



Stoney Middleton

Supported by the PDNPA Sustainable Development Fund

Follow these fully illustrated walks and discover what makes Stoney Middleton a place of such individual charm and character

Home to the legends of:

- **Black Harry- the highwayman**
- **Murder at the Moon Inn- as featured on TV's Most Haunted**
- **Lovers Leap- cliff top leap**



For more information on recreation in the Peak District visit: <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/getactive>



For more information on The Geology of Middleton Dale visit: <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/publications/visitorleaflets#walking>

The Purple Walk – 1 hour 15 mins

Starting from the Toll House chip shop on your right hand side:

- 1 **The Old Toll House** built in 1840 to collect tolls from travellers using the new road blasted through the rock. It is now the local chip shop

Follow the road for 100 yards to:

- 2 **Lovers Leap** In 1762 the jilted Hannah Baddaley flung herself off the cliff top, only to be saved by her voluminous skirts, which acted as a parachute. Sadly, she died of natural causes only two years later, still unwed

Continue in the same direction 100 yards past the Lovers Leap Garage. Here you will find a track on the right hand side which follows the foot of the cliffs 170 yards up the path is:

- 3 **Castle Rock** a double buttress in the cliff. Around it is Windy Ledge. The ledge is formed by a layer of limestone being less resistant and therefore weathering away at a quicker rate. There is a network of caves at this level

- 4 **Rock Climbing** these cliffs are without a doubt some of the greatest crags in Britain. Home to some of the most difficult climbs in the world

Continue along this path and up the hill for 200 yards. At the top of the path, at the foot of the cliffs are:

- 5 **Carlswalk Cavern & Fingal's Cave** over 3,000 metres of caves in this deep limestone gorge famous with potholers, second only to Castleton

Return down to the bottom of the track, (opposite Rock Mill Business Park) cross the road and turn right for 3 min:

- 6 **Old Lead Workings** hand dug mines are numerous in The Dale, they were dug for the lead ore which was then smelted and poured into lead pigs

- 7 **Lime Burning Kiln** limestone was piled into the kiln then lit using wood for fuel, it was burned for many days before the residue known as lime was removed

Village History

Stoney Middleton is mentioned in 1086 in the Domesday Book, the village may have been a Roman settlement, perhaps based on lead mining. A nineteenth-century bath house is known locally as **The Roman Baths** built in an attempt to establish a spa resort. A road was blasted through Middleton Dale in 1830, and in 1840 an octagonal **Toll House** was built in the village, now a fish and chip shop. During the **Great Plague**, the 17th-century villagers left food for those self-quarantined in nearby Eyam. Atop a cliff above Middleton Dale lies **Lovers Leap**, from which Hannah Baddaley is said to have jumped in 1762, but miraculously survived. Sadly she died two years later

In The Dale were several quarries, once a major source of employment for the village. **Boot Making** became a major industry, with one factory surviving to the present day. **Lead Mining** also continued, one of the quarries was bombed by two Me110 during World War II, a **Prisoner-Of-War-Camp** was situated at the bottom of the village and housed Italian prisoners (amongst others). The Dale became a major centre for **Rock Climbers**, with one of the hardest climbs in the world established in the 1960s and 1970s

The village was featured in the first episode of **Most Haunted: Midsummer Murders** in which the team investigates the hauntings of **The Moon Inn** and the story of the Scottish peddler murdered in the pub while the landlord turned a blind eye. Perhaps, why the pub remains haunted to this day

Village Facilities

The Moon Inn a "village pub" that welcomes climbers, walkers and cyclists, maintaining the tradition of "muddy boots and dogs welcome". It offers bed and breakfast accommodation and serves snacks and traditional home cooked food daily. The infamous chip shop is located in the **Toll House** and opens daily while the Little India (Indian restaurant) is located in the former **Lovers Leap Cafe** and is open in the evenings. There are two butchers where award winning produce such as Black Pudding, Sausages, Pork Pies and Oat Cakes can be purchased. There is also a hairdressers and the **Lovers Leap Garage** for all types of vehicle service, repairs and MOT testing

Further information about how to travel to Stoney Middleton by public transport - Visit www.traveline.org.uk this website features an excellent journey planner. Alternatively call traveline on 0871 2002233. Calls from landlines cost 10p per minute

Continue until you reach the turning for Eyam; take the bridleway on the left:

- 8 **Black Harry Lane** this was the old road, joining Stoney Middleton to Eyam before the new road was blasted through the rocks. This is the area where Black Harry the infamous highwayman terrified local travellers with his dastardly deeds

Follow the path uphill, passing through the quarry. After 6 min there is a large stone on the left with an information board:

- 9 **Darlington Quarry** here you will find a perfect view into the old workings of a limestone quarry. There are boards here providing information about the rock formations and the quarrying

The trail continues to the top of the hill where you will join the old road from the village and here you will find:

- 10 **Eyam Viewing Point** from here you will have wonderful views across the valley to Eyam, famous for the plague of 1665 and home to its first victim You will also be able to see the **Riley Graves**

The road now descends into the village with more lovely views; here you will walk down:

- 11 **Stoney Middleton High Street** this was the main road through the village before the new road was made by blasting through the rock on what is now known as The Dale, it is said to be the steepest high street in Britain

At the point where you meet the main road you will see:

- 12 **The Moon Inn** location of the "Murder at the Moon" of the Scottish peddler who was murdered whilst the landlord turned a blind eye, before his body was thrown into **Carlswalk Cavern**. (See item 5)The pub is also said to be haunted

Outside the pub across the road is the:

- 13 **Village Cross** dated 1846 it was erected to commemorate the repeal of the Corn Laws

After crossing the road from the **Moon Inn** take the first right, here each year they have the:

- 14 **Well Dressing Festival** an ancient tradition in which locals decorate the wells in celebration of the waters

Here also you will see:

- 15 **St Martin's Church** said to be one of only three churches with an octagonal nave, this one is said to be the oldest. It has a tower dating back to the 15th century

Follow the road up and round the corner 100 yards which will lead you to:

- 16 **The Old Roman Baths** recently restored and still fed by thermal springs which are also decorated during well dressings

Now retrace your steps back past the church, but now turn right up the hill, at the top of this hill on the left hand side is:

- 17 **William Lennon's Boot Factory** a fourth generation family company established in 1899 to service the then thriving local quarrying and lead mining industries with quality work boots. They have manufactured footwear at this factory since 1904 and are now the only remaining heavy duty safety, foundry and agricultural boot manufacturer in the UK

The Green Walk - 1 hour

The walk time will be extended by 15 mins to visit the **Riley Graves** and by any time taken to explore the village and tea rooms. From the chip shop **Toll House** take the road to the left hand side up the hill past **Lennon's Boot Factory** on the right, down the hill at the other side. Take the road to the left past the church, following the road. Go past the **Roman Baths** on the left and the old village graveyard further on the right

Follow the path upward (Jacobs Ladder) until reaching the main road at the top. Turn to the left heading towards Eyam for 20 mins. On reaching the village Riley Lane is the first on the right, take this for **The Riley Graves** (7 mins on the left)

- 18 **The Riley Graves** the graves of John Hancock, who with 2 sons and 4 daughters died of the Plague in August 1666. Here also you will find one of the best views in the Peak District

Retrace your steps then on into the Village of Eyam:

- 19 **The Village of Eyam** famous for its connection with the Great Plague of 1665, Eyam Hall, Museum, Church, Plague Cottages, & Mompesson Well

From the village square take the lane opposite the butcher's shop (The Lydgate), at the end of the lane fork right leading to a path towards Stoney Middleton, after 500 yards you will pass:

- 20 **The Boundary Stone** here during the great plague when residents of Eyam were unable to leave the village, food was left at the stone in exchange for money placed in the holes

Continue down the hill to join a lane, follow this lane down the hill turning right at the bottom back to the **Toll House**

Combined Walks 2 hour 15 Mins

To combine both walks follow the purple walk to the **Roman Baths**, then follow the green walk

Information for walkers

Both walks involve some steep climbs and in places can be a little rugged underfoot. You should be reasonably fit and should have good walking footwear. Children should be closely supervised at all times, especially near open edges and dogs kept on a lead

For winter or wet weather the **purple walk** is more suitable being on hard surfaces. The **green walk** involves some natural paths. For a short stroll take the **purple walk** and simply miss out points 6 – 10

The alternative **red path** passes alongside a disused quarry (take care of unprotected edges) and will shorten purple walk by 20 minutes. Take care on section marked as "**very steep section**" on the map which includes a very steep descent down a grass bank and is physically challenging

For more village heritage visit: <http://www.smhccg.org>