

Discover Bowland Itinerary – N°2

Gisburn Forest and Stocks Reservoir Adventure



In the hills above the picturesque village of Slaidburn there's a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts just waiting to be explored.

This pristine upland landscape in Lancashire's undiscovered rural hinterland is a hidden gem with more in common with the lochs and glens of the Scottish Highlands than the post-industrial mill towns in the south of the county.

Walking, trail-running, mountain-biking, fly-fishing and birding are all on the agenda for visitors with a taste for adventure. There's even an easily accessible trail for outdoor enthusiasts with restricted mobility.

Day 1: The Big Adventure

Lace up your boots for a big day close to the water or clip into your pedals for a forest adventure. The eight-mile Stocks Reservoir Circular walk climbs into the hills above the reservoir, providing expansive views of the wider Bowland landscape before descending to complete a circuit of the entire reservoir.

Allow at least three hours to complete the entire circuit on foot. Start from the pay and display car park on the eastern shore of the reservoir.

Detour to the café at Gisburn Forest Hub for welcome refreshments.

Families with younger children, or those who are less mobile, might want to try the less demanding Birch Hills Trail starting from the same car park.

Route Options

- Stocks Reservoir Circular
- Gisburn Forest Birch Hills Trail
- Bell Sykes Hay Meadow Walk

NOTE: Birch Hills Trail is suitable for Trampers (all-terrain accessibility scooter). The Bowland Trampler can be booked in advance from Gisburn Forest Hub. Call 01200 446387 to make a reservation.

To download the above routes go to www.forestofbowland/walking



Reward yourself at the end of the day at **Crowtrees Inn** Bowland Fell Park which offers traditional pub fare with a fresh twist, with a range of excellent ales as accompaniment.

The Hodder Valley Show is an agricultural show which changes venue in rotation between Slaidburn, Newton and Dunsop Bridge. The event is held the second Saturday of September. Please check website to find out if it is running in 2021.

www.hoddervalleyshow.co.uk



Have a look at the Festival Bowland programme with events www.forestofbowland.com/Festival-Bowland-Events



Day 2 AM:

The Roses Border Bike Ride

For road cyclists, this is a majestic, yet demanding circuit on quiet lanes either side of the Lancashire and North Yorkshire border. It's a challenging 35 mile circuit on quiet lanes that are reputed to have been cycled by Sir Bradley Wiggins in preparation for winning the 2012 Tour De France! Another slightly shorter, but more demanding option is a spectacular circular which takes in two of the toughest passes in Bowland – Bowland Knotts and Cross O'Greet. Download these routes from: www.forestofbowland.com/cycling

For a two-wheeled off-road adventure, the purpose-built cycle trails through Gisburn Forest www.forestry.gov.uk/gisburn offer rides of varying length to suit all abilities. Refreshments and bike hire is available at Gisburn Forest Hub café.



Day 2 PM:

Replace Those Calories!

After such a strenuous ride, there's ample excuse to gorge yourself on a high-calorie carbfest at one of the area's noted cafés or hostels. Try taking afternoon tea at **Old Vicarage Tea Rooms in Tosside** or the delightful **Nectar Café at Coars Farm near Wigglesworth**.

Day 2 Evening:

Sample the Local Nightlife

Admire the Milky Way brighter than you've ever seen it and see how many constellations you can find in the dark skies above the Bowland Fells. Simply step outside after nightfall and look upwards to see thousands more stars than you can see in town or book into one of the dedicated star-gazing events held at Gisburn Forest Hub Dark Sky Discovery Site. www.forestofbowland.com/Star-Gazing



Get Closer to Nature

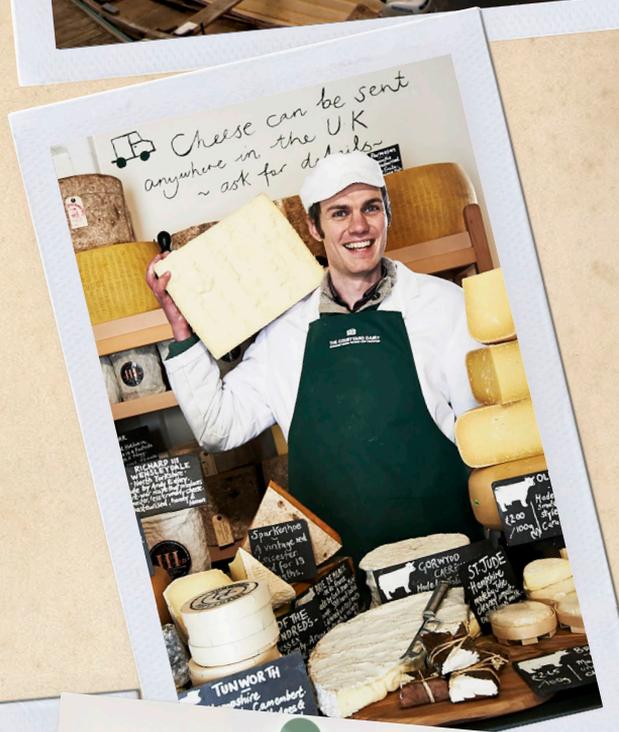
Get up with the lark and fish for plump and tasty trout in the clear waters of **Stocks Reservoir**. Visit the Stocks Reservoir website www.stocksreservoir.com to check whether the trout are biting or call **01200 446602**.

If the fish aren't rising, pack your flask and head to the wildlife watching hides on the eastern shoreline to watch the amazing birdlife that lives on and around the reservoir.

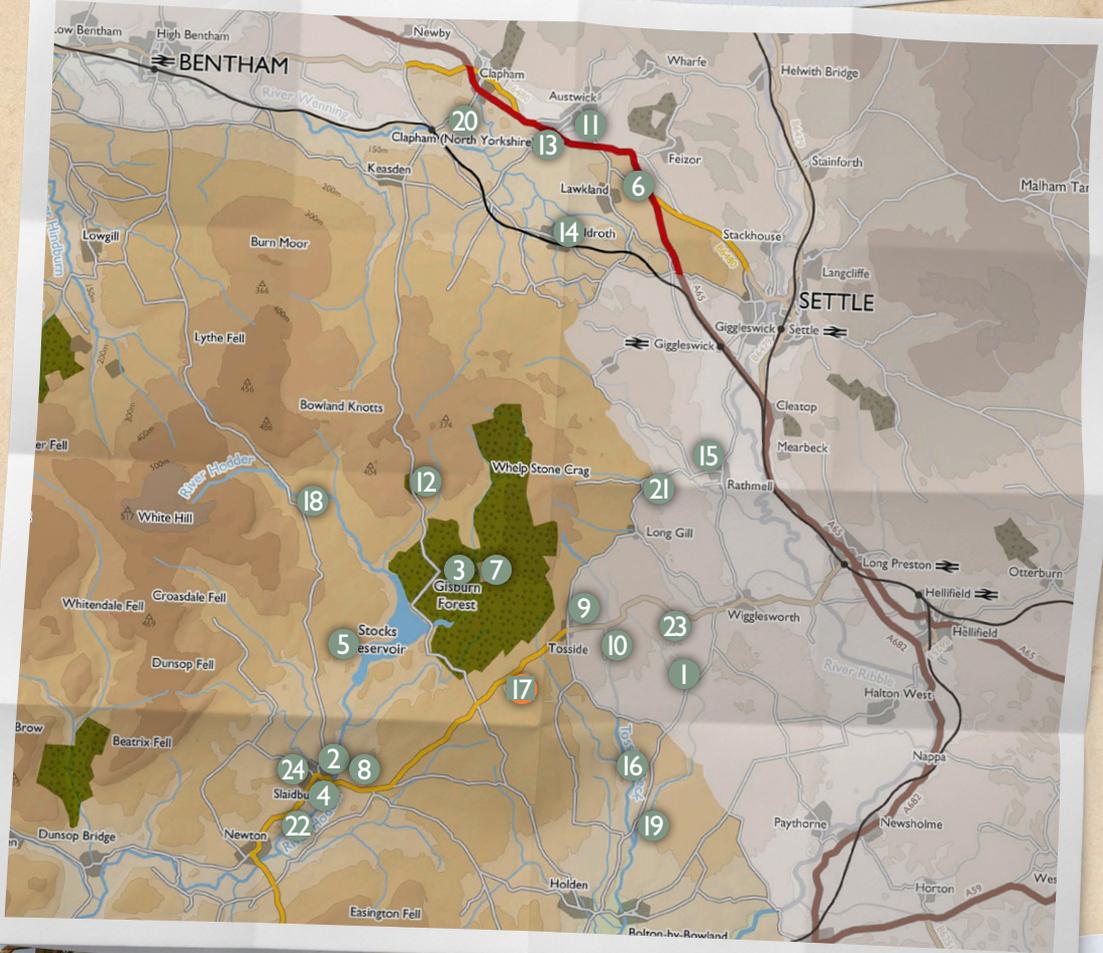
Day 3 PM:

Yorkshire

Head to the north-east corner and the Yorkshire part of Bowland for a change of scenery and landscape. For cheese enthusiasts, the award-winning Courtyard Dairy is not to be missed which stocks a carefully chosen range of unusual and exquisite farmhouse cheeses, championing small, independent farmers. Explore the pretty villages of Clapham and Austwick and the surrounding limestone scenery. Why not try the Bentham Line - 5 mile Clapham Circular walk: www.forestofbowland.com/walking/bentham-line-clapham-circular-walk



Explore the restored traditional wildflower meadows around Slaidburn on this leisurely wander to Bell Sykes Hay Meadow (best seen late June/early July) beside the River Hodder then treat yourself to tea and cakes at the idyllic Riverbank Tearooms.



Discover

- 1 Be a Garden Maker**
01729 840848
beagardenmaker.co.uk
- 2 Bowland Chocolate at Vanilla Angel**
07824 485 557
bowlandchocolatecompany.co.uk
- 3 Outdoors 4 All Together**
07814 464872
outdoors4alltogether.co.uk
- 4 Slaidburn Village Hall**
01200 446555
slaidburnvillagehall.com
- 5 Stocks Reservoir Fishery**
01200 446602
stocksreservoir.com
- 6 The Courtyard Dairy**
01729 823 291
thecourtyarddairy.co.uk

Eat

- 7 Gisburn Forest Café**
01200 446387
facebook.com/gisburnforestcafe
- 8 Riverbank Tearooms**
01200 446398
riverbanktearooms.co.uk
- 9 The Old Vicarage Tearooms**
07809 489282
facebook.com/TheOldVicarageTeaRoom

Eat & Stay

- 10 Bowland Fell Park**
01729 840278
bowlandfell.com
- 11 The Traddock**
015242 51224
thetraddock.co.uk

Stay

- 12 Dale House**
01200 411095
dalehousebarn.co.uk
- 13 Dalesbridge**
015242 51021
dalesbridge.co.uk
- 14 Eldroth House Holiday Cottages**
075902 52725
eldrothcottages.uk
- 15 Layhead Farm Cottages**
01729 840234
layhead.co.uk
- 16 Lower Gill Holidays Ltd**
01200 447009
lowergill.co.uk
- 17 Marl Barn Campsite**
07917 157522
marlbarn.co.uk
- 18 Merrybent Hill Luxury B&B**
07733 010915
merrybent-hill.com
- 19 Middle Flass Lodge**
01200 447259
middleflasslodge.co.uk
- 20 Orcaber Farm Camping & Caravan site**
07800 624994
caravancampingsyorkshiredales.co.uk
- 21 Peaks and Pods**
07724 940709
peaksandpods.co.uk
- 22 Slaidburn Youth Hostel**
0345 371 9343
yha.org.uk
- 23 Wigglesworth House & Cottages**
01729 840168
wigglesworthhouseandcottages.co.uk

Shop

- 24 Slaidburn General Stores**
01200 446268