

DARK PEAK WALKS

40 walks exploring the Peak District gritstone and moorland landscapes

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This guidebook describes 35 circular walking routes in the Dark Peak – the wilder northern area of the Peak District distinguished by its dark gritstone – showcasing the rich natural, geological and historical interest of north Derbyshire and south Yorkshire. Ranging from 6.5km to 22km, the walks vary in terms of difficulty: some involve steep ascents and descents, uneven ground and pathless terrain, and demand a good level of navigational competence. The guide also outlines 5 longer routes (3 linear; 2 circular) of 25-45km for those wishing to explore the area further, including a classic 'skyline' circuit of the Kinder Scout plateau.

Step-by-step route description for the 35 half-day and full-day walks is presented alongside 1:50,000 OS mapping, with the 5 longer route outlines accompanied by 1:100,000 mapping. In addition, the guide presents information about local points of interest, an overview of the geology, history, plants and wildlife of the Dark Peak and a list of grid references for aircraft crash sites from the 1940s and 1950s in the vicinity of the walks.

Icons of the Dark Peak – such as Kinder Scout, Stanage Edge and Mam Tor – are not neglected, however, the focus is on exploring the lesser-known corners of the region. The routes take in striking gritstone edges, distinctive rock formations, open moorland, steep-sided valleys and hidden waterfalls. They can be enjoyed in all seasons, although extra care (and kit) may be required in winter conditions.

Key marketing points

- outlines 5 longer routes (3 linear; 2 circular) of 25 to 45km
- includes Kinder Scout 'skyline' circuit

About the author

Paul Besley is a volunteer Ranger for the Peak District National Park and a member of Woodhead Mountain Rescue, an informative walking guide and writer. He first went walking in the Dark Peak when he was 14 years old and a love of the high moors and gritstone edges was born. Over the following years he has explored the area, walking its moorlands, investigating hidden cloughs, expanding his knowledge and experience of this landscape.

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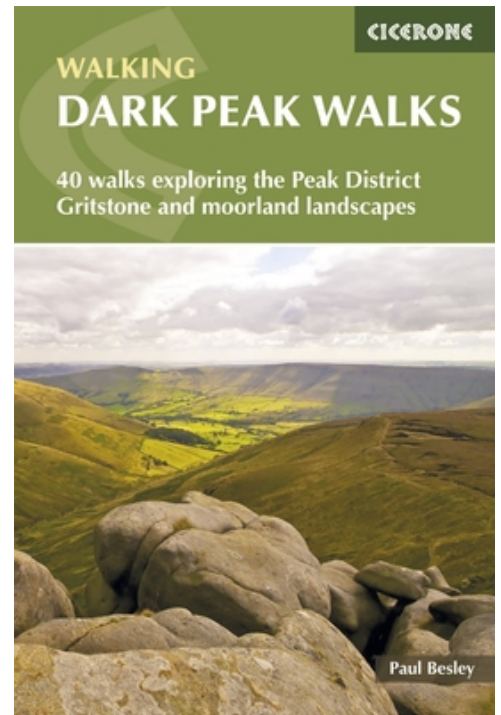
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