

OUTDOORS

Holmfirth and the Holme and Colne Valleys



Including hidden treasures in Marsden, Meltham, Honley, Golcar, Milnsbridge, Linthwaite and Slaithwaite

Outdoors

VISIT the Holme and Colne Valleys on the edge of the Peak District National Park and be prepared to fall in love with some of the most breathtaking landscapes this country has to offer.

Use this guide to inspire you; and the map to familiarise yourself with the area.

Visitor information and accommodation

Find accommodation, and pick up a variety of linear and circular walking, cycling and riding routes.

Routes can also be downloaded from
www.kirklees.gov.uk/walks and
www.walkridesouthpennines.co.uk

Holmfirth Tourist Information Centre

49-51 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3JP

T: 01484 222444

E: holmfirth.tic@kirklees.gov.uk

Marsden Library and Information Centre

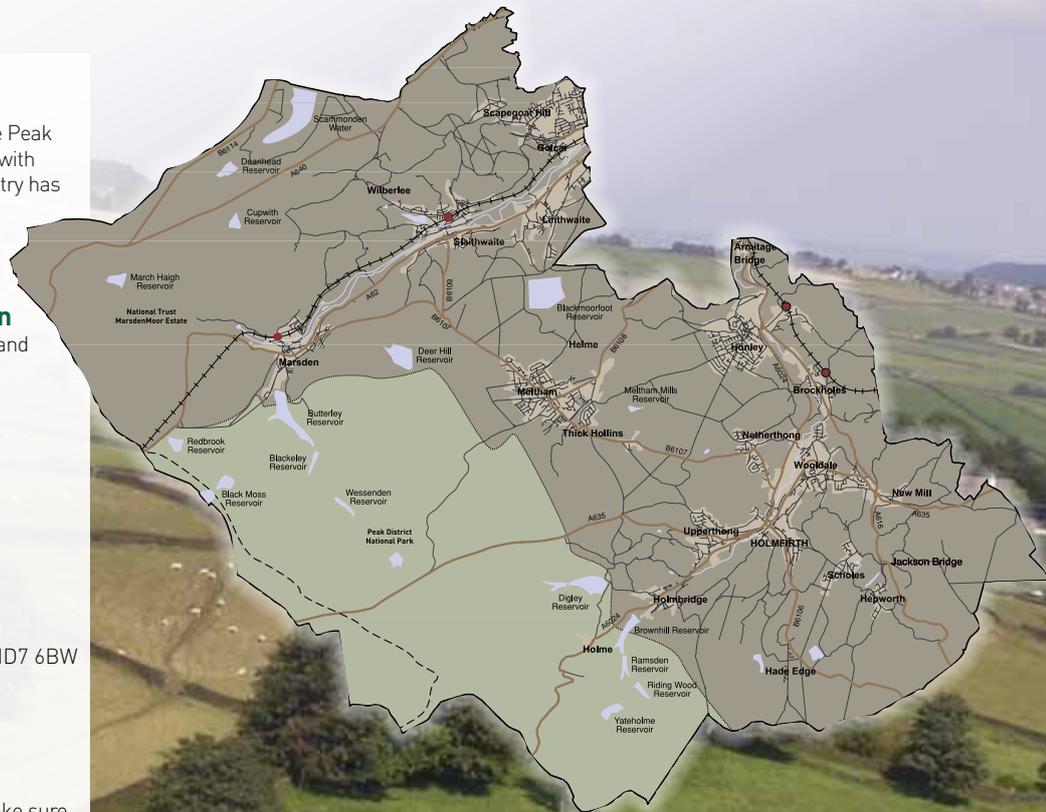
Marsden Mechanics Hall, Peel Street, Marsden, HD7 6BW

T: 01484 222555

E: marsden.visitorinformation@kirklees.gov.uk

Accessibility

You may come across cobbled streets and quaint old buildings; contact attractions before you arrive to make sure you get the most out of your visit.



Welly wanging, wildlife and country pursuits

Discover a new passion

Enjoy stunning views from horseback with an organised trek through **Westwyns Riding School** in Marsden.

Jump onto a different saddle and cycle along the area's many bike-friendly routes including canal towpaths in Slaithwaite, Golcar and Milnsbridge. Join part of **National Cycle Route 68** between Holmfirth and Marsden or take a challenge with a ride up **Holme Moss**, 525m above sea level and with outstanding views.

Track the rare Pennine Finch (Twite), hare, fox, stoat and weasels (to name a few) on Marsden Moor Estate, a designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. On the River Holme, look out for water birds including dippers and kingfishers. Stay until dusk and watch acrobatic bats swooping over the River Colne - one of the few places in the UK where every indigenous species has been seen.

Try something different at **Marsden Moor Estate** where regular events include rock climbing taster days and kite and model aeroplane flying courses. Experienced hanggliders and paragliders can get their own birds-eye view of the estate from Buckstones.

Marsden and **Meltham golf clubs** welcome visiting players on non-competition days. Learn a new skill on a dry stone walling course, organised by the National Trust and Kirklees Council.

Immerse yourself in traditional country pursuits with the **Holme Valley Heavy Horses** at Hinchliffe's Farm, the annual three-day **Harden Moss Sheepdog Trails** and **Honley Agricultural Show**. Or, have a go at becoming a world champion – the recognised welly wanging world championships are held as part of **Upperthong Gala** every summer.



Find out more...

Westwyns Riding School
www.westwynsridingschool.co.uk

National Cycle Network
www.sustrans.org.uk

Marsden Moor Estate
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/marsdenmoor

Marsden & Meltham Golf Clubs
www.marsdengolf.co.uk
www.meltham-golf.co.uk

Holme Valley Heavy Horses
www.hinchliffes.com/horses-experience

Harden Moss Sheepdog Trials
 01484 684222

Honley Show
www.honleyshow.co.uk

Upperthong Gala
www.upperthong.org.uk

Miles of walking trails and footpaths, for all abilities and interests



Walk on the Wild Side

Keen hikers will relish **Marsden Moor Estate**, where 5,600 acres of open land wait to be explored. Climb to Pule Hill for dramatic 360 degree views of the moor, or join a guided heritage walk to discover a roman road, turnpike trails and packhorse crossings. WWII enthusiasts can find the remains of a B17 bomber which crashed on the moor in 1944 above Meltham. Plan a visit using the estate's website which has directions and maps of recommended walking routes and details of organised hikes and other events.

Marsden is a Walkers Are Welcome town. Many routes are available but you could take the 10 mile **Standedge circuit** for a mix of unspoiled moors and urban landscape forever imprinted by the Industrial Revolution, or the **Dry Stone Walling trail** to learn about the history of this artisan craft.

There's plenty of opportunity to test walking stamina with longer routes including the 73-mile challenging **Kirklees Way** and the 13-mile **Colne Valley Circular**.

For a gentler stroll, head to the pretty green valleys around Holmfirth. From Uppertong, take the trail to Wolfstone Heights and rest on the new stone seat commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. From there, enjoy uninterrupted views to Victoria Tower on **Castle Hill**, built for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Explore the rural villages of Holme, Hepworth and Hade Edge, stopping off for lunch at the award-winning **Butcher's Arms** or **The Fleece**. Climb out of Holmbridge and spot the rows of vines of the **Holmfirth Vineyard** where tours and lunch are available. Find a different kind of landscape within the **White Rose Forest** at Honley Woods, or follow the old railway out of **Meltham Greenway** near Folly Dolly Falls.

Explore the historic cobbles of Golcar on the Golcar Ginnel Trail. Pick up a leaflet for this guided walk at Golcar Library or nearby **Colne Valley Museum**.



Main image: Digley Reservoir

Castle Hill and Victoria Tower



Find out more...

Marsden Moor Estate

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/marsdenmoor



Colne Valley Circular walk and Kirklees Way

www.idwa.org.uk

The Butchers Arms

www.thebutchersarmshepworth.co.uk

The Fleece

www.fleeceinnholme.co.uk

Holmfirth Vineyard & Restaurant

www.holmfirthvineyard.com

White Rose Forest

www.whiteroseforest.org.uk

Colne Valley Museum

www.colnevalleymuseum.org.uk

Download walking routes

www.kirklees.gov.uk/walks

www.walkridesouthpennines.co.uk



Canals, streams, rivers and reservoirs

This image: Standedge Tunnel Visitor's Centre

Water, water everywhere

Historically, the canals brought the machinery and riches of the Industrial Revolution to the area. Now, lovingly restored, explore their towpaths in Milnsbridge, Marsden and Slaithwaite on foot and by cycle. Check the websites of **Pennine Waterways** and **Huddersfield Canal Society** for towpaths along the Huddersfield Narrow Canal.

Plan a family day to **Standedge Tunnel and Visitor Centre** and take a boat trip through Britain's highest, longest, deepest canal tunnel and then move on and explore **Tunnel End Reservoir Nature Trail**.

Slaithwaite Spa and Pleasure Gardens was once famous for its healing waters thanks to iron and sulphur springs. Much of the park has been restored; it's a great location for a picnic.

The area is awash with reservoirs, most sitting in their own lush, beautiful valleys. Drop down from Hade Edge to the wooded surrounds of Holme Styles, climb up to Ramsden and Digley and take a path from Holmbridge around Yateholme. The village of Deanhead was demolished to make way for Scammonden Water reservoir but some of the old buildings including the church of St Bartholomew still remain. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir between Meltham and Slaithwaite offers gentle walking on three sides with easy access for pushchairs and wheelchairs. **Yorkshire Water** manages the Valleys' reservoirs and its website gives routes for reservoir walks and fishing opportunities. **West Yorkshire Fly Fishing Services** can organise fishing days out on the Colne and Holme rivers.

Water sports enthusiasts can join members of **Pennine Sailing Club** at Winscar Reservoir above Holmfirth. The club can accommodate experienced sailors and also offers an annual open day for first-timers to give the sport a try. For more water play, contact **Scammonden Water Sailing Club** where you can take a trial before signing up to learn more at the on-site training centre.

Scammonden Water Sailing Club



Marsden Moor



Huddersfield Canal Society

Eastergate bridge



Find out more...

Pennine Waterways

www.penninewaterways.co.uk

Huddersfield Canal Society

www.huddersfieldcanal.com

Standedge Tunnel and Visitor Centre

www.standedge.co.uk

Slaitthwaite Spa and Pleasure Gardens

www.slaitthwaitespa.co.uk

Yorkshire Water

www.yorkshirewater.com/walks-and-leisure

West Yorkshire Fly Fishing Services

www.westyorkshireflyfishing.co.uk

Penning Sailing Club

www.pennine-sc.co.uk

Scammonden Water Sailing Club

www.scammondensailing.com

Main image: Pule Hill

In The Frame

The spectacular landscape has inspired artists for decades.

Celebrated landscape painter **Ashley Jackson** has his studio in Holmfirth. Grab a paintbrush and join Ashley on his beloved moors for one of his paint days, or download his Walk with Ashley guidebook, a gentle guided walk in which he shares his unique vision of Holmfirth.

Capture the unspoiled scenery through a lens on a National Trust Landscape Photography Workshop at historic **Crow Hill**, Marsden or join local expert photographer **Andy Leader** for one of his Peaty Feet Walks around Holmfirth.

Follow the River Colne Sculpture Trail, a three-hour walk between Milnsbridge and Marsden dotted with contemporary artwork; or the **Stanza Stones Trail** between Ilkley and Marsden, which links seven stones carved with poems written by the nationally renowned, and Marsden local, Simon Armitage.

Get involved in some of the fantastic outdoor events, walks and talks running as part of **Holmfirth Arts Festival** in June, or tour the Valleys and meet artists on the annual **HOST Artists' Open Studio Trail** which runs over a weekend each September. Also in September, the **South Pennine Walk and Ride Festival** is more than two weeks packed with activities for two legs, two wheels and horseback.



River Colne Sculpture Trail



Ashley Jackson



Holmfirth Art Week



The information in this guide is believed to be correct at the time of going to press. Kirklees Council cannot be held responsible for any errors.

Find out more...

Ashley Jackson – A Walk with Ashley
www.ashley-jackson.co.uk

Crow Hill Cottages
www.crowhillcottages.co.uk

Andy Leader Photography
www.madeinholmfirth.co.uk

Stanza Stones Trail
www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org

Holmfirth Arts Festival
www.holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk

HOST Arts Open Studio Trail
www.hoststudios.co.uk

South Pennines Walk and Ride Festival
www.walkandridefestival.co.uk