Try a Trail...

Pennine Way NATIONAL TRAIL

NATURAL ENGLAND

1949-2009 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act

Hebden Bridge round

7.5 miles (12 km) – moderate/challenging circular walk

Walking from **Hebden Bridge**

1 The walk starts on the canal side in Hebden Bridge heading towards Todmorden. Follow the canal until you come to 'Callis Community Gardens'.

2 Leave the canal here and cross the river and then the road via the pedestrian crossing. Follow the signs for the Pennine Way, which goes along the main road for a short way before turning left by the postbox onto Underbank Avenue. Follow the Pennine Way up the steep and winding stone paths and tracks.

3 At the large stone wall of an old chapel turn right on the Pennine Way Official Route. This eventually goes up stone steps next to the remains of a long drop toilet.

4 Leave the track following the Pennine Way signs across the fields to the minor road.

5 Crossing the road continue across the fields and then descend along the narrow walled path, cross the track and descend the steps to the packhorse bridge that crosses Colden Water.

6 Cross the bridge and follow the path uphill along the worn stones and keeping left up the wooden steps into a walled grassy lane. Where the path enters a small field go diagonally left across the field and then uphill along a track to Colden Village.

7 Cross the road and follow the path through the village – you can buy sandwiches and drinks at May's Shop which is signposted nearby to this point. Crossing the second road follow the Pennine Way signs climbing onto Heptonstall Moor.

8 At the point where the Pennine Way drops to meet an obvious wooden stile leave the Pennine Way and cross the stile heading towards the back of the barn ahead. At the barn take to lower stile and follow the walled lane till it meets the farm drive and follow this down to the road.

9 Follow the road for a short while, past the car park and then take the track to the left signposted *Hardcastle Crags*. As you descend leave the track on the obvious footpath to the left and then again leave this path down the steep stone steps down to Gibson Mill.

10 Take the riverside footpath from the Mill.

11 At the car park follow the road for a while and then join the parallel roadside footpath.

12 As the path reaches some houses take the steps down to right and then follow the riverside path across the footbridge by a bowling green. Follow the riverside until you cross a packhorse bridge. Turn right down Windsor Street and make your way back through the centre of Hebden Bridge.

Hebden Bridge Round

Start Hebden Bridge, grid ref. SD 991,271

Distance 7.5 miles (12 km)

Height Gain 1604 ft (489 m) with some steep slopes

Terrain A mixture of canal towpath, stone paths and moorland

Time 3.75 hours

Refreshment & public toilets Public toilets, shops and cafes in Hebden Bridge. Mays farm shop in Colden, which sells food and drink. Cafe and toilets at Gibson Mill. Also public toilets in Hardcastle Crag car park.

How to get there Rail and bus services to Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley, Todmorden and Rochdale

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Hebden Bridge has seen great change in recent years. Traditional industries are no longer a major force, but buildings have been stone-cleaned and revitalised, the Rochdale Canal has been restored, and the locality has become a desirable place to live and visit. It became England's first *Walkers are Welcome* town in February 2007

Known as the 'Pennine Centre', Hebden Bridge takes its name from the packhorse bridge over Hebden Water. The town developed in late medieval times as a river-crossing and meeting point of packhorse routes.

Textiles have been important in the Upper Calder Valley for centuries, but it was not until mechanisation and steam power were introduced from the late 18th century that Hebden Bridge began to grow significantly. The arrival of the canal and railway attracted industry to the valley bottoms, but with limited flat land and a growing army of textile workers, dwellings were ingeniously built on the valley sides, giving the town its characteristic 'double-decker' housing.

Rochdale Canal - The completion of the Rochdale Canal in 1804 revolutionised the movement of bulk goods in the area reducing the price of coal by half. This was most important with a greatly increased demand for coal to fuel a growing number of mills. 1880 was one of the busiest years for the Rochdale with goods weighing 686,000 tons being transported. The equivalent to the movement of about 50 boats a day. The completion of the railway in 1840 resulted in a decline in canal traffic and the last loaded barge travelled the whole length of the canal in 1937. It finally closed in 1952. Following initial ideas in 1974 the Rochdale Canal Society was formed and the canal was reopened in July 2002.

Gibson Mill - was built around 1800, one of the first generation mills of the Industrial Revolution. The Mill was driven by a water wheel inside and produced cotton cloth up until 1890. In 1833, 21 workers were employed in the building, each working an average 72 hours per week. Since the Second World War, Gibson Mill has been largely unused, until recently when it opened to the public for the first time in 50 years. A ground-breaking project has renovated the Mill as a model of sustainable development, being run with minimum impact on its environment and it is now used as a facility for visitors and for the local community.

Hebden Bridge route profile

www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninenway