

Rosedale Abbey to Sinnington 8 1/4 miles allow 3 1/2 hrs

Transport M6 or Monday-only Ryedale Community Transport 173 & EY Buses 128

Map 1:25,000 OS Explorer OL26 and OL27 or 1:50,000 OS 94

A varied walk starting off across sheep – dotted fields, then a stretch of moorland, followed by a wooded valley leading down to Sinnington. There are a few short uphill stretches but mainly gently downhill. The walk is along tracks, public footpaths and bridleways with just two short stretches of road walking. There are a few stiles and the path is uneven in places. A good walk for a windy day as the hill of Spaunton Moor gives shelter from westerly winds and the valley down to Sinnington is very sheltered.

1. On alighting from the bus in Rosedale Abbey turn left, back the way you have come, past the Abbey Stores. Almost immediately take the road to the right and shortly turn left along the footpath signposted Dunn Carr Bridge. Go through the metal gate and cross the campsite via the avenue of trees. Continue straight ahead on the campsite road and when it veers to the right carry straight on into the corner of the field where you will find a well hidden footbridge. Cross the bridge, go up the steps then diagonally across the field to a gate.
2. Turn left along the road, passing the golf course. Cross over the Chimney Bank road and go in front of the White Horse Farm Inn. (Not usually open until midday). Follow the track for about 1 mile. There are good views across the valley, waders breed in the fields and greylag geese can often be seen. Martins nest under the eaves of a couple of houses on your right, and in the valley side behind them you will see the two large gouges left by the removal of the incredibly rich, magnetic ironstone deposits which started the Victorian Rosedale iron industry.
3. Go through the gate onto the open moor and before the gate for Hollins Farm bear right then left along the stone wall. (Signposted bridleway). Follow the bridle path for about 2 1/2 miles ignoring paths off to the left and right. The moorland here is mostly bilberry, and later in the year, bracken. The mossy ground is dotted with the yellow flowers of tormentil and white splashes of heath bedstraw with occasional flowers of chickweed wintergreen. In the spring cuckoos call from the broadleaved woodland in the valley bottom. After 1 3/4 miles a plaque on your right marks the site of an Elizabethan glass furnace which has been reconstructed at the Ryedale folk Museum in Hutton – le – Hole. From now on the moor is predominantly heather, which is ablaze with flowers in August. You may see the handsome stonechat and hear his characteristic song. On a warm sunny day many small butterflies and moths fly over the heather and green tiger beetles fly along the path, repeatedly landing in front of you.

4. Join the road from High Askew Farm and continue straight ahead over the cattle grid. There is now a complete change of scenery as the moor gives way to a flower strewn lane overhung by trees. When the lane joins the Cropton – Lastingham road carry straight on and when it bends left at Low Askew again carry straight on. (Signposted Appleton – le – Moors).
5. Cross the bridge and immediately take the footpath on your left into the field. Go along the hedge over two fields. There is a welcome seat at the far end of the second field.
6. Go through the gate into the wood and along the path high above the flat valley floor. In spring the wood is carpeted with daffodils followed by bluebells, stitchwort and red campion. On reaching the field carry on along the edge of the wood.
7. Just before the gate to Appleton Mill turn sharp left along the hedgerow and cross over the bridge. Look out for kingfishers. Skirt the edge of the field between the fence and the old hawthorn hedge. There are often cattle in the field. Head for the signpost and turn right for Sinnington. The wood is a haze of bluebells in early May.
8. Go through the gate and follow the path uphill until it forks, Take the right hand fork downhill. A narrow path going off to the left is a short cut and rather steep , but if you carry straight on you will be rewarded with the sight of the beautiful, whitewashed, Nutholme cottage, birthplace of at least one and possibly both of the Captains Scoresby of Whitby whaling fame. Turn left here. This part of the wood is a mass of wild garlic with its characteristic smell. The path follows the river but is high above it in places. Interesting flowers include wood anemone, early purple orchid and lily of the valley.
9. Go through the handgate into the field, bearing right along the fence, then right through a gate and left along the faint track through the middle of the field. A gate and stile take you back into the wood. Just before the signpost you will pass a – well hidden – limekiln on your right, evidence once again of the past industries of this area. Keep straight on at the signpost and then follow the track keeping alongside the river.
10. Walk on along the road into the village. Sinnington has some interesting buildings and some lovely gardens. There are seats beside the river. The Fox and Hounds Inn and the bus shelter with its still almost graffiti – free seat commemorating the 1951 Festival of Britain mark the end of your walk.

With thanks to Margaret Reynolds

