



11 Pendle Hill from Barley

the classic circuit

You'll see Pendle from all over the valley, so you may as well climb it. This is the classic circuit: a gentle warm-up past the Ogden reservoirs, then a steady, cairn-marked climb onto the great whaleback summit. On a clear day you can pick out Blackpool Tower, the Lake District and the Yorkshire Three Peaks. Come down the famous stone steps into Barley, where the Pendle Inn and a cosy café wait.



DISTANCE
5 miles (8 km)



TIME
About 2 hours 20 minutes



ASCENT
380 m



DIFFICULTY
Grade 2-C: rugged, with steep climbs; slippery when wet



DOGS
Sheep all year: lead for the whole route; no water on top



START & PARKING
Pay & display car park, Barley (SD 823 403, BB12 9JX)



PUB STOP
The Cabin · Pendle Inn · Barley Mow



The map

INDICATIVE SKETCH



Indicative only: this is not the path. The pins show where the main places named in the route sit (positions from OpenStreetMap), and the dotted line shows the order you reach them. Follow the waymarks, OS Explorer OL41 and the source guide. Base map: OpenTopoMap · © OpenStreetMap contributors.

Getting there

Barley is about 7 miles from the cottage (allow 20 to 25 minutes on narrow lanes). The car park gets busy at weekends and bank holidays; check the current parking charge on arrival.

Map & kit

OS Explorer OL41 Forest of Bowland & Ribblesdale. Waterproof boots and layers, water, snacks and a charged phone.

Directions below follow the source guide step by step.

The route

STEP BY STEP, FROM THE SOURCE GUIDE

- 1 Leave the car park and turn right along the pavement into Barley. Over the bridge at the T-junction, cross the road and pass along the right-hand side of the village hall, down the lane signed 'Barley Green'. Follow the lane left in front of some terraced cottages and on through the gateposts, past the water works, then more steeply up to Lower Ogden Reservoir.
- 2 Keep on the track along the right-hand side of the reservoir and over a cattle grid towards Ogden Clough. Just past the reservoir the Pendle Way joins: you follow it for the rest of the walk. The track climbs, levels into partial tree cover, then descends towards Upper Ogden Reservoir. Cross a stone stile by a metal gate and go the few yards up to the reservoir.
- 3 Follow the yellow arrow along the right-hand side of the reservoir, close to a fence (boggy in places). Go through a wooden kissing gate and continue beside the wall, then leave it and climb gently into Ogden Clough on a wide, grassy path to a wooden gate in a wall, the boundary with the bracken-covered moor.

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- 4 Go through the kissing gate and head diagonally right, climbing a stony path. It climbs slowly, then dips to a small stream. Ahead is some wooden fencing with a very eroded path heading up from it: ignore it and keep on. About thirty yards past the fencing, turn right up an initially sketchy path towards a wooden waymarker just visible on the horizon (a small cairn marks the turn).
- 5 Pass the waymarker and keep the same direction as the path slowly pulls across towards Boar Clough on your right. It climbs gently, marked here and there by small cairns, follows an old watercourse (badly eroded in places) and slowly bends right.
- 6 Continue across Barley Moor following the line of cairns as it swings sharply right. Follow it for about 600 yards, until the path swings left and the summit is visible a couple of hundred yards ahead. The source gives the trig point as 558 m (1,831 ft).

*Look out for...**George Fox's vision*

In 1652 the young preacher George Fox climbed Pendle: 'I was moved of the Lord to go atop of it ... and the Lord let me see atop of the hill in what places he had a great people to be gathered.' His vision is remembered as the beginning of the Quaker movement.



- 7 Continue past the trig point, down the wide path towards the wall ahead. Don't climb the stile: turn right along the near side of the wall. A few yards on, at the Pendle Way stone guide post, turn right directly away from the wall on an initially gravelled path.

*Look out for...**Three Peaks on the skyline*

On a clear day, as you approach the wall, Yorkshire's Three Peaks are all visible straight ahead. From the summit you may even pick out Blackpool Tower and the Lakeland fells.



- 8 The path grows rougher and descends much more steeply down a series of man-made steps. As it eases, it bends left alongside a wall: follow the wall down and through a kissing gate. Head diagonally right (yellow arrow) across the field, on a line just right of a large tree to the right of the farm buildings. Pass the fence around the tree and go through the wooden kissing gate beside a larger gate.
- 9 Descend through the field beside the left-hand wall to another kissing gate. Go through, head diagonally right past the telegraph pole to another kissing gate, then keep ahead on the narrow path to a kissing gate in a wall. Turn left along the gravelled path by the wall and through the next kissing gate.
- 10 Turn immediately right along a track towards a couple of cottages. Just before them, turn left through the wooden kissing gate and continue down the lane. After a few yards take the path straight on past the large tree, ignoring the lane left over the cattle grid and the stile to the right.
- 11 Follow the gravelled path beside the wall on the left, through another kissing gate, on through a field, through another kissing gate and over a wooden footbridge. The path, now between fences, passes under trees and beside a line of conifers and becomes cobbled. At the end, go through the metal kissing gate and turn left down the lane.
- 12 Walk down past the houses with their white-stone-edged gardens and out through the stone gateposts. Where the lane bends left, turn right over the wooden footbridge following the yellow Pendle Way arrows. The path bends uphill to the left behind a large tree, past a wall and a waymarker, over a footbridge, through a kissing gate and along the stream to the road.



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Turn right along the road through the centre of Barley for about a hundred yards. Just before the Pendle Inn, go through the gap in the wall on the left by the children's play area, follow the path over the footbridge and back round to the car park.

Look out for...

The Pendle witches

In 1612 ten people from the farms and hamlets around Pendle were hanged after the Lancaster witch trials. Above Barley, the Pendle Sculpture Trail in Aitken Wood has ten plaques, one for each of them.



Fuel stop

- The Cabin, Barley car park: the classic walkers' refuel stop, with toilets beside it.
- Pendle Inn, Barley: hearty pub classics and Pendle Inn pies; pets welcome.
- Barley Mow, Barley: cosy country pub with a doggy menu.



Countryside Code & safety

- Leave gates as you find them and keep to marked paths unless you are on open access land.
- Don't block gateways or lanes when you park.
- Take your litter home, and bag and bin your dog's poo.
- Dogs: keep them under control and in sight, and on a lead around livestock. On open access land (most of the moorland here) dogs must be on a lead from 1 March to 31 July, and near livestock at any time. If cattle threaten you, let your dog off the lead so you can both get to safety.
- Moorland fires are devastating. No fires or BBQs.

These are real Pennine walks across working farmland and open moor, and the weather can change fast on the tops. Wear waterproof boots, carry a waterproof layer, water and a map (OS Explorer OL21 South Pennines covers Trawden, Wycoller and Boulsworth; OL41 covers Pendle Hill), and tell someone your route. Phone signal can be patchy.

Sources. These directions follow the guides below; check them before you go, as paths, stiles and opening times change.

Lancswalks / Walks4all, Pendle Hill walk from Barley: <https://www.lancswalks.co.uk/walks/pendle-hill-walk-from-barley>

The Wildpack Collective, Pendle Hill from Barley (dog notes): <https://wildpackcollective.com/walk/pendle-hill-from-barley/>

Quaker faith & practice 19.06 (George Fox): <https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/19-06/>

Countryside Code: GOV.UK. Facts checked October 2026.

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