Travel instructions Thorpe – Dovedale car park. Mountain Environment Programme

Walking route: 4 hours min with activity stops and lunch.

Meet at Thorpe car park in the village.
1. Cross Thorpe pastures and over a style onto the track leading up Thorpe cloud
2. Reach the summit, approach with care to flatter area.
3. Follow narrow track down the other side, winding down.
4. Walk along the bottom of the valley Lin Dale following a small stream to reach River Dove.
5. Cross the stepping stones and follow the path to Dovedale car park. Depart.
Drop off point: Thorpe car park DE6 2AW

Collection point: Dovedale car park DE6 2AY

Groups will be met at Thorpe car park by Learning and Discovery leaders; they will then go on an exploration walk and mountain investigation. They will finish by Dovedale car park where the coach will greet them.

Toilets are located at both car parks.

There is little shelter during the walk, therefore all should children and adults must be appropriately dressed, and carry food and drinks.

Walking route description:

The following is a rough guide and activities and stopping locations will vary depending on group’s needs, weather conditions and arrival/departure times. Lunch can be taken at any suitable point but not atop Thorpe Cloud. There is little shelter along the route therefore it is vital the group are dressed appropriately.

- Meet at Thorpe car park for toilets.
- Walk through the gate at the top of the car park into the farmer’s field.
- If necessary with a large group (over 30) split into 2, both groups will be within sight of each other and led by experience staff.
- Introduction to the day and the Peak District National Park and begin activities (refer to teachers notes).
- Walk across Thorpe Pastures towards Thorpe cloud, even in summer these fields can remain wet as they act like a sponge. Sheep are likely to be present.
- Foot of Thorpe Cloud cross over a style.
- With great care, slowly climb to the top following the well walked track. Keep to the paths walking in single file, PDNP leader to walk in front and adults to be spaced amongst group. When nearing the summit instead of walking directly up as there is a steep slope the other side, take a track to the left and walk across to reach the top at a safer flatter point.
- You will follow the track down the opposite side. Do not attempt any other descent.
- Walk diagonally down, stopping to keep group together. The slope can be steep and slippy, so space out and walk slowly in single file. Take extra care when walking past the old lead mine as there is excavated land. Continue to the ‘corner’ and flatter land, near the fence/hedge boundary. Good lunch spot.
• Walk down Lin Dale (no requirement to ‘cross to the other side’) again following the track. You will now be in the bottom of the valley.
• Stop at spring area, negotiate the crossing, either walk up hillside above spring or use stepping stones (shallow stream/bog roughly 2 m wide).
• Follow the stream down into Dovedale and Stepping Stones. No matter what time of year, there will probably be lots of people here, often with the sole intention of crossing via the stepping stones so stop and brief group beforehand.
• Cross over the stepping stones one by one and walk along the path following the river Dove down to Dovedale car park where you will finish your walk, use the toilets and meet the coach.