



## Walking the Seasons...

A stay at The Star Inn is all about savouring the best ingredients of the season. This selection of walks, most just a short car ride from Harome, also allow you to experience the best of the season in the countryside around The Star (although most of them are lovely at any time of year!)

The walks should be downloaded from the North Yorkshire Moors National Park (NYMNP) website unless stated otherwise. All walks are inclined to have muddy sections following wet periods and an OS map as back-up is always advisable!

### Winter days, from Twixtmas through January and February

Sutton Bank Top Views

Starts: NYMNP Carpark (fee applies)

Distance: 3.5 miles or as far as you are happy to walk along the escarpment top!

An alternative longer circular route including steep sections is also an option. Designed to be an accessible walk with generally good pathways, this route begins at the top of Sutton Bank and runs along the edge of the escarpment towards the famous White Horse on the hillside with Yorkshire Gliding Club on your left. Best saved for clear days when the views from the Bank go literally for miles and miles. (Also Look out for evening 'Dark Skies' events around February time hosted via the NYMNP website.)

### First Signs of Spring: Mid March/early April

Farndale Daffodils

Starts: Low Mill Carpark (fee applies)

Distance: 3.5 miles (or longer, more difficult circular walk)

This can be taken as a gentle riverside stroll from Low Mill to Church Houses returning by the same route, or as a more energetic circular walk, including some steeper climbs up the valley side gaining some great views. The riverside section of the walk is famous for its display of native spring daffodils.

### Spring: April

Riccaldale Bluebells

Starts: Pockley village

Distance: 5 miles approx. – this is not a NYMNP walk and will require an OS map.

York Press 7954179 bluebell-trail walk is assumed.

The naturalised bluebells at Riccaldale near Helmsley are a sight to behold around April. Timing is of the essence to catch them at their best, but the walk in any case is good, as a little more off the hiker's beaten track!

## Mid Spring: April/May

Rievaulx Abbey & Temples

Starts: Abbey Carpark (fee applies)

Distance: 2.5 miles (Longer walks available)

Lovely panoramic views all year around, but woodland spring flowers make this circular walk particularly special and less foliage on the trees facilitates better views. Rievaulx Abbey is an English Heritage property, originally founded in 1132 by the Cistercian order; its ruins are both extensive and atmospheric. The C18th landscape gardens comprising Rievaulx Terrace and Temples, conversely, are covered by the National Trust. Established by the Duncombe family and from nearby Duncombe Park in the C18th, the Terrace was designed to give optimum views over the Abbey. Alternatively, walks along the hillside opposite Rievaulx Abbey facilitate views of the Abbey and glimpses of the Tuscan and Ionic Temples on Rievaulx Terrace.

## Late Spring/Early Summer: May/June

Harome to Nunnington Circular

Starts: Harome village

Distance: 6 miles

Heading over fields to Nunnington, where Nunnington Hall, a National Trust property is located, this route then returns via a lovely riverside stretch of the River Rye. Whilst generally quite level, the walk has stretches prone to very muddy conditions, however, the river wildlife, including an occasional glimpse of a kingfisher or even an otter, should distract from the condition of your footwear.

## Midsummer: June/July

Castle Howard Parkland & Monuments

Starts: Castle Howard (check parking fees)

Distance: 4.9 miles

The route initially follows the undulating main drive (often a busy road) from the stately home itself, over a bridge and skirting the largest lake in a clockwise direction, arriving in the village of Coneysthorpe, where it joins and follows a section of the 'Centenary Way'. Views of the Temple of the Four Winds and Castle Howard itself are at their most perfect on summer 'Brideshead' days, following the route, which eventually rejoins the main drive continuing to the imposing Obelisk and back to your starting point.

## Full Summer: August

Rosedale Mineral Railway

Starts: Carpark at the top of Chimney Bank (limited spaces)

Distance: 1.2 miles (or all the way to The Lion at Blakey)

This mainly level path is best taken on clear days to gain the best views over the valley with the village of Rosedale nestled in the bottom. August is normally the best month for seeing the purple heather moorland at most purple, traveling to the starting point from the direction of Hutton le Hole. It is also the month of the famous Rosedale & District Agricultural, Horticultural & Industrial Society Show in its bucolic setting, usually on the third Saturday of the month.

## Late Summer: August/September

Hutton le Hole and Lastingham

Starts: Carpark at Hutton le Hole (fees apply)

Distance: 4.6 miles

The pretty village of Hutton le Hole with its free-roaming sheep and babbling brook creates the idyllic backdrop to the start of this circular walk on the edge of the pink/purple heather moorland, as the route heads towards Lastingham village. Here you will find St Mary's Church with its ancient crypt, then after a climb, emerge near the farming village of Spaunton around harvest time before returning to Hutton.

## Early Autumn: September/October

Helmsley and Rievaulx

Starts: Carparks at Helmsley (fees apply)

Distance: 7 miles

Following the initial section of the Cleveland Way from its starting point at Helmsley, this walk offers the option to break the journey with a visit to Rievaulx Abbey or to add a loop to take in the views, including the autumn colours of the trees on the hillsides, before returning via the same route towards Helmsley Castle, Walled Garden and the, often, bustling centre of this pretty market town. (Market Day is Friday).

## Early Autumn: October

Yorkshire Arboretum

Starts: Carpark at Yorkshire Arboretum is included in Entry Fee

Distance: Gentle strolls through the Arboretum grounds

The Arboretum has a number of trails allowing you to identify different species of trees, which is great at any time of year but special when the trees are bedecked in their autumn plumage. The facility also has an enclosure with a small group of breeding native red squirrels.

## Mid Autumn: November

Nunnington Circular

Starts: Nunnington village

Distance: 4 miles

Afternoon walking as the days grow shorter gives a better chance of owl sightings, as they hunt in the period prior to dusk. This walk heads along farmland eventually emerging at the top of Cawkley's Bank, where 360° views can go on for miles on clearer autumn days towards the North Yorkshire Moors to the north, Howardian Hills to the south and even the Wolds to the south east.

## Autumn/Early Winter: November/early December

Thornton-le-Dale & Ellerburn

Starts: Thornton-le-Dale Carpark (fee applies)

Distance: 2.2 miles

A nice, gentle stroll, which leaves the centre of Thornton-le-Dale passing the almshouses and the iconic thatched Beck Isle Cottage, continuing to Ellerburn with its ancient church, before returning via a normally quiet road. It's a great walk at all times of the year, but particularly later in the afternoon in the lead-up period to Christmas, with the village's flamboyant illuminations raising the festive spirits.

Then the seasons start all over again...