckboard path south to wall corner at foot of Ingleborough, then zigzag steeply up rocky path to crest of hill. Turn R through gate and follow path

southwest along ridgeline and past stone-marked junction to summit plateau of Ingleborough.

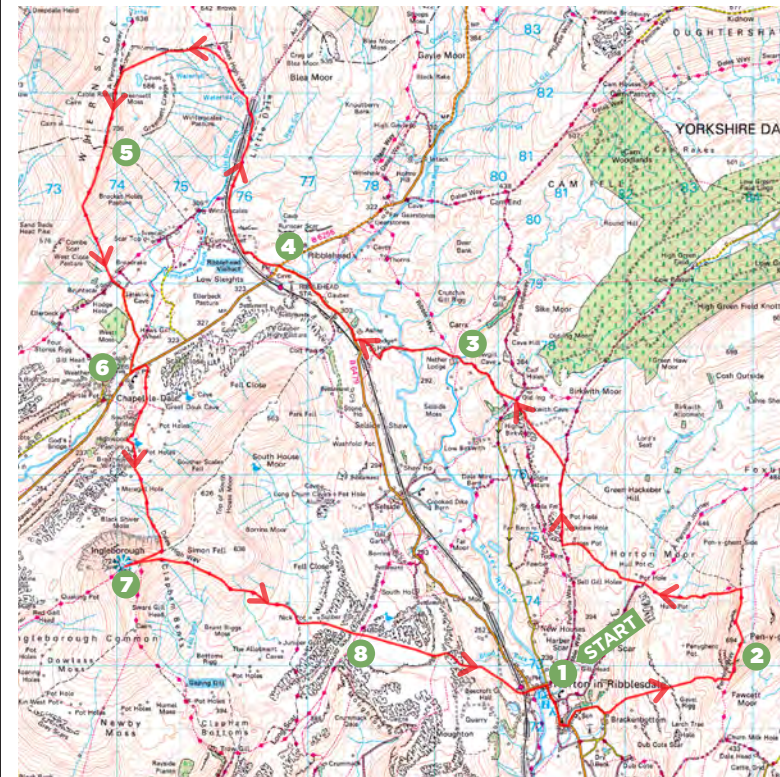
7 19¼ miles/31.7 miles
Retrace steps off summit to stone-marked junction and fork R following clear path downhill and east towards Horton in Ribblesdale. Descend through wall and past ruined shooting hut. At fork, keep L along wall, then through limestone pavement to signpost/crosstrack.

8 22¼ miles/35.8km
Follow path ahead through gully of Sulber Nick, signed 'Horton in Ribblesdale 2 miles'. Descend through walls and meadows, twisting down to cross farm track and follow waymarked path ahead to Ribblesdale Station. Cross railway and continue down road to T-junction on corner of main road (B6479). Go straight on and before road bridge, turn R over footbridge into car park. **CW**



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY

Wherside's summit ridge. Two down, one to go...



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PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Car park in Horton in Ribblesdale, grid ref SD807725, BD24 OHG
Is it for me? Good stamina is essential for this full-on walk, involving steep up and downs, twists and turns over rough terrain. It mostly follows clear footpaths/bridleways, plus unavoidable road sections
Stiles 4

PLANNING

Nearest town Settle
Refreshments The Golden Lion and The Crown, Horton in Ribblesdale; The Station Inn, Ribblesdale; Philpin Farm and the Old Hill Inn, Chapel-le-Dale
Public transport Trains to start from Leeds/Carlisle www.northernrailway.co.uk
Maps OS Explorer OL2; Landranger 98

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

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