

Upland limestone country walk...4½ miles

# Malham Tarn, Yorkshire Dales

 THE NATIONAL TRUST

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Discover England's highest freshwater lake, home to a unique community of rare plants and animals. It is an area of outstanding moorland uplands, with flower-rich hay meadows, varied birdlife and marvellous vistas.

**Start:** Malham Tarn car park – grid ref: SD882672 – map: OS Explorer OL2

## How to get here & local facilities

**Bus:** from Skipton: 210/843 (passing close Skipton , w/e only); from Settle: 580/210. Also, National Trust shuttle bus service, Settle-Malham Tarn, Easter-Oct, w/e only

**Foot:** 6ml of the Pennine Way runs through the estate

**Train:** Settle  7ml & Skipton  19ml

**Road:** close to the A65 & Settle; 4ml NW of Malham. Follow signs from Malham

Free parking at Malham Tarn (NT). Cafes, pub, shop and accommodation in Malham. WCs at the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP) car park, approx. 2ml from start of walk. Simple trail maps available from the estate office or YDNP centre in Malham.

**Please note:** National Nature Reserve accessible by permit only, available from the estate office at Waterhouses, or the Field Studies Centre at Malham Tarn.

## Things to look out for...

### Tarn House

Walter Morrison inherited Tarn House and its estates from his father in 1857. Unmarried and immensely rich, Morrison was an extremely generous patron for the local community. He entertained many famous visitors at Tarn House, including Charles Darwin, Charles Kingsley and John Ruskin. It is now owned by the National Trust and leased out to the Field Studies Council.

### Monastic influence

High Trenhouse and Low Trenhouse were originally built as lodges for Fountains Abbey, at a time when much of the land on Malham Moor was owned by the monastic estates. Each lodge housed the tenant, together with two or three shepherds and boys, who looked after the sheep. It was customary to give each boy a lamb when he commenced work and he was allowed to keep its entire offspring; a custom which is still fairly widespread on Dales' farms.



Malham Tarn lies in a natural hollow formed in the boulder clay, overlying a bed of impervious Silurian slate. Surprisingly, the water from the Tarn does not reappear at the base of Malham Cove, but just over two miles downstream at Airehead.

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Marsh Orchid on the National Nature Reserve. Summer is the best time to see the glorious display of flowers on the reserve, which is an internationally important wetland habitat.

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Stop off at the bird hide to see the enchanting courtship display of great crested grebes (pictured here) in early spring. Watch other birds too, like tufted duck, pochard, wigeon, teal, goosander and, occasionally, hen harrier.

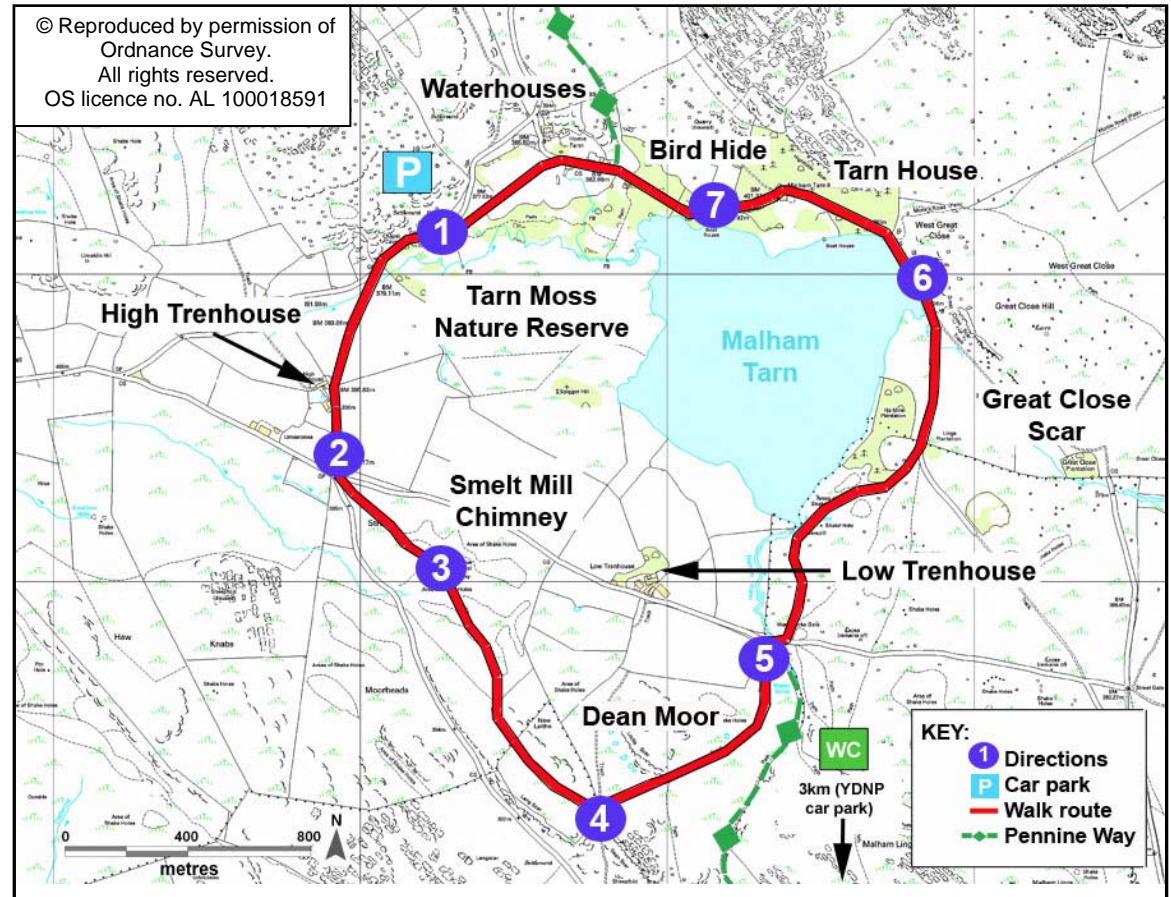
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## Directions

1. Turn right out of the car park and walk along the road, taking the left fork after 300m. Continue along the road and across the next crossroads.
2. Go through the gate on your left and cross the field, heading towards the smelt mill chimney. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, lead, copper and zinc carbonate were mined on Pike Daw and the crushed metal ore was processed at the smelt mill. A long flue led from the mill to this chimney, where the toxic fumes were exhaled.
3. At the chimney, enjoy the views before continuing to the corner of the field in a south-easterly direction. Keeping the wall on your left, walk to the brow of the hill. Go over the stile and continue eastwards until the land begins to descend. You will see a track at the foot of the hill leading to a gate in the wall to your left.
4. Go through the gate and follow the track across Dean Moor, in a north-easterly direction until you reach the road at Water Sinks Gate.
5. Cross the road to join the Pennine Way and head northwards towards Malham Tarn. The Pennine Way continues to the overflow of Malham Tarn before joining the road to Tarn House. Continue along the road with Great Close Scar on your right.
6. Walk along the shore of the Tarn and pass through a gate at the entrance to the woods. Continue around Tarn House and on through the woods.
7. Walk along the road, passing the bird hide on your left. When you see a sign for the Pennine Way, to the right, continue on the road for 50m where an unmade track leaves the road and heads left. When you reach the road, turn right to return to the car park.

## Distance, terrain and accessibility

4½ ml (7km) circular walk across fields and unmade tracks, with a short stretch of road walking. The terrain is reasonably flat, but can be muddy after wet weather. Dogs welcome under close control. Must be kept on leads at certain times of year. Please visit our website for more information: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/malhamtarn](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/malhamtarn)



**Contact us...** 01729 830416 or [malhamtarn@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:malhamtarn@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**National Trust places to visit nearby...** Brimham Rocks, Upper Wharfedale, East Riddlesden Hall, Braithwaite Hall, Fountains Abbev & Studlev Roval

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