

YORKSHIRE DALES

BOLTON ABBEY – riverside walk to the Priory



Time
1 hour



Distance
2 miles (3.2km)



Terrain
Paths & tracks

DESCRIPTION

A family favourite, Bolton Abbey is a wonderful place. An easy, circular walk along the banks of the river Wharfe taking in some stunning scenery. The setting provides opportunity to relax and take time out or have a family picnic beside the river. The kids will enjoy playing on the riverside beach and, depending on river levels, the challenge of crossing the river by the stepping stones near the footbridge. It is also worth taking time to explore the ruins of the ancient priory built in the 12th /13th century. The walk is only 2 miles long, however, you can easily enjoy an afternoon or an entire day on the Bolton Abbey Estate.



River Wharfe stepping stones Image by Walking Families Ltd

Other walks you may wish to try on the Bolton Abbey Estate:

The Strid walks.

These range in length from ½ mile (1 km) to 3 miles (4.8km).

All are essentially “there and back” walks on broad paths.

They follow well marked riverside trails.

The admission leaflet received when entering the Bolton Abbey Estate provides outline details.

The walks start at the Cavendish Pavillion.

To ensure a close view of the Strid do not cross the river, follow the path ahead with the river to your right.

GETTING THERE

Bolton Abbey is found on the A6160 just north of its junction with the A59 between Harrogate and Skipton.

Sat Nav – Latitude Longitude
N 53.992786
W 1.884045

START

Cavendish Pavillion,
next to Sandholme car park

INFORMATION

Parking

Sandholme car park £6 per car

Grid Ref

SE 077552

Toilets

Beside Cavendish Pavillion

Refreshments

Cavendish Pavillion

Pushchairs

Suitable for pushchairs, wider wheelbase pushchairs may need to pass through the ford. The route guide indicates the pushchair route.

Dogs

Welcome on leads

OS Map

Explorer OL2
Yorkshire Dales
Southern & Western areas

ROUTE DETAILS

1. From the Cavendish pavillion, cross the footbridge and immediately turn right on a descending path to pass through a gate giving on to a wide path.
 2. The path reaches a wall with a stile and a gate, pass through and turn left. Pass a ford on your right, continue ahead across a lane to a small footbridge which crosses the stream and then rejoins the lane.
 3. The path joins the lane which rises, after 30 meters leave the lane to the right by taking the signposted path. Follow the shoulder of the hillside, keep to the main path, ignore a branch off to the right just after a bench.
 4. Pass through a gate, the path falls towards the river, bear left to cross the footbridge or the stepping stones. After crossing the bridge pass through a gate and turn immediate right to pass to the right of the Priory.
 5. Near the top of the graveyard pass through a gate and turn right. Then pass through another gate to a path alongside the road. Pass the Cavendish Monument and take the steps down to a field beside the fence.
- Pushchairs will need a lift down the 20 or so steps and the field could be boggy. Alternatively follow the access road to the left, through the estate, to return to the Cavendish Pavillion and car park.
6. Cross the field over a grassy track to a gate, then turn left on to the path which returns you to the Cavendish Pavillion or the car parking area.

